

PAC Program Sent To All Candidates

The Political Action Committee of Local 301 has sent to all candidates for political office in Schenectady County a program applying national CIO-PAC policies to the Schenectady level. Labor support should not be given to any candidate who refuses to support this program, the committee points out.

On the basis of replies from the candidates and their previous records, the PAC committee will recommend endorsements to the next 301 membership meeting. Union members are urged to vote for PAC endorsed candidates in the primary elections July 29.

PAC Meeting

The program was drawn up at a meeting June 26 of the PAC committee established by the membership meeting June 17. The group consisted of the president, Andrew Peterson; the vice-president, William Hodges; the treasurer, Marshall White; the recording secretary, Helen Quirini; and the chief steward, William Mastriani. Leo Jandreau, business agent, was absent because of illness.

Under membership instructions, the PAC committee urged that all candidates asking labor support seek nomination in all three recognized parties, Republican, Democratic and American Labor Party.

The program declares that passage of the Taft-Hartley bill makes it urgent for the people to organize to elect genuine representatives of the people and to secure sound legislative action, such as the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.

"It means fighting for a return to government for all the people, workers, farmers, small business and professional people, instead of government in the interest of Big Business. It means a return to the Roosevelt policy of Big Three unity and unity of the peoples of the world in opposition to blocs."

Local Program

Points stressed on the Schenectady city, town and county level include:

Reduce the outrageously high assessments and taxes on small home owners by placing the proper tax load on big industry, such as GE and ALCO.

Repeal the anti-sound truck ordinance and guard against other infringements of civil liberties.

Increase the pay of city and county employees.

Develop immediate, self-supporting municipal housing programs in Schenectady.

Enact a local anti-discrimination law.

301 Check for \$100 Aids CIO Baseball Factory Strike

President Andrew Peterson gives a \$100 check for Mrs. Viola Devine, president of Local 574, Textile Workers Union of America, on strike against the Wilson Athletic Goods Mfg. Co. Peterson and other 301 members joined the picket line.



Saratoga Eagles Request Taft-Hartley Bill Veto

Aerie 2586, Fraternal Order of Eagles, of Saratoga Springs voted unanimously to ask President Truman to veto the Taft-Hartley Bill and to ask U. S. Senator Irving M. Ives and Congressman Dean Taylor to uphold the veto. Donald R. MacDowell, secretary of Aerie 2586, and member of Local 301, sent the telegrams.

Recovering from Illness

Leo Jandreau, 301 business agent, is recovering from an illness at Ellis Hospital. His progress is reported as good.

Stewards to Hear Dermody Report

Joseph Dermody, secretary of the GE Conference Board of UE, will address the Local 301 stewards' meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the union hall. He will report on the Conference Board's meeting in New York. It will be the first meeting of the stewards since the enactment of the Taft-Hartley law.

Under a new provision of the local constitution, a steward will be dropped as a steward if he misses two meetings without a valid excuse.

Field Day Combines Speeches With Fun

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grand prize. John J. Battaling, 301 member in Bldg. 42, was the winner. The other two major prizes also went to union members: a refrigerator to John Potpinko, Bldg. 273, and a radio to Stella Krawiecki, Bldg. 42.

Joseph Dominelli acted as referee for boxing and wrestling bouts and Vincent Iovenelli as timekeeper. Each bout ended in a draw.

Union Men in Contests

Wrestling bouts were between Steve Budynas, 301 member in Bldg. 17, and Don De Gennaro, and between Tony Czban, 301 member in Bldg. 17, and Ed Travers, 301 member in Bldg. 42. The boxing featured Patsy Saruth against Jimmy Anderson, and Tony Barone against Leo Montenegro, 301 member in Bldg. 77.

The Local 301 checker champion, Joe Scardino, of Bldg. 28 played 32 games at a time, going from board to board. He won 28 games, tied two games and lost two games in one hour and 56 minutes.

