

# The COMPANY CAN PAY!

GE:

TOP MONEY MAKER

**The Nation's Biggest Money-Makers**

| Company        | 1952    | 1951    | 1950    |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| General Motors | 538,721 | 488,000 | 450,000 |
| Standard Oil   | 410,000 | 380,000 | 350,000 |
| Aluminum Co.   | 380,000 | 350,000 | 320,000 |
| U. S. Steel    | 350,000 | 320,000 | 290,000 |
| U. S. Steel    | 350,000 | 320,000 | 290,000 |
| U. S. Steel    | 350,000 | 320,000 | 290,000 |

**Dividends Start 1953 with a Bang**

Continued high sales and net profits are reflected in the record first-quarter dividend payments for business corporations as a whole (BW—May 23, 28). Cash disbursements on common shares listed on the New York Stock Exchange were almost \$1 billion in the first quarter of 1953. It was the first quarter in which the total amount of dividends paid exceeded that of the preceding year.

**BUSINESS WEEK** MAY 16, 1953

GE is making money by the barrel. According to BUSINESS WEEK of May 16, 1953 the General Electric Company is among the nation's biggest money makers. Its profits in 1952 were \$416,000,000.

According to BUSINESS WEEK, 1953 will be an even bigger year for profits. Says this big business magazine: "Dividends Start 1953 With a Bang." It may be a bang for the stockholders but it's just a pain to GE workers who have to provide the high dividends through speed-up and inadequate wages.

GE's profits for 1952 came out of the workers' efforts. Look at the figures.

- GE made nearly \$2,000 on every employee and over \$2,500 for each and every production worker.
- GE made a return of 53 cents on every stockholder dollar invested.
- GE increased its sales 562% since 1939.
- GE increased its assets 303% since 1939.

There is no question about it: GE CAN PAY.

## UE PROPOSALS

- A substantial wage increase for GE workers at this time related to GE's enormous profits and ability to pay.
- Adherence to UE's right to reopen wages and contract conditions in September.
- Use of the 3c offer toward elimination of inequities in day rates, women's rates and geographical differentials.
- GE should pay for Memorial Day and July 4th holidays this year. Less than 2/10 of one percent of the GE offer pays for the holidays.

(see other side)

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 11 — No. 24

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, June 12, 1953



## New GE Offer Would Give Increases of from 5c to 16c

In a proposal made late Wednesday afternoon, General Electric management offered UE-represented workers across the country a 3.26% general wage increase, and special wage boosts of 1c to 8c an hour for all day workers making \$1.79½ an hour or more. In Schenectady, the offer would mean wage boosts of 5c to 16c an hour.

### Field Day Volunteers Needed

Volunteer help to assure the success of the UE Local 301 Field Day on June 28 is still needed, Activities Committee Chairman Buckley Phillips reported this week.

Although a number of local members have already offered their services to help at the field day grounds, Republican Park on Princetown Road, Phillips said that a couple of dozen more volunteers are vital if the big day is to run smoothly.

All indications are that this field day will be the most successful in union history. Tickets have been selling as fast as they can be printed. They are priced at 3 for only 50c, so that every worker is able to buy enough to take care of his or her entire family. These tickets not only cover admission to the field day, but also make the purchasers eligible to win any one of the 28 valuable prizes in the field day giveaway. The prizes:

1—Sever cubic foot GE freezer (\$300); 2—GE "Stewardess" electric range (\$260); 3—12 foot aluminum boat (\$240); 4—GE table television (\$200); 5—Lauson outboard motor (\$125); 6—Revere motion picture projector (\$125); 7—Power lawn mower (\$110); 8—Wilson golf clubs and bag (\$100); 9—Singer portable sewing machine (\$95); 10—Underwood portable typewriter (\$75); 11—Westinghouse floor waxer (\$70); 12—Honor craft aluminum ware (\$70); 13—GE floor circulator (\$67); 14—Red leather easy rocker (\$50); 15—Westinghouse electric oven (\$50); 16—53-piece dinner service for 8 (\$50); 17—Alcanmatic deep fryer (\$40); 18—Brunswick bowling ball and bag (\$31); 19—Fishing tackle, glass rod and reel (\$30); 20—GE radio alarm (\$30); 21—Winchell spinning reel (\$29); 22—Arvin portable electric heater (\$22); 23—Double bed spread (\$20); 24—Matson 6-piece vanity set (\$20); 25—Revere 7-piece copper bottom starter cooking set (\$16); 26—West Bend automatic electric percolator (\$14); 27—Revere 3-piece mixing bowl set (\$10); 28—Detecto white bathroom scale (\$7).



