

Rubber Union Postpones Strike

But It Can Come At Any Time

New York — Two hours before the deadline, the United Rubber Workers (CIO) postponed a strike scheduled for midnight July 19 and put negotiations here with the U.S. Rubber Co. on a "day to day basis".

Herbert Dawson, assistant to URW Pres. L. S. Buckmaster, said the strike of 35,000 employees at 19 plants could come at any time. Decision to postpone the walkout was made here by the union negotiating committee.

A factor in the decision was the resumption of negotiations in Cleveland July 19 to end the strike of 23,000 URW members against the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. That strike began July 8. The union reportedly was hoping the Goodyear strike would produce a settlement acceptable to U. S. Rubber and other major producers.

Both U. S. Rubber and Goodyear have offered the union a nickel an hour increase. The union has asked Goodyear for a 7½ cent an hour boost, plus 5 cents an hour to adjust inter-plant wage differentials. Its specific demands in the U. S. Rubber talks have not been disclosed. The union said it was seeking a "substantial" increase.

4,000 Displaced in Schenectady Since January 1st

During the first six months of this year over 4,000 people were displaced from the jobs on which they were employed last year because of lack of work. Over 2,000 were removed from the payroll during this period. Likewise, over 2,000 were transferred to other jobs in the plant through the local Seniority Agreement and in many instances were obliged to take lower rated jobs.

These displacements were not caused by any transfer of work from Schenectady but are the result of the general lack of work throughout the country. The last jobs transferred from the Schenectady plant were the Carboly Products and Cable work, along with some Electronic Tube work, affecting several hundred employees who were absorbed mostly in other departments. These transfers were made last year.

All departments have reached a saturation point whereby workers who are displaced either go out of the plant or bump into another job, causing a layoff. There are very few, if any, openings. A transfer of work at this point would reflect in layoffs equal to the number affected by the work transferred.

Injured Workers Win Claims Against GE After Appeals

Widow's Claim for Death Benefits Affirmed by Appellate Body

Two compensation claims, prosecuted by the union's lawyer for the benefit of injured workers who are members of Local 301, were won by these workers after these cases were argued before an appeals panel of three Workmen's Compensation Board members in Albany last month.

In the first of these cases, Mr. Leon Novak, the union's lawyer, filed a claim against the Company when a worker, Francis Poirier, working at the Malta plant died of a throat ailment after a brief illness. The GE Company at its Malta plant, unlike its practice at the River Road plant, is covered for accidents by a private insurance company, the Travelers Insurance Company. When Poirier passed away, his widow, who has an 8 year old daughter, came to the union for help. Mr. Novak filed a "death claim". It was not until after a year and a half had gone by before the case came to a head. This was partially due to the fact that operations at the Malta works are under security regulations. When the case was finally tried before a referee and after the doctor testified who had been called to Poirier's home just before his death, the referee said in his decision that it had been successfully shown by the testimony brought in behalf of the widow and child that the death resulted from the work.

The Insurance Company then took an appeal, claiming that the referee had failed to give it the opportunity of presenting its own witnesses, although the Company knew for over a year that it could bring in as many witnesses as it thought necessary at the trial. The Appeals Panel, in affirming the decision of the referee in favor of the widow, said:

"Here the employer has not offered any proofs whatsoever, and

even now offers none . . . In view of the above, the Board is of the opinion that the award as made by the Referee is proper and the carrier's application (to reopen the case) should be and hereby is denied."

The widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Poirier was awarded about \$2000 in retroactive compensation benefits and \$26 a week thereafter.

The Company is now appealing this decision to the Courts.

In another appeal taken in behalf of Keith Johnson who used to work in Building 109 and who injured his back in 1943, a referee handed down a decision that Johnson had only a "mild" disability and was entitled to only \$8.00 per week despite the fact that he could no longer do any kind of work. The union's lawyer took an appeal from this decision and after arguing the case in Albany, a decision came down to the effect that Johnson is entitled to be paid \$20.24 per week, based upon his former earnings, instead of \$8.00 per week. Johnson has not been working for several years due to the accident.

The service furnished by Local 301 to its members includes not only legal representation to injured workers while they are employees of the company, but even after they have ceased to be employees if the injury has caused them to remain unemployed. As in the case of Mrs. Poirier, whose husband died, the families of workers and their dependents are also entitled to this service.

