

## Field Day Plans Near Completion

Six girls are now entered in the contest for queen of the Local 301 Field Day, June 29 at Pete and Sally's Grove, Upper Albany St. The latest candidates are Carmela M. Perriera, Bldg. 60; Stacia Roicki, Bldg. 269, and Mary Boneczyk, Bldg. 46. The names of Bernice Blusis, Bldg. 53; Evelyn Haras, Bldg. 29, and Jean Gonia, Bldg. 66, were announced earlier.

Every ticket sold in the name of a candidate for queen will net her 50 points in the contest.

The girl with the highest score will be crowned queen and will receive a cup and a \$100 bond. Second and third prizes will be \$50 and \$25 bonds and inscribed bracelets.

Tickets were mailed this week to all committeemen for sale in the shops at 50 cents each.

The union office has set up a card file charging to each individual the tickets mailed to him. Unsold tickets must be returned with the money for the tickets sold. Additional books of tickets may be obtained through the union office.

Field day will start at 10 a.m. and continue until midnight. There will be sports, entertainment, dancing, games and refreshments. A variety of prizes will be awarded.

William Mastriani and Vincent Iovinella will have charge of sports events. Sadie Iovinella will have charge of entertainment. Games and concessions will be directed by E. J. La Bombard. The food committee will be Louis Dorner and Manuel Fernandez. James Cognetta will have charge of beer and soft drinks.

## UE and GE in Session On Contract Questions

As this week's EU News went to press Wednesday, the National UE negotiating committee was in session with GE officials in New York City in an attempt to get the company to sign the 1947 UE-GE contract.

After the company had agreed to the complete contract several weeks ago and after all UE locals at GE plants ratified it, GE suddenly raised objections to several provisions.

## Any Talk About Copper Cartel Makes GE Angry; No Fair Mentioning Morgan Connections Either

The truth about the copper shortage which has caused lay-offs at GE must have stung someone in the House of Morgan awful hard, judging by the loud screams that went up in last week's Works News.

A resolution unanimously adopted by a big 301 meeting simply asked the directors of GE to use their influence with the House of Morgan and First National Bank, which control GE, to help break up the world copper cartel.

The Works News ignored the request, and, strangely enough, said that 301 accused GE of being able to obtain copper if it wanted to. The 301 resolution made no such charge.

The mysterious "spokesman" for GE mentioned in the Works News referred to "sinister", "smokescreen", and other supposedly terrible union actions, but ignored a very simple fact:

UE made no charge at all. The Federal Trade Commission, a well-established government agency, made the charge that Kennecott Copper and Phelps Dodge, both Morgan controlled, were two of six companies in a world cartel which created an artificial permanent shortage of copper to keep prices high.

The mysterious GE "spokesman" also suggested that strikes in copper were "obviously organized blows at the country's economy". But here is what the Federal Trade Commission said about them:

"It would appear that dominant producers might well consider it to their advantage to permit the continuance of labor difficulties to curtail production." This statement referred specifically to the early part of 1946, when Phelps Dodge forced UE members to stay on strike eight months to win the 18½-cent pattern.

The 301 resolution also brought a letter to President Andrew Peterson from Charles Francis Adams, GE director who heads the State Street Trust Company of Boston, and who was secretary of the Navy under Herbert Hoover. Adams hastened to assure Peterson that "neither J. P. Morgan Co. or the First National

## What Congress Needs — Some More Wagners

U. S. Senator Robert F. Wagner sent the following telegram to President Andrew Peterson of Local 301 in answer to a wire urging him to continue opposing anti-labor legislation.

"Thank you for your wire. Be assured that I am doing all I can to prevent the passage of what I consider undeserved, unjust, restrictive and punitive labor legislation."

Bank group control the General Electric Company in any way," and therefore GE directors could not influence "those people."

The 1946 report of the Smaller War Plants Corporation, a government agency, to the U. S. Senate Small Business Committee, made the flat statement that Morgan-First National controlled GE as well as US Steel, the two copper companies, New York Central Railroad, American Telephone and Telegraph and a host of other companies. The Morgan group is the world's largest financial group.