**FAREWELL PRESENT.** Close to 200 men and women jammed Hans' Grill Friday evening for a farewell party to Sadie Iovinella, long-time UE Local 301 leader and executive board member. Sister Iovinella is leaving the GE works. Gifts and other expressions of gratitude for her long service to the working people of Schenectady were presented from the local officers and executive board, the national union and the workers in the shops. The picture above shows the presentation of one of the gifts. Left to right are Ernest Thompson, UE Fair Practices Committee Secretary, District 3 President Lewis King, 301 Executive Board Member Helen Quirini, Sister Iovinella and national Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak.

(Continued on page 2)

## Urge All Stewards To Submit Lists in Organizing Campaign

UE Local 301's executive board this week urged all shop stewards who had not yet turned in complete lists of the workers in their groups to do so within the next few days.

The board took this action in order to clean up the first step of an organizing drive aimed at bringing all Schenectady GE workers into the union.

Good progress was reported on the drive in many areas of the plant. Several hundred new cards have already been turned into the union office. Board members reported that in many cases, workers who had not joined the union up until now, explained that they were just waiting to be approached.

Many of the new members are recent arrivals in the shops. Indications are that GE's working force within the UE bargaining unit has gone up substantially. The union represents more than 20,000 workers in Schenectady, with its membership well over the 17,000 mark.

### GE Offer

(Continued from page 1)

to the following calendar year to workers out because of illness.

Notably absent from the picture were any concessions on UE's demands to take the strings off the holidays, to provide special increases for women workers (although here considerable progress is being made through local grievance machinery) or to end the present geographical differentials which provide incentive for runaway shops and jobs.

There can be no doubt that this newest company offer was forced by pressure from UE members in Schenectady and elsewhere in the country. It should be recalled that while the same offer is being made to IUE-CIO, that union failed completely to shake the company no-bargaining position in a recent series of special negotiations arranged by Carcy.

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

2nd SHIFTS  
Monday, June 15, 1953  
1:00 P.M. (before work)

1st and 3rd SHIFTS  
Monday, June 15, 1953  
7:30 P.M.

Local 301 Hall

### AO & S Party

Union members in Aeronautics and Ordnance are reminded that their combined meeting and social will be held in the union hall next Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Tickets are only 50¢ each, and can be bought from any AO & S shop steward. Refreshments are included in the price of admission.

## Win 285 Rehiring For Decorated Vet

UE Local 301 has won a job back for Richard Jablonski, the wounded Korean veteran, who was fired by Building 285 supervision for an alleged minor infraction of the rules.

Jablonski was fired last month by General Foreman William Jones and Foreman Frank Luther for supposedly leaving his job 10 minutes early, and having another worker punch his time card at quitting time.

The worker denied the charge, and the union immediately began fighting the case. It proved that there was no actual evidence of Jablonski having committed even this minor irregularity. It was also shown that the vet had a good work record despite repeated discrimination and intimidation attempts by Luther and Jones.

Works management was forced to admit that there was no grounds for the firing and ordered Jablonski returned to work.

Jablonski served with the armed forces in Korea where he won both the Purple Heart and a decoration for valor.



## Scranton UE Leader Tells GE Strike Story on 301 Program

UE on the Air this week gave capital district radio listeners a first-hand report on the issues in the 8-week old Scranton GE strike. The report was made in an interview Wednesday

