

21 Per Cent Rise In Pay Justified

CIO unions have facts and figures to back their demand for substantial wage increases without any price increase.

The report of Robert R. Nathan Associates, a firm retained by the national CIO to make an unbiased analysis of wages, costs, profits and cost of living, showed last week that a 21 per cent boost of wages can be granted in the manufacturing industries without any price rise.

The report emphasized that real earnings have dropped sharply and that profits (after the payment of taxes) have risen to new all-time highs since the end of the war and the decontrol of prices.

"Unless there is an immediate increase in wages or a sharp drop in prices, we are flirting with collapse," the research firm warned.

"Long term prosperity must be based on expanding mass buying power."

21 Percent Increase Needed

Here are some of the highlights of the report.

"On the average, in all manufacturing, an increase of about 21 per cent in weekly earnings without any increase in prices would have been required in October, 1946, to bring real weekly earnings back to the January, 1945, level. By the end of 1946, with the present trend of prices, an increase of about 23 percent will be required."

"From January, 1945, to October, 1946, living costs have risen 16.8 per cent. From January, 1945 to May, 1946, the rise was only 3.6 per cent, but since the abandonment of price control the cost of living has risen very rapidly."

"In terms of January, 1945, prices, average weekly earnings in all manufacturing were only \$39.25 in October, 1946, compared to \$47.50 in January, 1945; a rise of 21 per cent would be required to erase the loss."

Profits Near \$15 Billion

"On an after-tax basis—corporate profits are approaching \$15 billion, fully one and a half times the level of the best war year."

"By accepting the pre-war rate of net return on sales, all corporations would be able to grant wage increases at an annual rate totaling roughly eleven and a quarter billion dollars."

"The facts all lead to the conclusion that not only from the workers point of view, but also for the benefit of the whole economy, a further substantial wage increase without a general price increase is possible, justifiable and essential."

Hodges Has Long Record As Union Committeeman

William Hodges, who will take office as vice president of Local 301 in January, has been a committeeman in Bldg. 72 since the local became the collective bargaining agent at Schenectady GE. A cabinet maker, he has worked at the GE plant for 34 years.



William Hodges

Brother Hodges is a member of the 301 Constitution Committee. He served as assistant recording secretary of the local in 1940 and later was elected recording secretary. During the war he served on the regional War Labor Board and on the All-Out Central Production Committee at the Works.

Union to Start Housing Service

At the suggestion of an active 301 member, members having flats, apartments, houses or rooms to rent are invited to list them at the union office window. This is being done because of the present housing emergency.

Preference in obtaining available housing will be given in the order in which applicants register their needs at the union office window.

UE Officer Dies

Charles Cooper, secretary-treasurer of UE District 3 and president of Local 301 at North Tonawanda, died Friday.

One Appeal Granted;

Two Appeals Denied

Postponement of compulsory retirement until May 1 was won for one member, faced with serious family problems, in a union grievance meeting with Charles Marcy, GE supervisor of personnel, last week. However, Marcy rejected two appeals, one of which involved a very serious problem for a short-service man who will be virtually destitute.

The whole problem of retirement on inadequate pensions is expected to be a major subject of discussion in the 1947 national contract negotiations.

New Starting Rates Carry Small Raises

Slight increases in starting breaking-in rates for piece workers, to equalize them with starting rates for day workers, were offered by the company in discussions with the union last week. This offer will also raise the breaking-in rates for persons transferred for lack of work.

The new rates will be put into effect as soon as the necessary bookkeeping changes can be made, which will take a few weeks, according to A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent.

The starting rate also is the present minimum guarantee on the respective piece work job.

On jobs with an AER (anticipated earning rate) of 89½ to 98½ cents, the starting rate was 75 cents, and will be raised to 77½ cents. On AER's of \$1.02½ and \$1.06½, the starting rate also was 75 cents, and will be raised to 83½ cents. On AER's of \$1.10½ and up the starting rate was 91 cents and will be 92½ cents.

Breaking-in rates for pieceworkers transferred for lack of work is 10 cents above the starting rate, which will make the new breaking-in rates for such workers 87½ cents, 93½ cents, and \$1.02½.

