



## New Tax Plot Would Rob Workers To Aid Bosses

There has been a great deal in the newspapers during the past few weeks about tax cuts proposed in the new Congress. For most workers, burdened down with the heaviest tax bill in the nation's history, any such talk has a sweet sound.

Unfortunately, however, a look at the so-called tax-cutting scheme now being put forth by the Republican majority in Washington shows that the sugar coating hides a bitter pill for the average American working man or woman who, in reality, is faced with even higher, not lower, taxes.

The present plan is to place a ceiling on taxes. But this ceiling, as envisioned by GOP congressmen, would be high enough so that the only people who would benefit by it are those with annual incomes of at least \$20,000.

But that isn't the end of tax relief for the big boys. Plans are also afoot to cut corporation taxes by about \$13-billion a year.

In all, the tax cuts for the high-income executives and their corporations would take \$16½-billion from the federal government's income. Rather than making any cuts in the high military expenditures, the tax experts have decided that this money has to be made up somehow. And they have specific proposals for doing this—by imposing a 10% sales tax on everything, including food.

This vicious scheme would, in effect, rob the pockets of workers across the country to pay the tax bills of employers. For example, with the sales tax, a pound of bacon now selling for 75c would jump overnight to 83c; milk would hop

from 25c a quart up to 28c; 2c would be added to the cost of a loaf of bread; a suit of clothes now selling for \$50 would cost \$55; and so on.

There is plenty of need for real tax cuts. However, if the people are to benefit from them then a plan such as that proposed by UE would have to be put into effect. This plan calls for ending income taxes for all workers receiving less than \$4,000 a year, and sharply reducing the levies on low and middle incomes. Any making up that would have to be done, could come out of the war-swollen profits of the corporations.

## Term Political Action Vital To Gains in Economic Field

UE Local 301 shop stewards were told Monday that "anyone who thinks that this union can stay out of the legislative field, and at the same time do a job for its members in the economic field, just doesn't understand the problem facing labor today." This assertion was made by Business Agent Leo Jandreau during a discussion of the UE political action program in Albany and Washington.

Jandreau noted that "one stroke of a pen signing an anti-labor bill can wipe out gains scored by weeks and months of militant fighting by union members in the shops." He added:

"We have seen the labor movement crippled by the Taft-Hartley law. Millions of Americans have been deprived of their rights by the McCarran-Walter act. The freeze has robbed the working people of billions of dollars won in negotiations, and, even more important, the freeze has prevented unions from gaining many more billions through free collective bargaining.

"All of these blows at the people were struck through legislative action, and only a united political fight by organized labor can free the workers from the restrictions of such laws. Any union which thinks it can buy respectability or buy freedom from attack by shutting up on legislative matters is kidding itself. Sure, the committees, the grand juries, the magazines will lay off the organization, but at the same time, nothing will be won for the people.

"UE has always believed in the importance of legislative action. It's meant that we've been attacked from every direction, but it has also meant that we've never paid the price of respectability—selling out the people."

## Reuther Deal To End 5-Year Pacts Fails

The attempt of CIO President Walter Reuther to make a political deal which would get him out from under the responsibility for the 5-year contracts with which he saddled hundreds of thousands of auto workers fell through this week.

The new CIO boss was "double crossed" by the politicians when the government announced that the old cost of living index, scheduled to be replaced this week, would be continued for another 6 months, at least. Reuther had made a deal with the recently-retired administration to substitute a new cost of living setup.

This new setup wouldn't have been any more favorable to organized labor. In fact, in some respects it would, have held wages down. However, it would have given Reuther the excuse for ending the 5-year auto pacts which completely freeze workers' wages, and which actually have meant periodic pay cuts for many.

When the 5-year "escalator" contracts were first announced, UE condemned them as sell-outs of the rights of workers to fight for better living standards. Reuther, who was busy taking bows as the great "labor statesman", dismissed this as "communist propaganda." However, 3 years of experience with the "escalators" have resulted in increasing bitterness against Reuther and opposition to the CIO leader in his own union.

The political deal was supposed to get Reuther off the hook, and its failure to materialize is likely to mean a stepped-up fight for real militant leadership by the auto workers. The 5-year pacts, which run until 1955, have already been denounced by Ford locals of the UAW-CIO, and by rank-and-file groups among General Motors and Chrysler employees.

## Hope Freeze Ends By Reopener Date

The announcement this week that the wage freeze would be abolished raised new hopes that the forthcoming UE-GE economic reopener negotiations would be underway in an atmosphere of free collective bargaining.

