

UE Movie Attacked In Schenectady Press

Schenectady papers last week again went on a spree of red-baiting against the UE's movie, "Deadline for Action." Both local dailies ran in full a highly colored piece from the New York World-Telegram, the viciously anti-labor Scripps-Howard paper. The Union-Star virtually took the position that it was "Communist" to give the people facts, for the Union-Star's headline declared that the film was "promoting communism."

The remarkable thing is that the Big Business spokesmen who attack the film have made no effort to claim the facts it presents are untrue. They can't. The facts are there, and they are largely based on the reports of Senate committees. So these Big Business spokesmen just rave that the film is "Communist."

While giving prominence to what a New York paper says about the movie, neither the Union-Star nor the Gazette mentioned the local fact that Local 301 showed the film here to one section meeting of the membership after another, and that it was liked by all who saw it. The papers particularly did not mention that after the Gazette attacked the movie, Local 301 gave a public showing of the film, and placed paid ads in both papers, inviting the public to come judge for itself. Of course the Union-Star and Gazette did not come and write up the movie. They just peddle what the New York World-Telegram says about it.

The people of Schenectady will have farther opportunity to judge "Deadline for Action" for themselves.

Bills Hit Discrimination In Schools and Colleges

The Austin-Mahoney bill to outlaw racial and religious discrimination in education was one of the first bills introduced in Albany this year. It would set up a Commission against discrimination in the Education Department, remove from tax exemption any school or college that practices discrimination and forbid state funds going to such institutions.

Sponsors are Assemblyman Bernard J. Austin, Democrat, of Brooklyn, and Senator Walter J. Mahoney, Republican, of Buffalo. Another bill to end tax exemption for schools practicing bias was introduced by Senator Louis Friedman, Democrat, of Brooklyn. The Republican majority in 1945 and 1946 killed the similar bills which Friedman introduced.

Still Undefeated - - UE Basketball Team



The UE-Local 301 girls' basketball team has rolled up the best record this year of the Schenectady Girls' City League. In front, holding basketball, Captain Bonnie Evans. First row, left to right, Lena Sprague, Jane Riley, Lorraine Hubbard and Harriet Ford. Rear row, Helen Porter, Helen Quirini, Margie Bohringer and Betty Purcell. Missing from the picture are Rose Rurante, Bertha Senecal and Dolores Dickerson. The UE team's latest victory was Monday night when the girls beat the White Sox 27 to 26. The UE girls will play an exhibition game soon at Hudson Falls. Watch for the date.

Election

The annual election of Local 301 representatives on the General Electric Conference Board will take place at the next membership meeting Feb. 18 at 301 Hall. Present members are President Andrew Peterson, Business Agent Leo Jandreau and Edward Wallingford.

Condemns Talmadge

The Capital District CIO Council Jan. 22 condemned Herman Talmadge's action in seizing the governorship of Georgia. The Council adopted a resolution urging President Truman and Attorney General Tom Clark to take action to restore constitutional government in Georgia.

Ballston Workers Get Pay Increase

A new contract between the American Hide and Leather Co., Inc. at Ballston Spa and Local 410, International Fur and Leather Workers Union, CIO, provides wage increases of 10 cents an hour retroactive to Jan. 13. An additional increase of five cents an hour will take effect June 1. Improvements in hospitalization, sick benefits and other clauses were also obtained.

The contract will run until July 31, 1948, but can be reopened on wages Jan. 1, 1948.

The union won a raise of 15 cents an hour last August in settling a 24 week strike.

Electrical Union News

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

Vol. III—No. 43

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

February 6, 1947

Contract Proposals Are Sent to Company

UE proposals for the 1947 contract were sent to GE Tuesday, the national union office reported to Local 301. The proposals were drawn up by the National GE Conference Board and approved by Local 301 and all other GE locals. GE was requested to fix an early date for opening of negotiating sessions.

No specific sum of money is asked in the general wage demands. Instead, the union has asked that "a substantial increase" be granted on the basis of wage, price and profit figures which it will submit during negotiations.

Workers in the GE and Westinghouse locals have expressed strong determination this year to get pay for holidays not worked. Smaller companies in the electrical industry have granted holiday pay, but the two largest corporations have always refused.

The fact that the Steelworkers recently extended the expiration date of their contracts from Feb. 15 to Apr. 1 means that this year, steel, auto and electrical unions will all be negotiating contracts at the same time.

In previous years, steel wage negotiations were usually well under way by the time UE negotiations started because of the earlier termination dates.

UE Basketball Team In Exhibition Game

The UE-301 girls' basketball team will play an exhibition game Feb. 19 at Hudson Falls against an all-star team.

