

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

U. E. R. & M. W. A. C. I. O.

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

November 9, 1949

C. I. O. CONVENTION EXTRA

SHOP STEWARDS BACK FIGHT
FOR MEMBERSHIP CONTROL

The following statement was adopted by the shop stewards council last night, on recommendation of the Executive Board:

The shop stewards and the Executive Board of Local 301 back the general executive board of UE in insisting that the membership of UE and its membership alone shall have the right to control UE.

The membership of Local 301, after full debate, approved the action of the UE convention in authorizing the withholding of per capita to the CIO if necessary to protect the integrity of UE and control by its membership.

President Frank Kriss is acting contrary to the decision of the membership in attacking the action of our General Executive Board.

In common with the UE general executive board, the shop stewards and executive board of 301 ardently desire unity of CIO and of all labor. We have worked for that unity. But there can be unity only by respecting the democratic process and the rights of the membership in every union.

It is evident that the top leadership of the CIO does not want unity. In the days when CIO was organizing instead of raiding, CIO was attacked everywhere by reactionaries who used the phony cry of Communism. Now the top brass of CIO uses the same cry to cover its demand that it have the right to dictate to member unions who shall be their officers, and how the member unions shall vote, think, and how they shall deal with their employers.

The membership of Local 301 knows that UE, because of its genuine democracy, has been responsible for the great gains made by GE workers. Local 301 will stand by UE and will fight with the rest of the UE to return CIO to the principles of democratic industrial unionism.

The 301 membership will discuss these matters at its meeting November 15, at which time there will be the nomination of officers for 1950.

Cleveland, Ohio, November 1.- The determination of the CIO top leadership to destroy all democracy in the organization was shown in proposals reported by the constitution committee of the CIO Convention.

The proposals, which were certain to be adopted, will take away the right of the membership of any CIO union to pick its officers and determine its policies.

One proposed amendment gives the CIO executive board the right to determine that a board member "acts like a Communist", and thereupon to remove him from the board, even though his own membership elected him. CIO top leaders have made it clear that any criticism of their actions is "Communist". On Sunday, Philip Murray told the UE committee that the UE's proposed no-raiding agreement was a "Communist plot".

Another amendment will raise per capita to the national CIO from 8 cents to 10 cents. This is intended to pay for pensions for CIO officials.

The CIO convention seated the Carey UE leaders, who were defeated at the UE convention, as delegates from tiny unions to which they do not belong. Thus, Fred Kelley is a "delegate" from the United Laundry and Dry Cleaning Workers of Woburn, Mass. John Callahan of Pittsfield is a "delegate" from the United Cemetery Workers of Jamaica Plains, Mass. This gives them voice and vote like real representatives of unions.

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ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

U. E. R. & M. W. A. C. I. O.

Vol. 7 - No. 43

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

November 4, 1949

301 To Nominate Officers Nov. 15

The 301 membership will nominate officers for 1950 and elect an election committee of 25 members at a meeting at the union hall at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, for first and third shift members and later that night at 12:45 a.m. for second shift members, after the close of the second shift. Nominations may be made by any member in good standing.

The meeting also will hear a report on the CIO convention.

Under the 301 constitution as amended this year the annual election of officers will be conducted at

Notice of Nominations For Local 301 Officers

In accordance with Article XVIII, Section A, of the constitution of Local 301, notice is hereby given to the membership that nominations for officers of Local 301 will be held at the membership meeting at the union hall at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, for first and third shift members and later that night at 12:45 a.m. for second shift members, after the close of the second shift.

Signed
Frank Fiorillo,
Recording Secretary
Local 301

the union hall during the first two weeks of December, at a time to be set by the election committee.

The shop stewards Tuesday night discussed at length whether to recommend that the meeting be held at the state armory at a possible cost of \$900.

Those favoring the armory argued that by renting it the union would make sure that there could be no question of anyone claiming he was denied the right to attend the meeting.

