

AFL Local Backs Wausau Workers

A high degree of labor unity among the people of Wausau, Wis., continued to bolster Marathon Electric workers who are now nearing the 11-month mark in their bitter lockout struggle with their would-be union-buster bosses.

Although the national leadership of the IBEW-AFL has set up a scab local to try and help the bosses break the strike, the local AFL electricians have made it clear that they want no part of this operation. They have even barred the scabs from using the labor temple for meetings. In the Jan. 8 issue of Eye Opener, the UE Local newspaper, the following letter from the Wausau IBEW local is printed:

"Congratulations! Your much-deserved victory in the Industrial Commission ruling (see Take It From Here column) is most gratifying to the members of Local 378, IBEW-AFL. . . .

"Local 378 does not recognize Local 1791 IBEW (scabs) and we will not recognize them under any circumstances. . . . Local 378 will continue to give you all the support we are physically able to give. . . .

"Keep up your good spirit—continue to be good American citizens—and we sincerely hope you will be completely victorious in the end."



NEW STEWARDS. Six new stewards were sworn in at Monday's membership meeting. Pictured above are the four who took the oath at the evening session. They are Anthony Yonawitz, 84; Frank De Filippo, 227; Thomas Minkisz, 273; and D. E. Webster, 285. Below are Richard Sullivan, 49; and Armand Viger, 273, two second shift stewards who were sworn in at the afternoon session.



4 • Friday, January 23, 1953

Bulletin!

UE members in the International Harvester plant in Richmond, Ind., Tuesday crushed a UAW-CIO raiding attempt by a vote of 488 to 357 in an NLRB election.

The vote came on the heels of a vicious campaign against UE by the company, the local authorities and the CIO leadership. This campaign began during the Harvester strike and continued right up until the voting. However, a large majority of the workers weren't fooled.

Members OK Committees After Making Additions

Local 301's membership on Monday voted approval of the executive board's recommendations on the composition of 7 major committees after making several additions.

These additions including the placing of John Saccocio, 52, on the Fair Employment Practices committee, bringing the number of members on this key group to 11. In discussing the makeup of the committee, several members took the floor to emphasize the importance of carrying on a wide campaign against all forms of discrimination in the Schenectady works.

Five additions were made to the Activities committee. They were Mary Bunting, 64; R. Ciarranello, 273; Lillian Kendall, 37; Julia Mitchell, 40; and Betty Polito 269.

UE Tells Carey REAL Joint Action for Workers Possible

UE Local 301 leaders have made it clear to IUE-CIO President Jim Carey that the door is always open for joint action between the two unions in forthcoming negotiations,

providing that that action is in the interests of all General Electric workers and that it is agreed to by the UE-GE conference board which represents workers in the chain throughout the country.

This position was set forth in a

recent meeting in Albany which Carey sought through contacts in the Schenectady works. The meeting came off after a worker in the shop approached Business Agent Leo Jandreau, and told him that Carey was in the state capital waiting to meet with 301's leaders.

Jandreau contacted 301 President James Cagnetta, Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani, Attorney Leon Novak, Sergeant-at-Arms Joseph Saccocio and James White, a worker in Welded Products. This group went to Albany to meet with Carey and IUE Vice President Harry Block.

Carey devoted a good part of the meeting to his usual red-baiting, but at the same time he proposed that 301 back the CIO union in negotiating an economic package next September. Jandreau said that UE would welcome any move to benefit the workers who have been suffering from the effects of the Carey split since 1949, but he asserted that such cooperation would have to be the result of a democratic decision by the UE locals in the GE chain. He stressed that any IUE attempts to by-pass the UE's national leadership would be rebuffed. The 301 business agent cited past UE efforts to bring the two unions together in the interests of the membership as proof that our union has always stood ready to undertake genuine joint action against the company.

There can be no doubt that Carey's approach to this local was dictated by increasing pressure in his shops to get together with UE, pressure which has been strongly reinforced by the complete failure of the IUE in recent negotiations.

Local 301 Sends Oath Protest to Brownell

Local 301 will inform the new attorney-general, Herbert Brownell, of its opposition to the illegal NLRB order directing UE national officers to sign new affidavits. These affidavits have no basis in the law, and are, in effect, administrative dictates. The decision to communicate with Brownell was made by the members Monday.

UE is currently fighting these affidavits in court. The union has filed briefs with a federal judge in Washington. These briefs are now being studied by the court.