Board Directs GE Bloomfield Election

An election at the General Electric plant in Bloomfield, N. J., within 30 days of July 14 has been directed by the National Labor Relations Board.

The 1200 workers there, for whom UE has long held the bargaining rights are expected to vote overwhelmingly for IUE-CIO.

IUE-CIO petitioned in Bloomfield about the same time as at Schenectady and Newark GE plants, both of which have by resounding majorities expressed their desire for unity with other GE locals in IUE-CIO.

that the price was increased from 27c per box to 44c — this made the price \$17.25 higher, which settled the complaint.

Fitz's Folly

National UE's phony offer to release their claim on the \$136,000 in the Schenectady workers' Building Fund has put the lie to the falsehoods used by UE during the recent campaign.

They've been saying all along that the money was missing — misappropriated — yet now they state they are willing to release this money. Obviously if it had been missing, it could not be released — proof positive that not one cent of the Union money had ever been misappropriated.

If tax exemptions were increased by \$200 per individual, it would increase the purchasing power of the people by at least \$4.5 billion.

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE CIO

Vol. 1 — No. 21 The Voice of GE Workers, Local 301, Schenectady, N. Y. Aug. 6, 1954

FEDERAL MEDIATORS PULL OUT, SAY GE'S POSITION FRUITLESS

STIPULATION SIGNED GUARANTEEING LOCAL PRACTICES

This Agreement is entered into as of July 9, 1954, between the General Electric Company (hereinafter referred to as the "Company") and Local 301 of the International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers—CIO.

The parties hereto understand and agree that the GE-IUE (CIO) National Agreement of 1951-1952, as amended in 1952 and 1953, shall be effective between the Company and IUE-CIO, Local 301 as of July 9, 1954, in accordance with its terms, and it is understood that the National GE-UE Agreement, dated September, 1950, as amended in 1951, 1952, and 1953, shall be of no further force or effect with respect to the employees in the bargaining unit represented by IUE-CIO, Local 301 as certified by the National Labor Relations Board.

It is understood that all local understandings presently in effect shall continue in effect, in accordance with and subject to the provisions of Article XXI of the GE-IUE (CIO) National Agreement.

IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 By *James J. Spillia* GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY By *Mr. Skow*

Reach Agreement On Seniority Supplement

The Officers of IUE Local 301 and local management reached agreement last Wednesday on the Local Supplement applying to seniority on reduction of forces.

The procedures that have been in effect since 1951 will remain in effect under the new Supplement including plant-wide seniority. Likewise, the new Supplement will be signed—the old Supplement was not a signed document even though it was negotiated back in 1951. The signatories for the Union will be the seven officers.

The U.S. Dept. of Conciliation called a meeting of the Union's Negotiations committee and General Electric representatives in New York City last Monday. The Union accepted the invitation and notified the Conciliation Dept. that it was the Union's hope that the remaining issues, preventing a settlement, could be resolved.

The management of GE reluctantly accepted, and appeared at the meeting, but walked out of the meeting in less than an hour, saying they would not listen to the record which was being presented by the Union, for the benefit of the representatives of the Conciliation Dept. to hear.

They said they could be reached at their office if there was anything new to be offered. The Conciliation Dept. finally prevailed on the company representatives to appear again, when the meetings

were reconvened the following morning, Tuesday, August 3. The meeting lasted all day with the Union making several proposals which were not acceptable to representatives of G.E.

The company presented a letter to the committee, which was unsigned, giving a general statement on their plans of Decentralization (Transferring Jobs). The statement pointed out that the Decentralization plan had been held up;

(Continued on Page 4)

Executive Board Meets Management

The entire Executive Board of IUE Local 301 held a meeting with Local management last Tuesday. The purpose of the meeting was to review with management some of the complaints of violations to our agreements, that have taken place during the past several months, particularly during the N.L.R.B. campaign period.

The issues raised by the Executive Board were as follows:

- 1)—Violation of Seniority agreement
- 2)—Seniority Supplement
- 3)—Farm out and transfer of work
- 4)—Price cutting

Mr. Stevens, Schenectady plant manager, pointed out that it was not the intention of management to change any of the existing practices affecting employment.

