

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, June 13, 1952



A GOOD DEAL. Angie Barnes, recording secretary of Local 311, turns over the stack of cards signed by the majority of Mica Insulator Co. workers designating UE as their bargaining agent to UE International Representative Michael Jimenez. A group of pleased Mica workers look on at the Mica meeting on May 26 that voted to file for an NLRB election.

Mica Workers Petition For NLRB Election Date

Spurred by the filing of a petition for an NLRB election, Mica Insulator Co. workers stepped up their drive this week to get every worker in the plant to sign cards saying they want UE Local 311 as their bargaining agent.

Many workers turned in signed cards to local officers and UE organizers, adding to the already large majority of workers at the Schenectady plant who have demanded UE as their bargaining agent.

UE served notice on management not to sign any new contract

or bargain with the company union which formerly claimed to represent Mica workers or with any other union.

UE Local 301 is cooperating fully in the drive to organize this plant in GE's backyard. Vice President Roy Schaffer is assigned to aid the Mica organizers three full days a week.

General Cable Strike Gets '301' Support

Hitting back at the company's attempt to break their union, more than 2,000 UE members struck Monday against the General Cable Co., closing plants in Rome, N. Y., Los Angeles and Emeryville, Cal.

In Rome, 1,300 members of UE Local 331 hit the picket lines in a solid demonstration of their determination to preserve their union and conditions.

UE Local 301 voted unanimously to support fully their fellow-union members at Monday night's membership meeting.

The strike followed on the heels of a company effort to break the union through termination of the contract and 60 proposals which would cut wages, end job security and seniority rights, virtually eliminate vacations and generally erase every gain made by UE in the six years it has represented the workers at General Cable.

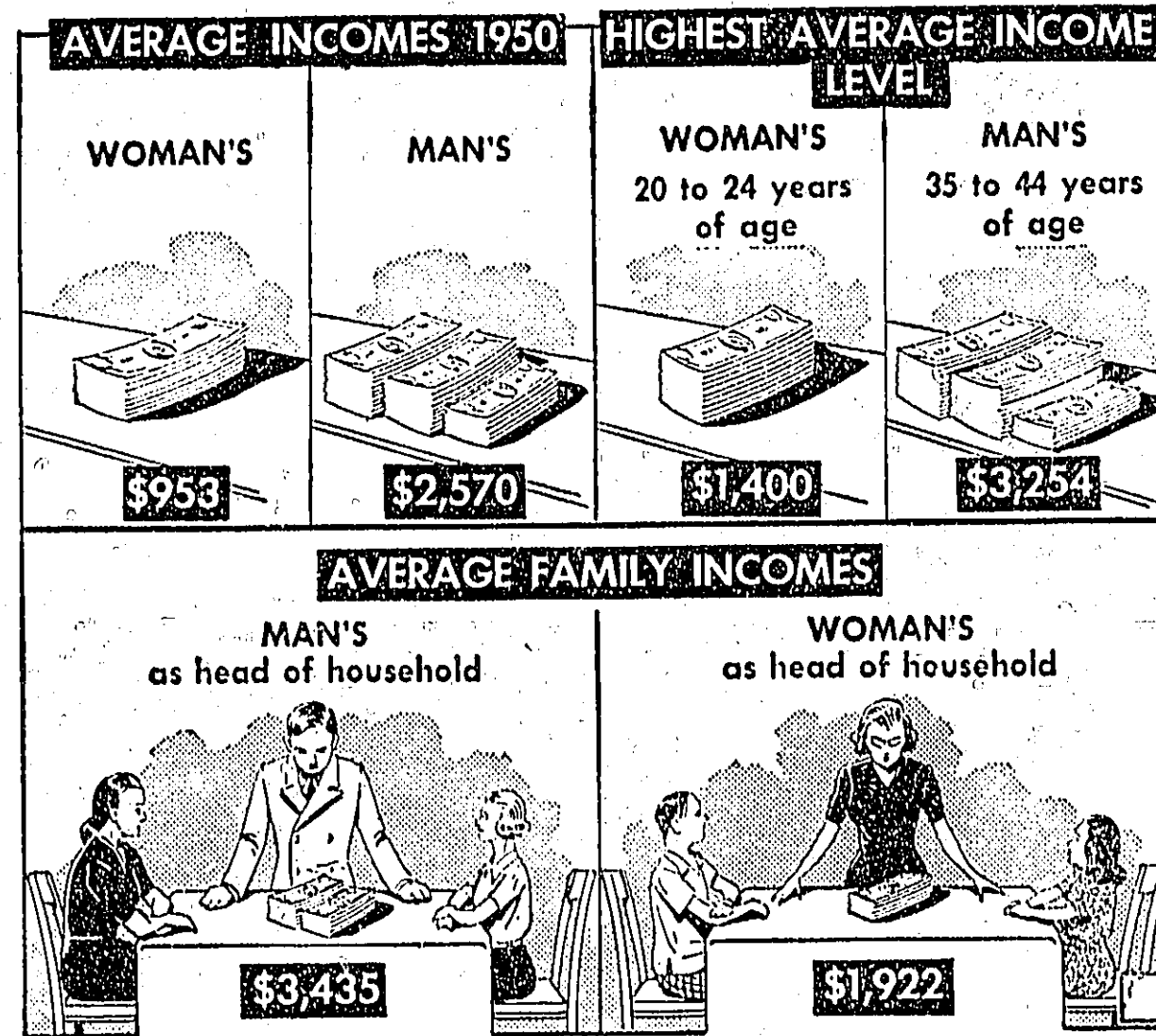
The company's decision to terminate the contract, the first time either side has done that in the history of negotiations between UE and General Cable, was indicative of its determination not to arrive