The illegal affidavit order was based on the equally illegal "presentation" of a New York grand jury. This jury, made up entirely of corporation executives, proposed that UE be decertified. The union promptly labelled the action as a pure and simple publicity stunt.

Van Der Zee on Mend

President Albert Van Der Zee of the UE-GE pensioners is recovering in Ellis Hospital following a major operation on Saturday. His condition on Wednesday was reported as "satisfactory".

On the day he was rushed to the hospital, the 73-year-old leader of retired workers was planning further steps in a campaign to force GE to restore pension cuts made when federal social security was raised by a few dollars.

Endorse Vote Plan

UE Local 301's membership voted Monday to endorse a bill now pending in Albany which would establish permanent personal registration in all cities of the state.

If the bill is enacted into law, the voter will have to register only once, and thereafter they remain eligible to vote until they change address.

CAP Vote Brings Probe

Albert Pepicelli was elected last week to represent the Campbell Avenue plant on the Executive Board. His election came in a special ballot ordered by the elections committee because of confused instructions to the stewards participating.

However, a new report by members of the elections committee brought a unanimous decision to order an investigation of the manner in which the campaign was conducted at Campbell Ave. This probe will be conducted by a sub-committee responsible to the officers and to the executive board.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 11 — No. 5

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, January 30, 1953



DISTRICT LEADERS. Pictured above are the three top officers of UE District 3 as they presided over the district council meeting in Schenectady on Saturday. They are Secretary-Treasurer Leo Jandreau, Local 301; President Lewis King; and Vice President Harold Buck, Local 331.

Alien Registration Deadline Tomorrow; Circulate Protest

With the deadline for alien registration under the vicious McCarran-Walter Act set for tomorrow, UE Local 301 shop stewards this week began the big job of circulating petitions

condemning the law in the shops. All non-citizens are required to comply with the provisions of the law by tomorrow. Those who were not registered under the 1940 Alien Registration legislation must register and be fingerprinted. Those who have registered under the 1940 measure must file address cards this week. These cards and the necessary registration materials are available at post offices.

The law also compels all non-citizens to carry identification cards setting them aside from citizens at all times. However, the vicious effects of the act are felt by citizens of foreign birth as well as non-citizens. Under the act, it is a simple matter for the attorney general to take away citizenship from naturalized persons, and then to deport them.

One of the features of the McCarran bill which has aroused the widest protest from church groups of all denominations, nationality organizations and labor unions is that it is openly racist. It treats Italians, Negroes, Eastern Europeans, West Indians and many other groups as "inferior" peoples, following closely the Nazi doctrines which so many Americans died to crush in World War II.

The petitions being circulated in the shops were voted unanimously by last week's membership meeting after many rank-and-file members rose to tell of the effects of the law on themselves and their fellow workers.

Court Rules New Affidavits Illegal in Big UE Victory

UE's contention that the National Labor Relations Board has absolutely no right to demand new affidavits from union leaders was upheld Tuesday night in a vital decision by Federal Judge Dickinson Letts.

In making his decision, the judge indicated his complete agreement with the union's position that these affidavits were entirely contrary to the law, and that they would establish a precedent for executive orders aimed at curtailing the functioning of all unions.

Specifically, the judge barred the attempt by the NLRB to force UE President Albert Fitzgerald and Director of Organization James Matles to sign new affidavits. He also ruled, in effect, that attempts by grand juries to force union leaders to affirm their signatures on the regular Taft-Hartley affidavits were illegal.

UE had maintained this position,

pointing out that the affidavits themselves carry full provisions for punishment in the case of false statements, and therefore any further affirmation is completely unnecessary.

UE national officers have signed affidavits since 1940. Through this entire period, the big corporations and their government agents have tried to lay the basis for perjury indictments by trotting out a series of labor spies, professional stoolpigeons and paid perjurers. However, all of these moves failed completely, and top government officials were forced to admit in Congressional hearings that they had no evidence against UE or its leadership.

It was because of this failure to act within the law that the companies tried to find a new gimmick to hit UE. They thought that they had discovered this gimmick when a "silk stocking" grand jury in New York issued a publicity "presentation" against UE, urging that the NLRB decertify the union.

It was on the basis of this presentation that the NLRB ground out new affidavits and threatened UE with decertification unless its officers filled them out. The union, recognizing that if the Taft-Hartley board got away with this, there would be little to prevent some corporation-dominated government agency from issuing illegal orders knocking out wage increases or directing unions to stop fighting on grievances.

