

Westinghouse Workers Hand 5 to 1 Shellacking to IUE and Politicians



WESTINGHOUSE WORKERS CELEBRATE VICTORY at gates of big Essington, Pa., plant immediately after announcement of vote. Organized in UE since 1936, these workers overcame treachery and red-baiting to defeat IUE-CIO and IAM-AFL raiders.

The 7,000 workers of the big Essington, Pa. Westinghouse plant, organized since 1936 in UE Local 107, gave a terrific five to one drubbing to the IUE-CIO, the IAM-AFL and the red-baiting politicians of the Philadelphia area January 14 in an election conducted by the NLRB.

The vote was:
 UE Local 107.....5,046
 IUE-CIO.....1,048
 IAM-AFL.....488
 No Union.....27

As usual, the IUE-CIO campaign was conducted on a basis of McCarthyite red-baiting. Westinghouse workers were promised that if they would give up the honest, militant and democratic unionism they had had in the UE for 17 years and accept the undemocratic, red-baiting IUE, both the government and the company would be nice to them. The IUE strategy was based on the fact that heavy layoffs have been threatened at Essington and the politicians were used to the bill to sway the election.

Repudiate McCarthyism

Speaking at Essington after the vote was counted, UE Director (Organization) James J. Matles said, "The IUE is the only union in America which bases its platform on McCarthyism. Tonight's victory is labor's greatest achievement in the Philadelphia area. It's the greatest repudiation of McCarthyism in the entire labor movement."

The UE victory also proved Westinghouse workers' contempt for union traitors and turncoats. The IUE campaign was led there by Francis Bradley, former Local 107 business agent and one-time Executive Board member of UE, and Edward Matthews, former secretary of the Westinghouse Conference Board of UE. Both had counted on personal popularity and belated red-baiting to carry Westinghouse workers into IUE-CIO, but the workers showed they had no use for traitors.

After the election Local 107 issued a statement saying that the vote "served as a repudiation of the IUE-CIO and IAM-AFL outsiders in their efforts to weaken and undermine this union which has in 17 years established the best wages and working conditions in the Delaware Valley. The \$500,000 these two organizations spent in their six-month-long campaign could have been much better spent defending the jobs of the tens of thousands of CIO and AFL members out of the 83,000 now unemployed in this area."

Helen Quirini Given District Assignment

UE District Council 3 has selected Helen Quirini of Local 301 for a full-time special 10-week assignment to aid in carrying out the District program among the UE locals of upstate New York.

District Council Maps Legislative Program To Fight Unemployment

A legislative program on state and federal issues, combining a full-scale fight to protect jobs and to protect those laid off, was the principal matter of discussion at the UE District 3 Council meeting held in Schenectady July 15 and 16.

The Council recommended that all locals in the district set up local unemployment committees to keep in touch with laid off members, aid them in solving their problems and actively carry on a fight for jobs in their respective areas.

The legislative program adopted for New York State includes:
 • Revision of unemployment compensation law to increase maxi-

mum benefits to \$40 a week.

• Elimination of waiting and penalty periods.

• \$3 additional for all dependants up to five; no merit rebates; liberalize eligibility requirements for unemployment compensation.

• Liberalize workmen's compensation to \$40 maximum \$15 minimum; eliminate one week waiting time; provide compensation to partially disabled silicosis victims.

• Amend equal pay law to eliminate loopholes for discrimination for "causes other than sex."

• The federal legislative program adopted by the Council included:

• United action with all labor to defeat the Butler Bill or other similar bills to deprive workers of right to choose their own unions and their own leaders.

• Increased federal aid for state unemployment insurance funds.

• Federal public works to provide jobs.

• End of Government give-away program for Big Business. End of Government tax incentives to run-away shops which cause mass unemployment. Lifting of trade bar-

riers to enable U. S. workers to fill the world-wide demand for industrial goods.

• Tax relief for working people with exemptions on all income up to \$4,000 a year; special exemptions for working mothers.

• Enactment of \$1.25 federal minimum wage law.

• Enactment of Fair Employment Practices Law with real teeth.

• Increase social security to \$125 a month for all workers 60 years of age or older.

• Repeal of Walter McCarran Act against foreign born; repeal of all acts depriving people of their civil rights; defeat measures to strip Americans of the protections given by the Bill of Rights against McCarthyite witch-hunters and black-listers.