Stewards opposed to the armory reported that there had been many complaints that at the recent meetings at the armory members could not hear what was going on. They also said that on the basis of experience and of the attendance at important meetings of the local,
(Continued on Page 2)

The Voice of GE

... and CIO Leaders Obeyed



GE Contract Is With UE Alone

Where do things stand with us GE workers now that UE has been expelled by CIO?

This question is being asked by many members.

The answer is—exactly the same as before.

GE workers are covered by a national contract negotiated by UE and accepted by the membership. CIO is not a party to the contract. UE at no time received any help from CIO, although UE contributed a vast amount in time and money to furthering the basic policies of CIO, now repudiated by the CIO Convention.

The union protection that GE workers receive will continue. Their own unity and their determination and ability to retain control of their union without interference from any source will decide their future.

We must of course expect a great increase in the interference in UE by the Carey forces and their backers in and out of CIO, with the support of the newspapers, radio, and the various other anti-labor forces of the community.

But none of these forces can prevail against the determination of the membership.

CIO Imposes Top Control Expels UE, FE

The CIO Convention on Wednesday expelled the UE, and announced a program of raiding UE locals.

The action came on the third day of an orgy of red-baiting. The cry of "Communist", used so frequently against all CIO in the days when it organized the unorganized instead of raiding, was used by Philip Murray and the other top leaders of CIO to put over dictatorial constitutional amendments. These amendments abolish the right of the membership of CIO unions to pick their leaders and determine their policies.

The resolution expelling UE was based almost entirely on foreign policy, and gave a thoroughly distorted picture of UE's position. It made no reference to UE's record in organizing and bargaining for its members, which is among the very best in the whole labor movement.

Attack on UE

In a violently abusive speech, Murray made it clear that he was particularly bitter at UE leaders because they did not accept his policy of turning over collective bargaining to a government fact-finding board.

The next expulsion was of the Farm Equipment Workers. The resolution charged that FE had refused to obey the CIO executive board order to merge with the United Auto Workers. In refusing to join the UAW, the FE carried out the orders of its membership, both by unanimous convention vote and in Taft-Hartley elections in which UAW was rejected in plant after plant.

UE Unity Effort Fails

Earlier Murray had rejected a proposal by a UE committee, which included Leo Jandreau, that CIO unity be restored through simple agreements between the UE and the Steelworkers, Auto Workers and CIO that there would be no
(Continued on Page 2)

Building 46 Fights Security Removals

A well-attended meeting of Building 46 members preceding the Building party at the union hall last week voted unanimously to stop work in the event that the company should move any one of three men who have been denied "security" clearances by the armed services.

The union has notified the company that such arbitrary removals would be in violation of the UE-GE contract.

One of the three men is Frank Emspak, vertical boring mill operator with 38 years' service, 32 years in the building. He is a shop steward, former Executive Board member, former president and vice-president of Local 301 for a total of five years, and one of its founders. He was on the State Appeals Board under Selective Service.

The other two are George S. Vines, gear cutter with 20 years in the building, and Troy Snipes, milling machine operator with 8 years there. Brother Snipes recently was appointed a member of the 301 editorial committee.

Importance of Fight

The motion to support the three men with immediate action came from the floor after considerable discussion. Several speakers pointed out that it was essential to back the three, not merely for their sake, but first of all to prevent destruction of union rights and protection under the excuse of so-called security.

A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, has taken the position that the refusal of clearance was by the armed forces and was not the company's doing. He also told the union the men would not be moved now, as their work was not now "classified." He said there would be notice to the union and advance discussion if there was any intention to move any of them in the future.

The three men have appealed the refusal of clearance through the regular government channels. They are represented by Marshall

Three Stewards Sent To CIO Convention

Three shop stewards, elected by the special 301 membership meeting Oct. 28, attended the national CIO convention at Cleveland this week as observers. They will report on the convention at the 301 membership meeting Nov. 15.