UE immediately went to court, both to have the presentation wiped off the records, and to injoin the NLRB from carrying through on the affidavits.

UE-GE Meeting Set

The UE-GE conference board will meet in New York City on Feb. 7 to discuss the forthcoming economic reopening negotiations with the company.

This meeting will bring together representatives from UE-GE locals across the country. They will carry with them proposals being discussed in their shops.

Local 301 will be represented by President James Cagnetta, Business Agent Leo Jandreau and Executive Board Member Fred Pacelli.

UE Gains Partial Victory In GE Pension Revisions

As a result of company concessions announced Tuesday, UE pensioners could claim a partial victory in their drive to end company chiselling at the expense of retired workers.

However, the concessions still left the largest group of pensioners without the benefits of the social security increase voted by Congress last fall.

The General Electric announcement was worded vaguely and in a somewhat confusing manner, but the concessions seemed to boil down to the following:

1. The very small group of pensioners who retired before 1937 will have their pensions "made up" to the \$125 minimum.

2. Those who retired after 1946, who are receiving more than \$125, will have restored to them the bulk of the amounts cut off by GE when the federal social security increase was put into effect.

3. Those who retired after 1946 and who have been "made up" to \$125 monthly will not have the cuts restored.

Union and pensioners' leaders saw the GE decision as a direct response to the campaign being spearheaded by the UE-GE pensioners' organization. Just recently, Albert Van Der Zee, the president of the pensioners, wrote a letter to GE President Ralph Cordiner demanding that the company stop its pension chiselling.

Much of the movie is given over to first-hand pictures of the Korean struggle and its effects on the war-torn country.

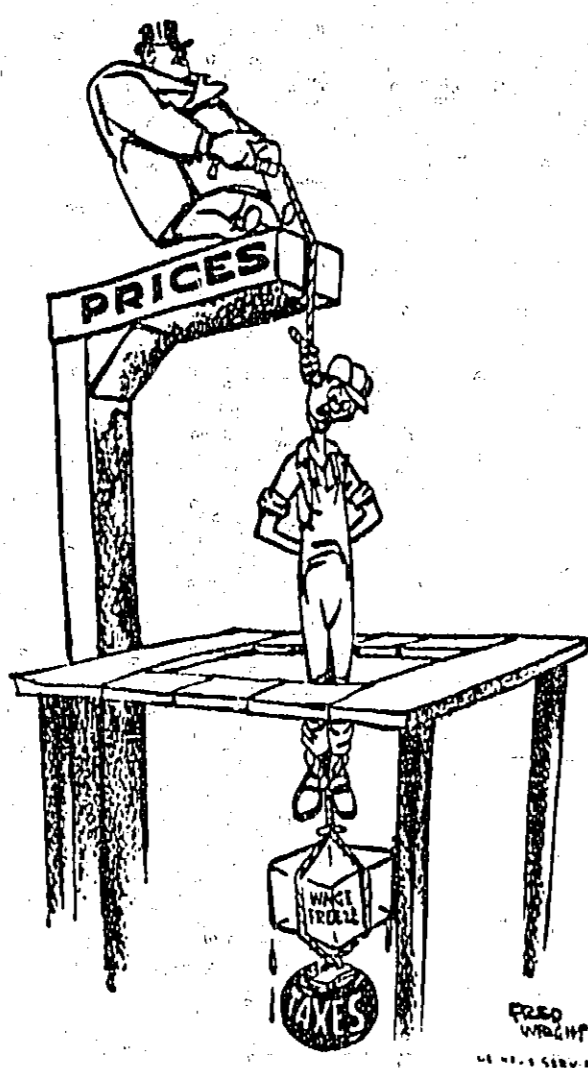
ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

Taft Amendments Would Hurt Labor

Sen. Robert Taft lost no time this week in laying the blueprint for at least the beginning of the job he and other anti-labor leaders in Congress expect to do on unions in the next few months.

Taft came up with a set of 16 proposed amendments to the Taft-Hartley law. The big business press boomed these proposals as moves to "ease" T-H, but even a quick study of the actual amendments exposed the fact that rather than softening the law, they would make it even more obnoxious to organized labor.

