

IUE Board Maps New Strategy

United Front Demanded

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY'S plans to keep GE workers divided got badly upset on April 12. 6,000 workers in the Lynn IUE-CIO voted almost unanimously to work out a program of joint action with UE.

The overwhelming majority of workers in GE are in UE and IUE. Joint action means that once again a solid front of GE workers will fight effectively to improve wages and working conditions in their plants.

GE's strategy is to divide its workers. There will be all kinds of tricks pulled. The answer is for all GE workers through their collective bargaining representatives to take immediate steps toward joint action and the formulation of joint demands.

UE says: LET'S GO!

THE BOSTON HERALD

Several members criticized Carey and other leaders for their failure to reach an understanding with UE for the purposes of presenting a united front against the company.

George Walsh, president of the UE's Local 201 in Lynn, said in a statement last night that "we were extremely pleased" by the action at the meeting and his union "hopes this will lead to united action by all GE employees in the chain."

"We want to fight GE," declared Pat Walsh, chief steward at the Everett plant who introduced the successful amendment to the unity motion. "But we want to be sure that no one is back working in the plant."

CALL SERVICE

WESTERN UNION

PAYMENTS

1 UER PD ST APRIL 15 1953 =
MR. JOHN H. CALLAHAN, CHAIRMAN =
IUE-GE CONFERENCE BOARD = INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ELECTRICAL, RADIO AND MACHINE WORKERS, CIO =
109 WOODLAWN AVENUE = PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS =

IN LINE WITH OUR COMMUNICATIONS OF FEBRUARY 10 AND APRIL 9 ADDRESSED TO YOU AS CHAIRMAN OF THE IUE-GE CONFERENCE BOARD OFFERING COOPERATION IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WE HAVE SENT THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM TO WILLIAM O. EMERY, PRESIDENT AND EARL J. RILEY, BUSINESS AGENT OF IUE LOCAL 201. QUOTE GENERAL ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES

ALL OVER THE COUNTRY APPLAUD THE ACTION BY THOUSANDS OF LYNN GE WORKERS ON APRIL 12 CALLING FOR CONSULTATION AND AGREEMENT WITH ALL UNIONS IN GE FOR CONCERTED ACTION LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY. PARAGRAPH UE WELCOMES THIS DEMONSTRATION OF THE DESIRE FOR UNITED EFFORT TOWARD WINNING BETTER WAGES, BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS AND MORE SECURITY. PARAGRAPH A COMMITTEE REPRESENTING THE UE-GE CONFERENCE BOARD IS READY TO MEET AT A TIME AND PLACE CONVENIENT TO YOUR ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF BRINGING ABOUT SUCH JOINT EFFORT BY ORGANIZED GE WORKERS. SIGNED JOSEPH DERMODY, SECRETARY NATIONAL UE-GE CONFERENCE BOARD- 11 EAST 51ST STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. UNQUOTE

A COMMITTEE REPRESENTING THE UE-GE CONFERENCE BOARD IS READY TO MEET PROMPTLY AT A TIME AND PLACE MUTUALLY AGREEABLE =

JOSEPH DERMODY, SECRETARY
NATIONAL UE-GE CONFERENCE BOARD =..

New PEAKS for GE profits... but CEILINGS on GE wages!

G. E. Sales, Earnings At Peak for Quarter

By Gene Smith

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., April 21.—Some 2,100 General Electric Co. stockholders learned at today's annual meeting here that the company had chalked up record first-quarter sales and earnings. Ralph J. Cordiner, president, placed sales at \$777,819,000, an increase of 29 per cent over the \$560,557,000 reported in the like period of last year.

GE IS BREAKING ALL PROFIT records in its history. 46 million dollars in the first three months of 1953. Profits are exorbitant but the wage structure is low. The top rate for the most skilled workers in GE plants is from \$2.32 to \$1.89 an hour, an average of \$2.20 an hour.

Keep down the top skilled rate; push down the low women rates — GE can't lose. The whole rate structure is pushed down by keeping the ceiling down and lowering the floor of the rate structure. The GE rate structure is a straight-jacket on all workers. You fight for a wage increase but in fact you are wriggling in the company's straight-jacket.

Two years ago the U. S. Wage Stabilization Panel recognized that top skilled rates were too low. They recommended an increase. Employers like GE knifed the proposal.

WORTHY OF THEIR HIRE

Skilled workers are key to efficient production. Their skill in designing, building and maintaining tools, machines and equipment took years to acquire. These were years of low wages as apprentices. Plus many more years of service to reach Class A skills.

A skilled worker's top rate averages \$2.20 in GE plants, or \$4,400 a year. This is \$450 below the Heller Budget for "reasonable living" for a family of four. Top skilled workers in GE cannot make enough for some of life's comforts to which their years of work entitle them.

