

A letter to management from top GE offices explains that machines do 95 percent of the work so workers are getting far too much for the 5 percent effort they put in.

Strange how the 95 percent machines can't produce one percent profit when the workers withhold their 5 percent effort.

GE's latest letter to lower management says that the corporation's owners deserve most of the company income because without them there'd be no jobs.

It is labor that produces the wealth and not the wealthy who produce the jobs. Or as Abraham Lincoln put it: "Labor is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration." We prefer Lincoln to Boulware.

"High Inventories" blamed by the General Electric Co. for layoffs are the result of extra high pressure of productivity pumped into distribution pipelines which have been choked off by a valve of high prices.

Obviously, something had to give because companies like GE have refused to give on prices or wages.

The latest comic strip in the GE Works News advises that the company's 1.03% wage offer "keeps employees well ahead of the cost of living since Korea."

That's certainly true for those of us who don't pay taxes, don't eat meat and potatoes and have rich uncles who meet part of the rent. One GE Works News comic strip says that the stockholders supply the machinery with which GE employees are permitted to earn a living.

That's nice of the stockholders. Imagine the fate of the working people if the stockholders decided not to produce machines and just got together at annual meetings to hear speeches.

Great praise in the GE Works News for scientist Charles Steinmetz makes us wonder whether Steinmetz alive would be as popular with GE as Steinmetz dead.

While running GE's laboratory he ran for office as a socialist (before Boulware) and was elected Mayor of Schenectady.

Chances are that if alive today (since Boulware) he'd be barred from the laboratory as a "security risk"; denounced in the newspapers as a foreign agent; hauled before Congressional committees as un-American and have his citizenship lifted for deportation.

## Awarded \$25 Weekly Compensation

There are two sure ways of bringing a warm glow to the eyes of Agnes Ondrejka. One is to mention her ten-month old grandson and the other to talk about her union.

And Mrs. Ondrejka has real reason to be proud of both. Her young grandson has been walking for two months already, as his grandmother is quick to inform anyone who shows signs of interest. As for the union, UE Local 301, it was through its efforts that Mrs. Ondrejka gained the security of a \$25 weekly check for the rest of her life.

This payment will be made to her because she was injured while working for General Electric back in 1944. This injury will prevent her from ever working again. However, GE is not making these payments voluntarily. On the contrary, the company fought for eight long years to prevent Mrs. Ondrejka from getting what she was entitled to under the New York State compensation law.

It was only on account of the

efforts of UE and Local 301 attorney Leon Novak that GE failed and the checks are now coming to Mrs. Ondrejka's home on Chrysler Ave. every week. And one of those checks was for \$800.44 to cover back payments from January 9, 1951 until June 2 of this year.

Mrs. Ondrejka first came to this country from her native Czechoslovakia in 1928. This was several years after her husband, Frank, now a laborer at GE, had left their farm near Bratislava to come to America and build a new life. The Ondrejkas settled down in Scranton, Pa., where they raised four children.

The oldest of the four, Mary, is now the mother of four youngsters, herself. The others are Anthony, 22, who also works for GE, 18-year-old Helen and 15-year-old Louise.

In 1942, the Ondrejkas moved to Schenectady, where Frank went to work for GE. This was during World War II, and with prices going up and workers badly needed for defense indus-

tries, Mrs. Ondrejka, who had become an American citizen in 1940, decided to go to work and help meet the mounting family bills.

In January, 1944, after working at GE for 13 months, Mrs. Ondrejka took a bad fall when a stool on which she was sitting collapsed. She suffered serious abdominal injuries and shock, permanently incapacitating her.

Mrs. Ondrejka was laid up for several months and doctors' bills mounted. During this time, she was receiving some compensation for her injuries under the law but GE refused to concede that her injuries would completely prevent her from working again.

It was in 1948 that she came into the offices of UE Local 301 and the case was taken up by the union lawyer. But there was still a long fight ahead. For four more years, the legal litigation went on but, finally, Attorney Novak was able to inform Mrs. Ondrejka that she would be getting full compensation of \$25 a week from now on.