However, UE Washington observers warned of the possibility of some new scheme to freeze wages being cooked up by the corporations.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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## UE Urges United Fight by GE Workers

Recognizing the importance of uniting all General Electric workers around a fight for better wages and working conditions, the UE-GE conference board voted Saturday to approve a unity call on rank-and-file company employees regardless of union affiliation.

The board stressed that unless all GE workers can agree on a minimum program for which to fight, the chances of any one union making substantial gains in forthcoming reopener and contract negotiations are going to be greatly reduced. UE representatives from throughout the GE chain pointed out that almost all of the contract benefits we now have were won before the Carey-led split in 1949. Since then, the UE, the IUE-CIO and the dozens of smaller unions have been forced to settle for far less than the workers in the shops would have won had a united fight been made.

Conference board members also pointed out that even where moves for joint action are sabotaged by top officers in any of the unions, UE's job is to go directly to the rank and file of those unions and point out how they suffer because of the political maneuvering of these leaders. This point was particularly emphasized because of UE's experience last year, when a similar unity move was viciously distorted and rebuffed by IUE-CIO President James Carey. Since then, Carey's complete failure to win anything for GE workers has resulted in increasing IUE rank-and-file pressure for united action around a minimum program with UE.

## UE Slates National Women's Conference in NY, May 2 & 3

A national women's conference to advance the fight against discrimination because of sex will be held by UE in New York City on May 2 and 3. Local 301, which has played a leading role in the struggle up to now, is making plans to send a delegation to the conference.

The women's conference will carry out a plan voted by the 1952 union national convention in Cleveland. This plan was embodied in a resolution first presented by Helen Quirini, one of the leaders in the fight against the "pay the women less" racket in Schenectady.

Topics slated for discussion at the women's conference will be fighting sex discrimination through the grievance machinery; fighting discrimination through shop action and the role of negotiations in the struggle.

The part to be played by men in the fight will also occupy an important place on the agenda. For this reason, every attempt will be made to assure wide male participation in the conference.

## Active Stewards to Have Banquet

A big end-of-the-year banquet for shop stewards who attend their monthly meetings regularly was voted unanimously by the 301 executive board Monday night.

The banquet, in recognition of a conscientious job of representing the men and women in the shops, would be open to all stewards who

## Thousands Sign Petitions Opposing McCarran Law

UE Local 301's petition calling for repeal of the vicious McCarran-Water immigration law has already been signed by thousands of workers in the GE Schenectady works, with many new signatures being collected every day.

## Membership to Vote Monday on By-Laws

A proposed change in the constitution of UE Local 301 will be voted on at the membership meeting Monday. The proposal would make at least one year's union service a requirement for election as shop steward.

The requirement was recommended by the local constitutions committee which will present it to the members at both afternoon and evening meetings. Another proposal to extend the term of union officers to 2 years will also be reported, but this suggestion will carry a recommendation of rejection from the committee.

Under the 301 constitution, the February meeting is one of the four membership gatherings during the year at which changes in the governing law of the local can be made.

Make it possible to take away the citizenship and then deport men and women who have lived and worked in this country for many years, and many of whom have fought in the armed forces in defense of the U. S. Under the law these people can lose citizenship for vague reasons.

Give employers a powerful weapon over trade unionists of foreign birth, since it is a simple matter to take away the citizenship of people whose only "crime" is activity in the interests of their fellow workers.

Set a precedent for similar oppressive laws against native-born Americans.

The McCarran-Walter law has aroused widespread opposition right here in Schenectady. A number of clergymen last week gave statements to the EU News condemning the act and calling for its repeal. The law has also been attacked by both President Eisenhower and ex-President Truman. UE locals throughout the country have joined with many other unions in waging an active campaign to repeal the law.

## \$100 to Wausau

A \$100 contribution to aid locked out members of UE Local 1113 in Wausau, Wisconsin, was voted Monday night by the Local 301 executive board.

The 750 Marathon Electric workers have been on the picket lines for nearly one year in a struggle to save their union.



THEY'RE ALL WORKERS. Executive Board Member Howard McClean is pictured above as he took the floor Monday to stress the importance of joint action by all GE workers in coming negotiations. McClean emphasized that the needs of all workers are the same regardless of union affiliation.