Pay Raises Are Won For Building Trades

(Continued from Page 1)

There was one brief stoppage, in the tin shop, in the course of the negotiations, over the immediate question of helpers' duties.

The committee which handled the negotiations included Albert Spears, masons; Charles Ferris, William Templeton, David Rollo, Bennie Ford, and George Diemer, electricians; Charles Nitsche, tinsmiths; John Keeler and Philip Bubb, steelworkers; Fabian Gee, painters; Keith Rockwell and Harry Ausfeld, steamfitters; Ernest Johnson, crane repairmen; Ernest Hill, carpenters; and Charles Danes, millwrights. They were assisted by President Andrew Peterson, Chief Steward William Mastriani, Jandreau, and Victor Pasche.

New Equipment

Local 301 is going to get some new office equipment to make it easier and quicker to figure lost-time payments, social security and tax reports. The Dec. 8 membership meeting authorized buying the equipment.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Electrical Union News

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

Vol. III—No. 37

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

December 26, 1946

Christmas Party



Santa Claus visits 301 Hall to give candy and oranges to more than 300 children of union members. The party was Sunday afternoon. See page 4 for other pictures.

Clergymen Want Another Meeting

Local 301 has been asked to arrange another meeting with Schenectady clergymen to discuss the wage-profit-price situation and other problems.

Several clergymen who attended the session at 301 Hall last week suggested another meeting, and several who missed the first one said they wanted the chance to discuss the union's problems.

Tune In

Don't miss the Local 301 broadcast. It's at 7:15 p.m. every Monday over WSNY. Milo Lathrop has charge and usually is the speaker.

1947 Contract Negotiations with Company Will Be Opened in January on New Basis

Wage negotiations with General Electric next month will start on a different basis than in the past. Instead of coming in with a definite wage proposal, the union's general executive board is recommending to the GE locals that they prove the case for a substantial increase and call upon GE to meet the union in the same spirit.

CIO Roll-Call

Five Local 301 delegates attended the monthly meeting of the Capital District CIO Council last week at 301 Hall. They were William Mastriani, Council president; Dewey Brashear, Albert Davis, Sam DeCesare and Fred Pacelli.

The local has 17 delegates and five alternates.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau took part in shaping the program in Pittsburgh last week, and reported back here this week. He pointed out that the report prepared for the CIO by Robert Nathan, prominent economist, shows quite conclusively that a substantial increase is justified by the cost of living rise, and that GE can pay this increase.

(Continued on Page 2)

1947 Negotiations To Be on New Basis

(Continued from Page 1)

"Industry cannot brush off the Nathan report as a one-sided labor argument," Jandreau said. "Mr. Nathan is not a labor economist, but a man who was high up in war production, and has a recognized standing in business circles."

"If GE will approach these negotiations with an open mind, and will really look out for the welfare of the country as a whole, it will have to admit that it can and must give a substantial increase without raising prices."

"It is most unfortunate that Charles E. Wilson's statement in Monday's papers indicates that instead of having an open mind, he is still interested only in misleading the people with phoney claims to back up GE's endless demand for super-profits. Just to cite one example, he didn't bother to point out that during the war years GE's profits, always very high, increased 31 percent."

The Nathan report showed that in the electrical industry an increase of \$7.43 a week was required to make up for the living cost raise since the 18 1/2-cent raise was won. It showed that industry profits were higher than ever, by official report.