## Five Men Win Wage and Premium Increases In Three Grievance Cases Won by Local

Five UE Local 301 members received wage increases of up to 11 cents an hour or change of shift differential as a result of three cases won by the union grievance machinery last week. The 11 cent an hour boost was gained for Leo Searles in Building 49. Searles was raised from

\$1.70 to \$1.81 an hour retroactive to March 3. Management had attempted to pay him the lower rate in violation of the contract after transferring him to a new job.

In Building 14, two workers had their rates raised by five and six cents respectively as a result of bringing their beefs to their shop stewards. The two men, L. Grzlecki and A. Smolanski, had been done out of the job rate for winders although they had been working on the job for more than six months. As a result of the grievance cases, Grzlecki was raised from \$1.76 to \$1.82, and Smolanski from \$1.71 to \$1.76.

The change of shift premiums were won by Albert Houghton and Lester Hadsell in Building 85. One of the two workers had been asked by management to work from seven to seven on the overnight trick and the other man had then sought and obtained the same shift in order to equalize overtime. Management contended that since a request had been made no change of shift premium was indicated. However, they finally backed down from this argument in grievance sessions and agreed to pay the premium to both men.

## UE Service Wins \$1800 For Injured Mica Man

Mica workers got a taste of the meaning of UE representation Wednesday when one of them received a compensation award of \$1,814 in cash, plus medical and surgical expenses valued at close to \$1,000, through legal representation by UE attorney Leon Novak.

The award was made to Louis Bentz who was severely injured in April of last year when 1,200 pounds of corrugated roofing fell on him.

The Mica company contested the award during a long legal battle. However, Novak, who represented Bentz free of charge as part of the UE compensation service to members, was able to prove the extent of the injuries and gain the favorable decision.

Bentz is married and the father of one child. He now works as a guard at Mica but at the time of the accident he was a carpenter for the Broadway plant.

The decision in favor of Bentz was handed down just 48 hours before the Mica NLRB election which will bring to Mica workers the full protection of UE. It provided a forerunner of things to come for the men and women at Mica.

## Blackstone Strike Vote Brings Contract Gains

A nearly unanimous strike vote by UE Local 305 forced the Blackstone Manufacturing Corp. in Jamestown, N. Y. to back down on its attempt to cut the heart out of the union contract. As a result of the vote, which carried 443 to 14, the 600 UE members won a new pact with wage increases, improved vacations and other gains.

Management had sought 100 changes in the contract. These changes would have cut wages, ended all enforceable seniority and security provisions and crippled grievance procedures.

The agreement won by the workers' action provides a nine to ten cent hourly wage boost for day workers, improvement in the piece work rates and guarantees, three weeks vacation and added holiday benefits.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA UE LOCAL 301

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Thursday, July 3, 1952



Chicago — The workers at the giant McCormick Works of International Harvester have rebuffed a raid by the CIO autoworkers. The count was UE Local 108F 1,797, UAW-CIO 1,432. The vote last week marked the third straight failure of the CIO in its attempts to split farm equipment workers off from UE unity.

Portland, Ore. — A seven-week AFL bakery strike here ended with the workers winning a five dollar weekly pay increase and many fringe benefits.

New York — UE Local 1227 has taken an election for the previously unorganized GE Refrigerator Repair shop in Long Island City. The vote was UE 20; no union 6; Retail Clerks (AFL) 0.

Pikeville, Ky. — A campaign of terror against the United Mine Workers last week resulted in the ambush shooting of three UMW organizers. One of the three union men is not expected to live and a second is in critical condition. The UMW, striking back against this latest attempt to prevent it from functioning in the area, scheduled a mass "demonstration of strength" near the scene of the assault.

White Plains, N. Y. — UE Local 429 won an NLRB election at the Ledro Industries shop. The vote was unanimous, all 19 ballots being cast for UE. On the same day as the election was won, management signed a UE contract providing a union shop, eight paid holidays, six days paid sick leave, two weeks vacation after 20 months, a fair employment practices clause and many other benefits. Rates for tool and die makers were set at \$2.75 an hour and for turret lathe operators at two dollars.