When cases of seniority were raised by the Union, he emphasized that the past practices would apply, and requested specific information concerning the cases to which reference was made.

On Farm out of work he advised the Officers and Board members that it was the intention of management to use farm out of work as a stabilizing procedure that would eliminate the need for hiring

LOCAL 301 IUE-CIO
JOINT
Members and Stewards
MEETING
2nd Shift
MONDAY, AUG. 16
1:00 P.M.
(Before Work)
1st and 3rd Shifts
MONDAY, AUG. 16
7:30 P.M.
LOCAL 301 HALL
Erie Blvd. and Liberty St.
• Regular Order of Business
• Report on Negotiations
• Election of Delegates to Convention
EXECUTIVE BOARD
LOCAL 301 IUE-CIO

IUE-CIO 301 On the Job

Bldg. 107: Steward D. Stockheim has filed a case for the Painters in his group protesting supervision's breaking an agreement concerning work jurisdiction. Union demands management correct this violation.

Bldg. 52: Group under Seward Iacobucci protest supervisions attempt to change standard price on job 108-D-497. Union demands management correct this Contract violation.

Bldg. 18: Turret Lathe Operators in Steward De Marco's group demand average earnings according to Contract when assigned to other jobs for Company's convenience.

Bldg. 85: Group under Steward De Lallo demand their work be converted to P.W. since supervision insists the work is to be performed at an incentive pace.

Bldg. 28: Steward E. Smith's group request service of another porter. At present one porter must service three buildings which includes furnishing material to piece workers.

Bldg. 40B: J. Drais requests payment for 3.5 hours lost on 7/12/54 for time spent in treatment at Works Hospital and V.A. Hospital in Albany.



Price Cut Stopped

Louis Riano, Shop Steward in Bldg. 285—Shipping, was on the job in stopping a cut in a price for making 75 wooden cases.

The foreman offered to pay two of the operators a price figured on a cubic inch basis. Shop Steward Riano was called in by the Shippers who complained that the price was low. Riano pointed out that the job should be figured on a Panel price basis. The result was

**Initiation Fee
Deadline Aug. 13**
A reminder to those who have not yet signed new application cards.
If you sign before August 13, there is no initiation fee — if you wait until after August 13, you will have to pay the \$2.00 initiation fee.
See your Shop Steward today!

IUE-CIO to Hold Convention For First Time in South

Washington — The first convention ever held by a CIO international union in the Deep South will be opened on September 27 at Miami Beach, Florida, by the CIO Electrical Workers.

In announcing plans for its 6th annual Convention, the IUE declared that it sought to pay "tribute to the pioneering militancy and solidarity of our trade union brothers and sisters in the Southern states. We pay tribute, also, to their outstanding organizational successes and contractual advances."

The notice added: "We are confident that the Convention will provide new impetus for further organizational and economic progress throughout our industry in the South and other sections of the country."

**FIELD DAY
Sept. 12th**

IUE-CIO 301 On the Job

Bldg. 22: Company refuses to return Anna Wagner to her old job when she has now returned from absence due to illness. Union demands placement according to Contract.

Bldg. 85: Group under Steward De Lallo protest Foreman Monscko performing production work and General Foreman Wagar loading and unloading ovens. Union demands this situation corrected.

Bldg. 52: Group under Stewards Burdick and Iacobucci protest Foremen Schiele's and Dillenbeck's deliberate attempts to provoke labor trouble. Union demands management instruct them in proper procedures.

Bldg. 85: Steward De Lallo has filed a case protesting Progress Reports of 6/25 and supervision's threats to remove operators from their jobs. Union demands this coercion be stopped immediately.

Bldg. 85: Group of operators on Insert and Connect Rotors demand this job be placed on P.W. at same rate paid for this work as Bldg. 40.

Bldg. 52: Steward Donato's group request that extra work estimators report for work the same time as they do to eliminate arguments and lost time due to present situation.

Bldg. 52: Steward Iacobucci's group protest the inadequate price on lifting bail 226A524-1 and demand a time study.

Bldg. 285: J. Suraci, an assembler on small panels, with 37 years service was forced to accept a lower rated job. Union demands he be placed on a comparable job at same rate.

