

CIO Council Urges Break With Franco

The Capital District CIO Council unanimously went on record Apr. 17 at Schenectady in favor of a "Win-the-Peace Conference resolution asking the U. S. government to break off diplomatic relations with Franco Spain and press for such action in the United Nations organization.

Delegates approved the entire report of Robert Northrop, Council representative at the Washington conference, and the report of William Mastriani, a representative of Local 301.

The two reported they had unsatisfactory interviews with Congressmen Bernard Kearney of Gloversville and Congressman William T. Byrne of Albany.

Kearney wouldn't commit himself on extending the OPA. He said he hadn't read proposed amendments to the OPA bill. (Later he voted in favor of the crippling amendment, giving all manufacturers their profits regardless of inflation dangers).

Byrne insisted on military control of the atomic bomb, said another war might break out within a year and sounded hopeless on the subject of world peace. He refused to sign the anti-Franco petition on the grounds that "Franco is the lesser of the two evils", the delegates reported.

The Council postponed electing officers until the May meeting to give Local 301, the Steelworkers and other unions a chance to name their new delegates.

National Organizer Aids Local Drive

Jerry Steinberg, field organizer of the national UE staff, has come to Schenectady to work with the Office Workers' Organizing Committee at the GE home plant.

At his first meeting with the Committee, at CIO headquarters, Steinberg



Jerry Steinberg

spoke on his experiences and problems organizing the office workers at the Pittsfield, Mass., plant. Those office workers are now UE members and protected by contract.

The Committee plans to open its own office near the GE plant, as the center of all activities in the organizing of the white collar workers. It will publish a news bulletin, "Office Digest" twice a month.

New Veterans Group Formed At Conference

A new veterans' organization, The United Negro and Allied Veterans of America, was formed at a national veterans' conference at Chicago recently.

Schenectady was represented at the meeting by Steve Zdunczyk, Local 128, Plumbers and Steamfitters, AFL; Joseph Dominelli, chairman of the Local 301 Veterans Committee; Horace Perriman and Dewey Brashear, also of Local 301.

The purpose of the group was stated as active support of the interest of veterans without regard to race, creed or color, in all problems which confront them, such as housing and unemployment.

The new organization will pay special attention to helping Negro veterans secure the rights to which they are entitled as veterans and citizens. Problems of other minority groups will also be given special help.

Kenneth C. Kennedy of Birmingham, Ala., is national commander.

Playground Drive Starts in Ward 9

A survey of available playground space in the 9th Ward has been started by the Independent Citizens Committee.

"We intend to see the playgrounds long promised but never delivered by 9th Ward councilmen and supervisors are provided for our children," the Committee announced.

How About Adding \$45,000, Mr. Mayor and Councilmen?

The City Council has decided to appropriate \$10,000 to continue the Schenectady Child Care Centers for two months.

During the two months the Council will study the Child Center program and the need for continuing it further, it was announced.

CIO and AFL speakers, parents of children using the Centers, teachers and others appeared at the Council meeting Apr. 18 to ask that \$55,000 be voted to carry on the program for 11 months.

The executive board of Local 2054,

United Steelworkers, wired Mayor Mills Ten Eyck urging the \$55,000. There are women working in Alco whose husbands are still in the armed forces, the board pointed out. These women must use the child care centers "in order to work and maintain at least some semblance of a decent standard of living."

The board of Local 301 went on record again for continuing the Centers and called on the City Council "not to be swerved from its duty to the working parents of this city by prejudiced and uninformed opinion."

The resolution called attention to some distorted figures on cost and upkeep which enemies of the Centers have used in their arguments.

For instance, people compare the cost per child in the Child Care Centers with the cost per pupil in high school, without explaining that the Child Care Centers operate 12 hours daily, six days a week for 12 months a year. The high schools operate about five and a half hours a day, five days a week for less than 10 months.

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Joins Thousands to Sign OPA Telegram Union Efforts Win Pay Raises For 917 Women



Miss Elaine Roberts signs her name to a giant telegram addressed to Congressman Bernard W. Kearney demanding that he vote to save price control. Herbert M. Merrill, secretary of the Schenectady Federation of Labor, is at the right. Also watching are, left to right, Miss Margaret Fitz Simons of the Schenectady Federation of Teachers, AFL; Robert Northrop, chairman Alco Steel Workers Veterans' Committee; Miss Marie Sweeney, shop steward, Local 301; Alexander Diamond, attorney; Miss Margaret McMaster, Schenectady Federation of Teachers; Ernest Eggleston, Carver Welfare League; Mrs. R. Rosmer Norris, American Association of the University Women, Rabbi Aaron M. Wise, Mrs. T. A. Rich, American Association of University Women.