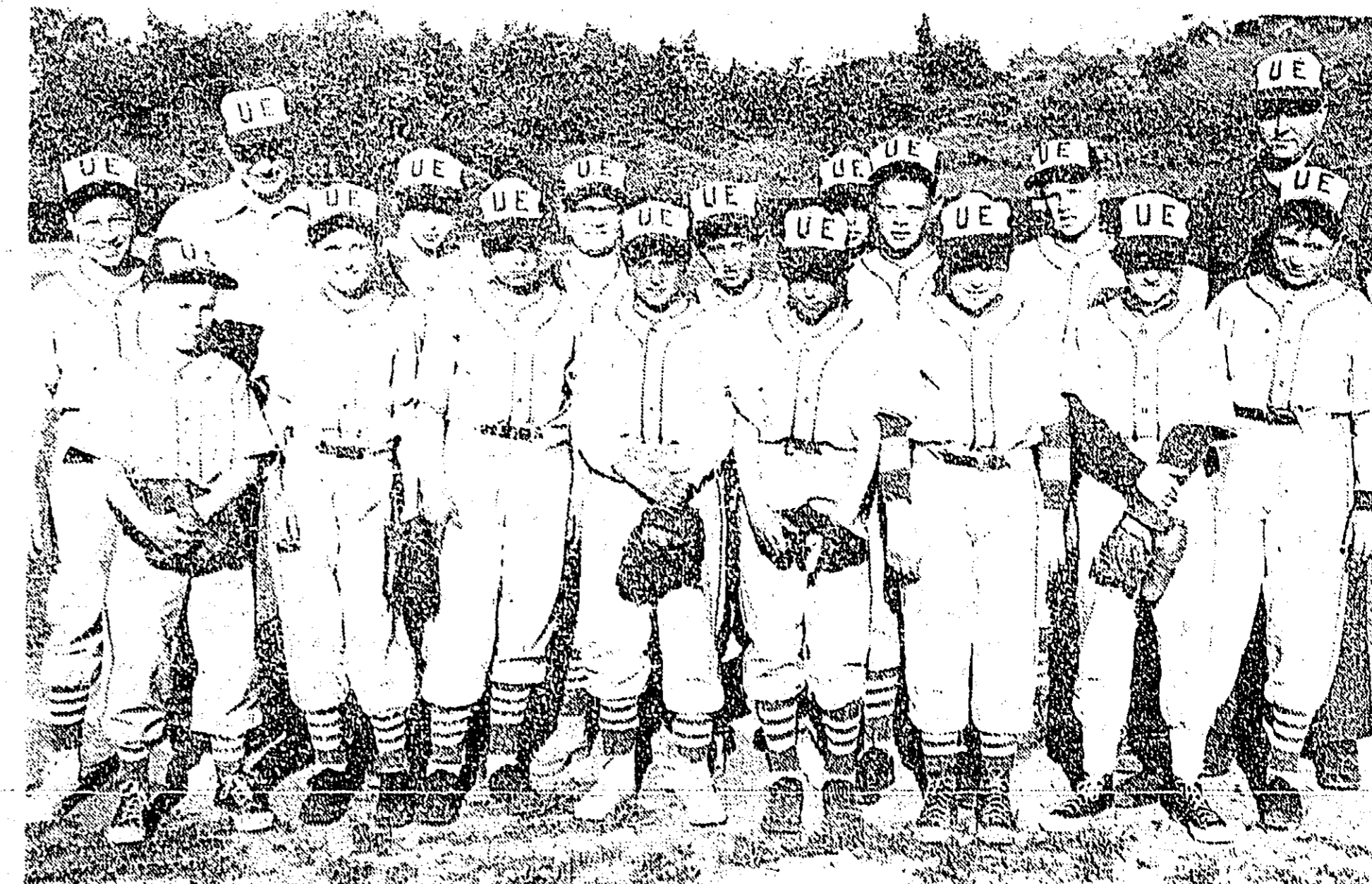
with President Jack Price of UE Local 125, the union which has been on strike since April 15.

Price told the WTRY audience that the key issues in the Scranton strike were company refusal to abide by seniority guarantees in the UE contract and price cutting. The Scranton union leader stressed the fact that Schenectady workers have a vital concern in the Pennsylvania situation since the electronic tube jobs now in Scranton had been taken from here.

He pointed out that only the solid stand by the Scranton workers had blocked GE management from taking other jobs away from Schenectady to be done more cheaply elsewhere. In this connection, Price thanked UE Local 301 members for the financial and moral support given to the strikers.

Other UE on the Air broadcasts this week told the story of the events in the world of labor, with particular emphasis on UE's efforts

**LITTLE LEAGUERS.** Pictured on the right is the UE Local 301 team which is competing in the Northside Little League. Another union squad is seeking championship honors in the Bellevue Little League. The EU News will keep 301 members informed on the progress of the youngsters they are sponsoring in the baseball races.



## UE ON THE JOB!

Bldg. 17: Group working under Foreman Atkinson demands equal distribution and rotation of jobs among 1st shift workers.

Bldg. 46: Dorothy Merriman was laid off because of lack of work on her turbo regulator test job. She was assured by supervision that she would be called back when work picked up on her job. Recently, the jobs were moved from 28 to 10C, and a new operator was assigned. This is a violation of the agreement with the complainant who was completely bypassed. The union demands that she be immediately restored to her former job.