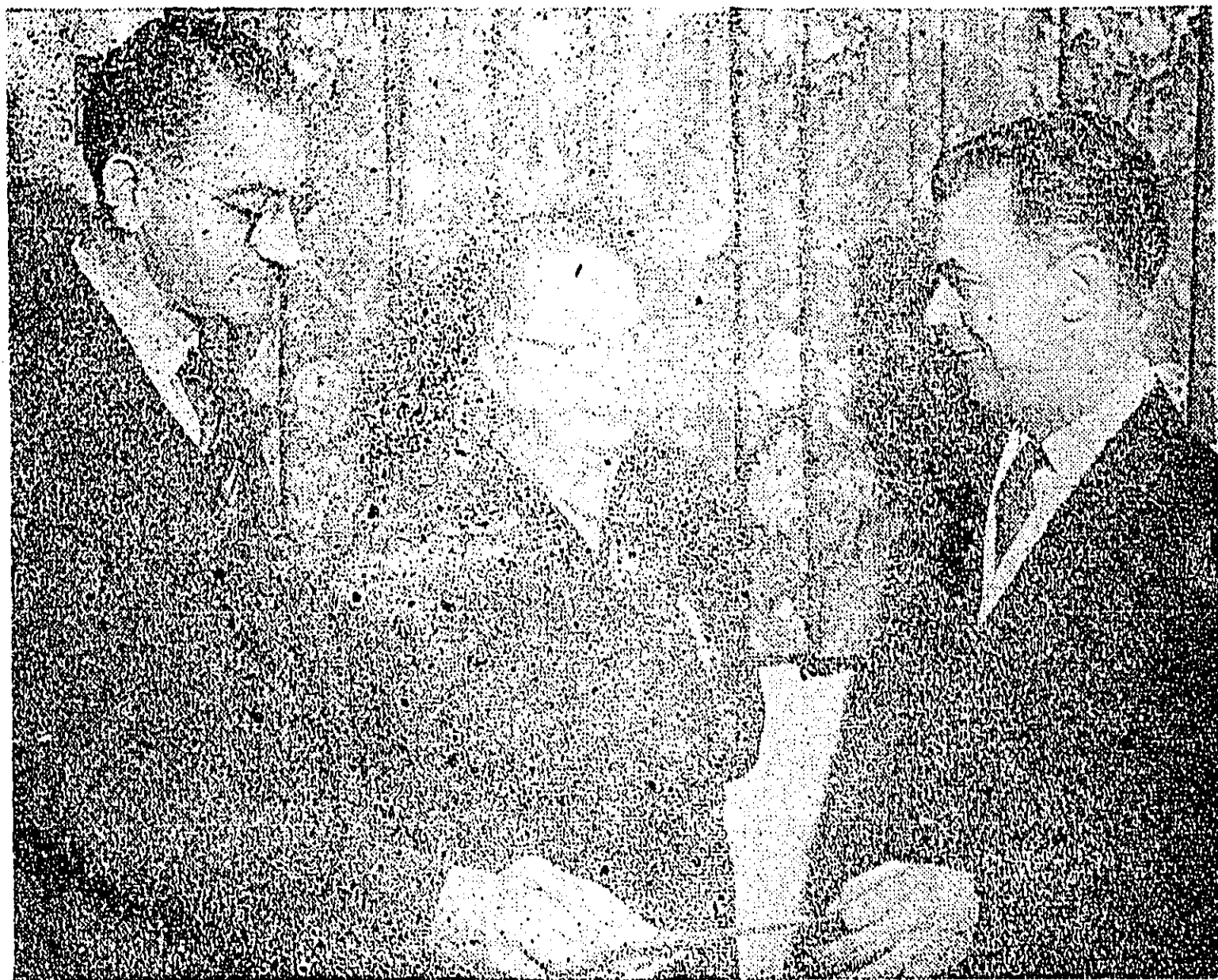
In addition to going thoroughly into the wage problems of the workers, the union will propose paid holidays, correction of the pension plan, longer vacations for long-service workers, and overhauling of the grievance procedure, among other points. The Pittsburgh meeting brought out the fact that GE leads the electrical industry in manufacture and sales, but trails in such practices as paid holidays.

The meeting also brought out that 15 smaller electrical companies already have made "down payment" wage boosts, ranging from 5.5 cents to 12 cents an hour. These raises will be included in whatever wage increases are finally negotiated. They cover 40,000 UE members.

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

Published by the Editorial Committee
Dewey Brashear Ray Flanigan
William Mastriani
Editorial Office - Electrical Union News
301 Liberty St. - Schenectady, N. Y.
SCHENECTADY PRINTING CO., INC.

Local 301 Gives \$450 for Crippled Children



Superintendent Anastacia McConnell of Sunnyview, hospital for crippled children, receives a \$450 check, gift of Local 301, for the work of the institution. Harold S. Claus, left, treasurer of the Activities Committee, and Lanson Cole, right, chairman of the Activities Committee, presented the check Sunday at the Local 301 Christmas party.