at a peaceful agreement.

After the announcement that the contract would terminate on June 1, the company in effect refused to negotiate with UE, forcing recesses in the talks of as long as 19 days.

The company's actions and attitude made it clear to the entire Rome community that it was management which provoked this strike and was entirely responsible for it. Community support for the strikers was spontaneous and widespread, with many merchants bitterly attacking the corporation for depriving them of the great purchasing power represented by Cable workers.

As for the workers themselves, they were 100 percent behind the walkout which completely closed the plants. In Rome, more than 800 men and women appeared on the picket lines when UE Local 331 first hit the bricks early Monday morning.



A DOUBLE BURDEN. Dramatically illustrated above is the effect of discrimination in pay against women. While companies like GE make huge sums in extra profits many women are forced to support families on incomes just a little more than half as big as those earned by men.

Striking Steelworkers Backed By All Labor

The nation's 650,000 steelworkers walked off their jobs at the beginning of this week following a Supreme Court decision nullifying the White House seizure of the industry. The strike was supported by all of organized labor as a vital struggle against the big business drive to break the trade union movement.

After five months of governmental maneuvering the CIO union members struck in support of their demands for a wage increase from the profit-swollen steel industry and for a union shop and other conditions.

The strike was originally slated to begin Jan. 1, but was repeatedly delayed. The controversial seizure order forced the workers to stay on their jobs without a wage increase, although industry profits were not interfered with.

Strikes Hit Peak

Strikes during April caused 5,300,000 man days of idleness, the highest since 1950, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in a preliminary survey. There were 1,000,000 workers idled by strikes, a figure exceeded only in January, 1946, when 1,400,000 were out.

The Nation's Voters

According to a survey by the American Institute of Public Opinion, 40 percent of U. S. voters consider themselves Democrats, 32 percent Republicans and 28 percent independents.



Fort Wayne, Ind — Smashing a two-union raid, workers at Capehart Farnsworth voted overwhelmingly to keep UE Local 916 as their bargaining agent. The NLRB election count was 445 for UE, 102 for the AFL autoworkers and 74 for the IUE-CIO.

Portland, Ore.—Representatives of 17,000 Pacific Coast paper workers have agreed to accept a 4½ cent hourly wage increase and a union-management financed health and welfare plan. The accord is subject to ratification by members of two AFL unions, the Brotherhood of Papermakers and the Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Papermill workers.