The observers were Sadie Iovinella, Bldg. 81, Jack Kilmer, Bldg. 273 and Emil Voris, Patrol, second shift. The 301 Executive Board recommended to the Oct. 28 meeting that three shop stewards, including a woman, be sent to Cleveland as observers. Leo Jandreau attended as a UE delegate.



Sadie Iovinella, Bldg. 81, Jack Kilmer, Bldg. 273 and Emil Voris, Patrol, second shift.



Emil Voris Jack Kilmer

Perlin, 301 attorney. He has demanded full particulars of what the men are accused of, and by whom, and an open hearing.

It appears that the refusal of clearance is based on the usual accusations of "Communist activity," and "support of the Communist Party line."

Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent, told the Bldg. 46 meeting that if the men could be removed on these vague grounds and no specific accusations of wrongful acts, then the way was open for the company to move any member who fights for the union.

Perlin pointed out to the meeting that unless there was real support for the men, the government hearings would be long and meaningless procedures in which the men were given no clear accusations, but would be told to prove they were not disloyal.

Members speaking for the motion to back the men stressed the fine and long records of the three, and the American principle that a man is entitled to a fair hearing on clearcut charges of wrongdoing before he is penalized.

CIO Imposes Top Control

(Continued from Page 1)

raiding. Murray called the proposal a "Communist plot."

After Murray's position and proposed constitutional amendments had made it clear that the CIO top leaders would accept nothing less than complete control over UE, the UE General Executive Board decided to withhold per capita to the CIO until it would "return to the principles of free, democratic industrial unionism."

The expulsion came the next day, but was prepared without relation to the UE action. Withholding per capita was authorized by the UE convention.

The UE General Executive Board charged that "the policy now being followed by CIO leads to the destruction of free labor unions and to a labor movement supervised, directed and controlled by government, for the benefit of big business."

Under the guise of "cleaning out Communists," the convention adopted constitutional amendments:

1. Giving the CIO executive board power to remove a member of the board, duly elected by his union, simply by declaring that his activities are "directed toward achievement of the program of the Communist Party." This means removing anyone who disagrees with the top leaders. It is exactly as if a local union executive board were to remove an elected shop steward because they did not like him or his opinions.

2. Empowering the CIO executive board to expel any union through the same procedure.

Another amendment raised the monthly per capita tax from 8 cents to 10 cents per member. The official reason given on the floor was "to organize the unorganized." Opponents declared it was intended to "disorganize the organized," namely to conduct raids. In the constitution committee, the reason given was that the additional money was needed to pay pensions to CIO officials.

Local 301's three shop steward observers at the convention commented that the vast majority of delegates were well-fed, well-heeled union officials. These delegates waxed wild with enthusiasm over a resolution to expel a union, but turned to reading newspapers or talking when a resolution came up on unemployment, civil rights, or organizing.

301 Votes to Help Steel, Mine Strikes

The Local 301 membership meeting last week voted to send \$500 immediately to the striking steel workers and coal miners and authorized the Executive Board to make additional donations to these strikers, up to \$10,000, in consultation with the national officers. The Board also was instructed to set up machinery to collect \$1 per member for the steel and mine strikes. Money advanced from the union treasury is to be reimbursed by these collections.

The support for the strikes was voted on recommendation of the General Executive Board of UE, which urged all UE locals to help defeat the employers' attacks upon the miners and steel workers. The coal and steel trusts are spearheading the drive of Big Business to destroy unions in the United States, the GEB declared.

Bethlehem Settlement

No analysis of the Steelworkers' settlement with Bethlehem Steel could be included in this week's EU News as the complete facts were not available.

There was no information beyond facts printed by the newspapers including the fact that social security is to be deducted from the pensions and that the union gave up its right to fight for higher wages until Dec. 31, 1950, its right to fight for general contract changes until Dec. 31, 1951, and the right to fight for increasing the pension benefits for five years. The Bethlehem strike lasted 32 days.

