



Chicago—Police and corporation officials worked closely this week in an effort to pin the mysterious slaying of a non-striking Harvester worker on the 30,000 UE members who were forced to walk out of the farm equipment plants by company attempts to destroy their contract. Absolutely no link was established between the killing of the man and any striker. However, police cooperated with the company propaganda machine by arresting several striking workers, only to have to release them again when it was proved that they could not have been involved. A police official, notorious for his strike-breaking activities, announced that he would arrest 35 strike leaders. UE District President Ernest De Maio summed up the situation in these words: "Our union is fighting a brutal and heartless corporation that has a history of never hesitating to use violence in the past to achieve its end of imposing economic hardship on its workers while accumulating even greater profits."

New York—UE has signed a contract with the Sylvania Electric Co. patterned closely after the agreement obtained by UE from General Electric.

Muncie, Ind.—A new three-year agreement ended a one-week strike of the CIO autoworkers against the Borg-Warner Corporation's Warner division. The accord provides a substantial wage increase and some fringe benefits.

New York—350 members of UE Local 1227 in Long Island City defeated a two-week lockout by the Morey Machinery Co. and won a substantial wage increase. The lockout began on Sept. 15 after the company laid off 50 workers outside of seniority. The 50 included four members of the union negotiating committee. The rest of the workers decided that a lockout of 50 was a lockout of all. Since then, not a wheel has turned in the shop.

Chicago—Local 346 of the CIO packinghouse workers has scored a major victory over the Armour Company's practice of discriminating against Negro workers in hiring. The union not only broke down Jim Crow barriers in two departments but succeeded in forcing the company to hire Negro women in these areas for the first time.

Two Days in Compensation Court Bring \$14,761 to Injured UE Local 301 Members

The size and scope of the UE Local 301 compensation service is hard to realize until you start to study the records of the cases handled by the union's attorney, Leon Novak. In order to get such a picture, the EU News obtained from Novak the records for just two days in court, Sept. 16 and 17. These records showed that the UE lawyer handled more than 60 cases during the 48-hour period, and final awards in 34 of these cases brought \$14,761 to injured union members.

This figure does not include the many cases which were "continued," that is held over for three, four or even six months. The accident victims in these cases generally received weekly awards ranging up to \$82.

The awards are based on the number of weeks of disability caused by the injury, and on a fixed rate schedule for permanent injuries and disfigurements.

Among the most important job of the union lawyer is to present evidence fixing the responsibility for injuries on the company. GE employs a large staff of lawyers, investigators and researchers to try and minimize company responsibilities.

The task for Novak is often complicated by injuries and ailments which accident victims are not aware of for months after the actual date of the accident. In such cases, producing medical evidence to show that these disabilities are traceable to the event in the shop or to the worker's job routine takes a great deal of medical examination and legal research.

Many workers have had their total \$2-monthly dues refunded several hundred times by a compensation award won through the efforts of the union. That certainly was the case of Christopher De Frango, whose arm was injured in a Schenectady works accident on July 17, 1951.

On September 17, 1952, De Frango was given a compensation award of \$2,995.20.



DISTRICT DELEGATES. The five members of UE Local 301 who were elected as the union's delegates to the District 3 council, which groups together 35,000 workers in upstate New York, are pictured above. On the left is James Brown, elected by the second shift. On the right are the delegates picked by the first and third shifts, William Templeton, William Kelly, Leo Jandreau and William Mastriani.

Two Leaders Spy on Union Meetings in Building 60

There is nothing in the job description covering group leaders that says that they should spy on their fellow workers. But apparently supervision in Building 60 doesn't go strictly according to descriptions.

Many OK Dues Boost After Meetings in Shop

Local 301 members were voting nearly 3 to 1 for the proposed dues increase as many hundreds of them were reached by the works-wide canvass in the past two weeks.

The pro-increase sentiment showed a sharp upswing, reflecting the additional departmental meetings that have been held since the signing of the new UE-GE pact. An interesting development was that many workers who had originally put themselves down as against the increase changed their votes after discussions with their fellow workers and their shop stewards.

These changes buoyed the confidence of the local officers and executive board that once the union membership fully understood the reasons for the dues-increase proposal, they would support it.

The boost was proposed by the local leadership in order to set up a special fund to be used first for union defense purposes, and then for the construction of a badly-needed new union hall.

The monies coming into the special fund could not be used for anything except these purposes unless specifically authorized by the membership, under the terms of the proposal.