For example, one of Taft's proposals is to add two additional "conservative" members to the National Labor Relations Board because the NLRB is now "weighted too heavily in favor of labor." This, of course, is a fantastic distortion of the facts. Actually under the slave labor law, the NLRB has more often than not acted as a straight agency of the big corporations. What Taft wants to do now is to make sure that there are no slip-ups in carrying out the bosses' orders.



OK Youngsters' Team

A sub-committee recommendation to approve the entry of at least one baseball team sponsored by the local in next season's little league competition was approved by the executive board Monday night.

Exact details of the entry are still to be worked out.

Stewards Receive Vital Questions

Meetings with shop stewards conducted in the shops by executive board members were scheduled this week to introduce a set of 31 questions and answers prepared by the national UE and by UE District 3.

The questions attempt to deal with most of the things being asked of the stewards in the shops in connection with current attacks on our union. Among the subjects covered are magazine smears, committee hearings, the role of grand juries, the recent NLRB affidavit, action and the union's position on key issues.

The answers emphasize the fact that as long as a union goes on fighting in the interests of its membership, the big corporations and their stooges will attempt to discredit it.

All stewards will receive copies of the questions and answers at the shop meetings.

UE LOCAL 301 STEWARDS MEETING

2nd SHIFT
Monday, Feb. 2, 1953
1:00 P.M. (before work)

1st and 3rd SHIFTS
Monday, Feb. 2, 1953
7:30 P.M.

Local 301 Hall

Christensen Returned

Anders Christensen last week was returned to the job he held last year as an executive board member from 273. Christensen won the post in a special election.

In the regular elections, William McGill was voted into office. However, an investigation revealed that several stewards had not been given the opportunity to vote due to a mixup in scheduling. At McGill's suggestion, a new vote was ordered by the elections committee.

when this operator's foreman, J. Turnbull, was out sick. However, Smialek had been given permission to consult the turbine engineering people by Foreman Zille, who was filling in for Turnbull. Under these circumstances, the union demands management action to prevent repetition of this type of discrimination and coercion.

According to a list posted on 1/17, 25 machine operators were scheduled to work on the following day, Sunday. However, despite previous agreements, no movement was brought in to service these operators. The union demands that adequate help be provided from the movement group in the future.

The large lathe section group, working on the 36" and 60" lathes feel that all work performed in their section should have a \$1.45 timing rate based on skills, close tolerances and other required factors. At present there are two timing rates, \$1.30 and \$1.45. In the past few years responsibilities have been added to the jobs, creating inequities. Therefore, the union demands the \$1.45 timing rate for all work.

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Group of assemblers protests the checking of rotors by lathe operators and helpers. This operation belongs to the assemblers and the union demands it be restored to them.

Racetacks: Group of handymen under Foreman Robinson are doing work beyond their classification. Their work is strictly in the packer-shipper classification, which carries a much higher rate. The union demands proper reclassification and rate adjustment.

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.

Bldg. 11: Robert W. Everson and Charles Schelbass encountered difficulty on a winding stator job and notified Foreman Maxon that it would require extra work. The foreman told them to continue the job and he would "take care of it." However, when the job was completed, the foreman refused to pay extra work. The union demands that supervision live up to its agreement and pay extra work.

Bldg. 17: George E. Lovell was transferred from a cylindrical grinding B job to a jig grinding A job on 11/24 after brief instruction. On 12/8, he was doing the full job. On this basis, the union demands payment of the A rate of \$2.20 an hour retroactive to 12/8 in accordance with contract article X-2a-3.

Bldg. 49: C. A. Ahlala encountered automobile trouble on a trip to Constantia, N. Y., and was unable to report for work on Dec. 26. He has complete proof of the reason for his absence. Therefore, the union demands he be given the Christmas holiday pay to which he is entitled.

Bldg. 60: In 1946, his doctor informed Leon Jenkins, a chauffeur on overnight mail trucks, that he was suffering from a ruptured disc condition and would require a rest and surgery. On the basis of this, he was promised a leave of absence. However, when the Drs. Vostburgh and Gazeley of the GE medical department reported that there was nothing wrong with Jenkins, supervision refused the leave. Nevertheless, Jenkins followed his

own doctor's orders and left for a warmer climate. Recently, he was operated on for the disc condition by Dr. Gazeley. In view of these circumstances, the union demands that Jenkins' full service be restored.