\$1,458 Back Pay

As the result of an arbitration decision, the General Electric Company recently paid \$1,458.62 back pay to a worker at the East Boston lamp works who was unjustly fired for alleged theft of solder. The arbitrator found the firing unjustified.

301 to Nominate

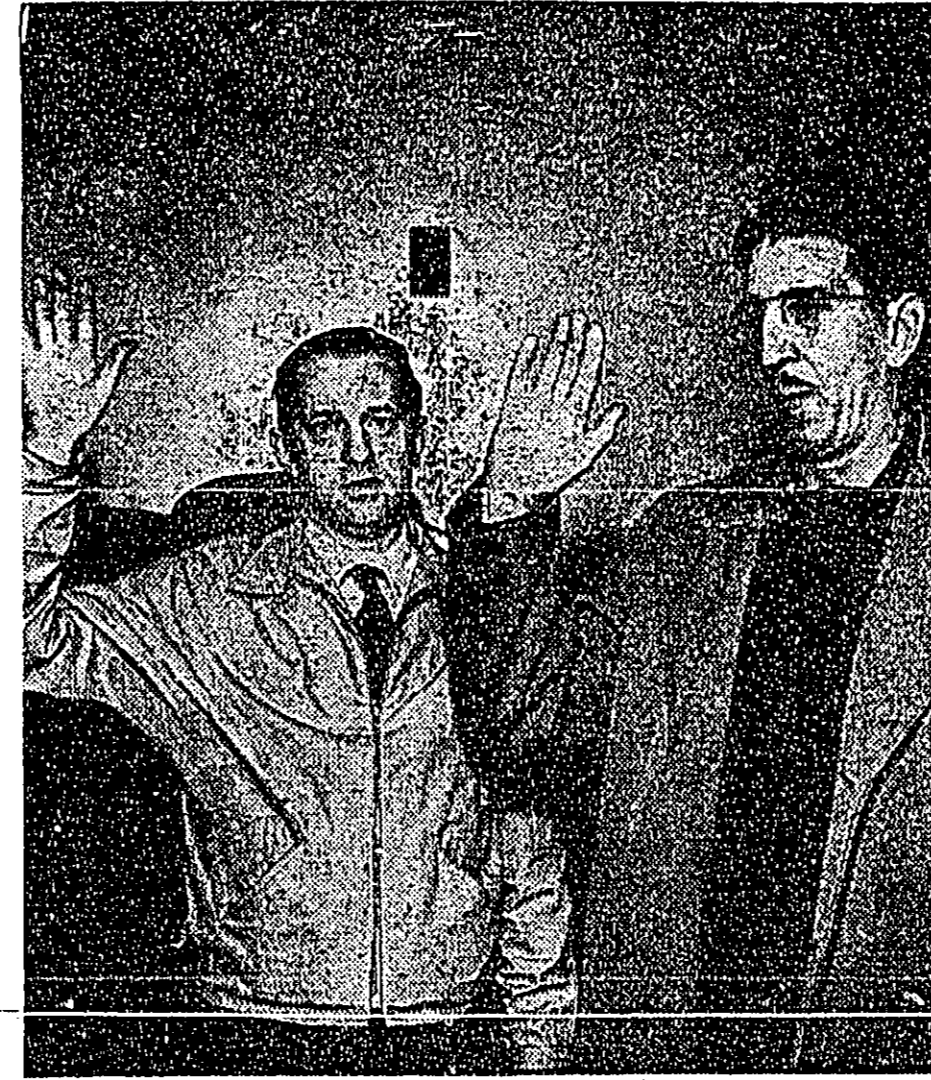
(Continued from Page 1)

the union hall has proved large enough to accommodate all members who want to attend, to make nominations and to vote on the election committee. In previous nominating meetings there has been controversy over where the 301 election should be held, but the question is decided by the constitution now.

By a vote of 76 to 68 the stewards decided against recommending the armory for the Nov. 15 meeting.