Annual Financial Report	
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO AND MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA—UER & MWA—UE LOCAL 301	
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR	
From January 1 to December 31, 1952	
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Dues .....	\$374,200.35
Initiation Fees .....	6,106.00
Debts Forgiven by National Union and District .....	48,490.94
Contributions, etc. ....	6,681.66
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b> .....	<b>\$435,388.95</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Per Capita Taxes .....	\$162,098.80
Salaries and Allowances .....	\$8,782.59
Time Lost Reimbursed to Members .....	\$1,019.00
Taxes .....	2,427.00
Administrative Expenses .....	14,938.12
Organizational Expenses .....	36,686.64
Contributions .....	3,196.55
<b>Total Assets at End of Year</b> .....	<b>\$85,648.99</b>
<b>Total Liabilities at End of Year</b> .....	<b>\$18,948.51</b>

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS



## Heck Holds Key To PPR's Fate

The 1953 fate of the New York State personal permanent registration bill, which is supported by UE Local 301, appeared to rest in the hands of Schenectady Assemblyman Oswald Heck this week after the Republican majority in the state legislature blocked one move to put the bill on the floor.

The proposed registration plan would enable people in cities to vote every year after they had once registered in their community. Under present law, voters must register every year except in rural areas.

Heck's role as chairman of the assembly rules committee gives him the power to make sure that the bill reaches the lower house floor. There many GOP representatives are pledged to join with the Democratic minority in backing the bill.

Union members are urged to write Heck in Albany asking him to act for the bill.

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

2nd SHIFT  
Monday, Feb. 16, 1953  
1:00 P.M. (before work)

1st and 3rd SHIFTS  
Monday, Feb. 16, 1953  
7:30 P.M.

Local 301 Hall

### Aids Polio Fund

The UE Local 301 executive board voted Monday night to make a contribution of \$100 to the March of Dimes. The donation to the polio drive is over and above the many individual contributions which have been made by members of the union in the shops and the community.

The sum is the largest amount which the executive board can allocate to any one group without approval of the membership.

## Jobs in 86 Big Corporations Cushion Cabinet Members

Any hope that organized labor will get a break from the administration quickly fades when it's realized that 10 members of the Eisenhower cabinet hold directorships or other top positions in 86 corporations. These corporations have total assets of more than \$20 billion.

Topping the list of the big business guns in government is former GM boss Charles E. Wilson. Wilson wasn't much bothered by the wage freeze last year, having

### Ban on Industry-Wide Bargaining Proposed

Big Business settled down in earnest this week to its latest offensive aimed at destroying the labor movement. Heaviest weapon brought up by the employers was a bill introduced to virtually put all national unions out of business.

The bill was sponsored by a Texas Dixiecrat, Rep. Wingate Lucas, whose proposal would make it illegal for any union to bargain nationally with two or more corporations in one industry. This, of course, embodies the ban on industry-wide bargaining long advocated by the National Association of Manufacturers.

received a salary of \$566,200.

GM, which didn't do too bad during World War II, averaging profits of \$175 million annually, has really been going to town during the Korean war. Its average profit for the two years of the current conflict was \$670-million per year. Wilson is not expected to wage too vigorous a struggle to knock his "former" company off the war profit gravy train.

Wilson's colleagues in the Defense Department are not likely to show up to work in the morning without lunch money. Army Secretary Robert Stevens has been a director or officer of 15 big corporations, including GE, and was board chairman of the huge J. P. Stevens textile firm.

Air Force boss Harold Talbot is one of the biggest aircraft industrialists in the nation, and hold directorships in 10 corporations. "Poor man" of the team is Navy Secretary Robert B. Anderson. He holds office or directorships in only 5 oil associations and one bank.

Bldg. 273: The union demands proper adjustment of starting rate for L. Capaci in accordance with contract article VI-6a-3, and observance of article VI-6a-4 which provides for filling of higher rated jobs by upgrading.

A inspection groups believe that they have not been properly considered for AA ratings. The union demands a management investigation to determine why long service workers have been bypassed in favor of those with shorter service in upgrading.

Group under Foreman Shure protests following contract violations: (1) excessive and unnecessary time lost arguing prices for extra work, machining weld, extra stock, etc.; (2) establishment of fixed prices for machining weld rather than payment for actual work; (3) discrepancies in prices for turn surplus stock; and (4) changing of standard prices by inclusion of extra work when diameters are different, and by classification as standard of new prices including extra work. The union demands correction of these situations.

Men classified as arm and hand welders are performing duties of special hand welders. The union therefore demands proper upgrading and rate increase.

