

As Union Members Jam 301 Hall to Approve New UE-GE Contract



The largest membership meeting in a year unanimously approved the 1947 GE contract settlement May 5. Above, a section of the overflow meeting listening to the report on the contract by Leo Jandreau, shown at right, Local 301 business agent and a member of the national UE negotiating committee. The meeting gave Jandreau a rising vote of thanks for his work on the contract.

Company Delays Signing Contract

Signing of the GE-UE contract has been delayed because the company wants to make last-minute changes which would weaken the maintenance of membership provisions.

This does not delay effectiveness of the wage increases, the six paid holidays and other improvements covered in the supplementary agreement which has already been signed.

Pay raises were scheduled to be included in the pay checks distributed yesterday and today. This week's issue of EU News went to press, however, before the checks were given out.

The national UE officers have called the union negotiating committee to New York for a meeting Tuesday. The negotiators will meet with GE officials Wednesday. The union hopes the contract will be signed at that session.

All angles of the maintenance of membership question were argued out at the negotiating sessions along with other contract provisions. The UE negotiators can see no valid reason for the company reopening the question now, after reaching agreement.

"We will not allow the maintenance of membership provisions to be weakened," Leo Jandreau said.

MAKE YOUR SHOP 100 PER CENT UE

No Need for Worry

Don't worry if a stranger starts inspecting your machine.

The GE company has notified the union that during the next few weeks people will be in all sections of the plant to take data off the machines.

They are insurance appraisers, the company explained, and have nothing to do with piece prices.

Peterson to Speak On CIO Program

President Andrew Peterson of Local 301 will speak on the Capital District CIO Council radio program at 2:20 p.m. Sunday over WTRY. The program will answer the false statements made by the National Association of Manufacturers in recent newspaper advertisements favoring anti-union legislation.

The CIO Council will also have a program at 12:15 p.m. Sunday on WOKO.

State CIO Conference

The New York State CIO Council has called a special state-wide conference on anti-labor legislation at 1 p.m., May 24, at Chancellors Hall, Albany. All affiliated locals have been urged to send delegates.



Industry Paper Admits Grave Copper Shortage

Even a publication of the electrical industry itself admits the seriousness of the copper shortage in hampering production of electrical plants.

Electrical World stated recently: "One important shortage that may be worse before it is better is copper, since with imports reduced and the drain on the stockpile increased, the end of February saw the best estimate of duty-free copper available for allocation to fabricators at only 9,000 tons."

Local 301 last week called on GE officials to use their influence to break up the world copper cartel which has created an artificial shortage of copper.

The union asked GE to exercise its influence with its controlling interests, the House of Morgan and the First National Bank of New York, to compel Kennecott Copper and Phelps Dodge to break away from the world cartel."

301 on Air

The weekly radio broadcast of Local 301 will be at 7:15 p.m. Monday over WSNY.

BUILD YOUR UNION

Electrical Union News

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

Vol. 5—No. 18

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

May 23, 1947

Company Defies Union Contract

Women Will Hear AER Case Report

Will Be Speaker Here Wednesday

A meeting for all women members of Local 301 has been called for 7 p.m. Wednesday at the union hall to hear a report on the AER case involving low-rated piece work jobs normally performed by women. This meeting will precede the general membership and committee's meeting.

Reports will be made by the four-woman committee who met Tuesday with national GE officials in New York City on the case. They are Helen Quirini, Mary McCartin, Sadie Iovinella and Lucy Zeppetelli. Business Agent Leo Jandreau and Joseph Terkowski of the national UE office assisted them.

Company representatives James Burnison and Lester H. Means refused to grant any of the union's demands to raise women's pay, but said they "would consider arbitration."

The committee said that management refused to discuss specific issues but talked in generalities about the calibre of work done by women and about objections of "various people" to women holding industrial jobs.

Management denied any bias on the part of the company toward women workers. The committee answered management criticisms of women's work by pointing to their splendid production record during the war.

All Union Smokers Will Get the Idea

The Local 301 Executive Board voted Wednesday to remind union members that CIO workers are on strike against the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., producers of Camel cigarettes and Prince Albert tobacco. More than 10,000 members of the Food and Tobacco Workers are on the picket lines at the plant in Winston-Salem, N. C.



Albert J. Fitzgerald, international UE president, will come to Schenectady to address the joint membership and committee's meeting of Local 301 at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at CIO hall. He will discuss the life-and-death struggle of UE and other unions against the anti-labor bills now in Congress.

Section Night

The last section night program until after the Local 301 field day June 29 will be tonight at CIO Hall. It's for members from Electric, Patrol, Turbine, Porcelain, Punch Press, Searchlight and Ordnance departments. Joe Louis fight pictures, dancing and refreshments are on the entertainment program.

SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER

GE Won't Send Disputed Cases To Arbitration

The General Electric Company's flat refusal to comply with the contract provision for arbitration of grievances was referred this week by the Local 301 Executive Board to the Schenectady membership for action.

At a grievance meeting Tuesday James W. Burnison, speaking for top management, told Business Agent Leo Jandreau that the company would not proceed with arbitration of a dozen unsettled cases, because GE did not intend to let an "outsider", meaning an impartial arbitrator, decide questions which affect the company's costs.

Both the old and the new contracts provide that:

"In the event no agreement is reached on any matter involving the application or interpretation of any provision of this Contract, such matter shall be submitted to arbitration on request of either the Union or the Company."

GE Violates Contract

The refusal to arbitrate is a direct contract violation which breaks down

Vote On Constitution Stated for Wednesday

A special meeting of the Local 301 membership has been called for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 28, at CIO Hall to act on proposed changes in the local's constitution. The meeting will be held jointly with a meeting of committeemen from all shifts.

The constitutional changes originally were to be acted on at a membership meeting last Tuesday. As a quorum was not present Tuesday, the Executive Board set the new date at its meeting Wednesday.

Peterson Attacks Anti-Labor Bills

For Big Business to label trade unions as "monopolies" is like a thief shouting "Stop Thief" when the police show up. President Andrew Peterson of Local 301 said Sunday on the Capital District CIO radio broadcast over WTRY.

"The National Association of Manufacturers is trying to drum up support for its campaign to blame so-called labor monopolies for high prices," Peterson said.

"The Department of Justice made public a report this month that 79 of the 100 largest corporations in America face anti-trust action by the U. S. government. American business monopoly is constantly getting stronger."

Discussing the Taft-Hartley bill, Peterson said the purpose of the legislation "is to weaken or destroy all organized labor in this country and so give Big Business an opportunity to make more profit by reducing the standard of living of all the American people."

The Capital District CIO Council will present programs at 12:15 p.m. Sunday over WOKO and at 2:20 p.m. Sunday over WTRY.

Here's Suggestion For Memorial Day

Local 159, Transport Workers Union, CIO, has chartered special buses to take passengers to the Altamont auto races Memorial Day. The buses will leave the YMCA in Lower State from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. The one-dollar round-trip tickets can now be bought from all Schenectady bus drivers. Proceeds will go to the union. Anyone wanting to make group reservations or to get additional information should telephone Alton Petets, Schenectady 2-2010.

UE Broadcast

Make it a habit to hear Leland Stowe at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday on the national UE radio program. It's on WSNY (1240 on your dial), WABY (1400) and WBCA (FM).

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE
WORKERS OF AMERICA, CIO
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

Published by the Editorial Committee
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Editorial Office - Electrical Union News
301 Liberty St. Schenectady, N. Y.
SCHENECTADY PRINTING CO., INC.

State CIO Meeting In Albany Tomorrow

U. S. Senator Glen Taylor (Democrat) of Idaho will speak at the New York State CIO Council's conference on anti-union legislation at 1 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday) at Chancellors Hall, Albany. Congressman Emanuel Celler (Democrat) of New York City will also address the meeting. Leo Jandreau of Local 301 is a vice-president of the State CIO. Members of all CIO unions in Schenectady have been urged to attend.

GE Shreve Provides Laugh of the Week

There's nothing anti-union about the Taft and Hartley bills, according to Earl O. Shreve, GE vice-president recently elected president of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

"There is no disposition on the part of the Congress either to inflict penalties on labor unions or union members," he said.

Apparently Mr. Shreve doesn't think it would be any penalty for a worker to have his union destroyed, to lose the right to strike, to have contract negotiations stalled indefinitely, to have outsiders hand-pick his union officers or to receive pay cuts.

Shreve wants legislation "to restore equality in collective bargaining." Evidently he thinks GE and those other little businesses that are struggling to get along need government protection from the unions.

Women Workers Protest Unfairness in Bldg. 81

A group of about 25 women from Bldg. 81 punched out early Monday afternoon in protest against the unreasonable attitude of supervision. A delegation from the group reported to the union office to discuss the grievances. The chief complaint was unfair timing of jobs for pricing.

William Kelly, assistant to the business agent, Committeeman William Fisher, Board Member Dewey Brashear and a committee of four women met with A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, on the problem Tuesday. Stevens said he would investigate and agreed to have another meeting yesterday. The women on the committee are Emily Lisks, Laura Zimmer, Helen Motyl and Helen Posluszny.

Organizing Drive Gets 720 Members

More new members have joined Local 301 since the organizing drive started in March than during any similar length of time in the past five years. The total of new members has now reached 720, according to William Stewart, chairman of the Organizing Committee.

