

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 13 — No. 9

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, March 12, 1954

## 301 ACTS TO UNITE GE

### Early Vote Is Up To Company, UE

A quick election in Local 301 to determine our bargaining agent has been demanded by the officers, executive board and stewards. A quick election will serve the interests of democracy, the bargaining power of our local and the best interests of all members.

Local 301 has requested that General Electric management and UE leadership restrain themselves from putting roadblocks in the way of a fast, democratic election.

GE can only oppose our decision to return to the family of CIO because it will mean unity of more than 98,000 GE workers in one strong union.

If GE opposes this action of Local 301 members, the only conclusion can be that GE is stalling to interfere with our negotiations opening in April.

The only objections UE can have to an early vote by Local 301 members are that:

1. UE believes that it needs time to develop a smear campaign.

2. UE is more interested in maintaining its small, ineffective organization than in advancing welfare of GE workers.

### Jandreau to Fitzgerald

The announcement of my "discharge" by the National Officers of UE is an example of UE's idea of local autonomy. We are not appointed to office in Local 301; we are elected by secret ballot by the membership of our Union, and we will stay in office as long as the membership of Local 301 desires us to do so.

Dermody, Jimenez and Peran are hired help and are subject to dismissal by their employers, the National Union. Their confusion on how Local 301 operates is no surprise because they were never here enough to become familiar with Local 301 democratic elections and procedures.

LEO JANDREAU

### The Proposal

The following statement was written and endorsed by the elected officers of Local 301 on Tuesday, March 9:

"During the past year the Officers of Local 301 have recognized that the weakness of UE nationally was seriously hurting our members here in Schenectady. Because of this weakness, GE workers have not made any substantial gains during the past five years.

"Furthermore, inroads are being made against past gains of GE workers through more stringent company policies . . . particularly the run-away plant program . . .

"For these reasons, the Officers of Local 301 have for some time been investigating the ways in which we might do the things UE nationally has failed to do.

"Many possibilities were suggested . . .

"We realized that the home of industrial unionism is CIO. The home of electrical workers in CIO is the IUE.

"In the final analysis it boiled down to a problem of arithmetic:

1. Today IUE-CIO represents 78,000 GE workers.

2. Local 301 represents 20,000 GE workers.

3. Therefore if we unite with IUE-CIO, 98,000 GE workers will be united in one strong Union that will be able to meet GE on a real basis of Collective Bargaining equality. These 98,000 GE workers in IUE-CIO will then be more than three times greater than the number of GE workers in UE.

"This, then, presents GE workers—and particularly our members of Local 301—with the opportunity where we will again be back to our Collective Bargaining strength of 1948 before we were split into pieces by the Union-hating Boulware when GE tried to wreck us.

"The Officers and Executive Board have investigated this idea thoroughly. After this consideration the Officers and the Executive Board then took the proposition to the entire Shop Steward body and presented the problem to them.

"The sentiment of all the leadership of the Local was overwhelmingly in favor of the idea that we unite our Local with the IUE-CIO in order to do a better job of producing for GE workers.

"It was then—and only then—after this proposal had been thoroughly considered and endorsed by the entire body of Leadership of Local 301 that the move is now recommended to our entire membership.

"There are 38 members among the Officers and Executive Board of Local 301. Of those 38 Officers and Board members, 37 have wholeheartedly endorsed this recommendation. The one remaining person who said she could not immediately endorse the proposal, said that if she could not go along with the idea, she would not oppose our movement.

"More than 95% of the Shop Stewards body have acted and endorsed this proposal already, and those not yet contacted will be reached as soon as possible.

"In view of this overwhelming sentiment and belief in this idea as the best thing for the economic welfare of GE workers, we of Local 301 hereby announce that we intend to carry out this proposal by uniting with the 78,000 GE workers in IUE-CIO through the democratic means of an NLRB election at the earliest possible date."