Bldg. 15: William Tice, classified as a material handler was assigned the duties of a Class B Tool Crib attendant during a vacation period. Union demands proper payment.

Bldg. 273: M. Szumoski, turret lathe operator \$2.19 AER is performing work that should pay \$2.26 AER. Union demands proper increase in rate.

Bldg. 273: During a vacation period William Liberski was assigned Class A Inspection work. Union demands proper payment for work performed.

Bldg. 273: D. Caputo was transferred from Bldg. 78 to Bldg. 273 but was not given proper starting rate. Union demands retroactive adjustment according to Contract Article X-2-(a)-(1).

Bldg. 273: H. Covell did not receive proper bump when laid off for lack of work. Union demands proper placement according to the Contract.



Answer to UE's Try For Stooges to Use New Bldg.

LOCAL 301 IUE-CIO

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ELECTRICAL, RADIO AND MACHINE WORKERS
AFFILIATED WITH THE CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

301 LIBERTY STREET
SCHENECTADY 5, N. Y.
PHONE 2-1228

MILES MOON
RECORDING SECRETARY

R. RUDDOLPH RIBBLAND
ASST. RECORDING SECRETARY

WILLIAM MAESTRANI
CHIEF SHOP STEWARD

July 29, 1954

Mr. Albert J. Fitzgerald, President
United Electrical, Radio and
Machine Workers of America
11 East 51st Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Fitzgerald:

Your letter received and, to say the least, is very amusing. To call your bluff in a brief way, I propose a very simple alternative:

If the National UE will issue certificates or appropriate shares in the full amount to be distributed to the UE members who contributed to the funds which purchased the building at 11 East 51st Street; if shares and certificates be issued to all former UE members who contributed to the funds used in the purchase of the National office building; and, if the building be used only for genuine Union activity — then, if this alternative proposal would be accepted by you, your idea may have some equality.

If the "master minds" will allow this proposal, please advise.

Very truly yours,
Leo Jandreau
Leo Jandreau
Business Agent
Local 301, IUE-CIO

United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America

ELEVEN EAST FIFTY-FIRST STREET NEW YORK 22, N. Y. • PLAZA 3-1960

ALBERT J. FITZGERALD
General President

JULIUS EMSPAK
General Secretary-Treasurer

JAMES J. MATLES
Director of Organization

July 26, 1954

Mr. Leo Jandreau
IUE-CIO
301 Liberty Street
Scheneectady, New York

Dear Sir:

In your letter to me, you requested the release of a building fund amounting to approximately \$136,000.

UE proposes immediately to release the building fund from any court litigation on condition that appropriate shares or certificates be issued in the full amount of the fund and distributed to the union members who contributed to this fund, so that their interest in the building fund be protected, and on the further condition that the building be used by the union certified as the collective bargaining representative of the production and maintenance employees of GE in Scheneectady, as well as by the GE Scheneectady workers who contributed to the fund.

If this is acceptable to you, the working out of the details should be referred to the respective attorneys.

Yours truly
Albert J. Fitzgerald
ALBERT J. FITZGERALD
UE General President

AJF:d
ftul/1283

Grievance
Hartford, Conn.—Some 400 AFL construction workers like to ride to work. You can't blame them. They are constructing a 16 story building. When the elevator broke down they struck. Now that it's fixed, they're riding to work again.

Don't Be a Freerider



There is no justified reason today for an eligible employee not belonging to the Union.
An employee who will not join the Union shows only that he is not willing to pay his share in maintaining and improving the job standards he enjoys.
One name for that kind of guy is "FREERIDER".

Two CIO Unions Near Merger

Washington—A joint "rank and file" committee of member of the Oil Workers International Union and the United Gas, Coke and Chemical Workers, both CIO, will meet in Washington on August 9 when merger of the two unions will be pushed.

Reports on the August 9th meeting will be presented to later conventions of the two unions which will consider ratification of the merger plan.

A merger would result in a single union of about 175,000. CIO President Walter Reuther has already told union leaders that the CIO was sympathetic to the merger idea.

Price Dispute Won

R. Hutton, radial drill press operator in Bldg. 273 protested the inadequate price for drilling std and cap on SO170-3833. Steward Wm. McColl filed a written grievance and as a result a s/u price of \$1.25 was agreed upon. Further, there will be no more scribe off from the cap done on the machine, the layout man will have it ready, resulting in a much safer method of operation.