The UE players lost Monday night for the first time this season in the Schenectady Girls' City League games. The Commandos scored 22 to the UE 18. Earlier this winter the UE girls beat the Commandos once and tied them in another game.

UE Conference

Julius Emspak, international UE secretary-treasurer, will speak Feb. 19 at a legislative conference of District 3 and the New York City section of District 4, UE, at Albany.

Legislative Group Swings Into Action

Sub-committees on national, state and local affairs have been formed by the Local 301 Legislative Committee of which Fred Pacelli is chairman.

The committee handling federal legislation includes George Walker, Joseph Krone, William Templeton and William Weber.

The committee on state legislation: John Kasitch, Larry Gebro and Walter Plummer.

Local affairs, Vincent Iovinella, D. MacDonald and Frank Civitella.

Regular meetings of the Legislative Committee will be the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

President Andrew Peterson and Milo Lathrop, UE District 8 legislative representative, met with the group Jan. 28 to discuss the need of a vigorous action by the union on legislative matters.

Teachers' President Invited

Arthur Boehm, president of the Empire State Federation of Teachers, AFL, and of the Schenectady Federation of Teachers, has been invited to attend the next meeting of the Legislative Committee, Tuesday, Feb. 11 to discuss the teachers' wage program.

What Is News?

Did you notice how newspapers have boycotted the Federal Court trial of GE for its conspiracy with the Nazi Krupp firm to control production and price of tungsten carbide?

After the first day or two of the trial there was almost complete newspaper silence. National UE News reported that one day there were two commercial papers represented; the next day one commercial paper, and the next day only UE News.

Company Again Opposes Union On Arbitration

In spite of Local 301's protest to GE President Charles E. Wilson about the company continually violating the contract by refusing to arbitrate, management again turned down arbitration requests of the union last Friday.

Wilson informed the union in January that he had instructed E. D. Spicer, vice-president in charge of employee relations, to "look into the matter" of the company's policy on arbitration.

At a meeting on the national level Friday, on some cases affecting wage rates, James Burnison, representing Spicer, repeated statements made previously by the company that they will not arbitrate wage rates.

He told Leo Jandreau and other union representatives the company objected to letting outsiders (GE definition of arbitrators) "tell us what we must pay."

Jandreau pointed out once more that that attitude is a direct violation of the contract clause on arbitration.

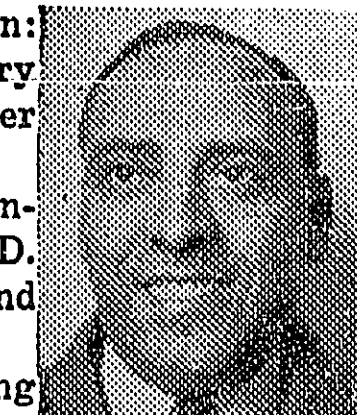
The GE policy, by the way, is apparently to object to arbitration of any sort, not just on wage questions. Management has refused recently to arbitrate disputes over call-in-pay, leaders' rates, continuity of service and continuous process operations.

Article XIII of the present contract, entitled Arbitration, states:

"In the event no agreement is reached on any matter involving the application or interpretation of any provision of this contract, such matter shall be submitted to arbitration on request of either the Union or the Company. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on both parties."

Talk by Jandreau

Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent, was guest speaker Jan. 28 at a dinner meeting of the Men's Club of Nott Terrace Synagogue. He spoke on the approaching contract negotiations with GE and other union problems.



Fred Pacelli

Barbieri Answers Alco's Anti-Labor Blast; Local 2054 Will Ask for National Contract

Statements made by an American Locomotive Co. official before the Senate Labor Committee at Washington were attacked as dishonest and ill-advised last week by Anthony F. Barbieri, president of Local 2054, United Steelworkers of America, in Schenectady.

The Alco official, C. Dickerman Williams, a vice-president and general counsel of the corporation, asked Congress to strip unions of power by breaking up industry-wide bargaining. Senator Ball has introduced a bill to do just that thing.

Williams complained that Alco was at "a great disadvantage in dealing with a centralized union of 800,000 members."

He declared that the 1946 strike "would never have taken place if the local unions had been permitted to proceed by collective bargaining, as distinguished from the exercise of centralized power by the international."

Barbieri pointed out that workers at the Schenectady plant voted 5,377 in favor of the strike to 1,053 against.

"The several proposals made by the Schenectady management of Alco before final agreement were submitted to this union's members and rejected," he said. "The final agreement was submitted to our members for ratification."