Add Two More Names to List of Stewards

Roy Weber, left, of Building 273 and Walter Poltrack, right, of Building 81, taking the oath of office as shop stewards at the 301 membership meeting-Oct. 18 at the union hall.



Stewards Back Fight for Membership Control

By an overwhelming vote the 301 shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night adopted a statement backing the General Executive Board of UE in insisting that "the membership of UE and its membership alone shall have the right to control UE." The stewards' action was taken on recommendation of the 301 Executive Board.

"The membership of Local 301, after full debate, approved the action of the UE convention in authorizing the withholding of per capita to the CIO if necessary to protect the integrity of UE and control by its membership," the statement pointed out.

"President Frank Kriss is acting contrary to the decision of the membership in attacking the action of our General Executive Board.

"In common with the UE General Executive Board, the shop stewards and executive board of 301 ardently desire unity of CIO and of all labor. We have worked for that unity. But there can be unity only by respecting the democratic process and the rights of the membership in every union.

"It is evident that the top leadership of the CIO does not want unity. In the days when CIO was organizing instead of raiding, CIO was attacked everywhere by reactionaries who used the phony cry of Communism. Now the top brass of CIO uses the same cry to cover its demand that it have the right to dictate to member unions who shall be their officers, and how the member unions shall vote, think, and how they shall deal with their employers.

"The membership of Local 301 knows that UE, because of its genuine democracy, has been respon-

Papers Again Show Bias Against 301

The Schenectady Gazette and Union-Star this week tried to outdo each other in their anti-union treatment of news about UE and Local 301.

The Schenectady Gazette gave big headlines Wednesday to a statement by one of the Carey followers claiming that Local 301 would secede from UE. But it ignored a statement adopted Tuesday night by the shop stewards' meeting supporting the fight of the General Executive Board to protect the right of the UE membership against CIO dictation. The stewards' statement was available to the newspaper in plenty of time to print Wednesday.

But the Gazette preferred to hunt up Carey followers for smearing statements against 301.

A big spread story in The Union-Star Wednesday grossly misrepresented the recommendation by the stewards with regard to the handling of funds to protect the union's operations. The true facts about that action appear elsewhere in this paper.

The Union-Star suppressed almost the entire policy statement by the shop stewards officially Tuesday night, but gave nine paragraphs to wholly unauthorized statements by various Carey supporters.

Don't Be a Free Rider
Join the Union.

Sign Up Now to Get Your Children Tickets for Local 301 Christmas Party

Fill out the form printed below to obtain free tickets for the 301 children's party Dec. 10 and 11 at Mont Pleasant High School. The age limit is 10 years. Give the form to your shop steward to turn in at the union office, or mail the form to the union or hand it in at the union office yourself.

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| I want _____ tickets for my child (or children) for the 301 Christmas party. | |
| Name of child (or children) | Age |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| My name is _____ | |
| Check Number _____ | Building _____ |
| I prefer to have the tickets for the following time: (Place X in square opposite the time you prefer.) | |
| Saturday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Saturday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sunday, Dec. 11 at 10 a.m. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

No Ducking These Facts

The national CIO office has just issued a pamphlet boasting of the history and achievements of CIO. It promotes the viewpoint of the present top leadership, and gives only slight mention to UE and the Mine Workers. But in the back is a cold statistical chart covering all CIO unions. The following comparison between UE and the United Steelworkers, of which Philip Murray is president, is taken directly from that official CIO chart:

Monthly dues:
UE—\$1.50 minimum, rarely more;
Steel—\$2.
Per Capita paid by local to international out-of-dues:
UE—50 cents;
Steel—\$1.
Annual salary of highest paid officer:
UE—\$7,500;
Steel—\$25,000.
Conventions:
UE—Every year;
Steel—Every two years.
Officers elected:
UE—Every year;
Steel—Every four years.
Note—In UE dues are set by the local membership, with a \$1.50 minimum established by the UE constitution. In Steel the dues are set at \$2 by the convention, with no say by the locals.

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SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

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