The program included pony rides, games and movies for children, dancing, refreshments and other entertainment. The Activities Committee of which George Judway is chairman reported that over 12,000 tickets were sold.

NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE
GE 100 PER CENT UNION!

Electrical Union News

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

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Stewards Approve Conference Report

The need of tightening the union machinery in the face of the Taft-Hartley Act and of uniting the membership was emphasized in a report on the recent GE Conference Board of UE approved by the 301 Stewards' meeting Tuesday night and the Executive Board.

The report was made by President Andrew Peterson and Treasurer Marshall White, local representatives at the New York session.

"The fight against the Taft-Hartley Act will of course come in political action in 1948," they said, "in fighting for the election of a President and a Con-

301 Meeting to Elect Convention Delegates

Delegates to the national UE convention at Boston Sept. 22-26 will be elected at the Local 301 membership meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, at the union hall.

Reports will be made on the recent meeting of the General Electric Conference Board of UE by the local representatives. The local's PAC program will also be discussed.

301 Presses Grievances Over GE Hiring System

Individual complaints of members who were not given a chance to return or advance to high-rated jobs, while new men were hired for such jobs, are now being processed as individual grievances by the union.

Many new men have been hired recently for skilled jobs. Under the contract, workers who had been transferred off such jobs for lack of work, and workers who could qualify for such jobs, are entitled to the better openings in preference to men hired "off the street."

Good News

Business Agent Leo Jandreau's condition continues to improve. He has been discharged from Ellis Hospital and is now convalescent at home.

warned against taking any undisciplined action. This does not mean less militancy. It means that necessary militant action will be the result of careful membership consideration.

Neither does this mean that stewards should be less vigilant in pressing grievances. On the contrary, it becomes more important than ever that the utmost effort be made to win grievances at the first level by proper preparation and pressure.

That Local 301 press the current fight for a sound wage structure for this plant.

That the local "push energetically our political action program.

GE Breaks Word About Carboly Speed-up Prices

Schenectady GE workers got their first taste of the Taft-Hartley law last week, when the company announced it would put new carboly speed-up prices into effect in Foreman Barney Gardener's department in the Turbine Division, despite its previous agreement not to change prices until the issue was threshed out with the national management.

The prices had been held up for four months pending the national discussion, and Local 301 had been waiting for almost three months for a meeting at that level on the question. Eight days after the Taft-Hartley bill had become law A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, notified William J. Kelly, 301 assistant to the business agent, that the company considered the new prices a "local issue." Foreman Gardener notified Steward Roy Lash that the prices would go into effect July 14 (next Monday). The company sent word to the union that if any stoppage developed, the leaders would be fired.

In another department of the Turbine Division, Foreman James Hotaling insisted on complete new time studies on slotted work last week, on a flimsy "change of method" excuse (See separate story in this paper).

Want Formula Revised

In the carboly case, the immediate prices offered on the disputed "stud" job are not the present issue, because of the demand of all the Turbine Division stewards and membership that the price-setting formula for all such jobs be first revised to permit "the possibility of a reasonable increase in earnings" because of the increased strain on the operators from the speed-up.

In a registered letter to Stevens July 3, Kelly pointed out that the notice of price change last week violated the contract grievance procedure, as the case was pending at the national level. Kelly further pointed out that in meetings with the special Turbine Division Committee,

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Andrew Peterson



Marshall White

UE Will Avoid New Labor Board As Unfair; Steelworkers Adopt Same Policy on NLRB

The national UE will by-pass the new National Labor Relations Board set up by the Taft-Hartley law.

The General Executive Board of UE has advised UE locals "to submit no issue" to the new NLRB. Similar action was taken by the United Steelworkers of America and several other CIO unions. Indications are that AFL unions will also avoid the NLRB.

The UE declared that the Taft-Hartley law destroyed the NLRB as an instrument protecting the rights of employees and changed the Wagner Act and the Board into instruments of oppression against workers' rights.

