

File

THE SIXTY-NINER

February 21, 1950

Mary Laudazzi, second floor shop steward, pressing two grievances on Foreman Diaz - (1) girls want piece work prices instead of working for \$1.10 an hour, and (2) rate on wiring job should be raised.

Prices did come out on one line. Way too low. Instead of raising them, a piece rate man stands over the girls. Sister Laudazzi told Diaz the girls would not stand for rate men hounding them and speeding them up.

A reminder to GE foremen - GE workers formed the UE to stop such things as spying on workers and speeding them up. UE stewards are here to watch out for that. And by sticking together we'll get the right prices.

Welcome to two new shop stewards: David Fiore for the drill press and screw machine groups under Foremen Plichta and Miller. John Wiesenger for the groups under Foremen Locke and Kukla. These are temporary appointments by Board Member Mastriani. Elections will be held shortly as called for by the constitution.

Wiesenger takes the place of John Fava, who resigned. Fava's running out did not come as too great a surprise, but it is still a shock to see a man stand up before his fellow-workers and swear to uphold the UE, then turn around a month later and become an "Imitation UE" agent trying to wreck our conditions.

Steward Joe Macherone is still fighting over too low prices in the miscellaneous machine group.

Interesting things come to light about how an IUE "leader" works - and for whom. As we told you before, we went to 41 to find out how come Ann Daley, former UE shop steward expelled for IUE activity, suddenly blossoms out as a Class C assembler. So 41 tells us Foreman Sotile promoted her from C to D on October 10, while still a UE steward. For the month before that and for more than a month afterwards, while she remained a UE steward in name, no grievances against Sotile were brought to the union by Mrs. Daley.

And now as a sideshow Daley and Sotile make a cash bet and he gets on the bench to prove how fast he can do a job. With a middle man holding stakes, and sweat pouring from Sotile's brow, he won the bet. However, he returned the five-spot to Mrs. Daley. Apparently he thought it might mean trouble.

Wonderful how supervision can close its eyes when the "Imitation UE" boys violate rules. Charles Greiner, with only two years' service, roams around at will. And when it's put to General Foreman Lynch, he finds excuses for Greiner. Who's kidding whom?

Sub-committee meeting held in the shop and another meeting in 41 on the milling machine set-up prices. J. Heaphy, Duell, Testardo, De Lorenzo and Mastriani at the first meeting; Bray, De Lorenzo and Mastriani in 41. Company still refuses to budge, saying earnings are above the AER.

A.C. Stevens, assistant to works manager, finally came down and looked over the assembly job on small and medium panels and switch boxes. He refuses to budge. We know the rate of \$1.32 is too low. That's why the contract issue of correcting day work job inequities is so important.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS ARE VERY OFTEN IN NEED OF BLOOD
WHAT SAY WE GET GOING AND BUILD THE 301 BLOOD BANK, 69?

MEMBERSHIP MEETING TONIGHT AT UNION HALL AT 7:30 P.M.

owa-local 70

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 - - - U. E. R. & M. W. A.

Vol. 8, No. 6

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

February 24, 1950

Local 301 Calls for Extension of Contract

GE Insists Upon March Check-off

The General Electric Company has notified Local 301 it will continue with the March check-off despite the wishes of the union members to pay their dues direct to the union.

This is nothing but another move of GE to aid its company-union, the IUE, and to tie up UE funds.

As an excuse for ignoring the thousands of check-off revocation cards, the company claims the revocations were received with only 29 days notice instead of 30 days. GE refused to count the day on which the revocations were delivered. Taking the matter to court would involve endless litigation.

The point is that GE could have agreed to accept the revocations even if they had been handed in such later.

In fact the company could have agreed to cancel both the February and March check-off without revocation cards. But on Jan. 31 it told the union it would insist on continuing the check-off for both months and would insist on a full 30 days individual revocation. That was less than 48 hours before the deadline.

In spite of the action of the company, it is important that all revocations still outstanding be turned in by the shop stewards to protect the interests of the members. See separate story on the set-up for collecting April dues by stewards.

301 to Send Food To Striking Miners

For the duration of the miners' strike Local 301 will collect food and send it directly to locals of the United Mine Workers. The 301 membership Tuesday voted unanimously to back the miners' fight in this manner.

The first collection is set for Tuesday. Workers are asked to bring cans and boxes of food when they go to work that morning or that afternoon. There will be big boxes at the Subway entrance, at the cinder path, near the entrance to the main gate and in Campbell Ave. near the gate leading to the

Feed His Family While He Fights



Income Tax Help

If you need help making out federal or state income tax returns, come to 301 Hall from 9 a. m. to noon tomorrow (Saturday). This free service will be available every Saturday morning through Mar. 11.

main plant. Donations may also be brought to the union hall.