GE Turns Down Hardship Plea

Forced retirement of a 68-year-old porter, who faces acute need, was confirmed by Louis J. Male, general superintendent, when the union took the case to him last week.

Because of his short service, the man will be left with virtually no pension, and with low social security benefits. Charles Marcy, supervisor of personnel, said the man's services were not needed. Male stood on Marcy's position.

Two-months' extensions were obtained for two other members.

New Jersey Justice—Phelps-Dodge Brand

New Jersey authorities still haven't found the murderer of Mario Russo, UE member killed during the recent Phelps-Dodge strike.

But they found time last week to get indictments against 16 UE members for "inciting to riot" and other charges in connection with the nine-month strike.

Schenectady Railway Wants to Slash Pay

Local 159, Transport Workers Union, CIO, has run into stiff opposition from the Schenectady Railway Co. to its 1947 wage-increase proposals.

Management has actually asked that the union agree to a cut in take-home pay. The company proposal is to cut down on the holiday pay and to reduce the number of hours in the guaranteed work week. That would reduce the time-and-a-half premiums.

These company proposals would slash take-home pay about 25 cents an hour, union officials figure. In exchange, the company offers a straight nine-cent raise.

The union, which didn't get an 18 1/2 cent raise during the past year, asked that the new contract provide an increase of 25 cents an hour.

The next union-management conference will be Jan. 2. Both sides agreed to extend the expiration date of the present contract from Jan. 1 to Jan. 15.

Newspapers Attack Nathan for Report

"The wolves of the press are after Robert Nathan."

That is the way Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative, describes the newspaper attack on the man whose economic research firm wrote the recent wage-price-profit report for the CIO.

Nathan set forth facts and figures which support the CIO demand for substantial wage increases,—and the CIO claim that such raises can be paid without price increases.

Newspapers and columnists promptly called Nathan "a dreamer, an incompetent, a New Dealer, a CIO stooge", Brother Nixon pointed out.

"With such an attack under way, it is interesting to know who Nathan is. For many years Robert Nathan was one of the government's top economists. During the war he was the top economist in the War Production Board and later in the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion. Nathan was Big Businessman Donald Nelson's chief economic advisor in WPB."

Nixon said that a year or so ago Nathan left government service to establish a private research group,—mainly for business and at a good price. He recently did a research job for the National Cash Register Co. and he has been hired by many of the country's biggest businessmen. He wrote a report for the French government on problems of the reconstruction of France.

"Only when Nathan did a report for CIO, on the same basis as he'd done his other reports, was he called a stooge, dreamer, etc.", Nixon said.

Milo Lathrop pointed out another fact about Nathan in the Local 301 radio broadcast last week. Nathan was named by the Junior Chamber of Commerce as one of the 10 outstanding young men in the United States in 1940!

30 Volunteers Answer Call for Blood Donors

About 30 members of Local 301 have offered to give blood for the two little girls of Albert Renzi, a member of the union. EU News last week asked for blood donors.

Willard Kuschel, Frank Emspak and Jack Mele, who organized the campaign, said they were delighted with the response to the plea.

Volunteer donors go to Ellis Hospital to have their blood typed and are called for donations when needed. To be on the safe side, the committee wants still more volunteers for the Renzi children.

CIO Senator-Elect Addresses Council

Kenneth Sherbell of Brooklyn, who will be the only CIO member in the State Senate when he takes office in January, spoke at the monthly meeting of the Capital District CIO Council, Dec. 18 at 301 Hall. He is an official of Local 66, Wholesale and Warehouse Workers Union.

Senator-elect Sherbell said he will go to Albany "as the negotiating committee of the people of the 10th Senatorial District."

"I wasn't elected as an individual," he said. "It was the program that the people voted on,—the clearcut program of my union for decent wages, better schools and health facilities, security and peace."

Sherbell ran on the American Labor Party and Republican tickets in a district which had been under Democratic machine control for 26 years.

He described his campaign as strictly non-partisan, based entirely on his program, with union workers and other volunteers from various parties ringing door-bells for him.



Senator-Elect Kenneth Sherbell

Union Presidents Meet; Protest Hospital Firing

Presidents of CIO unions in Schenectady met Monday night to discuss problems facing their unions and the need of close cooperation.