The Taft-Hartley Act was written to make the NLRB an instrument for meddling in the affairs of unions that may come before it, the UE statement said.

Stacked Against Unions

"Nothing but injury can result to the interests of the membership of any union that takes a seat in this crooked game, where the rules are rigged and the dice are loaded against them.

"Accordingly, it shall be UE policy to submit no issue to the determination of the Taft-Hartley board, nor in any other manner, upon union initiative, to step among the snares and pitfalls that the NAM authors of the law have spread for labor's feet."

The UE General Executive Board stated, "we join with the CIO in declaring that we intend to comply, as in the past, with the provisions of our union contracts"—contracts which cover workers of more than 1,300 plants coast to coast.

"At the same time we intend that employers also shall comply and we will fight if necessary to see that they do."

"If any contracts are breached and abrogated, it will be done by the deliberate choice of employers, not by this union.

"In such cases we are confident that our membership will find means to protect their rights. Under the Taft-Hartley Act some employers may regard union contracts as instruments to be broken where they benefit workers, and only to be appealed to as excuses under the law for repressive action against workers."

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Enforcing Contract Is Vital to Union

The union will develop the kind of fight needed to meet the present situation, and this fight by labor will lead to the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, Joseph Dermody, secretary of the GE Conference Board of UE, told the 301 Stewards' Council Tuesday night.



J. Dermody

as not to invite lawsuits."

Dermody said that the new situation faced by the union was the Taft-Hartley law and the attitude of company officials. He declared that GE is part of a monopoly trying to get control of the whole electrical industry, and that to do this it wants to cut costs, and the union is an obstacle to such cuts. He pointed out that the union had always been extremely reasonable, had not opposed increased production or technological changes, but had simply insisted on protecting the workers' living standards.

The company wants a union it can control, Dermody said, and that is why it engages in a campaign slandering the union.

Big Attendance

Maybe the unusually big attendance at the stewards' meeting Tuesday night was due to interest in the report on the Taft-Hartley law. Or maybe it had something to do with the new provision in the 301 constitution — that a steward will be dropped as a steward if he misses two meetings without a valid excuse.

Whatever the reason, the turnout was the largest in months.

Taft-Hartley Law Speeds Depression

Because of the passage of the Taft-Hartley bill, the forces making for a depression are vastly strengthened. Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative, points this out in his weekly news letter.

"The ability of the people to make ends meet, already weakened by removal of price controls, will be greatly hampered by monopoly's latest attempt to destroy collective bargaining."

With profits continuing to set new records, while the people's purchasing power steadily falls, a depression is made inevitable, Nixon declared.



"The Taft - Hartley bill is not a blow just at labor. It is a blow against the welfare of all the American people, 90 percent of whom work for wages and salaries.

"It is a blow especially at the merchants and other small business men of the nation whose business depends on labor having adequate purchasing power. It is a blow especially at the farmers whose incomes depend on labor's earnings as their crops depend on rain.

"The Taft-Hartley bill is the first blow of a "one-two" punch which the National Association of Manufacturers, acting through Congress, is throwing at the American people. First they hope to knock out labor. Then they intend to hit the farmers.

"The corporations have a program for American agriculture. You can read it in "Life" for May 5, 1947: they want to see two-thirds of our family farms liquidated and most of the people on them moved into the cities, to add to the great reservoir of unemployed labor."

GE Cuts Rates At Ohio Plant

One of the newest GE plants, in Tiffin, Ohio, with about 1,000 workers, was among the first to feel the company's attitude since the Taft-Hartley bill became the Taft-Hartley law. The local there reported to the national UE office that there had been a general cutting of piece work rates this week. Under the piece work system in effect in that plant, the cut took the form of increasing by 40 to 50 percent the "quotas" required to make the job rate.

The entire day shift was reported to have stopped work Tuesday in protest.