Rock Falls, Ill — International Harvester employees have beaten back an attempt by the CIO autoworkers to split them off from UE. UE Local 104F won an NLRB election 264-215. The victory was particularly impressive because the top officers of the UE local had joined the splitters and because it was the second straight beating handed to the widely-publicized campaign to destroy the unity within UE of farm equipment workers.

Camden, N. J. — Unbreakable unity has brought victory to more than 4,500 CIO packinghouse workers after a 17-day strike against the huge Campbell Soup Co. The workers forced management to agree to a 10 cent hourly wage increase and health insurance guarantees.

Minneapolis. — The employees of the American Refrigeration Co. are 100 per cent for UE. Of 25 workers eligible to vote, all 25 cast UE election ballots for UE Local 1139.

New Brunswick, N. J.—A strike of 1,400 bandage workers at the Johnson and Johnson Pharmaceutical Co. was called last week by the CIO Textile Workers in support of demands for an 11 cent an hour wage boost and fringe benefits.

Mica Vote Set

The National Labor Relations Board this week set Friday, June 27, as the date for the UE-demanded representation election at the Mica Insulator Co. UE Local 301 is cooperating fully to win a UE victory. (For complete details see p. 4)

'301' Delegation to Attend N. Y. Women's Conference

Chartered busses leaving from in front of the union hall at nine o'clock Sunday morning will carry the UE Local 301 delegation to Syracuse for a state-wide Women's Conference.

The conference, which will group together unionists regardless of affiliation, is slated to begin at the Hotel Onondaga at one p. m.

The meeting will map plans for a campaign against the "pay the women less" policy of the big corporations. UE Local 301, which has been waging a major fight against discrimination against women in pay, will be in a unique position to make a major contribution to the gathering.

The executive board Monday evening urged all UE members, especially women, to make the trip to Syracuse so that the local will be fully represented. The '301' delegates will tell the conference about its campaign, starting with the big May 7 women's demonstration and including the series of radio programs broadcast nightly by the Union.

UE is currently engaged in a national campaign to force companies to stop making extra profits through the exploitation of women workers. Conferences similar to the Syracuse gathering have already been held or are planned in Districts 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, and 11.

UE members at the Mica Insulator Co. will join Local 301 representatives in the delegation from Schenectady.



WASHINGTON BOUND. The three '301' members above joined 150 UE members from throughout the country in Washington, D. C. on June 5, 6 in seeing over 100 congressmen and 18 senators to press for an end to the wage freeze and defeat of anti-union legislation. Seen above at train station are Vice Pres. Roy Schaffer, Larry Gebo and William Christman.

UE's Washington Lobby Presses Labor Program

A labor program for legislative action was presented to over 100 Congressmen and 18 Senators by more than 150 UE members participating in a two-day national legislative lobby in Washington on June 5 and 6. Representing UE Local 301 were Vice President Roy Schaffer, Larry Gebo and William Christman.

Among the issues taken up by UE delegates in the first mass lobby organized by any national union in Washington this year, were the end of the wage freeze, the defeat of anti-union legislation and the passage of a Fair Employment Practices law.

Among the legislators visited was Republican Representative Pat Kearney, member of Congress from this district and Senate Republican Leader Styles Bridges of New Hampshire. The 301 group also sought to see New York Sen-

ators Lehman and Ives, but Lehman was unavailable while Ives gave the UE representatives a runaround.

The UE lobby hit hardest on three issues They urged the congressmen to oppose extension of the Defense Production Act, under which wages are frozen while prices and profits are allowed to soar. If the wage freeze law is not renewed by June 28, it will lapse.

They also demanded defeat of the Humphrey-McCarran proposals which would end free choice of unions and officers by workers and the Smith anti-strike law.

Ready Fight

There were increasing indications last week that GE will have the fight of its life on its hands if it should try to cancel out the contract and its protections.

GE, under contract provisions, has the legal right to serve such notice 90 days before contract renewal time, which is Sept. 15. With many corporations taking such action in the mounting offensive against unions, fear has been expressed that GE might try to get into the big business parade against labor.