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 Local 301

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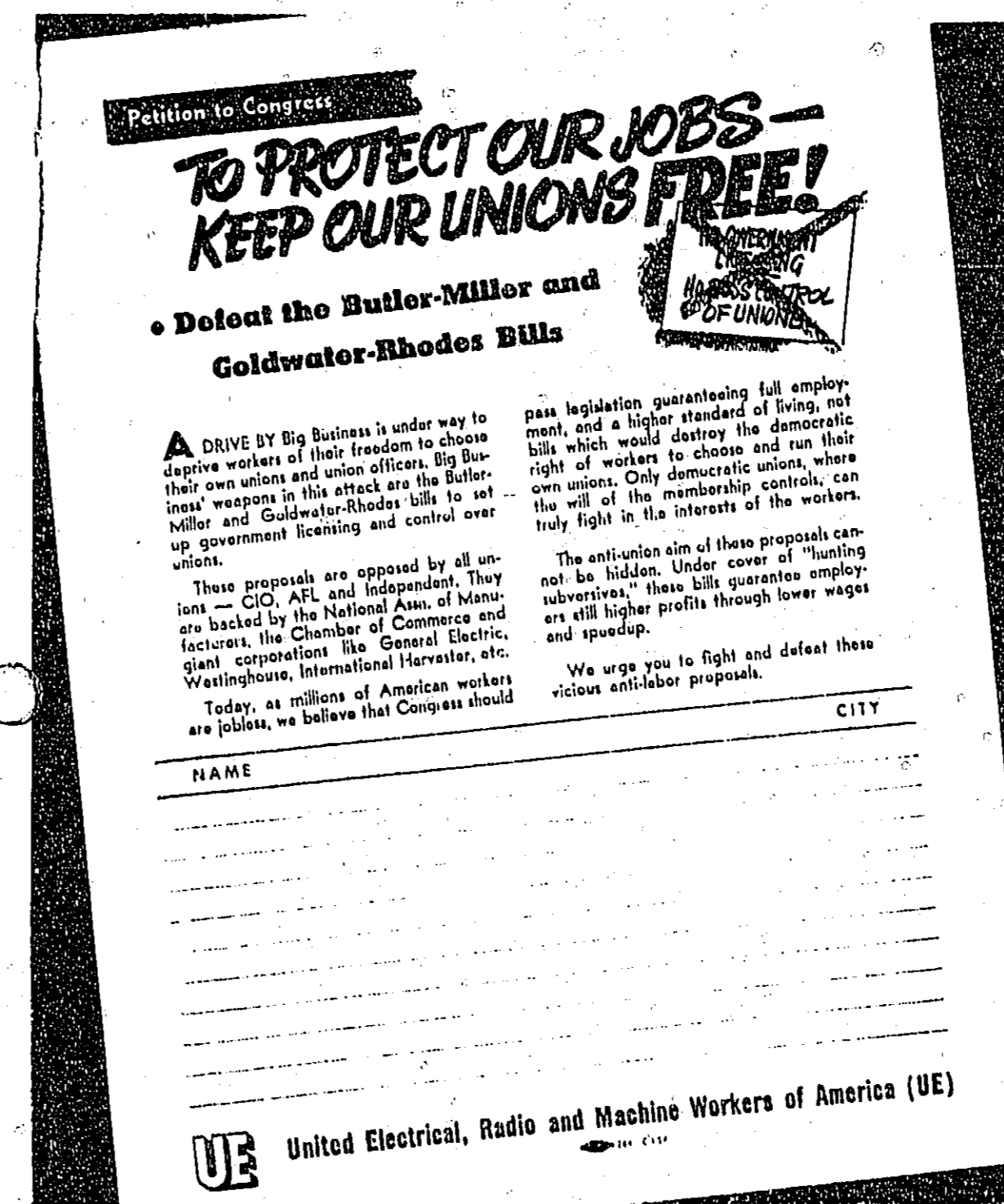
THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA UE LOCAL 301

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Friday, January 29, 1954

FIGHTING JOB PROGRAM OUTLINED BY UE BOARD



CONGRESS WILL HEAR FROM THE PEOPLE back home, it was resolved by the Executive Board of Local 301 at its first meeting of the year Monday. It was decided to participate in the UE's national petition campaign to gather hundreds of thousands of signatures to preserve the union movement against anti-labor laws threatening in Washington. Above is a sample of the petition which will shortly be circulated here as well as in shops throughout the nation.

UE Launches National Campaign Against Anti-Labor Legislation

The tip off of how the campaign in Washington to pass legislation can worse than Taft-Hartley was given recently when Rep. Harold H. Velde (Rep.-Ill.) — notorious enemy of labor — introduced a bill in the House similar to the Goldwater bill in the Senate.