Bldg. 53: Operations called for under drawing 1406769 merit a higher rating than A machinist. However, supervision has taken advantage of a new employee, not familiar with union classifications, to get the work done by an A machinist. The union demands correction of this situation and assignment of a properly classified and properly paid operator to this and similar jobs.

Group under Foreman Stewart is unable to make satisfactory earnings due to inadequate prices. For the past 11 weeks, these workers have not been able to make their A.B.R.'s and supervision has been making them up at day rate. The union demands adjustment of the prices to end these serious losses in earnings.

Group of accumulators under Foreman Lippicello is paid day work. The group has been hit

Thousands of grievances are handled by UE Local 301 each year at all levels from the crewed 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.

with a speedup and the workers must meet work schedule quotas far beyond those possible with normal effort. Apparently, General Foreman R. H. De Rubbe is aiming at the elimination of all long service help, and their replacement with new employees. This has caused considerable bitterness against the company. The union contends that, if the new setup is an incentive program, it should be put on piece work. The union demands an end to the discrimination and to the speedup.

Bldg. 60: Group of crane-follower operators is entitled to AA rating because of the skills and responsibilities required in working on the 100 ton crane. The union demands proper upgrading and rate increase.

Bldg. 68: A time study was taken on job 372A978 on May 20. However, supervision has assigned the job a price which is not in accordance with the findings of the study. The union demands an ade-

quate price for this job.

Bldg. 265: Group of boiler operators protest bringing in outside man to fill job which should have been filled by upgrading from within group. In addition, the workers protest the bumping of a worker within the bargaining unit by a foreman. The union demands immediate correction of these situations.

Bldg. 273: Thomas Hyman protests because the hoist furnished for his machine is inadequate, hazardous and inefficient. A jib crane is required, and the union demands that it be provided.

Kenneth M. Olsen, a grinder, protests the farming out of a number of quantity jobs, and the leaving of only those jobs which require production of 1 or 2 pieces. The union demands that the farming out be stopped.

Herman Podell has a C rating but has been doing B-work. Other workers with shorter service have been upgraded, although Podell's work on the B jobs has been entirely satisfactory. The union demands that he be immediately upgraded to B with proper rate increase.

Job S. O. 170-9121, drawing 107C847-2 was set aside for 3 days and then assigned to Willard Seltick out of sequence. This is a violation of past practice and of an existing understanding. The union demands that management take steps to see that this type of discrimination does not recur.

Nine workers in a group have been regularly scheduled for Sat-

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

Published by the Editorial Committee  
President.....James J. Cognetta  
Vice President.....Joseph Alois  
Treasurer.....Joseph Whitebeck  
Recording Secretary.....Willis Moon  
Act'g Recording Secretary.....Rudy Risland  
Chief Shop Steward.....William Mastriani  
Business Agent.....Leo Jandreau  
301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY 5, N. Y.

## 'What's Good for the Workers Is Good For the Country' - UE Tells Congress

In recent testimony before a congressional committee, President Albert Fitzgerald and Washington Representative Russ Nixon outlined the UE position in regard to the current attacks on the labor movement.

Pointing out that there are now more than 20 anti-labor bills before Congress, the UE spokesmen clearly stated their belief that the attempt to destroy free American trade unions would, if successful, cause a major depression in this country.

Fitzgerald charged that all proposals to cripple the labor movement, such as Goldwater-Rhodes, and the accompanying congressional witch hunts, were designed to use the phony coverup of "protection against sabotage" and "investigating subversive activities" to give the control of labor to the big corporations and to big corporation stooges in the government.

The real goal of the anti-labor laws is given away in one of the proposals up before congress, the Lane Resolution in the House of Representatives. That resolution states:

"Plant officers are hereby empowered to discharge forthwith any employee, union steward or otherwise, who on reasonable grounds is suspected of sabotage, slowdown of production, repeated and concerted absenteeism, or other subversive actions. It shall be and is hereby declared unlawful for any person or persons to—

"(a) set a maximum scale of hourly or daily production per man, group or assembly line;

"(b) to cause work stoppage;

"(c) to foment or call a strike because of the discharge of an employee suspected of subversive activity."

In short, the resolution would outlaw and condemn as "subversive" all union activity. While this is an extreme case, there can be no doubt that the eventual aim of the National Association of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce, of GE and of Westinghouse, is just this—total destruction of organized labor.