'301' executive board members reported last Monday that members in building after building are prepared to wage an all-out fight if GE should try to tamper with union conditions.

Templeton Returns to Shop

William Templeton, UE Local 301 Assistant Business Agent since 1949, has returned to the GE plant under the national UE agreement with General Electric limiting leaves of absence for union work to three years. Under the accord, persons staying out of the plant beyond that time lose all seniority rights.

Templeton returned to work Monday as an electrician in the heavy construction gang working out of Shop Electric.

He will continue as chairman of the Continuations Committee of the Upstate Skilled Crafts Conference, the post to which he was elected in Syracuse on May 25. The group which Templeton leads embraces unionists belonging to AFL, CIO and independent unions.

Templeton first went to work for GE in 1923. Since becoming Local 301 Assistant Business Agent in 1949, he has handled hundreds of grievance cases and has been active in virtually every aspect of union work.



Members' Compensation Awards Total \$65,029

UE Local 301's employment of an attorney to handle compensation cases on a full-time basis has been paying big dividends for GE workers.

A report on compensation settlements, released by Attorney Leon Novak's office, revealed that since January 1 of this year, injured union members have received \$65,029 in compensation awards as a result of UE action.

In that period, 169 cases have been closed with awards ranging from \$50 to \$7,500. Many workers have also received settlements involving cash payments of as much

as \$25 weekly, exclusive of social security and pensions, for life.

There have been 122 new cases since the first of the year and about 1,000 cases in all are pending.

Local 301 members can make appointments to secure aid on compensation cases by telephoning or dropping into attorney's union hall office which is open daily.

Ives Reneges on Word Given to UE Members

Many UE members were shocked last week over the behavior of a United States Senator which violated the dignity and integrity of his high office.

The Senator was Irving M. Ives, who reneged on strong pledges he'd made to a delegation of UE members from throughout New York State during an interview in Buffalo on April 19 and penned a letter that could be considered as nothing less than a leaflet for IUE-CIO Pres. James B. Carey.

Ives told UE members, including Fred Pacelli, of '301', he was not only opposed to the wage freeze but all controls. He said he opposed Sen. Hubert Humphrey sending out anti-labor reports and statements he'd never seen and had considered resigning from Humphrey's committee.

He said he was against any legislation restricting labor's free choice of unions or officers and would "be in our corner" if UE was attacked by Humphrey, since he said UE is a democratic union and no responsible observer had ever said otherwise.

In a letter addressed to "Dear Jim" Carey, Sen. Ives denied this and spread slanders against UE—proving that a politician's word is never a final word—particularly in

an election year.

UE Local '301' Vice Pres. Roy Schaffer made several attempts to see Sen. Ives on June 5 and 6, when he was with the UE Washington Lobby, to extend him an invitation to appear before the '301' membership. Ives refused to see him, proving that he preferred to deal out Carey's fictions to facing the facts of what he actually told 12 UE members.

Carpet Workers Battle Speed-up

More than 18,000 carpet workers are rounding out the second week of a nationwide strike. Called by the CIO Textile Workers, it has idled the Bigelow-Sanford and Mohawk Mills in Amsterdam.

Union demands include a 25 cent an hour wage boost. The union charged the companies were greatly speeding up production and declared they were seeking "unlimited freedom to increase work loads."

Bldg. 85: Albert E. Houghton and Lester E. Hadsell have been working six to eight weeks on the seven to seven shift and demand proper shift medium.

Bldg. 273: Eugene Leigh and Fred Corvino request transfer from Generator to Turbine erection and ask management investigation of feasibility.

Cosmo Introne has been on second shift for about four years and has frequently asked his foreman to arrange a transfer to first shift. Many such openings have been filled by workers with much less seniority. A transfer when the first opening is available on the first shift is demanded.

Bldg. 285: Bert C. Anun demands a revaluation of the presently inadequate job rate for Electronic Heater and an adjustment of the rate.