### Local 301 Pledges 'Clean Campaign'; Asks UE Do Same

The officers, executive board members and stewards of Local 301 have pledged themselves to "conduct a clean, decent campaign" and have called on UE national leaders to do the same.

This pledge was issued before and after the low-blow attack made by UE's national office accusing Local 301 of "cowardly and corrupt" conduct in seeking unity with the majority of GE workers.

Local 301 deplors UE's decision to reduce the campaign to mudslinging and gutter politics. Such conduct is not necessary to inform the membership of the issues and can only confuse the people.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau, writing to UE President Fitzgerald, stated:

"Your newspaper attack on this local is wholly unwarranted. Furthermore, I want to advise you that your smear campaign—it is obvious that you have already started it—shall not succeed for it is wholly without justification.

"The people of Schenectady well know that the UE has long pointed to Local 301 as the outstanding local union in UE, and if you now try to reverse your position and condemn and smear us, I must warn you that your attack will backfire and when UE is finally pushed completely out of Schenectady, the UE will be held in even lower repute than it now is."

Local 301 members want and demand a clean campaign—without arousing bitterness and hatred. Such a campaign can be conducted.

The decision rests with UE. Schenectady GE workers are intelligent union members who can and will decide the issues on the merits. UE's attempt to lower the campaign is not in the best interest of the workers.

# Here Are The Letters Between 301 and IUE-CIO Laying Groundwork For Unity In GE

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS ENDORSE PROPOSAL

WILLIAM McCOLL  
DONALD HART  
WILLIAM STEWART  
LARRY GEBB  
RALPH VITALLO  
JULIUS LAVEYRA  
WILLIAM CHRISTMAN  
FRANK D'AMICO

VINCENT PALAZEKE  
HOWARD McLEAN  
SUNDAY LUPI  
WILLIAM TEMPLETON  
JAMES DeMASSEO  
CHARLES SCOTT

**International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers**  
Affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations  
734-15th Street, N.W.  
Washington 5, D. C.  
Executive 5-6096

JAMES B. CAREY, President  
AL HARTNETT, Secretary-Treasurer



March 4, 1954

Mr. Leo Jandreau, Business Agent  
UE Local 301  
301 Liberty Street,  
Schenectady, New York.

Dear Mr. Jandreau:

Contract negotiations will shortly open again with General Electric Company. It has occurred to me that this would be an opportune time to suggest to you and your local union ways and means to accomplish a great deal this year in collective bargaining with the company.

Much has been said about unity of the GE workers, but very little has been done about it insofar as the UE is concerned. The IUE-CIO, on the other hand, has actively sought unity among all workers in the GE chain. The IUE-CIO now represents a majority of the GE workers, but if the proposals which are made to you in this letter are accepted, the IUE-CIO will represent an overwhelming majority, to the advantage of all GE workers. My specific proposals to UE Local 301 -- proposals which can, if it is so desired, be accepted by any other group of GE workers outside of IUE-CIO -- are as follows:

- 1-- By uniting 20,000 UE Local 301 members with the 70,000 GE workers represented by IUE-CIO, we will give them the strength of 90,000 workers joined together with a single objective. This will constitute the vast majority of the company's factory workers.
- 2-- With this added strength, we are determined, as we were in the past, to push our contract demands on GE to the extent necessary to achieve success, in accordance with the will of the membership.
- 3-- We are aware that the company's recent unilateral announcement regarding suspension of employees, without prior discussions with the unions involved, is a serious breach of the collective bargaining rights of

### Assistant Business Agents Endorse Proposal

FRED SHEEHAN  
ROY SCHAFFER  
SERAFIN PITA  
MARSHALL WHITE

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS  
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA (UE)  
Local 301

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Vice President-----Joseph Alois  
Treasurer-----Joseph Whitbeck  
Recording Secretary-----Miles Moon  
Asst. Recording Secretary-----Rudy Rivland  
Chief Shop Steward-----William Mastriani  
Business Agent-----Leo Jandreau  
301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY 5, N. Y.