All sections of labor, AFL, CIO and Independents, have spoken out sharply against this legislation. The UE Washington office, giving leadership to the entire labor

movement, has launched a two-pronged answer to the Goldwater-Velde attempt to destroy the freedom of the labor movement by setting up government licensing of unions.

- 1.—A petition campaign has been launched to let Congress know where the people stand.
- 2.—A UE National Legislative and Political Action conference will take place in Washington on Feb. 28, March 1 and 2.

A fighting program of action to protect the job rights of Schenectady General Electric workers and to guard the outstanding seniority provisions of UE's national contract, was mapped out at the first meeting of the 1954 Executive Board of UE Local 301 on Monday.

At the same time the board delivered a mighty blast at McCarthyism which is the smoke-screen behind which the company seeks to carry on its campaign of union-busting.

"UE's seniority protection for GE workers is so good," Leo Jandreau, business agent of UE Local 301, told the board, "that the company seizes every opportunity to chisel on its provisions. It is up to every UE steward and member, regardless of length of service, to fight to protect our seniority rights. By doing this, he protects himself and his union."

Lengthy discussion at the board reflected the main idea: UE's answer to attempts of the company to destroy seniority provisions is to make certain that the UE contract is applied in all cases.

UE's fighting program on the job question calls for strict adherence to contract seniority provisions, assisting unemployed workers who are out of work and joint action by all groups within the community to combat McCarthyism and to help solve the mounting unemployment problem.

The board unanimously approved a statement of policy condemning McCarthyism which GE is trying to use against the labor movement. At the same time, the board stated that "if an open Congressional investigation is made by persons who we think have a stake in the welfare of this community — in such an investigation we have no desire, although we affirm our belief in the rights of citizens generally to do so, of invoking Constitutional privileges with respect to our own affiliations, and to ours alone."

GE Accepts McCarthyism

Stressing that UE will refuse in any way to cooperate with a man of McCarthy's aims, the board stated that "McCarthy called upon the GE company to fire any employee who exercises their Constitutional privileges, thereby depriving them of their livelihood. The GE company, in accepting his advice, found a means of violating their solemn written contracts".

"The 'inspired' GE pronounce-

Local 301 UER & MWA
STEWARDS MEETING
 Stewards 2nd Shift
Monday, Feb. 1
 1:00 P.M. (Before Work)
 Stewards 1st and 3rd Shift
Monday, Feb. 1
 7:30 P.M.
 LOCAL 301 HALL
 Erie Blvd. & Liberty St.
 • Report of Committees
 • Regular Order of Business
 EXECUTIVE BOARD LOCAL 301 UE

ment of their unlawful intention to fire anyone who invokes Constitutional privileges is nothing more than a threat to the security of our country, when we see this act as a One Man, One Company defiance of a greater authority, namely, the Constitution of the United States."

Discussing how the company seeks to make the most out of current loss of jobs, many division stewards reported attempts to violate UE's seniority agreements.

Reports were given of workers with a dozen or more years of service, whose jobs had disappeared.

(Continued on page 2)

Local Blasts GE-McCarthy Plot Against Union

(Continued from page 1)

ed, being offered a job with a broom. Other cases were reported of workers being discouraged from seeking new jobs by foremen putting impossible qualifications on jobs.

"There are jobs which many jobless workers can handle," one board member stated, "that foremen are claiming need trigonometry and higher mathematics to do. They often try to keep their favorites who are not active union workers on the job while people with long service are discouraged from trying out for the jobs."

GE Favoritism

The accusation of favoritism made against the company recalls to old-timers the period before UE when favoritism was used rather than seniority to determine hiring, firing and upgrading. The entrance of McCarthyism into GE's labor policy is actually an attempt to return GE plants to the period before UE, when the "open shop" ruled.

"Tools Against Unions"

"Some Congressional committees have, unfortunately, the board stated, "made of themselves tools to besmirch the reputations of individuals and organizations, particularly labor unions. We do not easily forget that in 1948, when Congressman Kersten came to Schenectady with his probes, our local union was involved in a contest with a rival union, over the issue of which organization the workers in the Schenectady GE plant believed to be the more effective bargaining agent. At that time our organization, the UE, represented the vast majority of GE workers throughout the country.

"Such contests were being encouraged and aided by GE at that time in order to break down the unity that existed amongst the GE workers all over the country. The company encouraged Congressional investigations, working closely with Congressman Kersten. Kersten came to Schenectady seemingly to protect the country against communism, but actually to try to help the GE company and a rival union with the election.

"The Schenectady GE workers greeted Kersten as he deserved. Witnesses appearing before him refused to testify. The rival Union lost the election in Schenectady. However, in some other communities where GE plants were located, the UE lost and the result of that attack five years ago changed the

bargaining status of GE workers from one Union to 48 unions!"