Placement: Complainant Willard Kuschel was laid off in January, 1950, allegedly for lack of work. Since then management has made no effort to call him back although he has frequently contacted placement office about openings. He worked for the company from 1907 until 1950 during which time he rose from Class D Tester to Class A. While he was in Class A he was a member of the Executive Board and supervision alleged that his union activities were interfering with his work. An investigation into the possibility of discrimination is being conducted.



SOLID STRIKE. The 1,300 workers at General Cable in Rome, N. Y., rounded out two weeks of striking this week in fighting back management's attempt to cut their contract to ribbons with 60 proposed changes. These UE members are 100 percent in their strike. UE Local 301 has pledged its full support.

Bldg. 77 Stoppage Stems GE Attacks on Seniority

General Electric supervision attacks against contract provisions, particularly those protecting the security of older workers, brought speedy and united action by the workers in Building 77 this past week.

A work stoppage, the fourth in six weeks, was the workers' answer to management's crudely unfair treatment of two men of long seniority and to GE's developing campaign of intimidation against active union members.

Two incidents provoked the stoppage. The first was supervision's attempt to force Enrico Bianchi, 57-year-old freight car loader, to take a two step downgrading. The company made the amazing assertion that Bianchi did not have the educational qualifications to do a job on which he had been working for 26 years.

It proposed a nine and one-half cent hourly wage cut for a worker who during his more than a quarter of a century on the job had developed the reputation of being one of the most capable men in his work in the plant. Some years ago, Bianchi was seriously injured in a job accident, injuries leading to deafness, impairment of sight and a seven-inch-long scar on his head.

The second incident involved Harry Smith, a 58-year-old Class B stockroom man, with more than 30 years seniority and only a few years to go before becoming eligible for a pension. Supervision laid off a battery truck driver, claiming lack of work, and then ordered Smith to handle both his job and that of the laid off worker. It would have been an impossible load even for a completely healthy man but Smith's health has been

seriously impaired in the service of GE.

This was the second time management had attempted this same maneuver. Six weeks ago it had resulted in a Building 77 work stoppage and supervision "promised" that it would not make the move.

The union intimidation campaign has shown itself in a number of cases. Last week, Earl Kopper, an active unionist was sent home for a week for a single work mistake, although there are foremen in the building who have made as many as 13 mistakes without reprimand.

Supervision has also tried to intimidate group leader Joe Mangino, former Vice President of UE Local 301, Committeeman Vincent D. Lorenzo, and Steward Peter "Bucky" Pisano.

Substandard Budgets Revealed

Millions of U. S. workers and their families are either eating up credit, going broke or living sub-standard lives, according to the budget study just released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The report showed that in the lowest-priced city, New Orleans, a worker required \$3,812 to maintain himself, his wife and two children, while in Washington, D. C., the figure rose to \$4,454.

Average manufacturing earnings, however, nationally stood at only \$67.03 a week. If a worker worked every week in the year, this would come to only \$3,485.56 a year, \$400 below the New Orleans break-even point and nearly \$1,000 below Washington.

These figures were based on the BLS living cost index which many unions consider to be way low. And it is also based on meat all but disappearing from the dinner table, no telephone, no car, no allowance for the kids and one bottle of beer per week.

Capital Residents Refute Humphrey Slanders of UE

The attempts of Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D, Minn.) to slander UE and insinuate there might be something un-American about the Union were spiked last week by the people who have lived with the Union and know it best since the first day of its existence — the residents of the Capital District.

Prominent persons in all walks of life sent a telegram to Humphrey pointing out that UE Local 301 is "an organization that has done much to make America a better place to live in — as we have found from 16 years of first hand experience."

Included in those signing the telegram were Democratic and Republican Party leaders, elected and appointed city officials, a veterans organization leader, dentists, lawyers, doctors, professors, pharmacists and a variety of businessmen, including liquor dealers, florists restaurant and filling station owners, a bus operator, funeral director and others.

Humphrey Target

Sen. Humphrey, who has marked UE as a particular target, has proposed that the government "select" unions for workers and their leaders—ending the free and democratic choice that workers now enjoy. Both AFL and CIO have declared their opposition to Humphrey's proposals.