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(Ltr to Leo Jandreau, UE 301)

March 4, 1954

these unions, and establishes a dangerous precedent. It is our purpose to take appropriate action to eliminate this danger.

- 4-- Like all other GE locals of IUE-CIO, your Local will have representation, in accordance with our Constitution, on the GE IUE-CIO Conference Board and on the GE IUE-CIO Negotiating Committee, and will have as well all other privileges which our Constitution affords to all IUE-CIO locals.
- 5-- Our Constitution provides genuine autonomy for IUE-CIO locals, an autonomy which exceeds that allowed to UE locals by the UE Constitution.
- 6-- The de-centralization program of GE under which work is being transferred to the South and to unorganized communities, will affect the job security of every GE worker. The IUE-CIO has organized new GE plants in Andover, Alabama; Louisville, Kentucky; Linton, Indiana; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Cambridge, Massachusetts; and other places. We are pledged to organize all GE workers and to follow GE wherever it may go. UE, on the other hand, has not organized a single new GE plant in recent years.

We extend to you and your members a cordial invitation to join a militant, democratic American trade union and together with the millions of CIO members, to go forward to more job security, and a higher standard of living.

Very truly yours,

*James B. Carey*  
James B. Carey  
President

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### OTHER ELECTED OFFICERS ENDORSE PROPOSAL

JOSEPH SACCOCIO, Sergeant-at-Arms  
MARIO BAGNATO, Guide JOHN SMIALEK, Trustee

In releasing the full text of the exchange of letters between himself and IUE-CIO President James B. Carey, Local 301 Business Agent Leo Jandreau declared:

"These two letters constitute the only understanding that exists between Local 301 and IUE-CIO. No arrangement other than specifically spelled out in the letters has been made and none will be made by the officers of Local 301. The IUE-CIO proposal was a decent Trade Union proposal guaranteeing us full Local autonomy. Our reply speaks for itself."

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS ENDORSE PROPOSAL

ELROY MARINE  
HENRY KAMINSKI  
NEIL DUBE  
ALLEN TOWNSEND  
PAUL LANDOLFO

PAUL ROSA  
EDWARD LaBOMBARD  
FRED PACELLI  
HARRY WILLIAMS  
ANTHONY MITCH  
JOSEPH DROZDOWSKI  
DOUGLAS GRAY  
VINCENT DiLORENZO  
GERALD O'BRIEN



JAMES J. COGNETTA  
JOSEPH ALON  
JOSEPH WHITBECK  
JOSEPH WHITBECK  
Treasurer

Mr. James B. Carey, President  
International Union of Electrical, Radio  
734 - 15th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Carey:

I am in receipt of your letter outlining a series of proposals on the basis of which our union should affiliate with IUE-CIO, and which would make it possible for the G.E. workers to win many of their just demands on General Electric.

Our local union, throughout its 17 years of existence, has been motivated by one desire, namely, to do the best job for our people. Experience has taught us that the best program of has made it difficult to do this.

The six points outlined in your letter are acceptable to us, because we feel they remove any barriers that may have existed in the past between your organization and ours. Therefore, we the officers of Local 301, will recommend the acceptance of this program of affiliation to our membership immediately, and we also call upon all other General Electric locals in the UE to do likewise.

Leo Jandreau, BUSINESS AGENT  
*James J. Cognetta* President  
*Joseph Alois* Vice-President  
*Joseph Whitbeck* Treasurer  
*Miles Moon* Recording Sec'y  
*Rudy Rivland* Asst. Recording Sec'y  
*William Mastriani* Chief Shop Steward

### Former Officers & Executive Board Members Endorse Proposal

WILLIAM KELLY  
WILLIAM LINKA  
CHARLES FERRIS  
JOSEPH SICKINGER  
WILLIAM KUSCHEL

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