UE Local 301 dues are currently \$2 a month.

At least two group leaders are self-admitted labor spies for the company. They are Charles Soles and Isadore Rovelli, who work in test maintenance. Soles and Rovelli were both union members until they were made group leaders early this year. Then, they apparently decided that their future lay in spying on, rather than working with their fellow workers.

Everytime Shop Steward Charles Lucas held a departmental meeting in the works, Soles and Rovelli showed up. Questioned as to the reason for their interest, the two admitted that they were sent in by supervision.

Lucas and William Templeton, the executive board member, protested to top supervision, noting that if GE bosses wanted to know what went on at union meetings, they should come themselves.

Then, after the protest, Templeton held a meeting to discuss the new contract. Both Soles and Rovelli showed up. The workers then voted 30 to 1 to ask the spies to leave, but like most stooges, the two were thick-skinned and would not move.

The group immediately broke up their meeting rather than talk in front of the spies. A second meeting was scheduled and held, this time without the help of Soles and Rovelli. They weren't missed.



ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

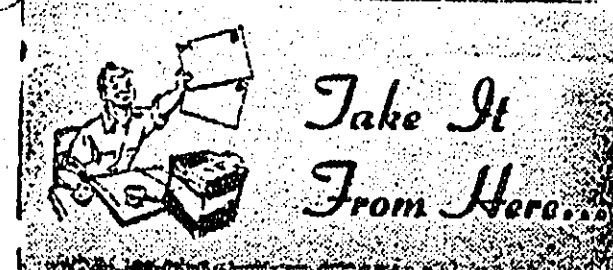
ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 10 — No. 41

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, October 17, 1952



UE Wins in Niles, Fort Edward Votes

Davenport, Iowa—A brief strike by UE Local 822 has forced the Eagle Signal Co. to agree to an 8c hourly wage increase and to abandon demands to destroy long-standing contract protections. The company proposals would have meant all-out speedup for the Eagle workers. Five cents of the wage settlement was retroactive to June 1.

Cincinnati — The United Mine Workers Convention has heard President John L. Lewis call for an all-out drive against Taft-Hartley and unity of the labor movement. The convention also went on record endorsing the Democratic national ticket.

Chicago—Workers of the Grand Fleet Co. crushed a company union raid by voting for UE Local 1119 in an NLRB election. The count was 133 to 37.

Pittsburgh—A strike threat by AFL unionists has forced six major hotels here to agree to an 8c hourly wage increase for 2,400 employees.

Philadelphia—Going into negotiations directly after defeating an IUE-CIO raid, UE Local 155 has won a 10c hourly wage increase for employees of the Weidemann Machine Co.

Salt Lake City—A political action convention of the Mine, Mill and Smelter workers warned this week that a new rash of anti-union legislation can be expected when Congress returns to Washington in January. The Mine-Mill conclave particularly noted the danger of laws to ban industry-wide bargaining and to pave the way for political control of unions.

Philadelphia—A second NLRB election at the H. H. Eby Co. plant in recent weeks has resulted in a second victory for UE Local 155. The union increased its margin over IUE-CIO raiders after the first election victory had been set aside by the Taft-Hartley Board. Both campaigns were marked by vicious IUE red-baiting.

Two overwhelming UE victories in as many days this week dealt crushing blows to the IUE-CIO raiders' latest attempts to spread disruption among GE workers.

One of the big victories was in the nearby Fort Edward and Hudson Falls plants where UE Local 332 routed the Carey gang in an NLRB election on Wednesday. The vote was UE 489 and IUE-CIO 123.

The other UE victory was scored in Niles, Ohio, where the IUE was rejected by the workers 160 to 102. In both elections the issue of the UE contract ratified by the democratic vote of local memberships, as compared with the Carey dictatorship's maneuvering for a strike, was key.

In the upstate New York ballot, Local 332, which represents the Hudson Falls-Fort Edward workers, was aided considerably by Local 301. A letter from the Schenectady union's officers urging the workers to vote UE was sent to each union member, and two 301 officers spoke at a pre-election rally. Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani and Treasurer Helen Quirini both addressed the meeting, telling the Fort Edward-Hudson Falls workers about the Schenectady election last year in which a similar IUE-CIO raid was crushed.

Two other NLRB elections in GE shops, one in Tiffin, Ohio, and the other in Detroit, are scheduled for later in the month. Both shops are now represented by UE locals.