UE has been fighting back against this attack, and against Taft-Hartleyism. Because of our stand, we have been condemned and smeared. It is important that every Local 301 member fully understand our union's position as stated by Fitzgerald and Nixon. In this connection, here are extensive excerpts from the testimony of the 2 UE leaders:

**MR. FITZGERALD:** We are on record for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law and the reenactment of the Wagner Act with some strengthening provisions in addition to protect organized labor.

We listened with interest a few months ago to a statement by the present Secretary of Defense to the effect that what is good for General Motors is good for the country. We disagree with that statement. We have the feeling that what is good for the workers of this country is good for the country, and we have the feeling in addition to that, that a good, strong trade union movement is good for the workers.

Back in the days when the Wagner Act was enacted into law, the government of the United States took the position that it was important for the welfare of the country that we have a well-organized, strong and powerful trade union movement. It took that position on the basis that we had just been through a terrific depression and that the only way we could possibly get out of that depression was for the people of this country, the working people of this country to have sufficient

### About This Page

UE's national office has just published a pamphlet entitled "Taft-Hartleyism Is Depression Maker!" This pamphlet gives the recent testimony of UE President Albert Fitzgerald and Washington Representative Russ Nixon, as well as a complete listing of all anti-union measures now up before Congress.

Because we feel that this pamphlet is of vital interest to all UE Local 301 members, the EU News this week begins publication of key portions of the document. We strongly urge everyone to read the facts presented here, facts which will have a vital bearing on our economic future.

We believe that because UE representatives like Fitzgerald and Nixon dare tell the truth about the big business plot to destroy labor, they are constantly attacked; just as it is UE's fight in the interests of the people that brings the smears and lies against our union.

purchasing power to consume the goods that industry was able to manufacture and that the people needed.

We think that in 1953 the same thing holds good. We feel especially, now, with the situation in the country tending possibly to a period, according to government economists, where we may be heading into another depression in this country, a falling-off of employment and a general cutback in the living standards of the people will result.

We think it is time now for the government to realize that the only way that we can avoid such a situation occurring is to permit free trade unions to organize and bargain collectively with the employers of this country.

**MR. KEARNS, R-Pa.:** Mr. Chairman I would like to ask a question. If everything is so wrong about the Taft-Hartley Law, why is it that your UE union has one of the best records of any union so far as any major strikes since the law has been in effect. I understand you have not had a major strike in eight years, is that not correct?

**MR. NIXON:** If you exclude the very significant strike we had in the Intl. Harvester Corp. of about 30,000 people, that is true. As Mr. Fitzgerald said, we do not deny we are a good and responsible union, but we cannot credit that to the Taft-Hartley Act.

**MR. KEARNS:** You must be honest about the phases of collective bargaining, which was evidently satisfactory. You were able to bargain and you were able to stay in business as a union.

**MR. FITZGERALD:** That is not a true statement, Mr. Congressman. We would have done much better and we would have been in a position to secure more benefits from the employers in our industry if it had not been for the Taft-Hartley Law.

Let me give you in as plain facts as I can what effect the Taft-Hartley Act has had in the relationship between the General Electric Co. and its employees.

In the last year before the enactment of the Act, the employees of the company were able to obtain a wage agreement amounting to 18½ cents an hour. Each year after 1947 since the enactment of that Act, the offers of settlement on the part of the company have gradually gone down to the point where only a few weeks ago that company made a miserable offer of 1.7 percent. And all during these years the company's profits have gone higher and higher. And if that is not a practical example of what is happening in this country under the Taft-Hartley Act, I don't know what is. . . .

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

## How far behind is GE's 3¢ offer?



### HOW FAR BEHIND is GE's 3c offer?

The answer is: WAY BEHIND. In our industry UE has made over 130 settlements covering over 100,000 workers and ranging as high as 35c an hour. Only ten settlements were below 5c, and the average has been ten cents an hour.

GE's offer of 3c is way behind other UE settlements and way behind the rest of American industry, according to figures published on May 26, 1953 by the Bureau of National Affairs, which reports settlements since the start of 1953.

The Bureau says that 1,614 settlements have been negotiated. Of these 1,360 (or five-sixths of the whole) involve more than 3c an hour increase, and half are above 9c an hour.

GE's 3c offer is a miserly offer. GE boasts that it is the forefront of American industry in regard to employee relations, yet its 3c offer is so low that it would place the company in the LOWEST SIXTH of negotiated contracts of all industry throughout America.