New York — Sixty cooperations in America have over a billion dollars apiece in assets, government figures reveal.

Akron — Members of UE Local 703 have added four cents an hour to the 12½ cents won last August. The increase was won from the Imperial Electric Co.

### Tickets Go Fast

First report on the UE Local 301 activities "Giveaway" drawing is that tickets are selling faster than hotcakes.

The drawing will be held at the union hall on July 14.

## Upstate Craftsmen Report Gains In Meetings with WSB

Unity of skilled workers regardless of union affiliation continued to grow last week as a delegation from upstate New York set forth their demands before officials of the Wage Stabilization Board.

The five-person delegation, led by William Templeton of UE Local 301, travelled to New York and Washington for their talks with IUE-WSB officials.

Other members of the delegation were William Burgess, IUE-CIO member from General Electric, Syracuse; Gabriel Garofolo, President of Local 2 of the independent Mechanics Educational Society of America, Rome Manufacturing Co., Rome; Robert Mills, AFL machinists, Remington Rand, Elmira; and Robert Salomen, CIO autoworkers, Bowen Products Co., Auburn.

The group saw Arthur White, Regional Director of the WSB in New York City, and Benjamin Aaron, Vice Chairman of the board in Washington. Both men denied company claims that there was an absolute wage freeze on skilled workers rates making it impossible to negotiate increases. They said that, in fact, the WSB provisions permitting increases to continue historical differentials in wages within individual plants might be used to win more money.

Despite the opposition of the board officials to a basic change in policy to lift skilled workers wage ceilings in accordance with the recommendations of the Skilled Trades Panel of the WSB, the members of the New York State delegation came away from the meeting unanimous in their feeling that if the unity displayed by the upstater's became nationwide, enough pressure could be exerted on the board to win adoption of the program set forth by the Syracuse Skilled Crafts Conference in May.

As a result of the meetings, the delegation urged that the Syracuse conference members be reconvened soon to plan further action.



**BOARD IN ACTION.** The UE Local 301 Executive Board at its Monday night meeting this week dealt with a number of top problems including the local's political action program and plans for election of delegates to the UE National Convention. The Board at work is pictured above.

## UE 301 Drafts Legislative Program To Discover '52 Candidates' Stands

UE Local 301 has drawn up a minimum program of political action for submission to all candidates for Congress in this area. The program, drafted by the Legislative sub-committee, was approved by the Executive Board Monday night along with a similar outline for New York State action. (See story on page four.)

The national program will be presented to all congressional candidates, who will be asked to offer their views on each of its 12 points. The purpose of this procedure will be to acquaint those seeking public office with the views of this local and to get their views for the membership of 301.

Topping the key issues on the list is a demand for ending the wage freeze. Repealing the Taft-Hartley slave law and reviving the Wagner Act, foundation stone of the New Deal policy toward trade unionism, follow the demand to end the freeze.

Still in the realm of labor legislation, the program flatly opposes all strike breaking and union control legislation.

A \$1.25 federal minimum wage, federal support to increase state

## Two Groups Donate Red Cross Blood

The Red Cross blood program under which UE Local 301 members will be eligible to receive free blood for transfusions is in full swing.

The Large Motor and Generator and the General Engineering Lab departments made their donations to the blood bank this week. Next scheduled donations are by the Control department on Wednesday, July 23.

## 301 Baseball Night

UE Local 301 has arranged to have a "night" at Schenectady Stadium on Saturday, July 26 when the Blue Jays tangle with the Hartford Chiefs. Details of the special program are being worked out by the local activities committee which will also arrange for sale of tickets.

