

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 11 — No. 18

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, May 1, 1953



East Moline, Ill.—UE scored an important NLRB election victory last week when it defeated a company union to bring real organization to International Harvester office workers here for the first time. The office workers voted 120 to 107 to join UE and to unite with thousands of Harvester factory workers in the Quad Cities area.

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Portland, Ore.—The CIO International Woodworkers this week welcomed a pledge of support from the independent International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union. The pledge was made in connection with current negotiations in which the companies have refused to make even the slightest concessions. It was in the form of a telegram printed on the front page of the CIO union's official newspaper.

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Cincinnati—AFL raiders were routed by a better than two to one ratio by J. H. Day Co. workers who voted to stick with UE Local 766. The vote was 145 for UE, 72 for the AFL and 3 for no union.

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New York—The American Civil Liberties Union has urged the U. S. Supreme Court to reverse the perjury conviction of Harry Bridges, president of the west coast International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union. The ACLU denounced the repeated prosecution of Bridges on the same discredited charges as "continual harassment" amounting to a "violation of the due process of law required by the 5th amendment to the U. S. Constitution."

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Welland, Ontario—UE Local 523 announced last week that it had won a contract including a 14c hourly package increase for workers at the Reliance Electric plant here. The new pact raises the minimum wage rate for both men and women to \$1.43 an hour, one of the highest in the Canadian electrical industry.

* * *

Juneau, Alaska—Organized labor hailed the adoption by the territorial legislature of the first fair employment practices law for Alaska.

301 Invites Lynn Stewards

UE Local 301 has invited shop stewards from the Lynn GE works to attend Monday's meeting of shop stewards in Schenectady to discuss united action in current negotiations with the company. The invitation was extended after reports from the big IUE-CIO local indi-

cated that many committeemen there were anxious to meet with our officers and stewards to discuss the current bargaining problem. Such a meeting could be particularly fruitful because of the overwhelming support for working with UE expressed by the Lynn local at a membership meeting attended by more than 5,000 persons on April 12.

It is hoped that some of the IUE stewards will be able to get here for the Monday meeting when the subject of united action will be fully discussed by the UE committee men and women. Previous Schenectady gatherings have shown that the stewards and members of 301 are completely behind UE efforts to form a united front with all GE workers in order to win a wage increase and other contract demands in 1953.

GE Holiday Steal Discussion Marks Week's Shop Meetings

GE's holiday steal was the big topic of conversation in the Schenectady works this week. The talk about the company's efforts to deprive workers of time off for Memorial Day and July 4 was sparked by 2 leaflet distributions at the shop gates.

These distributions took place on Monday and Wednesday. Monday's leaflet was prepared by the UE national office for all UE-GE locals throughout the country. It pointed up the small cost of the holidays to the company—less than 1/2c an hour for both days.

Wednesday's leaflet was made up by the local. It pointed to the gap between GE's boasted patriotism, and the fact that management is refusing to allow time off for 2 of

the most important patriotic holidays of the year. The company excuse for its position is that the holidays fall on Saturdays, and therefore do not come within the "regularly scheduled work week."

This argument falls completely flat when the fact is, a large part of the Schenectady work force has been coming in Saturdays on a regular basis. Now, with the holiday question coming to a head, GE has cut a lot of Saturday work. In other words, when GE needs the production to pile up its huge profits, then Saturday work is OK, but when it comes to giving time off for holidays falling on Saturdays, then it's another story.

Reports from the shops by members of the executive board indicated that the holiday leaflets had hit home for thousands of workers and had stirred lively discussions at the dozens of meetings held by board members and stewards throughout the works. These meetings every Wednesday are a part of the campaign to mobilize all UE members in the GE chain for the fight to win decent contract improvements from the company this year.

Local Women Set Program For National UE Meeting

Showing their determination to win equal pay for equal work, women members of UE Local 301 crowded into their hall Wednesday to draft a program to present at the week-end national women's conference.

Discussed were the activities aimed at ending pay discrimination on account of sex in Schenectady, starting with the big women's demonstration last year. Specific plans were made for expanding the fight to involve every UE shop across the country.

These proposals will be presented at the national conference in New York tomorrow and Sunday. This conference is expected to map a wide campaign to end the "pay the women less" racket of employers. This campaign is regarded as particularly important because 35% of UE's membership throughout the country consists of women.

Even more important is the fact that the bosses use lower women's rates as a club to beat down the rates of both men and women.

UE Local 301 will be represented by a 6-member delegation at the New York conference. Members of the Schenectady delegation are Frank D'Amico, 40; Ethel Furman, 10C, Sadie Iovinella, 81; Julia Mitchell, 40; Helen Quirini, 81; and Anna May Sullivan, 68.

Slate Division Party

UE Local 301 members in the Aeronautics Division under Executive Board Member Allen Townsend have scheduled a party for Wednesday evening, May 6 at the union hall.



BAND PLAYS ON. Tony Villano and his band provided the musical background for hundreds of union members who turned out for the highly successful 20th anniversary dance at 301 hall Saturday. More pictures and the dance story on page 4.