Two new names have been added to the honor roll of committeemen with 100 per cent union membership in their groups. They are George Quick, Bldgs. 12 and 14, and William Hodges, Bldg. 72.



Richard A. Neilson Anthony Villano

U. S. bonds of \$100, \$50 and \$25 will be awarded at the membership meeting Wednesday night to the three members who turned in the most application cards by May 1: Anthony Villano, Bldg. 37, with 31 new members; Richard A. Neilson, Bldg. 69, with 25 members, and Frank H. Hiller, Bldg. 285, with 15 members.

"Now is the time to make the Schenectady plant 100% UE," Stewart said.

"Since the pay raise went into effect, there have been many cases of people going to their committeemen to ask for application cards.

"I'm sure that many others would join at once if somebody asked them. Our trouble is that we haven't contacted the whole plant yet.

"We must make every non-member realize that the union got his increase for him and that only the union can protect it. We don't want any more free riders. That's the feeling throughout the shop."

Frank H. Hiller

Company Defies Union Contract

(Continued from Page 1)

the grievance procedure for all employees. The matter is being placed by the Executive Board before the whole membership and in the first place before the departments immediately involved in the grievances on which arbitration was refused.

The company's attitude leaves the method of obtaining a settlement of grievances up to the members. The contract provides that "the union or locals will not cause or officially sanction their members to cause or take part in any sit-down, stay-in, or slow-down, or an other stoppage . . . until all the bargaining steps mentioned in the grievance procedure shall have been employed without success."

The disputed cases have been taken all the way more than once. They have been pending for many months.

Grievance Cases Involved

The grievances which the company has refused to submit to arbitration include: the wage classification of five testers in Bldg. 85; the job rate for two reel head painters in 85; the AER for a group of spot welders in Bldg. 73-A; the classification of a toolmaker in 269; the AERs for the workers in the Welded Products Division; the rate for crane followers in Bldg. 60; an individual rate in Bldg. 17; the job rate for a wiring and assembly group in Bldg. 5; the question of whether or not the silicone reactor process in Bldg. 77 was properly on continuous operation; and the wage classification of switchboard operators in Bldg. 265. In addition, the company would arbitrate three questions of breaks in service only if the union would accept the company's "existing rules", not part of the contract, as governing the cases.

While the GE has always fought to evade abiding by the arbitration clause, the company was believed to have been encouraged by pending anti-labor legislation to take its blunt stand in defiance of the contract.

More Telegrams Sent On Anti-Labor Bills

Albert Davis, Board member, has reported that Mary McCartin sent telegrams to Washington protesting anti-labor legislation for her group in Bldg. 28.

Alfred Spears, Board member, reported that William D. Kelly sent telegrams for his group in Bldg. 105

Biggest Crowd Yet Turns Out for Section Night



The section night party May 16 at CIO Hall, for members in R.I.M., I.C., Tube and Welded Products departments, was the best attended of the season. Here's a dance floor scene.

Important — Veterans

The U. S. Veterans' Administration has reported that only 51 per cent of eligible veterans have applied so far for their terminal leave pay. The deadline is Sept. 1.

At the present time, approximately one billion, 300 million dollars in terminal leave pay is unclaimed. Forms for filing are available at any post office and at the Local 301 Veterans' Center, 301 Hall.

Have You Mailed Postcard To President Truman Yet?

Postcards are being distributed this week by committeemen to 301 members throughout the plant to make sure that thousands of messages reach President Truman from Schenectady urging him to veto the Hartley-Taft bill.

If any member doesn't understand the importance of writing President Truman, the committeeman has a mimeographed statement to show him.

"DO YOU WANT TO LOSE that 11 1/2 cent raise, paid holidays and all the other gains of your new and past UE contract?" the union statement asks.

"You will lose that, and a lot more, if the pending anti-law bill (Hartley-Taft bill) becomes law."

Timing Discussion Continues With GE

Discussion was scheduled to continue in Bldg. 41 late this week on the timing rates to be applied under the step rate plan which took effect two years ago. Committeemen from departments where the raised timing rates were not applied were called into the discussion.

Last week, A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, told the union that as far as he could find out the correct timing rates were applied on all time studies, and that he did not consider that the change meant anything under table prices or on prices set by estimate or comparison.

For two years the contract has provided:

"New incentive prices will be set on the basis of the established step rate plan for incentive workers."

The step rate plan raised AER's anywhere from 1/2 cent to 4 1/2 cents. This in turn raised the timing rates for new prices. The union believes that the clause is clear, and that new prices should have been set according to the new rates, whether set by time study or otherwise.

\$1,938.59 for Cancer Drive

Cancer drive collections turned in by Local 301 committeemen totaled \$1,938.59 by Wednesday.