Wants Master Contract

The four Alco plants which Williams referred to in his testimony, Schenectady, Auburn, Dunkirk and Latrobe, Pa., actually have separate and different contracts, Barbieri said. Contract provisions at one plant may even be inconsistent with those at another.

Barbieri said "this very serious weakness in the bargaining position of the four separate local unions" must be corrected to equalize the working conditions of all Alco employees.

"As one local union of these four," he declared, "we shall of course request assistance of our international union officials toward the elimination of this fundamental weakness and work toward the establishment of industry-wide collective bargaining."

Barbieri said that apparently Williams

wanted "to turn back the pages of labor relations 10 years."

Negotiations Start Soon

The contract which the Schenectady steelworkers signed at the end of the strike last year expires this Mar. 21. Negotiations for the 1947 contract are to start about Feb. 21.

Senator Claude Pepper was reported as answering Williams' anti-labor tirade with the remark that any bill to curb unions also should contain provisions to break up big business into smaller units.

The Capital District CIO Council's reply to Williams said:

"The proposal is a demand that laws be enacted to stimulate competition in wage cutting. This reasoning is based on the theory that employers should engage in competition to see who can establish the worst conditions for his employees."

Book on Monopolies Gives Facts on GE

Employees of GE will find a lot to interest them in the new book, "Out of Your Pocket", a story of cartels written by Darel McConkey. The author was on the staff of the Kilgore Committee which investigated cartels and monopolies, and the forward of the book was written by Senator Harley M. Kilgore.

The part GE plays in the electric light monopoly is shown in the chapter, "Turn on the Light."

The book makes it clear that everybody has to pay financial tribute to monopolies in the extra cost of the commonplace purchases they make, for food, clothes, electric light bulbs, clocks, pots and pans, eyeglasses and even false teeth. Paper covered copies of the book are a dollar.

Conference Delegates

Members of the 301 Legislative Committee and delegates to the Capital District CIO Council were named by the Executive Board Monday as official delegates to the legislative conference which the Council will have in Albany Feb. 15. The Board urged that shop-committeemen make an effort to attend.

301 Support Voted For Teachers' Fight

A resolution pledging the support of Local 301 to the teachers' unions in their fight for a living wage for school teachers was approved Monday by the Executive Board. It was to be placed before the Committeemen's meeting the next night.

Drawn up by the Legislative Committee, the resolution approved the \$2,400 minimum pay asked by teachers' unions.

It pointed out that "teachers have long suffered from gross underpayment in the light of their great responsibilities for the welfare of our children", that their fixed salaries have been badly hit by the rising cost of living and that adequate pay is needed in justice to the teachers and for the protection of the schools.

Governor Dewey's proposal on teachers' salaries is "grossly inadequate and really evades the problem", the resolution declared.

YWCA Official Wants Closer Ties with 301

The Executive Board of Local 301 has received a letter of thanks for its interest in the industrial program of the Schenectady YWCA.

Mrs. Bessie Hunt, program director for work with industrial women at the "Y," also expressed the wish that the union and the "Y" work out "a real partnership that would mean increased wages and improved conditions of work for General Electric employees."

"I believe that the YWCA Industrial Department has a stake in the job being done by the UE, Local 301," she wrote, "and I hope that our part in that stake will increasingly be a more aggressive and realistic one."

"I hope that many union members will take their rightful place and responsibility in YWCA committees and in other community social agencies."

Recommends Policewoman

Schenectady needs a policewoman, the Executive Board of Local 301 decided at a recent meeting. It went on record in favor of such an appointment at the request of the juvenile delinquency committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

Aids Jewish Relief

The Local 301 Executive Board voted a donation of \$50 to the Schenectady United Jewish Appeal at its meeting Monday. Schenectady has a quota of \$250,000 to raise.

Teachers Remind Dewey Of Strike Possibility

A statewide conference of AFL teachers passed a resolution in Schenectady Saturday warning Governor Dewey and the Republican leaders controlling the legislature that teachers of New York state may be forced to strike to get more pay.

The Empire State Federation of Teachers took no vote on scrapping the traditional no-strike policy of the state and national unions. But its resolution mentioned several times that "strike talk" is spreading among the teachers.

St. Paul's Strike

"The teachers of St. Paul (Minn.), under extreme provocation, were forced in self defense to strike and the American Federation of Teachers voted to support them," the resolution stated.

After declaring that teachers would prefer to avoid taking drastic action, the resolution stated that responsibility for meeting the needs of the teachers rests squarely with the Governor, his Committee on State Education and the Republican legislative leaders.