GE has made a miserly offer of 1.79%. GE workers need a substantial raise. Let part of the 1.79% be used to alleviate present inequities. Skilled workers could get an additional 10 cents an hour which would help some.

Instead GE is full of tricks. Its vaunted Community Survey finds the lowest wage in an area and applies it to all plants. GE is full of profits.

UE says: GE CAN PAY.

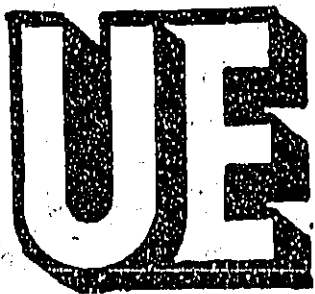
Be on the lookout for a leaflet from your local union on this bargaining demand.

issued by

UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO AND MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA (UE)
Eleven East 51 Street
New York 22, N. Y.

UE

(see other side)



UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA

LOCAL 201

819 WESTERN AVENUE

LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. Earl J. Riley, Business Agent
IUE-CIO Local 201
191 North Common Street
Lynn, Mass.

April 28, 1953

Dear Sir and Brother:

As you know, the IUE-GE Conference Board on April 17 rejected the mandate of the IUE Local 201 membership to work out joint action with UE in negotiations with General Electric.

Despite this rebuff to the largest IUE Local bargaining with GE, we note that your Executive Board on April 22 appointed a ways and means committee to study the unity question.

We sincerely hope that this means that you intend to fight for the decision of the membership "to consult and arrive at agreement with all unions in GE for concerted action . . . locally as well as nationally." There can be no doubt that united we can get better results for our members.

In view of the status of negotiations and the refusal of your Conference Board to heed the will of your membership, we feel it urgent that committees of UE Local 201 and IUE Local 201 meet without delay for the purpose of bringing about joint action. Regardless of the April 17 decision of your Conference Board, we must strive for a meeting of our two Boards since this is so plainly dictated by the interests of GE workers both locally and nationally.

As I communicated to you earlier, UE Local 201 is more than ready to meet. I submit that the first step toward united action is to pull up our chairs and start talking.

Fraternally yours,

George P. Walsh

George P. Walsh,
President

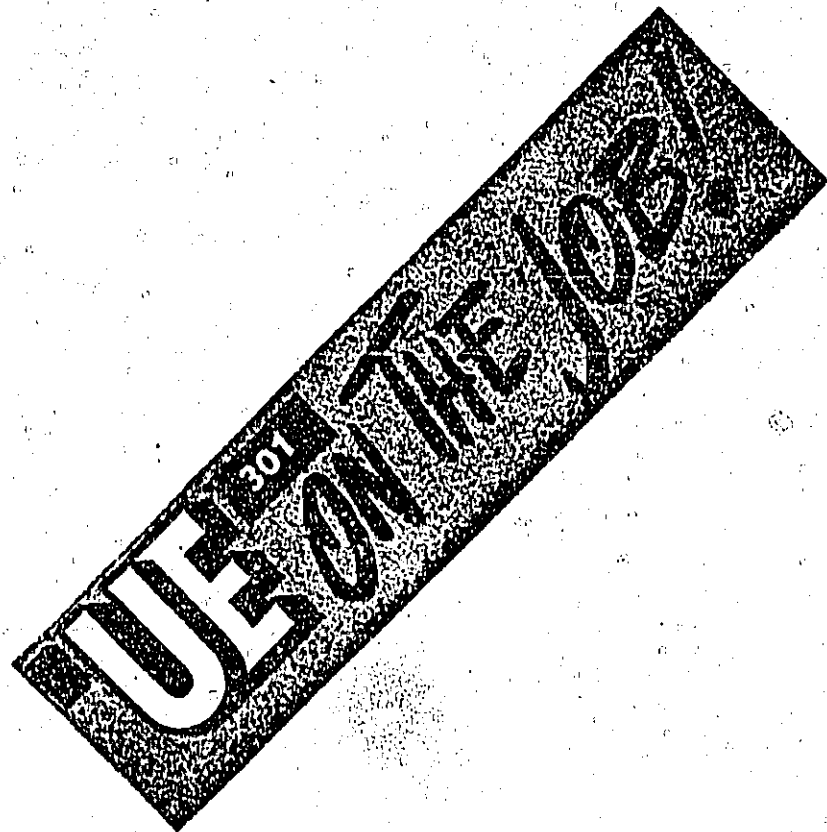
GPW/lhs
Copy to Wm. O. Emery, Pres.

As this leaflet goes to press, the IUE-GE Conference Board under Carey pressure has turned down both the UE's appeal for joint action and the vote for such action by the IUE Lynn Local 201.