Provide Hall For A. H. R. C.

The Executive Board of IUE Local 301 voted unanimously to grant a request from the Scheneectady County Chapter for the Help of Retarded Children to use the Union Hall for their monthly meetings.

The Scheneectady Branch of the organization has a membership of approximately 55 families and they are striving to set up a program that will benefit all retarded children in our community. While the Union has not made a practice of letting out the meeting hall, the Executive Board thought that in this case it would be an encouragement to the officers of this organization to continue the excellent and necessary work they are doing.

CIO Atomic Strikers Accept Peace Plan

Oak Ridge, Tenn.—The 4,500 CIO Gas, Coke and Chemical Workers at the atomic plants here and at Paducah, Ky. are back at work after accepting a peace plan providing for government review of housing, health, community problems, and collective bargaining procedures.

The proposals were worked out by Labor Secretary James Mitchell with CIO President Walter Reuther, GCCW President Elwood Swisher and GCCW Vice President Joseph Joy.

As the settlement was reached, approximately 8,000 AFL construction workers were idled briefly as 2,000 AFL laborers set up picket lines in an unauthorized strike. Union officials soon had the men back to work, however.

IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 NEWS
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301,
REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY
GE WORKERS

Published by the Editorial Committee
President.....James J. Cognetta
Vice President.....Joseph Alois
Treasurer.....Joseph Whitbeck
Recording Secretary.....Miles Moon
Ass't Recording Secretary.....Rudy Ribland
Chief Shop Steward.....William Mastriani
Business Agent.....Leo Jandreau
301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY 5, N. Y.

Executive Board Representation Surveyed

The Executive Board of IUE Local 301 voted to authorize the officers to survey the present areas of representation to the Board, and recommend revisions.

During the past six months and particularly during the NLRB campaign, it was demonstrated that a Board member who had a large section, was unable to give the proper service to the shop stewards and members in his section.

The second shift and third shift will require additional representation and likewise certain isolated Service Groups such as office service will be reviewed for proper representation.

While additional Board members may be necessary as a result of this survey the officers will make every effort to keep the Board to a minimum number which will give the service to our membership and meet their responsibilities. A large Executive Board is too cumbersome and lacks the flexibility to expedite the business.

U. S. companies have an investment of more than \$4.9 billion in manufacturing in foreign countries throughout the world.

CIO Again Asks for National Conference "To Keep America at Work"

Washington—Alarmed by continued unemployment, the CIO Executive Board is convinced that "only affirmative and vigorous corrective action" by the Administration and Congress can "re-establish the American economy on a full employment and full production basis."

As a result of this analysis, CIO President Walter P. Reuther, in a letter to President Eisenhower, has renewed his suggestion for a Presidential conference to "keep America at work."

Such a conference, Reuther said, "would bring out the best thinking of all groups in our population directed toward the common goal of keeping America strong, prosperous and free."

Industry, agriculture, labor, consumers and government, should be invited to send representatives, Reuther suggested.

Contending that the Council of Economic Advisers was guilty of "shoddy economic analysis" misleading to the public, Reuther pointed to nine unfavorable signs in the economy. These were:

The one million decline in the number of employed persons between June 1953 and June 1954; the drop in employment in basic industries; the \$8 billion drop in wage and salary income; the in-

crease in business failures; the drop in steel and auto production; the 658,000 workers who have exhausted unemployment compensation benefits; the fact that one-fourth of these jobless have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more and the 2½ percent slump in retail sales.

America's greatest need, he said, was to correct the "serious imbalance between our tremendous productive power and the lack of adequate purchasing power that is the source of our current economic difficulties."

Steelworker Gets Buffalo Post

Buffalo, N. Y. — James J. McCabe, president of United Steelworkers Local 2479, has been named to the \$7,500 post of city clerk here. He is the former city councilman-at-large.

McCabe's appointment broke a deadlock among Democratic councilmen that had existed since the Democrats took over control of the council in last fall's election. He replaces Republican Gerald F. Sullivan.

McCabe, who was Democratic minority leader for his two years on the council, will take over his new duties August 15.