LEWIS KING

Harvester Strike Called Vital to GE Bargaining

The importance of helping the 30,000 UE members on strike against the International Harvester Co. was stressed at Monday night's executive board meeting.

Several members of the board emphasized the close connection between the success or failure of the strikes and the success or failure of our February wage re-opening discussions with GE. These speakers pointed out that a victory for the Harvester strikers would put all managements in the industry in a much more reasonable frame of mind. On the other hand, the corporations would take a defeat for the UE strikers as a cue to crack down in an effort to break the union.

District Three President Lewis King told the board that the Harvester workers were standing solid in the face of strike-breaking efforts and mounting police terror.

King also said that the strikers would not receive any unemployment insurance benefits, and this made the need for strike aid urgent.

Map Fights For Pensioners, Women

Mounting campaigns to eliminate General Electric pay discrimination against women and to end the company's chiselling at the expense of pensioners were described as twin objectives of UE Local 301 in the next few months.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau and other union spokesmen were optimistic about the chances of success for both of these drives in discussions held at Monday night's executive board meeting.

The women's campaign is in reality a continuation of the fight launched this spring with the big demonstration at the Subway gate. The drive has already succeeded in eliminating some inequities through the settlement of individual grievances. It also caused GE management to agree to discuss locally the possibilities of further narrowing the gaps between men's pay and women's pay at the recent contract talks in New York.

It was pointed out Monday that the low pay for

women constitutes a dagger pointed at the heart of the men's pay structure. The company was pictured as ready to transfer men to low paying "women's jobs" whenever they could. This threat could only be eliminated by wiping out all pay discrimination based on sex.

The problem is of national scope. This was recognized at the recent UE Cleveland convention which approved plans for a country-wide women's conference in the next couple of months. UE Local 301, as the largest local in the union, is determined to play a leading role in the fight.

In regard to the pension situation, it was pointed out that the company decision to subtract the recent social security increase from the checks being given to many old-timers constituted nothing but petty penny-pinching by GE at the expense of men and women who would be hard pressed to make ends meet even without the GE cut.

UE Wins Long Strike at GHR

GHR foundry workers in Dayton, Ohio, returned to their jobs this week following a weekend of celebrating their complete victory in a 21-week strike. The company finally abandoned its efforts to destroy the unity of the strikers last Thursday and signed a contract providing a 10c hourly wage increase.

Most important of all, UE Local 768 had saved its contract against company efforts to end its protections. The company also agreed to rehire "fired" strike leaders and restore, not only their seniority, but the complete seniority list in effect before the strike. Previously the GHR management had tried to pull off a scheme by which strikebreakers would be given seniority preference.

The strike settlement brought to a final defeat the company's long efforts to break UE, efforts which began with an IUE-CIO raid early in the year. The raid was crushed 501 to 215, but it was followed by smear hearings and a lockout which precipitated the strike.

UE LOCAL 301 STEWARDS MEETING

2nd SHIFT
Monday, Oct. 20, 1952
1:00 P.M. (before work)

1st and 3rd SHIFTS
Monday, Oct. 20, 1952
7:30 P.M.

Local 301 Hall
Erie Blvd. & Liberty St.

See Dairy Price Rise

The U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics warned this week that the prices of eggs, butter, milk and milk products would mount sharply next year.

This warning came on the heels of a one cent a quart milk price boost in the Schenectady area. Wages remain frozen.

All Locals Ratify Contract, Assuring Retroactive Pay

The last barrier to putting the new contract between UE and General Electric into effect was cleared away this week as locals all over the country reported membership ratification of the pact.

301 Questions Kearney On Vital Labor Issues

A letter asking Rep. Bernard Kearney to make his position clear on a number of vital issues affecting UE Local 301 was sent to the congressman this week.

The questions asked for clear statements of views on the Taft-Hartley law, the Smith Act, the McCarran Act, tightening of social security protections and many other issues. Kearney agreed in advance to answer these questions.

This agreement was made when he declined an invitation to appear at a union meeting to express himself to GE workers. His Democratic opponent, former GE vice president David Prince, addressed the meeting and answered the same questions from the floor.

The ratification was made in meetings held by UE-GE locals throughout the nation. UE Local 301 approved the contract unanimously in a membership meeting last week. This membership meeting followed on the heels of shop meetings throughout the Schenectady works.

All ratifications were made before Oct. 15, so that the pact, with its 8c to 13c wage increase for Schenectady workers, became automatically retroactive to Sept. 15.