Robert Douell is classified as a B machinist, but he is performing full A job. The union demands be reclassified with proper rate increase.

Racetrack: Raymond Van Allen and Norman Wentworth are classified as B electricians, but are doing A work on test and wiring operations. The union demands they be reclassified with proper rate adjustments.



Ashtabula, Ohio—UE Local 733 members have won a 7c hourly wage increase from the Ward Products Co. Since 4c of the boost is retroactive to Jan. 7, 1952, the workers will receive a total of \$30,000 in back pay.

East Chicago, Ind.—A 5-day strike by 18,000 CIO steelworkers, which closed down the Inland Steel plant here, ended last week when the company agreed to abandon its "work on our terms or else" attitude, and to process a big backlog of grievances as speedily as possible.

Essington, Pa.—Patternmakers at the big Westinghouse plant here repulsed the 3rd raid by the AFL patternmakers in 2 years and voted to maintain unity with production, maintenance and salaried workers in UE Local 107.

Hyden, Kentucky—A Leslie County coal company boss, Sherman Smallwood, was arrested this week and charged with the attempted murder of 4 members of the United Mine Workers. The union men were ambushed and wounded, near here on Jan. 30. Smallwood is being held on \$27,000 bail.

Kingston, Ontario—UE members at the Frontenac Tile Co. have won rate increases of 13c to 31c an hour after long contract talks.

Miami Beach—The AFL executive council this week declared that general wage increases for all American workers are needed if a major depression is to be avoided. The council warned that if the present gap between productivity and wages continues, the working people will soon produce far more than they can consume, and a panic like that of 1929 will be inevitable.

Toronto—Renewal of their UE contract has brought a 10½c to 12½c wage boost for employees of the Trane Co. Of special interest was the raising of the common labor rate to \$1.60 an hour, one of the highest levels in Canada. Another important gain was the boosting of weekly sick pay from \$40 to \$40.

San Diego—One of the last actions of the Wage Stabilization Board was to approve 7c hourly wage increases for 17,000 employees of the Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corp. The boost was negotiated by the AFL machinists.

## GE Conference Board Drafts Wage Demands As Freeze End Sets Stage for Real Fight

A program for mobilizing all General Electric workers for a fight for real economic gains was drawn up by the UE-GE conference board at a meeting in New York City this past weekend. The program was drafted with the knowledge that the end of the wage freeze gives the American working people their best opportunity in several years to fight for real improvements in their wages.

Conference board members from UE-GE locals throughout the country attended the meeting. They set forth a program which will provide the basis for a struggle both in the forthcoming economic re-opener talks and in the contract renewal negotiations next September.

High on the list of demands to be presented to the company will be one to return the two paid holidays (Memorial Day and the 4th of July) which fall on Saturdays this year.

A demand for a substantial wage increase this year is, of course, one which will occupy a central position in all negotiations with the company. With pay no longer tied to the corporation-created cost-of-living and productivity factors, these negotiations can take the form of real collective bargaining, backed by shop activity, instead of being turned into a mathematical debate on percentages amounting to peanuts.

The wage fight is regarded as essential in the coming months because of the elimination of price controls, which weak as they were, protected the workers against some part of the higher price barrage which can now be expected to hit with full force.

Economists now estimate that the end of price controls will mean an increase in the cost of living totalling between \$1 billion and \$1½ billion a year nationally. This is probably a low figure. Big business propagandists are now trying to sell the line that the end of price controls will mean lower prices. But they made this same claim when OPA was killed after World War II.

UE wage demands, like the program to eliminate all forms of pay discrimination (described elsewhere on this page) will be subject to approval of GE locals. UE 301 will discuss the program at Monday's membership meeting.

### Wins Damage Suit

Chicago—A suit instituted by UE Local 1114 has resulted in a \$100 damage award for a Negro worker who was refused facilities at local bowling alleys. The legal victory was regarded as a powerful blow at widespread practices of discrimination in Chicago bowling establishments.



301 REPRESENTATIVES. Pictured above are Helen Quirini who represented the union at a women's conference of UE Local 207 in New Britain, Conn., on Wednesday evening; and President James Cognetta, selected by the executive board as the local's representative on the Schenectady Inductees' Center committee. The board also recommended a \$300 donation to the organization.

## End of Pay Discrimination Viewed as Key Goal in '53

UE's 1953 wage struggle with General Electric, as outlined by the UE-GE conference board, will include a fight for special pay increases to eliminate all forms of economic discrimination against workers in the chain.