### GE CAN PAY

There is no reason for GE's miserly offer. GE can pay a substantial wage increase. Consider these figures:

- GE made \$416,000,000 profits in 1952.
- GE made nearly \$2,000 on every employee and over \$2,500 for each and every production worker.
- GE made a return of 53 cents on every stockholder dollar invested.
- GE increased its sales 562% since 1939.
- GE increased its assets 303% since 1939.

There is no question about it: GE CAN PAY.

GE Vice President Boulware said "There is no question the offer is thin."  
UE says: THIN THE PROFITS — INCREASE THE PAY

**UE**

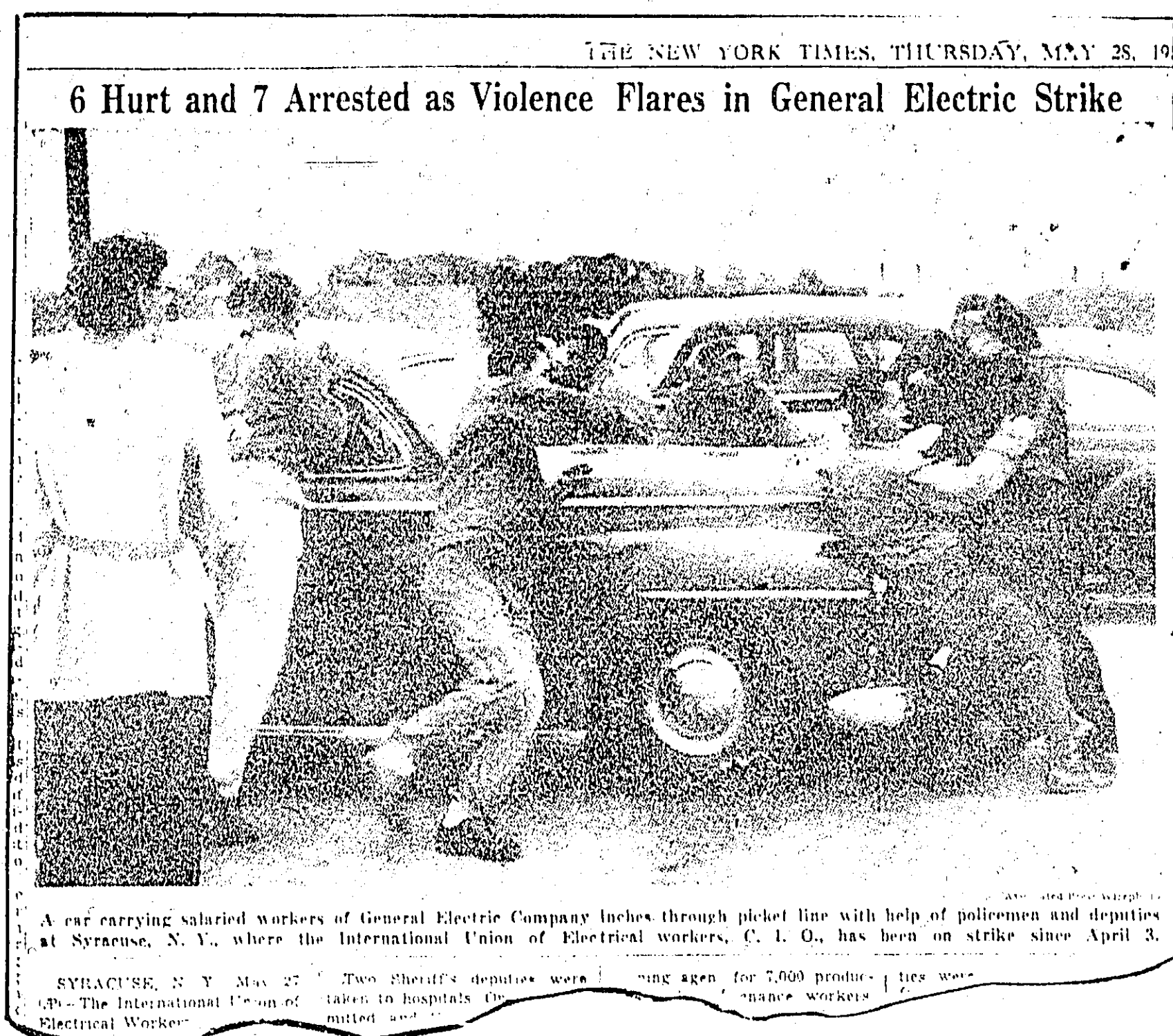
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## UE says: STOP GE VIOLENCE



**GE** WORKERS' EFFORTS to defend their wages and working conditions got a straight answer from GE: VIOLENCE!

In Syracuse, N. Y. 7,000 GE production workers under IUE-CIO contract struck against GE's attempt to break down seniority safeguards and to utilize area differentials to keep down wages. For seven weeks the GE workers have maintained their picket lines in the face of a huge GE campaign of expensive propaganda, ads and pressures.