They will recommend to their locals that a coordinating committee of CIO union leaders be officially set up. Such a committee would be able to take action in emergencies.

The group voted to protest to Ellis Hospital against the firing of Perry Lenegar, a painter, Nov. 22, after he became active in organizing a CIO union at the hospital. The facts in the case show that Lenegar's activity in Local 718, United Public Workers of America, was the real reason for his discharge.

Toolmakers' Case Goes to New York

Local 301's demand for a general increase for toolmakers and tool room employees was sent to New York this week for discussion between the national union and the national GE management, after Louis J. Male, general superintendent, refused to improve upon his offer.

Male refused to grant any general increase, but proposed to establish automatic progression to the top of the present A, B and C ranges respectively, in five cent steps at six months intervals.

The committee unanimously said the offer could be considered only if the top of the ranges were increased and a general increase were granted accordingly.

Seeks General Raise

The union, on instruction of the toolmakers' committee, is asking for a general raise for the toolmakers and other toolroom workers, automatic progression and reclassification of the "tool room mechanics" as toolmakers. The union has shown that GE tool room rates are below those in other plants.

Under the War Labor Board case won by the union, tops for A toolmakers is \$1.63 1/2, for B, \$1.48 1/2, and for C \$1.33 1/2, with progression on the basis of merit reviews at six-months intervals.

Male proposed to have the men below the top of their range go there at the rate of five cents now and additional five cent steps at six-months intervals, without review. However, progression from one class to another would still be on merit and work done.

Schenectady Meeting

A meeting of toolmakers' delegates from UE locals in GE plants at Erie, Pa., Pittsfield, Mass., Lynn, Mass., and Schenectady took place here last week. Notes were compared on rates in the various toolrooms and on efforts of these locals to raise the toolmakers' rates.

The meeting voted to ask the national UE office to call a meeting of toolmakers' delegates on a national GE scale. Michael Tedisco and Anthony Esposito represented the Local 301 toolmakers.

CIO Broadcast

The next radio broadcast of the Capital District CIO Council will be during the first week of January, over Station WTRY. Day and hour will be announced later.

Younger Generation Takes Over 301 Hall at Big Christmas Party



Here's a happy guest at the Local 301 children's party. Someone loaned him a third hand! At the upper right are a few more of the pop-drinkers. The union's party, first since pre-war days, featured games, singing, refreshments, gifts from Santa Claus and dancing by pupils of Miss Belle Baxter. The Activities Committee had charge.



A row of Christmas carol singers at the 301 party.

The young lady at the left took her mind off the music for a moment to watch the cameraman.



301 Fights Lay-offs In GE Service Force

Accompanying the GE propaganda drive for "increased production" as the supposed solution to the problems of the country, has come an intensive drive to cut services to the production workers in the Schenectady Works.

Local 301 is now handling a series of grievances from all over the plant, over the lay-off of porters, sweepers, and other service people on whom piece workers depend to keep up production. The most serious disruption came Monday with a big lay-off of cranimen. The attitude of both Louis Male, general superintendent, and A. C. Stevens, his assistant, has been that the reduction in services is justified economy and that the many difficulties reported would be "investigated," and "corrected" if necessary.

Apparently the present company theory is that you can increase production by cutting services and loading more work on the remaining workers. Just how laid-off workers are going to have the money to buy refrigerators and radios does not appear in the company's reasoning.

In the meantime the union is arguing with the management over the many dif-

Pressure Is Reported In Retirement Cases

The union has received complaints from members, who objected to being forced to retire at 65 on pensions that are too low, that certain company executives put pressure on them to accept retirement and told them there was no use trying to obtain extensions.

Members who are ordered to retire against their desires and needs should keep in mind that they have the right to contest the retirement order and to present their cases through the union.

difficulties caused by the reduced services, and fighting against losses of earnings to pieceworkers.

Tells Office Workers About Bank Contract

Joseph Herold, former GE office worker, spoke at a recent dinner meeting of the Office Workers Organizing Committee at the Club Normandie.

A member of the United Office and Professional Workers of America, CIO, he described the contract which his union signed with the National Savings Bank, Albany, where he works.

Member's Child Dies

Our sympathy to John Epting, Building 84 committeeman, whose 11-month-old daughter, Sharon Lee, died last week.