# 301 Supports Rome Strikers

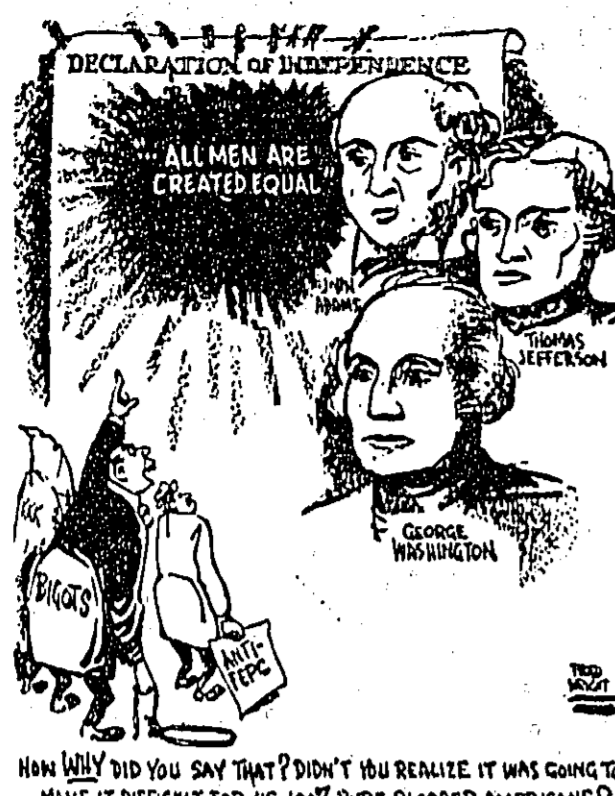
Full support backed by a \$100 contribution was voted to the members of UE Local 331 who have been on strike against the General Cable Co. in Rome since June 1. The action was taken by the 301 Executive Board Monday night.

The financial contribution was the maximum which the Executive Board can make without approval of a membership meeting. Along with it went a letter to the 1,300 UE brothers and sisters in Rome telling them that all of the 16,000 members of UE Local 301 were fully behind their efforts to prevent the company from destroying their union conditions.

In Rome, itself, the strikers continued united in their determination to win a decent contract from the absentee management of General Cable. Despite the threat of a court injunction against mass picketing, the lines around the Cable plant continued to be solid.

Company provocations failed to disturb the peaceful nature of the picketing. The strikers were buoyed up by the appearance in Rome newspapers of a full page advertisement in which 78 local merchants expressed support of the union in its efforts to win a decent contract.

The strike began when the company departed from six years of collective bargaining practice and terminated the contract with UE.



# GHR Workers Fight Against Union Busting

More than 800 workers at the GHR Foundry in Dayton, Ohio, rounded out the fifth week of their strike against company attempts to smash their union.

The GHR workers have actually been fighting company union-busting efforts since the beginning of the year when a management-inspired IUE-CIO raid was launched. This was beaten back as the shop voted 501-215 for UE Local 768.

With the raid out of the way, the union sought to win a new contract with wage increases, a Fair Employment Practices clause, and other benefits. However, on May 22, the company decided to again attempt to break the union and locked out the workers. The workers then voted a strike.

# UE Chalks Up Many Victories In Representation Elections

Dozens of large and small shops across the country have voted for UE in NLRB elections held in recent weeks. These votes for the union have far more than offset the few defeats suffered during the same period of time.

The UE victory wave reached a crest at the end of June when workers at the huge McCormick works of International Harvester defeated a CIO autoworkers raid by a vote of 1,792 to 1,432. This was the third straight defeat suffered by raiders in their completely vain attempts to split farm equipment workers off from UE. Previously the UE had turned back raids at Harvester plants in East Moline, Ill. and Rock Falls, Ill.

IUE-CIO raids have proven just as futile. The Carey splitting crew was overwhelmed by a landslide of UE votes at the A. S. Campbell plant in Boston and the Bommer Spring Hinge shop in New York, just to name two of many such elections.

Many UE victories have also been chalked up in newly organized shops. Among these were the GE refrigerator repair shop in Long Island City, Ledo Industries in White Plains, N. Y., American Agricultural Chemical Industries in Fulton, Illinois and the Robco Manufacturing Company in New York City.

# Members Determined To Continue Mica Fight

Determination to continue the fight to bring union conditions to the workers at the Mica Insulator Co. plant marked the first reaction of UE men and women last week after the ballots had been counted showing that the company union had won the NLRB representation election.