Both Schenectady papers ran the GE "spokesman" statement in full, and repeated the company's peculiar misstatement of what the union said. The Union-Star had given just one paragraph to the 301 resolution, and had omitted any reference to the Federal Trade Commission charge against the Morgan copper companies.

## 'Here's Your EU News'



Anthony Lollik, left, of Bldg. 73A, distributing the EU News at the gate of Bldg. 69. This is the first of a series of pictures showing Local 301 members handing out the local's weekly paper at the GE works. Chairman William Templeton of the Editorial Committee obtained permission from A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, for the union photographer to take the pictures on company property.

# Electrical Union News

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA—LOCAL 301 CIO  
Vol. 5—No. 19 SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK May 29, 1947

## Queen Candidates



Bernice Blusis Carmela M. Perriera



Mary Boneczyk Stacia Roicki

These girls are candidates for queen of the Local 301 field day. See story on page 2.

## CIO Sets June 10 As State 'Veto Day'

Statewide CIO demonstrations against the Taft-Hartley bill will take place June 10, designated as "Veto Day" by the State CIO legislative meeting at Albany Saturday.

Local unions will decide on their own form of activity. Parades, community meetings, meetings in shops and union halls, and work stoppages were suggested by various speakers.

"Demonstrations during working hours are in my opinion the things that count," President Andrew Peterson of Local 301 (Continued on Page 2)

## Company Violations of Contract Result in Work Stoppages Here

Protest stoppages broke out in various parts of the works during the past week over company refusal to arbitrate grievances as required by the union contract.

The four groups which have engaged in brief demonstrations so far are all groups which had long-standing grievances that had gone all the way, and which James W. Burnison, speaking for top management, last week refused to submit to arbitration.

So far there has been no further word from the company. When local newspapers called the company about the union's charges of contract violation, the company had "no comment." The contract provision requiring arbitration is of course too clear to permit any argument as to its meaning.

The first stoppage was in Bldg. 60, where about 45 crane operators and followers met for an hour last Thursday, to demand action on the crane followers' rate grievance. They advised their foreman to notify the company.

400 Out in Welded Products  
The largest group to protest included 400 men in Welded Products, who walked off the job Friday afternoon. The GE Board of Directors was meeting at the works the same day.

Monday 15 men in Spot Weld and Assembly in 73-A left work to come to the union hall for a protest meeting. They sent a group letter to Charles E. Wilson demanding that the company comply with the contract.

A small group of wiremen in Bldg. 5 also stopped work briefly on Friday, and told their foreman they wanted action.

Some of the Welded Products workers followed up their stoppage with a meeting at the union hall, where they drew up messages to Wilson, President Truman, and Senator Irving M. Ives, which were then signed by the men in the division. The message to Wilson declared

that GE's violation of the contract was the kind of conduct by Big Business that caused labor disputes. The members demanded that Wilson reply to Board Member James Cognetta.

Message to Truman  
In the message to President Truman the workers declared:

"It is evident that the company thinks it can get away with this conduct because of its hope that the pending Taft-Hartley bill will hamstring our unions. We urge you to veto the Taft-Hartley bill."

To Senator Ives, who voted for the Taft bill, the men wrote:

"If you want to find out the cause of labor disputes, come up here where the General Electric Company refuses to arbitrate grievances, as clearly required by its union contract."

Peterson Statement  
In a public statement last week, President Andrew Peterson appealed to the community "to help us preserve orderly labor relations by demanding of the local plant management that it stop violating the contract." Peterson said:

"By its action the company takes full responsibility for any industrial strife that may develop here. We shall continue our long patient efforts to settle grievances peacefully.

"We trust that the public will now realize the real cause of labor disputes. GE's vice-president, Mr. Shreve, as head of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, only last Monday called for enactment of extreme restraints upon workers. But GE itself engages in a flagrant violation of all orderly industrial relations. It appears that its present blunt defiance has been encouraged by the prospect of legislation which would further restrict labor. GE proposes to use that legislation to bring about industrial strife and lower the living standards of its employees."

## In Memoriam

Members of Local 301  
WHO DIED  
DURING THE PAST YEAR

## CIO Sets June 10 As State 'Veto Day'

(Continued from Page 1)

told the meeting.

"We only have a few days left," warned Lee Pressman, CIO general counsel.