UE is continuing its fight for joint action. Above is a letter sent by UE Local 201 to IUE Local 201.

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It Gets Tougher



Yes, the job of the union in settling grievances gets tougher every day—and it's no accident.

UE Local 301's job in making the foremen, supervision and the works management live up to its contract with the workers is getting tougher because of the growing General Electric company practice of turning its back on collective bargaining.

The same attitude which expresses itself in a "take it or lump it" offer of "peanuts" in national negotiations, shows up in attempts of foremen to refuse to distribute overtime equally, to upgrade according to seniority or to give a piece work job its proper rate.

It's no wonder that a foreman will be encouraged to try and dictate terms to a shop steward, when Cordiner, Reed and Boulware are trying to do the same thing to our national negotiating committee.

That's why the job of forcing GE to bargain collectively is more important even than winning a badly-needed wage increase. On UE's ability to make the company negotiate in the democratic, American way rests our ability to keep union wages and union conditions.

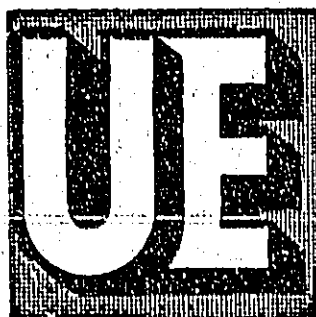
On UE's ability to force GE to bargain collectively rests our ability to settle grievances in the shops and to protect the contract we have fought to win.

On UE's ability to force the company to bargain collectively rests our ability to keep what Schenectady GE workers have fought for in the past 20 years—in the shops, on the picket lines in 1946 and around the bargaining table.

GE wants to go back to the old open shop days here and throughout the country. That's why it's moving jobs to new plants in non-unionized areas where wages are traditionally low.

That's why it fights to maintain the unfair geographical differentials which keep rates down in the South and which threaten the entire rate structure in northern industrial centers like Schenectady.

UE's fight to protect what we've got and get what we need can be won if every Schenectady GE worker pitches in. It's our fight!



Issued by UE Local 301, Schenectady,
representing 20,000 GE employees



Listen!

UE on the Air
Every Morning
6:45 - WTRY

5/20/53

Acute Shortage Of Tool and Die Makers Cited

Murrer Deplores Sending Apt. Boys to College

America's critical shortage of skilled tool and die makers is directly traceable to the "mistaken notion" that every boy with mechanical aptitude should go to college, Herbert Murrer, president of Murrer Tool & Die Co., Cincinnati, said yesterday.

This has resulted in a falling behind of the industry's apprenticeship training programs and has caused the contract tool and die shops to "seek futilely" for 20,000 additional toolmakers, Mr. Murrer said. These men are urgently needed to produce the heavy volume of special tooling currently ordered by the Defense Department and the Atomic Energy Commission, he said.

The Real Shortage — Pay!

While the big business newspapers cry about the shortage of skilled workers, they hide the most important cause of this shortage — the failure of companies like GE to pay craftsmen the wages which they are entitled to.

Here in Schenectady, GE pays its top skilled employees, the toolmakers only \$2.32 an hour. Craftsmen in other trades get even lower rates.

This pay scale doesn't even begin to compensate the highly skilled workers for their years of training and for their tremendous value to the company.

It's no wonder that industry has a tough time getting skilled personnel. Thousands of workers figure that it just doesn't pay to make the financial sacrifices required to develop high skills.

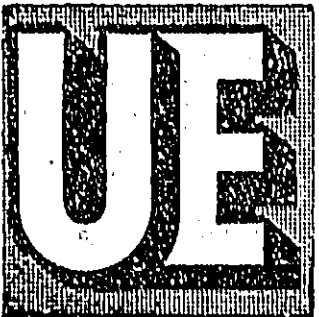
UE has been fighting to win fair rates for skilled workers. Over the years, considerable progress has been made, but now GE refuses even to bargain on the question of higher rates for skilled workers.

This refusal to bargain is based on the knowledge that as long as skilled workers can be kept down, a ceiling is clamped on the earnings of all workers.

That's why UE's fight to raise the craft rates is a fight on behalf of every worker in the Schenectady GE works.

Only by fighting together for higher craft rates can these rates be won!

Only by a united struggle by GE employees everywhere can the oppressive ceiling be lifted from the whole wage structure!



Issued by UE Local 301, Schenectady,
representing 20,000 GE employees



Flash!

A special meeting of all Schenectady GE toolmakers has been set for Tuesday evening, May 26 at UE Local 301 Hall. The meeting will get under way at 7:30 p. m.

6:45 - 6:50 - WTRY - 980 Kc

Tune In! UE on the Air - Every Morning