Even as UE was going through its democratic procedures, the IUE-CIO dictators were stirring increasing resentment among their membership by continuing to maneuver for a strike although the overwhelming majority of those who have had the chance to vote have demanded that Carey accept the UE-negotiated settlement.

GE Refuses to Rehire Injured Negro Veteran

In what shapes up as an outright case of discrimination, the company has balked at rehiring a Negro veteran of the Korean war who was injured on the job in February.

The victim of the company's attitude is Lee Marshall, who hurt his back severely while unloading a box car early in the year. At the time he was hurt, Marshall was working as a common laborer, the only job which GE was willing to give him despite his highly specialized training.

Marshall got this training while serving in the U. S. Marine Corps. The service sent him for technical training to the Marine Corps Institute in Washington and to the Small Arms Technical School in Hawaii.

When he was ready to return to work, he reported back to personnel telling company representatives that his only limitation was on heavy lifting. He was told that there were no openings for him at the present.

However, the very next man interviewed by personnel was given a job in ordnance, a spot for which Marshall's specialized training made him highly qualified. Apparently certain company representatives cling to the belief that Negro workers should be used only in menial capacities despite the State fair employment practices law and GE's frequent lip service to democratic hiring and upgrading policies.

UE Local 301 is pursuing the case, determined to obtain fair treatment for Marshall.

Union Balks Violation Of Overtime Guarantees

Prompt union action has frustrated a Building 269 supervision scheme to violate the division of overtime provisions of the contract.

Just one week ago, the company representatives in 269 announced that henceforth any workers in Tube Electronics who lost so much as a half day's working time during the week would not receive any overtime.

This was in clear violation of the UE-GE pact, and executive board member Fay Hildreth protested to supervision. The case was referred to the union office which demanded that the contract be respected. As a result, supervision withdrew its announcement and agreed that overtime would be shared without discrimination of any sort in accordance with the rules set forth in the contract.



FLOYD THOMAS

Carey Maneuvers Increase in Dues

In another maneuver underlining the dictatorial nature of IUE-CIO leadership, the Carey machine has jammed through a proposal in effect increasing the dues of every member without giving any local a chance to vote on the boost.

This was accomplished by an IUE convention action raising the per capita assessment by 15c a month. Since most locals are deeply in debt to the international, and the international is deeply indebted to the CIO which has financed much of the Carey raiding, this will undoubtedly mean a much larger dues increase for all IUF members, many of whom are already paying \$3 a month.

The cynical lack of regard for democracy shown by Carey was once more demonstrated by his handling of the per capita issue at the convention. He proposed a 25c increase and asked for a voice vote. The vote was clearly against the boost, but Carey calmly declared the proposal had passed. However, the storm of protest was so violent that the IUE dictator was forced to agree to a roll-call.

In the middle of the second vote, Carey stepped in when it was obvious that the boost was going down to a big defeat. He stopped the vote and shoved the proposal back into committee. There the 15c compromise was worked out.

In the meantime the delegates, many of them on the Carey payroll, had been brow-beaten into pledging to support the new measure which passed the convention.

The dues increase technique employed by Carey contrasts sharply with the democratic procedure now being followed in UE Local 301 to make sure that everyone has a full opportunity to vote on an issue as important as this.

Hits McCarran Bill

Archbishop Richard J. Cushing, Roman Catholic prelate of Boston, has condemned the McCarran-Walter immigration bill as "un-Christian and un-American."

Final Decision on Dues Hike Slated at November Meeting

With the sentiment of union members throughout the Schenectady works overwhelmingly in favor of the proposal to increase UE Local 301 dues by 50c a month, the executive board agreed Monday to leave the final decision on the matter up to the November membership meeting.

FEPC Group Wins Upgrading in 273

UE Local 301's FEPC Committee has scored an important victory against the widespread company practice of refusing to upgrade Negro workers.

The victory was achieved in the case of George Vroman, a Negro worker with many years of service to the company. Vroman had been working as a laborer in Building 273. For a long time, he asked supervision for a better job but always got the same answer, "no openings."

Finally convinced that he was the victim of bigotry, Vroman went to William Stewart, his executive board member. Stewart agreed that it was important to fight the case, and he referred it to Floyd Thomas, chairman of the union's FEPC group.

Thomas took up the case with management and pointed to the many upgrades that had taken place while Vroman was being bypassed. After considerable stalling, the company finally ran out of excuses and agreed to find a better job for Vroman.