"It's our task to assure President Truman that the people of the nation demand a veto and then to see the veto is sustained."

Warning by Senator Taylor

United States Senator Glen Taylor, Democrat, of Idaho charged that the same people who financed Hitler and put him in power are "trying to do the same thing to the common people of America that Hitler did to the German people."

Senator Taylor voted against the Taft bill.

He said "the bitterly vindictive attack on the wage standards of the American working man will destroy the purchasing power of the American people."

Speaking of huge corporation profits, he mentioned the "Republican theory that what is good for the rich is eventually good for everybody—the trickle-down theory."

Congressman Emmanuel Celler, Democrat, and State Senator Kenneth Sherbell, ALP, a CIO member, attacked the Taft-Hartley bill.

### Taft Bill Is Vicious

Pressman warned that newspapers are trying to lull labor into a sense of false security, by pretending that the Taft bill is "moderate." Point by point, he explained the provisions of the Taft bill designed to cripple unions.

"Never have we had such a threat to our entire American democracy," he declared.

"Never has there been such an orgy of profits as today—and at the same time, this drive to wipe our unions out."

In addition to President Peterson, 301 members at the Albany meeting included Albert Davis, Victor Pasche, Fred Pacelli, William Mastriani, Willard Kuschel, Meyer Segal, Helen Quirini and Helen Posluszny. Milo Lathrop and Fay Marvin of District 3 were present also.

### ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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## It's EU News Day



Gordon Belgrave handing out copies of EU NEWS at the gate of Bldg. 41. You'll see him there every week, rain or shine.

## Bought Your Ticket For 301 Field Day?

First reports on the sale of tickets for the Local 301 field day June 29 at Pete and Sally's Grove, Upper Albany, are encouraging, according to George Judway, chairman of the Activities Committee.

Shop Committeeman John Brauneisen, Bldg. 18, sold 10 books of tickets within a week of receiving them from the Activities Committee. "We hear there's a lot of action in some of the other buildings too," Judway said.

Two more girls have joined the list of candidates for field day queen, Angie D'Elisio, Bldg. 285, and Helen Zielinski, Bldg. 28. They bring the total up to 11.

Previously announced candidates are Carmela M. Perrica, Bldg. 60; Stacia Roicki, Bldg. 269; Mary Bonczyk, Bldg. 46; Bernice Blusis, Bldg. 63; Evelyn Haras, Bldg. 29, and Jean Gonia, Bldg. 66.

## Pensioners to Meet

The UE-CIO 301 Pension Organization will meet at 2 p.m. Wednesday at 301 Hall.

## See Next Week's EU News For 301 Meeting Report

HELP THE ORGANIZING DRIVE

## CIO Council Elects Dembski President

Vincent Dembski of Albany, United Office and Professional Workers, has been installed as president of the Capital District CIO Council. He succeeds William Mastriani of Local 301 who announced he would not run for reelection because of his duties as chief shop steward.

Gladys DuBois, Troy, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, was chosen first vice-president and Albert Davis, Local 301, second vice-president. Robert Northrop, Local 2054, United Steelworkers of America, was reelected secretary-treasurer. Trustees are Allen McCabe, Schenectady, Transport Workers; James Williams, Schenectady United Transport Service Employees, and John Wright, Albany, United Public Workers. Leonard Colasuono, Schenectady, Laundry Workers, was elected sergeant-at-arms and Sam De Cesare, Local 301, assistant sergeant-at-arms.

The new officers were to be installed Wednesday.

## Mastriani Requests Report About Town of Tomorrow

William Mastriani, who was named by the Executive Board to represent it on the Town of Tomorrow Citizens Committee, has asked the Legislative Committee to report on the Town of Tomorrow program. Mastriani asked that the Legislative Committee recommend what position Local 301 should take on the program.

Members of the Town of Tomorrow group took the appointment of a delegate as an endorsement of its program by Local 301. The local has not yet taken a position on this question.

## Union-Star Again Knives 301 News

The Schenectady Union-Star buried an important statement by President Andrew Peterson on page 36 Friday and cut out the heart of the statement.

The paper, which always finds space for any GE announcement, whittled down Peterson's statement about GE violating the contract in refusing to arbitrate grievances.