Those signing the telegram to Humphrey's senatorial subcommittee declared that '301' as the largest labor organization in the Capital District "has contributed immeasurably towards improving the conditions and enhancing the dignity of every worker in General Electric."

The signers stated that punitive attacks on UE would have "a harmful effect on the well-being of all communities in the area within a radius of 50 miles" and would be "a gross and un-American misuse of the tax money of American citizens."

UE '52 Convention Set for Sept. 12

UE Local 301 will send a full ten-member delegation to the 17th annual UE national convention which will be held in Cleveland from September 15 to 19.

The decision to send a full delegation to Cleveland was made Monday by the Executive board. The nomination and election of delegates will take place at the next local general membership meeting on July 7. The vote will be by secret ballot.

The convention will bring together representatives of 300,000 UE members from coast to coast in the United States and Canada. The convention is the highest body in the union and its democratically arrived at decisions will govern the policies and practices of UE during the coming year. Locals represented at the convention are entitled to one vote for every hundred members.

In the convention call sent out by UE General Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak, the importance of "as full a representation of the rank and file as possible in order to achieve the maximum strength and unity in our union," was emphasized.

Four Win Upgrading In Grievance Cases

Four GE employees have won higher job ratings as a result of cases processed by the grievance machinery of UE Local 301.

In the Campbell Ave. Plant, Leo Ezrow, Pasquale Perretta and Anthony Leone were upgraded from Class C stock keepers to Class B. The promotion makes the men eligible for wage rate increases of 10 cents an hour.

Another Campbell Ave. worker, Tony Loica, won a raise from \$1.43 to \$1.48 an hour retroactive to March 19. F. Roy and F. Thomas were the shop stewards handling the two cases.

UE ON THE JOB

Bldg. 17: For a number of months the tool room group has been asking the assignment of a badly needed porter but nothing has been done. The assignment of this porter is demanded.

On Sunday, April 27, William Busse was asked to report to work. He did so, parking his car within his assigned "F" zone. On being informed that this area was to be oiled with asphalt and being asked to move his car to the "T.S." zone, he did so only to find his car spotted with asphalt at the end of the day. The company cleaned the car body but thus far has refused to clean the porcelainized top, which is being demanded.

Bldg. 49: Curtis Cull and Gabriel Kolar are demanding one step increase effective date their foreman approved such a raise in accordance with company policy and contract provisions.

William F. Goedde demands retroactive wage adjustment because under the contract he was entitled to have been hired two steps below job rate based on his experience, background and ability.

Bldg. 52: A group is complaining of lost time due to lack of tool crib attendant on the third shift and demand the assignment of an attendant.

Bldg. 59: Claude J. Chouinard demands retroactive pay adjustment because since April 21 he has been working as a Tallyman's helper while still classified and paid as a common laborer.

Bldg. 66: Ralph Fish and Edward Steinhauser have been ordered by management to either accept reassignment to undesirable lower rated jobs or being sent home although there is no lack of work on their own job. They demand that they be kept on in their present jobs and be paid for time lost because of this improper ultimatum.

Bldg. 76: Stanley Bancos demands he be classified as an operator of the high tier fork truck, the job he has been doing, and not as a Tallyman as at present.

Bldg. 81: A group demands increase of job rates to \$1.40 for both the "Make small cable complete" and "Cut and prepare wire" operations. These jobs require blueprints and DL's and therefore warrant this increase.

A group demands the following constructive actions by supervision:

Issuance of standard instructions as a necessity for all operators breaking in and as an important aid to older operators.

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.

Standardization of procedure to eliminate errors through clarifying prints and D.L. This would serve to end waiting for corrections.

Immediate issuance of long promised standard symbol sheets.

Efforts to see that prints in use are correct.

Issuance of all pertinent paper work with each job.

End of all penalties resulting from errors until the above are corrected.

A group is protesting the time allowed for computing their time from vouchers. They are required to handle up to 150 vouchers a week and in many cases payment for as many as 90 vouchers amounted to only \$2.00. An investigation and adjustment is demanded.

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Local 301

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