Tracing the use of Rep. Kersten and grand jury "investigations" against UE, the board statement points out that "McCarthy's hearings had the announced purpose of uncovering espionage or sabotage, but the people in this community are still wondering what was gained for the security of our country, and what was proved as a result of the Albany hearings."

Stressing what a Union like UE means to the community as a whole, the statement points out that UE will fight McCarthyism and "use every means available to protect our Union."



JUST A FEW DAYS before GE issued its new anti-labor policy, big-wig G-E executives sat in on McCarthy's inquisition against GE workers from Lynn, Mass. At Albany, GE executives observed McCarthy in executive session. In Massachusetts, they were out in the open. (See picture).



Eng. Lab: This group is protesting the byoffs in this Dept. and the additional work assigned to the remaining employees. The Union demands this situation be corrected.

Bldg. 12: John O'Neill, with 12 years' service, and 4 1/2 years as helper on the compound tanks feels he is entitled to the job the operator is now leaving for pension.

Bldg. 16: John Sheroka made a written request on 6/9/53 according to Contract for transfer to 1st shift. The Union demands he be given the opening that occurred on Grinder-Misc., 1st shift.

Bldg. 16: Operators on saw, screw machines and milling machines protest the excessive errors and delays in handling MOL's and pink slips. The Union demands these conditions be corrected.

Bldg. 49: F. Brusio and J. Crandall are Class "B" Testmen doing Class "A" work. Union demands they be properly classified with rate increases.

Bldg. 49: The accumulators in X-3 are protesting the fact that they are required to attach reject tags to material passed by Inspection Dept. Union demands this situation be corrected.

Bldg. 49: R. Bootier, classified as a porter, is assigned full time to moving materials. Union demands proper reclassification and retroactive rate increase.

Bldg. 49: E. Novak, a daywork welder, was assigned to a piece work job that supervision would not price and had just laid off weld-

ers from the same jobs. Union demands explanation and correction of this matter.

Bldg. 52: L. De Angelis has been doing the work of a leader on the job. Union demands he be classified and rated as such.

Bldg. 52: Welders under Foreman Doherty demand proper adjustment and increase in pricing tables due to changes on the job.

Bldg. 52: Combination welders and assemblers under Foreman Dillenbeck demand proper increases in prices on 223-3230B and 216-21477.

Bldg. 60: E. Zampella and M. Gizzi were transferred to related assembly jobs in violation of Contract, Article X-3.4. Union demands they be paid the proper rate.

Bldg. 66: F. Weaver and G. Loucks requested payment for extra work on temporary angles on 447-3057, 435-3169 and 223-7109. Union demands payment for this legitimate extra work.

Bldg. 66: H. Thuener demands a time study on the main welding operation on stator frame 223-7109 since the price is entirely inadequate.

Bldg. 68: John Mizenko was taken off his job, unload tunnel kiln curs, at his own request because of his health. Union demands he be returned to his former job since he is now able to do so.

Bldg. 68: Group under Foreman Mitchell are complaining of the

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.

safety hazard created by the poor condition of the trucks and buckets they must use. Union demands this situation be corrected at once.

Bldg. 97: W. Balkarus and J. Kowczka request a time study on the balling of aluminum turnings. Union demands management investigate and abide by Contract, Article VI-5-(d).

Bldg. 227: Group in Transportation under Foreman Tebbano protest the use of Patrol Dept. to do work of chauffeurs. Union demands management correct this situation.

Bldg. 273: F. Etzel protests low or rated work being assigned to his machine. Union demands Company abide by contract, Article VI-3.

Bldg. 273: E. Lionarons does not feel he has been properly considered for upgrading. Union demands opportunity for Brother Lionarons to be upgraded to Class "A" Chipper.

Bldg. 273: This group of erector assemblers have been working overtime and, therefore, demand the return of the 2 men recently laid off from this group.

Mrs. Emspak Passes

Mrs. Theresa Emspak, 81, of 815 Francis Ave., mother of Julius and Frank Emspak of UE Local 301, died at her home Monday after a long illness. Julius Emspak, a long resident of Schenectady, is UE general secretary-treasurer and now resides in Tuxedo, N. Y.

"McCarthy AND MY MOTHER-IN-LAW"

"You look like you swallowed the top of the aspirin bottle instead of an aspirin," said Marty to Mike one day.

"I feel fine," said Mike.

"You look terrible," said Marty, as the pair sat down in a corner for lunch.

It's the way I always look when I'm thinking," said Mike. "Thinking!" exclaimed Marty. "That is a dangerous practice for which McCarthy is soon to issue a law forbidding."