A. C. Stevens, assistant to the Works Manager, turned down the union's request that the boxes could be on company property at the gates.

The first shipment of food will be transported by truck from Schenectady next week.

Unions throughout the country are giving similar support to the miners. The Taft-Hartley injunction against them forbids the United Mine Workers to spend a cent to feed the members and their families. It forbids the miners from taking any action to win their demands.

Chaos Would Result April 1 Otherwise

The 301 membership meeting Tuesday voted unanimously to call on the General Electric Company to extend the contract beyond Apr. 1 until a National Labor Relations Board election determines the collective bargaining agency for GE workers.

GE has announced the contract will terminate April 1 and there seems no possibility of having an election by that date.

Gains Would Be Endangered
If the contract is not extended, the members pointed out, working conditions would be unprotected. Seniority, holidays, vacations, piece-work guarantees and other gains won by UE would be in immediate danger. Such a situation would create chaos at the plant.

Members made it clear that they hold GE responsible for the April 1 crisis. By petitioning the Taft-Hartley Board for an election the company came to the rescue of the "Imitation UE" which did not have enough members to justify an election in Schenectady or many other GE plants. And GE has maneuvered with IUE to stall the labor board hearing by long testimony and cross-examinations on GE's and IUE's requests for changes in existing UE bargaining units.

Insist on Contract Conditions
In voting to demand extension of the contract, the membership served notice on GE that it will insist on maintaining union conditions and on processing grievances as usual.

The membership also unanimously approved contract negotiations the 1950 contract negotiations adopted by the shop stewards this month. These proposals and the call for contract extension will be presented to the GE Conference. (Continued on page four)

Jandreau Warns Of New Smear

Leo Jandreau warned the membership meeting Tuesday that Carey's "Imitation UE" would pull political strings to stage sensational attacks on UE as a last-minute desperate move in the GE labor board election fight.

"We must be prepared for another smear campaign such as that conducted by Congressman Kersten in 1948," Jandreau said. "Already Chairman Lesinski of the House Labor Committee has named a sub-committee, in direct response to Carey's request for help against UE. We can expect that this sub-committee will conduct a phony investigation which will bring out no facts, but which will once again provide newspaper headlines."

"We must expect that they will go further along these lines. Don't be surprised if they misuse the Department of Justice for sensational charges against UE officers. (Continued on page two)

301 Basketball Team Having Good Season



The Local 301 basketball team has won nine games and lost four so far in the Schenectady City League. Front row, left to right, Peter Piotrowski, Building 72; Peter Bielwa, 49, and Captain Dom Restifo, 50. Rear, Edward Gejay, 273; Homer Smith, Jimmy Hibberd, 273, and Robert Marnell, 273.

Warns of New Smear

(Continued from page one)
The charges will be baseless, but Carey and his propaganda agents figure that charges will be shown up only after the election, and in the meantime the damage will be done. If our people are prepared for this, there need be no damage. The workers will see through it." Jandreau pointed out that Carey and the CIO top leaders behind him turned the CIO over to politicians in exchange for promises, like repeal of Taft-Hartley, which were not made good. So the payoff takes the form of individual political favors to people like Carey in their own maneuvers against the working people.

UE Wins Gains

UE Local 308 has won a general wage increase of six cents an hour for employees of the National Manufacturing Company at Tonawanda under a wage reopening. In addition, the company will pay two and one-quarter cents an hour for group insurance coverage which the workers previously paid, so their increase in take-home pay is eight and one-quarter cents an hour.

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UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO AND
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SCHENECTADY OR LOCAL 301

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IUE Charges Untrue On 301 Expenditures

After prying into the books of Local 301, the "Imitation UE" this week filed a report with Supreme Court Justice John Alexander claiming that the union spent more than the \$3,500 a week allowed by his court order. Newspapers gave the IUE big headlines again.

Local 301 has complied in full with the \$3,500 restriction. The union books are in good order and are kept in the same fashion as they have always been kept. The auditing firm which has always checked on 301 accounts regularly in the past has almost completed an audit for the period covered by the injunction. A well-known firm of local auditors has also been retained and began work this week. The union does not plan to alter its bookkeeping system to suit the whims of the Carey boys.

The IUE did some fancy arithmetic and figure juggling to try to back up its report. For instance, it charged that 301 spent \$11,049.65 during the week of Jan. 26. The IUE reached this fantastic figure by including a check for over \$7,000 dated Oct. 30, (before the injunction) but not being canceled by the Schenectady bank till January. It was the check for the September per capita payment to national UE.