Top Labor Leaders Denounce Goldwater-Rhodes Proposals

Top leaders of every segment of the labor movement denounced the proposed Goldwater-Rhodes union control bill in congressional hearings this week.

In a blunt statement on the measure, UE President Albert Fitzgerald called it "thought control."

And "thought control is boss control, the answer to the prayers of General Electric, Westinghouse, International Harvester and other employers seeking to set up company unions in America."

AFL President George Meany attacked the bill as "government licensing of labor unions," and completely unacceptable to his federation.

Another swipe at the Goldwater-Rhodes proposals was taken by John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers. Lewis also attacked the Taft-Hartley law, which he characterized as "the hyphenated monstrosity." Lewis pictured repeal of anti-labor legislation as the only possible way to avoid depression and economic chaos for the American people.

UE LOCAL 301

STEWARDS MEETING

2nd SHIFT
Monday, May 4, 1953
1:00 P.M. (before work)

1st and 3rd SHIFTS
Monday, May 4, 1953
7:30 P.M.

Local 301 Hall



UE ON THE JOB!

Thousands of grievances are handled by UE Local 301 each year at all levels from the steward up to final appeal in New York City. To keep members posted, we shall each week list some of the grievances that have not been settled at the steward-foreman level and have been referred to the executive board-management level.

Bldg. 10C: A time study on set-up for Job 9726207, operation 1, in June 1951 resulted in a price of \$8.70. In July of that year, that price was apparently thrown out and a \$6 price substituted. This was done without notification of the union. Now, the job has come up again with the \$6 setup price. The union demands restoration of the cut, and payment of the correct \$8.70 price.

Bldg. 11: Sanitation department employees protest decentralization plans on the ground that they will cause great hardship. The union demands a management investigation to find means to keep this group together under present supervision.

Bldg. 17: Although the majority of his group, including apprentices, is working overtime, Dominick Barone is not receiving his fair share. The union demands that overtime be distributed equally in accordance with the contract.

Foreman Maliszowski works the tool crib on Saturdays while regular attendant Bardi Cipriano is not called in. This is a violation of contract, and the union demands it be halted.

Bldg. 28: Operators with the longest service should have the first opportunity to work on the new progression line for stators now being established. However, Leona Shayne is being bypassed in favor of workers with shorter service. The union demands that this discrimination be stopped.

Bldg. 37: Robert T. Marnell was told to report to work one hour early on each of 4 days this past month. The only premium pay he received was time and one-half for the hour on the 1st day. Under contract article V-8b, he is entitled to double time for the 1st hours on

each of the 4 days. The union demands that he receive this double time.

Bldg. 40: Timing rate on the machine bar tapping operation is 60c while that on the machine coil tapping operation is 63c. Both jobs are done with the same machines and should have the same rate. The union demands a 1-step increase for the machine bar job.

Bldg. 46: A new setup man is to be assigned to the drill presses. Charles Fredrickson is entitled to the job by virtue of service, ability and general knowledge of the work. The union demands management action to make this working area safe.

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Bldg. 49: Floor assemblers on GT nozzles are not receiving an adequate job rate as compared with rates for similar jobs. The union, therefore, demands an increase in the rate.

Bldg. 60: Automatic boring machines were recently changed from

day work to piece work with a \$1.65 A.E.R. The proper A.E.R. for the job is \$1.91. The union demands this A.E.R.

Wiredmen under Foreman Roberts are being sent over to work in Foreman Hanser's section causing the wiredmen there to be sent home for lack of work. The union demands that this situation be remedied.

Bldg. 66: Group protests the safety hazard caused by lack of crane service on Saturday, April 18. The union demands management action to guarantee against a repetition.

Bldg. 105: The piece rate department claims that a time study taken Feb. 9 was only a methods check. However, a stop watch was used, detailed information on the job was written up and the study lasted 10 to 11 hours, clearly making it a legitimate time study. The union demands that any retiming now should be confined to the operation on which there is an engineering change.

Bldg. 269: Group protests blocking of chemical room door by employees punching out. This creates a safety hazard since it would make it almost impossible for

workers to get out of room in case of an accident. The union demands a correction of this situation.

The union demands proper instruction for all employees using cobalt chloride and thorium oxide. Only such instruction can guarantee the health and safety of these workers.

Bldg. 273: O. E. Smith, a tool crib keeper is entitled to a reclassification because of the requirements of his crib. The union demands that he be given this upgrading with proper wage increase.

Group of floor assemblers protest assignments to do work of erector assemblers. The union demands that this practice be stopped.

A new 6' to 10' boring mill-vertical tracer control is being installed in K-9. Supervision has announced that it will be a day rate job with a \$2.03 rate. The union demands that the operation of this machine be paid average earnings in accord with past practice.

Group in large engine lathe section protest distribution of overtime. Larger machines are being used on small machine jobs during overtime. Since there is no possibility of reciprocation, this results in extremely unequal distribution of the overtime. The union demands that this situation be corrected.