As a last resort GE organized a strike-breaking move through the picket-lines, using a vast array of cops and deputy-sheriffs. The result was violence, GE inspired, GE provoked.

### JOINT ACTION THE ANSWER

GE is out to do a job on its workers. The one effective answer by the GE workers is joint action for their protection. This is what UE has been urging. This is what the IUE Lynn local has voted for. This is the road which is being arbitrarily blocked by the IUE national leadership.

Working together, GE workers would be in a better position to defend their wages and working conditions. In Syracuse, UE has offered full and unqualified support to the IUE workers on the picket lines. No strings attached. TO DATE, HOWEVER, THE SAME PEOPLE WHO BLOCKED THE IUE-LYNN VOTE ARE BLOCKING WORKING TOGETHER IN SYRACUSE.

THE PLAIN FACT IS, WE MUST ACT JOINTLY OR GE WILL TRY TO HANG US SEPARATELY.

(see other side)

*Mrs. Stevens* *Serv. 6/10/53 7:15 AM*  
*Bruce Blod-* *Uho*

## Can You Make Out On 40 Hours?

| STATEMENT OF EARNINGS AND DEDUCTIONS  |       | NET PAY      |
|---|-------|--------------|
| B   | 04.94 | FL 6.20      |
| NE  | 1.75  | JT .30       |
|   |       | H .80        |
|   |       | R .03        |
|   |       | U 2.68       |
|   |       | 32.96        |
| 6 7 7 3 1   |       | #/E 11-30-52 |
| Stanley J. Weaver,  |       |              |
| Ig. Motor & Gen.  |       | 069-07-4103  |
| Bldg. #16   |       | 67731        |
| DETACH BEFORE EXPIRING AND ADDRESS:<br>GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY,<br>SCHENECTADY WORKS<br>SERVICE DEPARTMENT |       |              |

A lot of Schenectady GE workers are working a good deal of overtime and have been for many weeks.

With all of these extra hours, most of us are just managing to meet our grocery bills, pay the rent or taxes and keep up with the kids as they outgrow their clothing.

For many of us, a cutback to 40 hours work a week would mean a major economic crisis, and there are signs throughout the GE chain that such a cutback may be in the making.

It's no secret that the end of the Korean war is likely to mean a reduction in military orders which constitute such a large part of our work.

The fact is that right now there is plenty of margin for reduction in the company's huge profits—\$546,000,000 in the last 15 months.

But there is **NO ROOM** for a reduction in the workers' incomes. Such a reduction would inevitably mean an economic depression which would make 1929 and 1930 look like boom years.

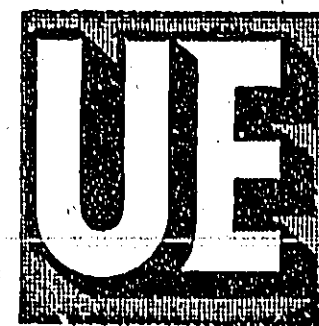
There is only one path to economic prosperity for the American people—production of more consumer products, and increasing of the purchasing power of the workers so that they can buy the goods they produce.

It is in this light that the UE demand for a substantial wage increase for GE workers becomes vital, a question of economic survival for everyone of us.

GE workers are entitled to a wage rate high enough to make a decent living for 40 hours work, not for 48 or 54 hours a week.

We have waged a long fight for the 40-hour week, but in many ways with the overtime, it has slipped away from us. UE's demand for a substantial wage increase is in effect a demand for a return to the 40-hour week and a return to a setup under which one job is enough to support a family in decency.

A substantial wage increase for GE workers is our only insurance against a depression.



Issued by UE Local 301, Schenectady,  
representing 20,000 GE employees

**Listen!**

UE on the Air  
Every Morning  
6:45 - WTRY