It left out his appeal to the community and his charge that GE must take full responsibility for any industrial strife which may develop here. It also left out the 301 charge that GE thinks it can get away with such actions because of the Taft-Hartley bill.

## GE Still Refuses To Sign Contract

Obviously encouraged by the passage of the Taft-Hartley bill, GE officials refused to sign the general contract provisions of the 1947 UE agreement at a meeting May 21 in New York City with the national UE negotiating committee.

The company held out for last-minute changes to weaken the maintenance-of-membership clauses. GE wants the union to write into the contract provisions contained in a few state laws limiting the check-off. These state provisions are forerunners of the anti-checkoff provisions of the Taft-Hartley bill.

UE officials said that in a state where authorizations of individual members for a check-off are required by law they would of course obtain such authorizations, but that they would not weaken the national GE contract by writing the provisions in the contract itself.

Membership meetings of all GE locals have overwhelmingly approved the check-off provisions, UE negotiators pointed out. Moreover, GE has opposed including provisions of the Wagner Act or the Wage and Hour law in the contract.

The 1946 contract as a whole was automatically renewed when neither side issued a notice of termination during the contract sessions.

Economic issues, principally the general wage increase and paid holidays, were disposed of in a supplement signed by both the company and union. The dispute over the company refusal to sign the entire contract does not affect these pay provisions.

Other modifications were agreed on during lengthy negotiations and according to past practice, were to become part of the contract. After all GE locals of UE approved the changes, GE suddenly announced it wouldn't sign unless the union changed the check-off clause.

UE served notice on GE that it regards the full contract as being in effect, as ratified by the UE locals, regardless of the company's refusal to sign.

## Penny Pinching Starts Lower Down the Scale

Charles E. Wilson, GE president, received \$198,000 for his services in 1946 according to the company's annual report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission this week.

That's pretty good pay from a company which has announced it wants to give up its profit sharing plan. Charlie must be in line for a pay raise.

SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER TODAY

## Took Part in Welded Products Walkout



When 400 workers in Welded Products walked off their jobs Friday afternoon to protest GE refusal to arbitrate long-standing grievances, a group of them went to 301 hall for an impromptu meeting. Some of them are shown here at the meeting.

## Dangers in Taft Bill

Don't be fooled by newspaper stories about the Taft bill being "moderate." Here are a few of the provisions of the bill as pointed out by Leo Pressman, CIO general counsel.

The closed shop is prohibited.

After winning a NLRB election, a union can't even ask for a union shop or maintenance of membership without a second election. It can't even ask for these union security protections unless a majority of all eligible employees vote for the clause. Not just a majority of those who vote.

Check-off is forbidden except on authorization of the individual worker.

The Labor Relations Board is increased from three to seven members. That means the four new members would have to be okayed by Senator Taft and his supporters. "You won't be asking for larger appropriations for such a board," Pressman said. "In six months you'd be asking for its repeal."

The employer can file charges with the NLRB that a union is "restraining" or "coercing" his employees. This is a handy way of breaking up organizing drives.

Any industrial union can be broken up by any craft group asking for separate representation.

An employer can refuse to bargain if he decides that one or more officers of a

union has given "active and consistent promotion or support to the policies and doctrines of the Communist Party." As the CIO report points out, some employers would include Franklin D. Roosevelt and any of his supporters in that definition. "Do you know many employers who wouldn't be charging unions with Communism?" Pressman asked.

The Taft bill eliminates the right to strike in mass industry. The U. S. attorney general can get injunctions to prevent strikes for 75 days.

An employer can sue a union for any act of an agent of the union in any federal court wherever any representative of the union may be located.

There's a big opportunity for employers to plant "agents" in unions to perform acts for which the unions can be sued and fined.

Employers are given free rein to bring in strike breakers during labor disputes. If the employer brings in enough strike breakers they can call for a NLRB election and defeat the union.

Those are only a few of the dangers of the Taft bill.

## Speak on Radio

Helen Quirini and Mary McCartin discussed the women's AER case on the Local 301 radio broadcast Monday. The local has a program at 7:15 p.m. every Monday over WSNY.

MAKE YOUR SHOP 100 PER CENT UE