The vote count was company union 320 and UE 215, with IUE-CIO running a poor third, gaining only 28 ballots. The insignificantly small IUE vote proved the UE contention that the CIO group had no shop support. It was on the ballot only to confuse and split the union vote.

However, basically it was the widespread last minute campaign of intimidation by the foremen and supervisors, which snatched the victory from UE. However, the UE members in the shop were confident that with a solid core of 215 good unionists, they could succeed in bringing union issues into the shop for the first time.

They were also sure that with another year to work, they could bring an end to the 11-year reign of company unionism at Mica.

# Local Backs 601 Strikers

A canned food collection to aid UE Local 601 members in the Nuttall Westinghouse strike will take place at the Schenectady GE plant on July 15 and 16.

This action was voted by the Executive Board of Local 301 last Monday after receiving an appeal for aid from the 600 workers who have been on the picket lines for more than 13 weeks. The contributions will be sent by truck convoy to Pittsburgh, where the Nuttall Westinghouse plant is located.

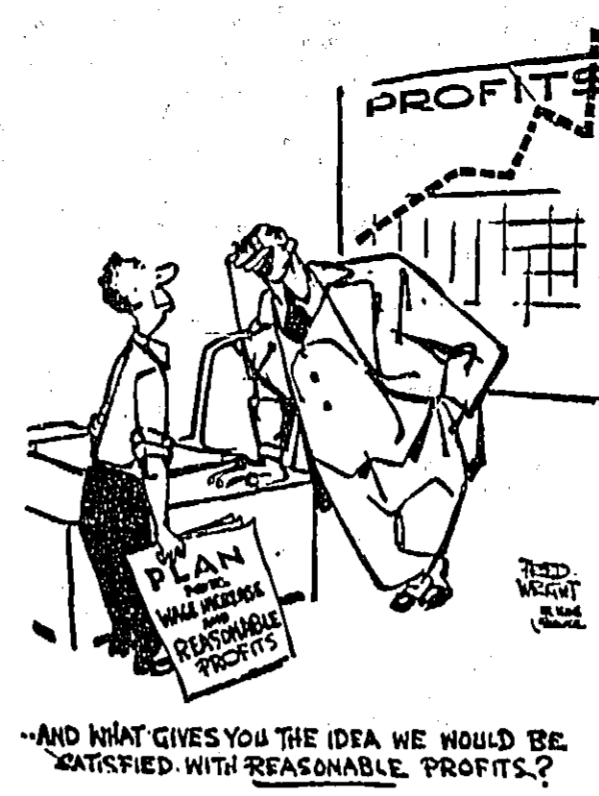
The Executive Board also voted to send \$100 as a contribution to the 601 strike fund, together with a statement of support and encouragement.

The strike at Nuttall began when the company sought to gain the right to unlimited speedup and continually violated existing contract provisions. Since then, the company has used every weapon in the big business arsenal to try to break the strike. Included have been police terrorism and a vast smear campaign conducted through the local labor-hating press.

Typical of the lies spread about the Nuttall workers is that they failed to cooperate with the Navy in turning out needed materials. This smear was completely refuted when the union produced a letter from the Navy commending the workers for their outstanding production achievements.

The Nuttall strike is particularly important because of the UE organizing campaign now being conducted at the huge East Pittsburgh works of Westinghouse. Nuttall was once a part of this works and the workers there have been supporting the strikers fully.

Every member of UE Local 301 is urged to pitch in with whatever canned food he can afford to contribute to help the men and women who are fighting it out on the Nuttall picket lines.



# Seek Contract Modification Suggestions In Shop Survey

UE Local 301 members are being polled this week by shop stewards in an effort to find out what the workers in the shop want in the new contract to be negotiated within the next few weeks.

## Plan Field Day

Plans for a UE Local 301 Field Day sometime around the first of September are being made by the Activities Committee. One of the big needs of the planners is volunteers to help them with the actual work on the field day. Persons interested should contact chairman Bucky Philips at the union hall.

# Board OKs Vacation Plan Won Through 273 Workers' Action

The UE Local 301 Executive Board voted Monday night to approve a new management vacation proposal won by the militant action of the 5,000 union members in Turbine.