"That is just what I have been thinking about," said Mike. "That man McCarthy."

"Don't let McCarthy worry you," said Marty.

"McCarthy does not worry me as much as my mother-in-law," replied Mike.

"Is she investigating you?" asked Marty.

"No," said Mike with a shake of his head. "But she is saying that I should answer the question."

"Why you married her daughter?" asked Marty.

"No," answered Mike. "She says: why don't you answer the questions. She says: What have I got to hide. She says: If she went before the committee, she would talk."

"And what do you say?"

"I tell her she would talk whether she goes before a committee or not."

"Does that satisfy her?"

Mike shook his head sadly. "No," he said. "She still says: Why don't you answer the questions? What's the answer, Marty?"

Marty took a deep draw on his pipe.

"Suppose, Mike, they called you before McCarthy or Butler," he said.

"Yep," said Mike.

"And suppose they asked you if you robbed a bank?"

"But I didn't rob a bank," said Mike. "I'd tell them so."

"But suppose they had a bulletpen of hired character assassins who they pay a fancy salary to say they saw you robbing a bank. What then?"

Mike scratched his head.

"They can't do that," he said.

"They do," said Marty.

"I'd call him a liar," said Mike.

"They'd produce another character assassin who would swear you were the liar. And lying to a committee means a long prison term for perjury."

"I shouldn't have opened my mouth," said Mike.

"That would give you six months for contempt and get you fired by GE," said Marty.

"But what can an innocent man do?" asked Mike.

"The Constitution of the United States has special amendments to protect the innocent," pointed out Marty.

"Oh, I wouldn't dare use the Constitution to protect myself," said Mike. "My mother-in-law says it's un-American to use the Constitution."

"I suppose she says its patriotic to destroy the Constitution like GE is trying to do?" asked Marty.

Mike's face flushed.

"Marty!" he exclaimed, "There's something crazy going on here. If you use the American Constitution, they accuse you of being un-American. If you don't use it, they can send you to jail. It's cockeyed."

"Well Mike," said Marty, "the Constitution was written to protect the innocent. Companies like GE have always had contempt for the Constitution. That's why they violate it so often as the record shows."

"So what?" asked Mike.

"So this," said Marty. "Companies like GE encourage politicians like McCarthy to make it seem like a crime to use the Con-

GENERAL ELECTRIC CO



ANY MORE SQUAWKS OUT OF YOU ABOUT SPEED-UP AND RATE-CUTS—AND YOU GET THE SPECIAL TREATMENT!

stitution. GE wants to make it possible to discover and then fire any employee who says anything against lay-offs or attacks on seniority or speed-up or rate cuts or the attacks they make on our union itself."

"Go on," said Mike.

"First thing the company has to do is to get people to answer all questions asked them."

"Go on," said Mike.

"Then they find out who the most active union men and women are. They find out just who's who. Then the company fires these people as 'security risks' or 'communists.' And who's to stop them?"

"The Union will stop them," answered Mike.

"But," said Marty, "the heart of the union is team-work of its members. The minute working people start answering some questions before anti-labor committees, it

opens the way for all questions . . . about their fellow union members. There is no longer a union."

"That's just what the company wants," said Mike.

"Yes," said Marty, "the company encourages people like McCarthy to get us to give up the Constitution and answer the questions. Any questions. Once we start answering, we have to continue or we are threatened with contempt. Then the union goes down the drain."

"I guess," said Mike, "The only way is to refuse to answer. To stand on your rights. The Union comes first."

"But how about your mother-in-law," said Marty.

Mike waved his hand. "If the Union gets busted, she'll have no place to eat," said Mike. "She'll see the point."

"We're going to have to get a lot of people to start seeing the point," concluded Marty.

Opposition to McCarthyism Mounts

McCarthy has become the symbol for the sort of phony crusade that Fort Monmouth represents.

NEW YORK TIMES
Jan. 14, 1954

"McCarthyism (investigations) smear a man and imply he is guilty without the benefit of trial."

CARTER DAVIDSON
President, Union College
Jan. 13, 1954

"Liberty can be taken from us by Congressional committees which transgress the powers and prerogatives of the executive and judiciary . . . Stand firm against the book burners and congressional inquisitors who would trample the Bill of Rights."

SENATOR HERBERT LEHMAN
Jan. 25, 1954

"The Fifth Amendment must have been put into the Constitution for some reason other than to protect criminals . . . I am afraid the main result of such committee investigations is to make great headlines for themselves."

DR. HAROLD UREY
Jan. 13, 1954

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