The disruptive actions of the IUE are not only tying up 301 funds but subjecting the union to needless expenses.

The address of the IUE's auditing firm, by the way, is 1 Wall St., New York City.

Debunking IUE Claims

Government Figures Show UE Has Won Higher Average Pay Than Auto, Steel

Job for job, the wage levels achieved by UE in the electrical industry are higher than in Auto and Steel.

Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor show this clearly. Thus UE's record on wages ALONE is better than that of the major CIO unions. In addition UE is far ahead of these outfits on the other bread-and-butter issues—holidays, vacations, piece work guarantee, shift premiums, seniority, grievance procedure and in real rather than shadow pension plans.

The Carey and CIO raiders have been spreading false propaganda about contract conditions and particularly wage levels.

The "Imitation UE" crew and their CIO disorganizing committee get their phony wage comparisons in two ways: by outright falsehood, and by suppressing facts about the type of work and jobs in the industries.

Lower Earnings in Steel

For example, the IUE has been saying that average hourly earnings in major steel plants are \$1.68. But the U. S. Department of Labor gives the figures as \$1.61. And Philip Murray's brief before the Steel Board of Inquiry gave the figure as only \$1.58.

Average hourly earning for men in the GE chain are \$1.68. For Schenectady they are higher, as the workers here know for themselves.

The IUE agents compare averages in the steel and auto industries, overwhelmingly hot, heavy jobs, often dangerous, with electrical, radio and lamp, with a high proportion of light and women's jobs.

Basic steel has virtually no women. In the electrical industry 30 percent of the workers are women.

Some U. S. Statistics

In that part of the UE field, where the proportion of women is 29 per cent, lower than the overall average but still substantially higher than in Auto and Steel, the U. S. Department of Labor shows the following hourly averages:

Engines and Turbines .. \$1.625
Refrigerators 1.58
Sewing Machines 1.62

In the CIO Auto Workers' field, the hourly average is \$1.71 in auto and only \$1.57 in aircraft.

In both auto and steel the proportion of hot, very heavy and dangerous jobs is much greater

than in electrical. The rate of accidents is much worse. The speed-up is fierce.

Lighter jobs for women and discrimination against women, bring the average wage down where the number of women is high. UE has been reducing the discrimination. But Philip Murray, Walter Reuther and Carey go along with this discrimination. Under UE contracts, women's hourly average was 66% of men's in 1939. It has been raised to 78% of the men's average.

For an easy comparison of wages in similar jobs, take the foundries. In the Steelworkers' industries the hourly average in 1949 was \$1.49. Just compare that with the averages in the foundries here.

Those Carey Promises

To carry out their promise to bring GE wages in line with those of Steel and Auto, the Carey stooges would have to negotiate a cut.

That would be in line with the record. The Carey stooges in UE spent the last two years sabotaging the fight of the UE membership for higher wages. John Callahan, IUE leader in Pittsfield, proposed before the bargaining started that the GE workers give up a wage increase in 1949. Auto and Steel leaders gave up wage raises for 1949 and 1950.

Carey's home local at Philco drags down the average in the radio industry. And it has a hiring-in rate for women of 87 1/2 cents.

These are the people who tell you they will improve on UE's wage record!

Wonder How Carey Can Explain This?

In their drive to take over the electrical workers directly or through stooges, the CIO Steel Workers brag about their wage achievements. But here is what Philip Murray told the Truman Steel Board of Inquiry:

"During the period 1939-1940 steel wages increased 14.3% terms of 1939 dollars, while wages in all manufacturing industries increased 27.3%. Steelworkers, relatively, improved their earning power only half as much as did other industrial workers."

Allis-Chalmers Workers Betrayed by John Duffy

What happens to a local union that falls for the promises and hony claims of a company-union man like John Duffy, "Imitation UE" organizer in Schenectady?

Here's what happened to the local at the Pittsburgh Allis-Chalmers plants, formerly Local 613 of UE and now Local 1036 of the United Auto Workers.

In 1946 the workers at seven Allis-Chalmers plants went on strike. The strike was broken by the Carey group heading the Pittsburgh local, who signed a sell-out contract. In later negotiations they sabotaged a united wage fight and accepted company-union contracts. Duffy was a leader of the gang.

Arranged UAW Raid

Finally in 1949 Duffy and his pals plotted with the UAW to raid UE. They told the Allis-Chalmers workers that shifting to UAW would get them a better contract. They counted on the company playing along with them afterward and letting them make at least a gesture of keeping their promises.