### 5 Packers Win Extra Work Payment in Beef

Supervision attempts to take advantage of methods changes to chisel on the wages of a Building 285 packing group were stopped by the UE Local 301 grievance machinery, and, as a result, 5 members of the group received the equivalent of a wage boost amounting to at least \$4 weekly.

The actual grievance involved payment for extra work resulting from the methods change and past company policy. As a result a sub-committee investigation was ordered. This probe bore out the UE contentions that the men should be paid for making ladders (steel mill panels) on open switches and changing saw blades.

In addition the union won payment of average earnings for approximately 1½ hours per man, instead of for a total of 1½ hours for the whole group, and a new change in method eliminating other unpaid for extra work.

Local 301 was represented in the case by Executive Board Member Paul Landolfo, Steward Louis Riano and by Steve Mullen, one of the workers in the packing group.

While stressing the need of all GE employees for higher wages, the board took special note of the problems of day workers, skilled craftsmen, women and persons employed in low wage areas.

An extended fight on behalf of these groups will be necessary if the wage levels of all GE workers are to be maintained and improved. As long as day workers' rates are held down, the company has an excuse to keep the earnings of piece workers below what these people are actually entitled to because of the levels of their production.

In the same way sub-standard wages for craftsmen enables GE to put a low ceiling on all wages. The threat to men presented by low pay to women workers is even more direct. As long as the company can keep women below the rates being paid to men for similar work, then they can cut all job rates by moving women onto so-called "men's jobs."

The fight against geographical wage differentials is increasingly important as GE moves more and more of its work into low wage areas of the South.



Bldg. 17: Stanley Galuszka has been an A toolroom machine operator since 7/51. His last wage increase was in 11/51. The union demands that he be given his job rate as of 2/2/53 based on his ability and performance on the job.

As a result of a written grievance presented on 2/2/53, James Wayland has been reclassified from B to A toolroom machine operator. However, he received no wage increases despite 1½ years service in the B classification and his present A work. The union demands an increase as of 2/2.

Bldg. 49: Edwin Askew has not received proper consideration for upgrading to B stockkeeper. In fact he has been bypassed in favor of much shorter service workers. The union demands a management investigation to determine why Askew has not been upgraded despite his qualifications.

Stockroom group protests a number of contract violations including foremen performing their duties and even coming in on Sundays to do so, utilization of employees of different classifications to do their work, lack of adequate help and replacements for 5 workers who have left the group and refusal to fill B openings while assigning lower rated men to the jobs. The union demands that these practices be stopped.

Inspectors' group on 3rd shift demands that a foreman be assigned to them. 1st and 2nd shift groups are properly staffed with

supervision and there is no reason why the 3rd shift should not be staffed in the same way.

Bldg. 60: Smoky conditions resulting from building of water wheels constitute a major health and safety hazard. The union demands that this situation be corrected through adequate ventilation.

Bldg. 66: Foreman has taken voucher on S.O. 180-3681, drwg. 7008E34 for chip and grind. This job must be performed for inspection, and P. Russo demands issuance of voucher for this reason.

R. Tomasek has requested breakdown of pricing on foundation cap S.O. 101-3739, drwg. 181C-217-1. Contrary to past practices, foreman has refused breakdown. The union demands it be given.

Welders protest the present accuracy of pricing through division. Inadequate allowances for inaccessibility result in continuous bickering. The union demands that these allowances be correctly computed.

Bldg. 107: On 12/11/52, the union protested the use of production workers and porters to paint machines and lockers in 285. Management informed the union that this was being done only as a temporary measure to alleviate a lack of work condition, and would not be established as a practice. However, the union finds that as late as 2/1, the practice was being

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.

continued. It therefore demands immediate halting of this contract violation.

Bldg. 227: Group demands 10c hourly increase for employees used to operate Sno-Go machine. The job requires mechanical work and can only be done by selected and qualified workers from the group.

Bldg. 269: Groups including A and B engine lathe operators, A and B screw machine operators and miscellaneous machine operators ask correction of following situations: (1) B engine lathe operators are doing A work without compensation; (2) excessive day-work up to 50%; (3) use of lower rated men to do higher rated work and of higher rated workers on lower rated work at loss of earnings; (4) indiscriminate assignment of workers to job outside of their classifications; and (5) failure to pay average earnings for all repair work. The union demands correction of all of these violations.

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