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Bldg. 66: On 1/10, Theodore Moore and Joseph Wyrick were assigned by their foreman to complete a job already started by two other operators. The voucher was marked time study. Moore and Wyrick asked what they were to be paid for the job, but the foreman, instead of telling them, asserted that they could either do the job or go home. The union protests this attitude by the foreman and demands that management make it clear to him that workers are entitled to know the price of a job before they do it.

Bldg. 109: Harold Ward has twice been promised a transfer, and twice this promise has been broken. The union demands that Ward be given his transfer.

Bldg. 269: Rudolph Nedvidek was paid only on a p.w.d.w. basis for developing a job. The union demands he be given average earnings as provided for under contract article VI-57.

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District Council Deals with Attacks

Condemnation of the McCarran-Walter immigration law, protests against attacks on the union and its leadership, a denunciation of the use of the Taft-Hartley injunction against ALCO workers in Dunkirk, N. Y., and discussions of important organizational problems featured the UE District 3 Council meetings in Schenectady on Saturday. The council groups together locals representing 35,000 workers in Upstate New York.

The condemnation of the McCarran measure took the form of reports on specific actions taken by every local in the area. Messages calling for repeal of the act were sent to members of both houses of Congress from the state.

The council also blasted the pending denaturalization action against UE Director of Organization James Matles, sending a wire to this effect to Attorney-General Herbert Brownell. Turning to another attack on the union, the delegates condemned both the grand jury which called for decertification of UE and the National Labor Relations Board which yielded to the jury pressure and sought to force union leaders to sign illegal affidavits.

The district's action against the use of a T-H injunction to break the CIO steelworkers' strike in Dunkirk followed closely along the lines set forth in a resolution adopted last week by the Local 301 membership.

In the organizational discussions, considerable time was spent stressing the need for expansion of UE's anti-discrimination program in the district.

Local Committees Pick '53 Leaders

The UE Local 301 activities committee elected its officers for the coming year at an organization meeting on Tuesday.

Bucky Phillips, 285, was re-elected to the chairmanship he held last year, while Ralph Pipe, 62, was named as vice chairman. Clara Spickler, 285, was elected as secretary.

Another key committee also chose its chairman. The legislative sub-committee of the executive board picked William Stewart, 273, as its head.

LIGHT MOMENT. The delegates to the UE District 3 Council, pictured below, look amused at a remark made by Legislative Representative Clifford T. McAvoy. However, most of the council session in Schenectady on Saturday was devoted to serious business.



ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

Expose New Corporation Plot To Scuttle Compensation Law

A new threat to the entire workmen's compensation structure in New York State was discovered by UE representative at legislative hearings in Albany this week. The threat is con-

company decided to appeal it since the court costs and lawyers' fees would be far too much for the working man or woman to meet. Even in Local 301, where members have an unusual free lawyer's service provided by the union, compensation work would be seriously crippled. Attorney Leon Novak has more than a full calendar of cases now. With an "appeals court" procedure, the load would become impossible.

In effect, this would virtually destroy compensation for injured workers. All a company would have to do to block payment would be to appeal a decision to the "court." It then might well take years before a decision was handed down, and during all of this time, the injured worker would be without compensation.

In fact, most workers would have to drop the case as soon as the

Two Workers Get Class A Ratings

Two Building 73A workers have won upgrading and substantial wage increases as a result of a recent grievance settled by Local 301.

The two men, John Topley and Clarence Gelina, were hired as Class B assemblers early last year. However, they were put on jobs always done by A workers.

Within a short period of time, both workers were given normal performance on their jobs, but supervision refused to change them to the A rating. Their grievance was taken up by their shop steward, Bill Mastriani, and taken to Building 41 where management was forced to agree to the upgrading.

The workers were immediately increased from \$1.68½ an hour to \$1.73½, and put on a progression scale which will bring them up to \$1.85.

After the hearings, Novak issued a statement on the proposed scheme to curtail benefits. He asserted:

"The establishment of a court of judges to review decisions made by the compensation board would stall cases without compensation for years. In fact, the very purpose of the board would be entirely destroyed and the workmen's compensation act would, in effect, be scuttled.

"The decisions made by the board are at least made by persons who are well versed on medical issues, and who hear directly the testimony of doctors and of injured workers, while a court would have only a cold record before it.

"In addition, the proposed court would provide a bonanza for the companies which would be able to force workers to take whatever they are offered rather than what they are entitled to. The only alternative for the working man or woman would be to undertake a long, costly and hazardous legal action."

UE ON THE JOB!

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ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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