Last month, the Negro worker got that job, a highly-rated piece work assignment on bar stripping.

This decision was made after it was reported that the constitutions committee, acting in response to the results of a works-wide canvas, had voted unanimously to recommend the boost in dues.

However, the canvas of the membership is continuing, with the local leadership determined to reach as many workers as possible in order to give them an opportunity to vote on the increase. A majority of the union membership has already been approached, with the vote running about three to one in favor of the increase.

Interestingly enough, many persons who originally put themselves down as against the dues increase changed their minds and their votes after discussions in their groups brought out the reasons for the increase request.

The 50c a month increase would be placed in a special building and defense fund, monies from which could only be used with the specific approval of the members. The first jobs scheduled for the extra income is the building of a defense fund, and the construction of a badly-needed new union hall.

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UE ON THE JOB

Bldg. 5: Robert A. Deuell was hired as a Class B machinist but given a starting rate of \$1,600 1/2, considerably below the two steps under job rate specified in the contract. In the discussion of this grievance both Foreman Sonn and Robinson adopted an attitude which indicates they are unfamiliar with the proper handling of such cases. The union demands a proper rate adjustment for Deuell and assurance that the foremen will show proper respect for the grievance machinery in the future.

Bldg. 17: Several months ago, Steward William C. Cummings filed a written docket charging Foreman Wege with discrimination against him on account of union activity. Wege has recently resumed and intensified this discrimination, going as far as to threaten Cummings that the people in supervision would "get rid" of him. An immediate end to this type of discrimination and coercion is demanded.

Bldg. 19: The price on job 5198148 is \$4.26 per thousand. On this basis, an operator with the help of a set-up man was only able to make five in one hour recently. A time study of this job on press 33 is demanded.

On job 8655754 the operator on press 6 was only able to make 50c an hour with the price set at \$3.30 per thousand. An immediate adjustment is demanded.

Bldg. 24: Foreman Klages has been following the practice of reclassifying milling machine operators from C to B in cases where the workers have been performing B work prior to reclassification,

but not giving them the one step increase to which they are entitled. The union demands the one step increase upon reclassification of workers giving normal performance in B work.

Bldg. 28: The stator assembly line protests the present method of distributing work and requests that the old method be restored, eliminating the repair line so that all assemblers receive their share of I.K. and extra work. The present method has resulted in a loss of earnings.

Bldg. 46: Second shift tool grinders are being deprived of Saturday work while lathe operators are being used to do both their jobs and tool grinding. This is a violation of contract and the union demands the practice be halted.

Bldg. 49: Joseph Curcio, Jr. is a 3rd shift inspector who is being constantly called at home by supervision seeking information. In one case, one of the supervisors even came to his home and awakened him. This practice has resulted in frequent disruptions of Curcio's rest, and the union demands that it be stopped.

Douglas Post's car was parked in the wrong area and was towed away. Considerable damage was done by the towers and payment for this damage is demanded.

A. Watras is classified as a horizontal Broach machine operator with a 1.01 timing rate. The work he is performing and the responsibilities involved justify a rate increase to 1.11. This increase is demanded.

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.

The polishers under Foreman Maranville protest the assignment of 2 day work assemblers on piece work polishing work. This resulted in the polishers not having sufficient work. An immediate end to this practice is demanded.

Bldg. 52: Frank Wormsley protests the \$7.50 per section piece work price on the shot blast section, which is compared to an \$8.25 price on a similar but smaller job. The union demands a proper price adjustment.

E. Slater is protesting the \$3.00 price on a roller wrapper operation which is comparable to other jobs paying \$5.00. The union demands a proper price adjustment.

Bldg. 60: The tinsmith group working under Foreman Jankowski protests the failure to give experienced 1st shift workers proper consideration for upgrading, while relatively short-service workers are being upgraded and assigned to 1st shift. A management investigation and correction of this situation is demanded.

A group of erectors in assembling and shipping generators tested the assignment of their duties to floor assemblers. An end to the protested practice is demanded.

Bldg. 285: A new assembly line has been set up in the motor control center area. The workers on the line have been given a rate of 78c. This rate is entirely too low for the nature of the work and the skill involved. A two step increase to an 87c timing rate is demanded.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA (IUE)
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SORRY BOTKINS, WE CAN'T DO A THING ABOUT IT... RECORDS SHOW YOU WERE LAID OFF TWENTY MINUTES AGO!