Want Permanent Raises

"If they revise state aid upward and make permanent salary adjustments and educational benefits for the children, then strike talk and action will be rendered unnecessary," the resolution said.

Arthur Boehm of Schenectady is state president and also president of the Schenectady Federation of Teachers, AFL.

Both AFL and CIO teachers from all parts of the state plan a mass demonstration in Albany Lincoln's Birthday, next Wednesday. Efforts are being made to arrange for the State Teachers Association to take part too. Whether or not the state leadership of the association agrees, many local units of the association are expected to join the Albany delegation.

Gate-to-Gate Suits Now a 'Red' Plot!

The attack on portal-to-portal lawsuits would hardly be complete without a "Red" scare.

Sure enough, Congressman Fred A. Hartley, new Republican chairman of the House Labor Committee, suggested the suits were "Communist-inspired" and ought to be investigated on that grounds.

Chairman J. Parnell Thomas, Republican, chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities (sometimes called the Un-American Committee) chimed right in to back the charges.

Dance and Donations Aid March-of-Dimes

Advance sales of tickets in the shops for the Local 301 dance tomorrow (Friday) night to aid the March-of-Dimes campaign indicate a good attendance, the Activities Committee reported.

The dance will start at 9 p.m. at Turner Hall, 863 Albany, and will run to 1 a. m. Larry Audette's orchestra will play. Committeemen are selling the 65 cent tickets. Tickets can also be bought at the door. Sandwiches and coffee will be served at the dance hall.

Meanwhile, committeemen are also still collecting donations for the March-of-Dimes drive. Although the drive has closed for the rest of the city, it was extended at the GE plant because the collection forms were received late. Cash can be turned in until next Monday. The March-of-Dimes money is used to aid victims of infantile paralysis.

Washington Is Flooded With Anti-Labor Bills

Anti-labor bills are pouring into the hoppers of House and Senate at Washington, D. C. The most dangerous bills include:

Ball bill (Senate 105) banning the closed shop, the union shop and maintenance of membership, even in existing contracts.

Taft-Ball-Smith bill (Sen. 55) providing for a phony 50-day cooling-off period and depriving workers of reinstatement rights under the Wagner Act if they strike during the cooling-off period. It also would tie up unions in long and expensive court action to enforce contracts despite adequate existing methods of handling violations.

Ball Bill (Senate 133) barring any union from negotiating with employers outside same "labor marketing area". Outlaws industry-wide bargaining and national contracts.

Gwynne bill (House of Representatives 584) would kill enforcement of Wage-Hour Law, although on the surface aimed at portal-to-portal pay suits.

To Speak at Lynn

Leo Jandreau, business agent of Local 301, will address the stewards' and membership meeting of the GE local at Lynn, Mass., Monday, Feb. 17.

Company Publicity Drive Aimed Against Pay Raises

GE has launched a vast propaganda drive to sell the public, and particularly the GE workers themselves, the bill of goods that there should be no wage raises, just higher productivity and profits.

It is being done in ponderous articles picked up from other company papers, in solemn verse, in slicker articles by Hugh Crane, in newspaper ads, and in speeches by company officials which the daily papers gladly play up.

The articles are loaded with supposed facts and complicated reasoning. There is just one difficulty from the company's viewpoint: People still can see a few things for themselves — such as — industry profits are at an all-time high, prices are beyond reason, and wages are the lowest in several years in terms of what the wages will buy in clothes and groceries.

Also, a number of people have good enough memories to recall that they heard the same productivity song in the 1920's. They remember the result — prices and profits way up from 1924 to 1929, with no general wage increases — the crash that not only brought misery to workers, but also foreclosed hundreds of thousands of farmers, and put tens of thousands of small business men out of business. Of course, GE still went on making profits.

State CIO Introduces Bills on Jobless Pay

Seven State CIO bills to improve unemployment insurance were introduced into the Legislature at Albany. They would:

Reduce the waiting period in cases of strikes and lockouts to four "effective" days.

Include a day of partial employment an "effective" day.

Extend coverage to government and agricultural workers and employees of non-profit organizations, regardless of number of workers employed.

Give payments to persons incapacitated by illness.

Raise the maximum weekly benefits from \$21 to \$25, for claimants without dependents.

Increase benefit rates for employees with dependents.

Provide attorneys for appeals cases.

Redefine "suitable" employment to exclude any job not covered by unemployment insurance.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE
WORKERS OF AMERICA, CIO
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

Published by the Editorial Committee
Dwewy Brashear Ray Flanigan
William Mastriani

Editorial Office - Electrical Union News
301 Liberty St. - Schenectady, N. Y.

SCHENECTADY PRINTING CO., INC.