There are 3 jobs open on 1st shift. They are on the 60' grooving lathe in F-2, the 48' Mils in F-7; and the Betts Bridgeford in F-3. There are operators on night shift who are qualified for these jobs and who have made proper shift transfer applications. Therefore, the union demands that the jobs be filled by shift transfer based on service.

On April 15, a worker with a \$1.45 timing rate job had a lack of work and was told to do a \$1.81 T.R. job at the lower rate. The union demands that he be paid either average earnings or at a special rate to allow him to maintain his earnings in accordance with the contract.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA (UE)

Local 301

Published by the Editorial Committee

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301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY 5, N. Y.

What's Watts and Why?

UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA (UE)
* Fights for DECENT PAY *

I hereby request and accept membership in the above named union, and authorize it to represent me, and in my behalf to negotiate and conclude all agreements as to hours of labor, wages, and all other conditions of employment.

Print Name: STEPHEN A. WATTS Tel. 7-7723
Address: 3re Yates Village City and Zone: Sch'oy N.Y.
Employed by: _____ Dept. TURBINE

Date: June 4 1952 (Date must be filled in)
Signature of Applicant: Stephen A. Watts (OVER)

DIFFERENT STORY. Steve Watts spends lots of time lying about the union (see story below). However, when he got into trouble with supervision last year, it was a different story. He came running to the union which he is still trying to wreck, and applied for membership. His application, signature and all is reproduced above. Watts was rejected because of his anti-union activities.

People in Turbine know Steve Watts as a guy who still tries pretty hard, and with pitifully little success, to split the union. In his spare time, Watts has also been seen operating a lathe.

That's why those who saw the Troy Record on April 22 were startled to see Watts announced as a "GE official" who was slated to speak at a Kiwanis Club luncheon. The subject chosen by this "union leader" was "What the unions are doing to the business man."

However, this was only the beginning, for on April 24, after the Kiwanis session, another story appeared in the Record. By this time, the "hot shot" reporter who covered the meeting had discovered that Watts was not exactly a company official, but a new title was discovered for the phony—"chief shop steward of Local 301 at large, IUE-CIO." That's about the fanciest yet thought up of saying that a guy who no one wants to have anything to do with holds a non-existent office in a local which never was.

The content of Watts' talk to Kiwanis was of course, the same old red-baiting lies about UE. For example, "the UE News and the Daily Worker are published in the same building." Since the UE News is published on 51st Street in New York, and the Daily Worker offices are on 13th Street, this means that Watts was only about 2 miles off, which is about as near as he got to the truth all day.

Rule Bars Jobless Pay in Shutdowns Urge Tax Cut, Defeat of G-R Measure

A recent court decision has upset the past New York State policy of paying unemployment insurance to workers who are out because of a vacation shutdown, but who do not qualify for vacation pay.

In the past such workers have been entitled to jobless pay because of a decision won by UE at hearings several years ago. The anti-labor ruling arose out of a case filed by the AFL optical workers in Rochester.

This new decision is now being appealed, and all workers who lose pay because of vacation shutdowns are urged to apply for unemployment compensation so that if the court ruling is upset by a higher court, they will be eligible to receive the insurance payments retroactively.

Board Wires Full Support To GE Strikers in Scranton

UE Local 301's executive board this week offered full support to striking union brothers and sisters at the GE Scranton plant. The support was in the form of a wire to President Jack Price of UE Local 123, which represents the Scranton workers, pledging that no work transferred from Scranton would be done in Schenectady, and asking what additional aid was needed.

Anti-Bias Group Plans Job Situation Survey

UE Local 301's fair employment practices committee decided Monday to conduct a survey aimed at determining to what degree discrimination exists against Negro workers in the Schenectady works. The committee also decided to invite Ernest Thompson, UE national FEPC secretary to address a stewards' or membership meeting in the near future.

According to the plans drawn up by the 301 group, all shop stewards will receive forms on which to describe the jobs held by Negro workers. Exact details of the survey are to be worked out between the committee and the union business office. It is hoped that the survey will uncover any discrimination that may exist against all minority groups.

Both the survey and the invitation to Thompson were approved by the executive board which met shortly after the conclusion of the FEPC session. The anti-discrimination group was under the chairmanship of Charles Scott, Bldg. 52.

15c at Durez

Tonawanda, N. Y.—Workers at Durez Plastics voted this week to accept a 15c package negotiated by UE. It includes an 11c to 14c hourly wage boost and improvements in the health and welfare insurance provisions.

Lynn Tabs Unity Trio

IUE-CIO Local 201 has established a 3-member united action committee to study possibilities of working with UE in current negotiations with the company. The local executive board action was in line with a mandate by the membership at the big union meeting on April 12.

An Offer to Vea

At a recent "educational" meeting, Motor Division Manager O. F. Vea told the workers that he agreed that GE employees should get "all the wage increases they are entitled to."

If Vea would drop around to the union hall, UE Local 301 would be glad to provide him with carfare and expenses for a trip down to New York so that he can express this view to GE top management.