Interesting Angles On Anti-Union Law

Information about the effect of the Taft-Hartley law on the union was brought back from the meeting of the GE Conference Board of UE by the 301 representatives.

Although the law is the "most inclusive and clever law ever devised to attack working people," it does not mean workers can no longer fight for their unions.

"It only means that we have to conduct our fight much more carefully, in such a way as to have the least possible trouble as the result of the law. It also means that the fight will be much harder."

GE Contract Legal

"The 1947 contract is a valid legal contract in every respect and we must insist on its enforcement and observance by both sides. While this includes the present union maintenance of membership and check-off, we must be prepared for the fact that in order to obtain maintenance of membership for 1948 we would have to get a special labor board election which would require months, even years of delay. We must also look forward to the possibility, in view of the company's attitude, that it will refuse to renew the agreement and that next year we may be of necessity working without an agreement. This would be a situation new to this union, but one which has existed on many occasions for other unions, and which may be a lot better than a contract which serves principally as a basis for prosecution and lawsuits against the union."

NLRB 'Employer Agency'

The report pointed out that the National Labor Relations Board will be strictly an employer agency to prosecute unions. Employers and supervisors can intimidate workers and fire them for union activities as long as they find some supposed "cause" for the firing.

The law opens unions to all kinds of lawsuits for breach of contract and makes the union responsible even if it didn't authorize a stoppage. This is an invitation to employers to use stool pigeons to promote stoppages. It makes it very important that there be no undisciplined action by any group. The lawsuits under the law are directed against the union treasury and not the individual member.

"Under the GE contract, the union still has the right to strike when the grievance procedure has been exhausted without bringing about a settlement of the

301 Board Member Turns Newsboy

Leland Sisto, Executive Board member, is at the plant gates every Friday handing out the EU News. He is shown giving a copy to Helen Nichols of Bldg. 269



Union Goes to Bat Over Holiday Pay

Holiday pay grievances filed by the union include the case of a worker stranded in Plattsburgh last Sunday night because a crowded bus passed him by. He and a large group of other would-be passengers had to wait for a Monday morning train. For failure to report to work that morning, GE refused to give him his Fourth of July pay. The man still has his unused bus ticket.

Another case involves a worker who had to appear at a naturalization hearing the Monday after Memorial Day and also had to keep an appointment at the Veterans' Bureau in Watervliet about his teeth. Both his foreman and his superintendent gave him permission in advance to be absent, he reported. Nevertheless his Memorial Day pay was withheld.

The union is also trying to get Memorial Day pay for another veteran who was notified by the Veterans Bureau to appear at Watervliet Monday, June 2, on a disability claim.

Veterans' Center

The 301 Veterans' Center is open from 1 to 5 p. m. every Tuesday and Friday at the union hall.

grievance. However, any such action should be carefully considered as the responsibility of the whole local union as well as the international and the GE Conference Board."

Company Breaks Word About Carboloy Prices

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Stevens had agreed on February 27, and Louis Male, general superintendent, had re-affirmed on March 6, that there would be no change in price until the general issue of the pricing basis was settled at the national level. He called on the company to abide by the agreement. Joseph Dermody, secretary of the GE Conference Board of UE, arranged a special meeting on the question with George Pfeif of the national GE office for yesterday. A Turbine Division sub-committee of three, headed by Board Member William Stewart, was scheduled to be there.

In a letter received Wednesday, Stevens denied that the company had agreed not to change prices pending the national discussion. The agreement was made by him and Male before a committee of 10 from the Turbine Division. Stevens' letter told Kelly "you have made several previous references to such an agreement." But the company did not deny the agreement until after the Taft-Hartley bill was passed. There had been no word from the company since the Turbine Division membership's resolution was sent to Stevens and to Vice-President E. D. Spicer on April 24.

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Leland Stowe on Air

Don't forget the weekly UE radio program presenting Leland Stowe, news commentator. It's at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday on WSNY, on WABY and on WBCA (FM).