But after the raid was accomplished, the company didn't bother to return the "good deed" of the Carey-Duffy crowd. Instead, the company resisted even granting the old contract. And the old contract itself was a very inadequate one, containing all the weaknesses negotiated by the same Carey-Duffy gang in 1946.

Still No Contract

After some months of negotiations by UAW, the local still hasn't a contract. The company's recent counter-proposal was a real "yellow dog" contract.

Duffy was expelled from UE Local 613 in November 1948. The trial report showed he used \$1,200 of the local's funds for outside activities without an accounting. This is the Duffy who is prying in to Local 301's books under Judge Alexander's court order.

Woman Upgraded

UE has won another victory in its fight against discrimination against women workers.

The victory occurred in a grievance case at the Lancaster, Pa., plant of RCA. The case was carried to the national level. The company had ignored the seniority and ability of a woman exhaust operator in line for an opening on a setup job. Management hired a new man from the street. Finally RCA agreed to give the woman the job she was entitled to.

Shop Stewards Taking Oath of Office



This group of stewards being sworn in includes (not in left to right order): William Delos, Building 5; Nestor Bojarczuk, Bldg. 37; Richard Maranville; Bldg. 49; John Wilkie, Frank Marcle, Sterling Vernon, Frank Baumgartner, Arthur A. Martin, August Neubauer, R. C. Hutton, John V. Marinucci, B. L. Fernal, James Muir, Legrand Hines, Vito Schiavo and Salvatore Albert, Bldg. 273; Vincent Favata, Harold Cornick, Frank Csontos, Edward J. Moore, Leonard Hofmeister, Fred Hudson and Albert Della Penta, CAP, and Walter Zahn, Malta. Floyd Warner, Guide, is administering the oath of office.

UE Pledges Loyalty To Service of People

Delegates to the recent national UE policy conference in New York City unanimously adopted a statement on loyalty reaffirming UE's determination to maintain its union democracy.

In the statement the delegates pledged to continue the fight for the interests of the membership and to continue to criticize actions and policies from any source injurious to the interests of the working people.

"The UE never blindly supported a politician, no matter who he was," the delegates said.

"The UE disagreed vigorously on many important questions supported with equal vigor by President Roosevelt—because it felt the best interests of the people were not being served. We did support the general objectives of the New Deal because they tended to improve the lot of the common people of which we are a part."

"We will continue to fight to improve the wages, hours and working conditions of our members because this will be the best expression, as union members, of our loyalty to the aims and aspirations of the American Constitution and to the freedom guaranteed by the United States Constitution.

"We are confident of the future because we have faith in the people."

7-Cent Raise

UE has won a seven-cent an hour raise and three cents more insurance for employees of the Air-Maze Company at Cleveland, Ohio.

Quite a Team!

IUE Carefully Picks Spots For Elections

In addition to two lawyers, the representatives of Carey's "Imitation UE" at the Labor Board hearing on plans for an election at GE plants are John Callahan, the former UE business agent at Pittsfield, and Fred Kelley, former business agent at Lynn GE.

Neither man has ever organized workers or negotiated a contract. They came into UE rather late. Callahan sabotaged UE negotiations last summer by writing a letter to GE President Charles E. Wilson proposing a separate settlement for Pittsfield.

By the way, Callahan attended the national CIO convention as a "delegate" from the United Cemetery Workers of Jamaica Plains, Mass., and Kelley as a "delegate" from the United Laundry and Dry Cleaning Workers of Woburn,

UE Trounces IUE At Ward Leonard

UE defeated the "Imitation UE" in a Taft-Hartley Labor Board election recently at Ward Leonard Company, Mt. Vernon, N. Y., by a vote of 232 to 218.

The place was swarming with UE organizers for a few weeks before the election. James B. Carey campaigned there personally, along with Paul Jennings, who is claiming credit for all the gains which UE obtained for the workers at Sperry Gyroscope Company.

Newspapers attacked UE and printed the Carey propaganda and falsehoods. But the Ward Leonard workers picked UE.

100 Percent for UE

By unanimous vote, employees of AAA Slide Fastener Company, New York City, have chosen UE as bargaining agent. The vote was 49 for IUE, 0 for the AFL Teamsters.

Obviously in a fight like this one, with a tremendous interference by companies, newspapers, and other outside forces, we must expect some losses. But after the headlines and the smoke have blown away, the losses will include the disruptors who have worked to slow down the progress of the union. UE will be a stronger union afterwards.

BUILD THE UNION
ATTEND THE UNION MEETINGS