Under the plan, workers throughout the Schenectady works will have choice of periods upon which to base their vacations. Formerly, the vacation was based either on a straight 40 hour basis or on the average number of hours worked for the eight weeks immediately preceding the vacation period.

Under the new plan, the vacations can be based either on the preceding eight weeks or else on the entire year prior to the start of the holiday period.

This improved vacation setup was won by the Building 273 workers by their united refusal to work any overtime for more than a month. This action was decided on in a huge mass meeting held after it became obvious that management policy would actually lead to poorer vacations this year than in 1951. The overtime balk forced management to back down.

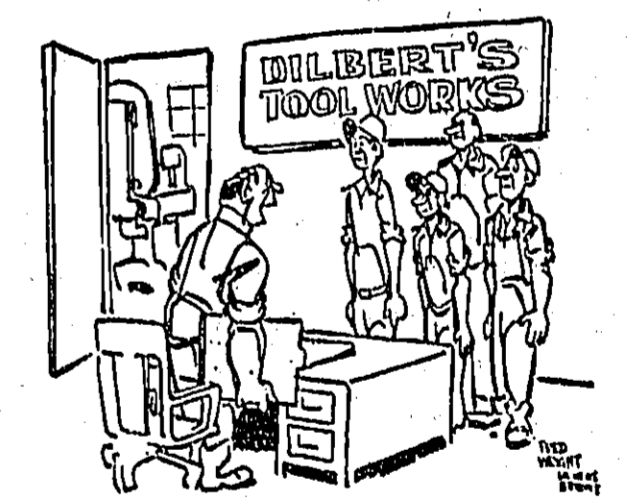
In approving the new plan for this summer, the Executive Board gave a rising vote of thanks to the Turbine workers for their determination and their willingness

to sacrifice to improve the conditions of GE workers.

The new vacation plan will be in effect this summer. It is expected to lead to chain-wide improvements in vacations.

## Correction

In last week's Stuff and Non-sense column, we referred to the election of physicist Charles P. Steinmetz as Mayor of Schenectady. Actually, Steinmetz was President of the Common Council.



The proposals will be brought to the Monday night General Membership meeting where they will be worked into shape as the local's proposals to the UE General Electric Conference Board.

This board, which has representatives from from GE shops throughout the country, will then draft a set of actual contract negotiations proposals which will then be resubmitted to the locals for approval. After that, they will be put before General Electric management as the concerted demands of GE workers from coast to coast.

Under the terms of the GE contract with UE, contract modification, which is what is now under study, can be negotiated if either side gives notice of its intention to seek changes between July 15 and August 15. Not more than 15 days after notice is served, negotiations must get underway in New York City.

If no agreement is reached by Sept. 15, the anniversary date of the contract, the old pact is automatically renewed for one year. However, UE maintains its right to strike in case it can not achieve its goals through collective bargaining.

Among the issues which will come before the conference board will be wages, skilled workers' rates, discrimination against women workers, vacations, geographical differentials and improved pension plans.

## Vote Contribution For Little League

A contribution of \$50 to help support the Schenectady Northside Little League was approved by the UE Local 301 Executive Board Monday night.

The financial help had been asked by the organizers of the youngsters' baseball program. The union has already made several similar contributions to the little leagues in the community.

## Report On Conference

Sadie Iovinella reported to the Executive Board Monday night on UE District Three Women's conference held in Syracuse June 15.

She told of the contributions made by the 27-person delegation from UE Local 301 and expressed the determination of all delegates to continue the fight to end pay discrimination against women.

# UE 301 ON THE JOB

Bldg. 17: Ellsworth McMurphy and Stanley Picciuk, classified as battery truck operators, are actually performing the work of tractor operators. Therefore, they demand reclassification and proper rate adjustment.

Bldg. 46: On the Quick Course Gyro, drawing 9791890 Gr. 1, there is assembly of parts to make up motor, drawing 139D484. Therefore we are demanding A classification for this job.

On the ACR Gyro, drawing 9791886 Gr. 1, we believe this job is definitely A classification and demand it be classified and rated as such.

Harold Steenburg wants an opportunity for a better job, such as assembly. He is definitely entitled to this opportunity and we demand that he be given it.

Bldg. 73A: J. Wagner has been working as a Class B Final Assembly man since January 16, 1952. His starting rate was \$1.465 and he is now earning \$1.61 an hour, the top rate for Class B. His foreman has promised that he would get A classification after working only two or three months, but has not come through. He is working alongside people with A classification

and doing identical work. We contend that failure to upgrade him is just a device to cut rates and therefore demand he be given the A assembler classification to which he is entitled.

Bldg. 273: Clarence J. Beattie, a Class B carpenter, some time ago requested a transfer to first shift. Since then, another man, with less seniority, received such a transfer. We demand that this case of outright discrimination be investigated and Beattie be given a transfer to first shift.

Recently a worker under Foreman Tozer was upgraded while Alfred Arnold, who has more seniority and who, in the opinion of the other workers in his group, is a superior worker, be upgraded immediately.

George Vrooman, a Stator frame cleaner, has merited upgrading both by performance and length of service. We demand he receive this upgrading.

Groups under foremen Obman, Crosthwait, Hay, Weller and Disbrow ask an immediate reduction in forces due to lack of work. They further question the judgement used by supervision in some lay-

Thousands of grievances are handled by UE Local 301 each year at all levels from the steward up to final appeal in New York City. To keep members posted, we shall each week list some of the grievances that have not been settled at the steward-foreman level and have been referred to the executive board-management level.

offs. For example, men working under Weller were sent home although there was work available in the Bucket Section under Kirby. In another case under Weller, men on the milling machine, after being asked to work Saturdays and Sundays, were sent home for lack of work although there were three jobs set up with no one to run them. Therefore, they demand that when layoffs are warranted while steps are being taken to reduce forces, schedules should be arranged so that workers losing time do not lose their right to collect unemployment insurance.

Bldg. 285: Dewitt Weldon, a Class D testman, was not given the opportunity to fill a recent opening in Building 81. He was fully entitled to this job on the basis of ability and service. A management investigation to determine why he was not upgraded and action to upgrade him is demanded.

Knolls: C. Doyle and C. Kenyon, classified as janitors, ask upgrading to group maintaining lab equipment. They are qualified for this work and since several men have left, there are vacancies which they should fill. Management action is demanded.

UE LOCAL 301  
**JOINT MEETING**  
Members & Stewards

**2nd SHIFT**  
Monday, July 7, 1952  
1:30 P.M. (before work)

**1st and 3rd SHIFTS**  
Monday, July 7, 1952  
7:30 P.M.

**Local 301 Hall**  
Erie Blvd. & Liberty St.

**ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS**  
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA (UE)  
Local 301

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## "Slow Down"— It's Orders From GE President To Fellow Bosses

Next time the foreman tells you that you aren't producing enough and should speedup, just smile politely and tell him that on the contrary you're going to "slow down and live longer."

If the answer doesn't satisfy him, just let him know that these are orders from the boss, General Electric President Ralph J. Cordiner. For these were Cordiner's exact words as reported by the New York Times last week.

Of course, Cordiner wasn't exactly speaking to GE workers. His remarks were directed to "business leaders" attending the American Management Association conference in New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, not generally considered a hangout for working people.

According to the report in the Times, "Mr. Cordiner emphasized that such a course far from being the 'lazy man's way,' is actually an efficiency builder, since modern large corporations are too com-

plex for the top man to do more than make high policy decisions with any degree of success."

Cordiner is really worried about the health of the bosses. He told his colleagues at the Waldorf that the "increasing number of top executives who die young would still be living if they eliminated some of the abnormal 'hurry and worry' involved in shouldering too many tasks and responsibilities. The present situation, he intimated, helps only one type of business man—the mortician."

"The banner of excellent performance is usually won by the team made up not of star individual players each trying to hog the glory."

President Cordiner has set a clear position. None of us want to die young if we can help it. The morticians can worry about scrounging up their own business. The foremen must help us to eliminate the "abnormal hurry and worry," and we've got to "stop hogging the glory."

Easy does it!