Thanks to many months of effort on the part of the UE to stop General Electric discrimination against women workers, the company has granted 917 women employes at the Schenectady plant pay raises ranging from three cents to 16 cents an hour.

That means that approximately half the women at the Schenectady works got the pay raises, in addition to the 18½ cents won by the strike.

The increases were distributed as follows:

Number of women	Hourly increase
424	3 cents an hour
25	4 cents
386	6 cents
37	7 cents
1	8 cents
1	9 cents
14	10 cents
16	12 cents
6	13 cents
5	14 cents
2	16 cents

They add up to \$44.76 an hour or \$1790.40 a week for the whole group. That means \$93,000 extra a year.

The Union has charged for several (Continued on Page 2)

Westinghouse Strike Affects Whole Union, GE Takes Similar Stand on New Contract

The Westinghouse strike, which has entered the fourth month now, has a definite bearing on the UE contract negotiations with General Electric, Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent, reminded Schenectady workers today.

"Union contract issues are involved in the Westinghouse strike," he said.

"The Westinghouse Co. is proposing to eliminate a bonus system that was in effect for many years for day workers and to reduce the price structure for piece workers."

Jandreau pointed out that if the company succeeds in dropping these clauses from the contract the money loss to production workers would more than offset

an 18½ cent an hour strike settlement raise.

"Even though our own strike for a wage increase is won," Jandreau said, "We find the General Electric Company taking the same stand as the Westinghouse Corporation as far as piece work prices are concerned, and objecting to paying proper day rates to our people in accordance with the skill and ability required."

In New Jersey, where strikers cannot get unemployment insurance benefits, the cost of feeding the Westinghouse strikers and helping them pay rent is about \$25,000 a week, Jandreau reported.

Union Calendar

Monday, May 6 — Activities Committee.

Tuesday, May 7, 7:30 p.m.—Regular committeemen's meeting for all shifts.

Tuesday, May 14—Special membership and committeemen's meeting. Report of Constitution Committee on proposed changes.

Tuesday, May 21—Membership meeting.

Wednesday, May 22—Capital District CIO Council meeting, CIO Hall.

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Uncle Sam Helps GE Pay Pensions

Don't believe everything that million-dollar publicity machine of the GE says about the company pension plans.

"They don't tell the whole truth," Leo Jandreau, business agent of Local 301, said.

"For instance, they don't mention that their figures on average pensions include those of retired \$25,000 a year officials."

"Most factory workers will draw less than \$50 a month under the present system. And the GE will pay very little of the \$50, because the company subtracts whatever the worker gets from the federal government in the line of old age benefits."

"In many cases the company won't be paying a cent to people in the low wage group. The little they get will all come from Social Security payments."

Teen Agers Assist Drive For Ball Park

A group of boys and girls, 12 to 17 years old, will take an active part in the campaign of the 10th Ward Independent Citizens' Committee to get a ball diamond and play space at Hillhurst Park.

A group of 40 boys met Monday night at the 10th Ward CIO headquarters, 2337 Turner Ave. to make their plans to convince the City Council it's time to make good on promises for the Hillhurst Park improvements.

Three leagues were organized by the boys. They are the Euclid Tigers, with Fred Saccocio as captain; the Bellevue Mohawks, Eddie De Lorenzo, captain, and the Hillhurst Red Sox, Fred Thompson, captain.

A group of girls will meet soon. Like the boys, they will try to enlist their parents and neighbors in the campaign.

UE Board to Review GE Contract Sessions

The national GE Conference Board of the UE will meet in New York City tomorrow to discuss results of three weeks negotiations for a new GE contract.

Union-management sessions resumed last week after meetings Apr. 23 and 24 and were resumed Tuesday of this week.

The written proposals which management finally produced included the following, as Andrew Peterson, President of Local 301, reported in the union radio broadcast:

"That the rate department be given the right to reduce piece work prices whenever the worker's earnings exceed the job rate.

"That a member of the union need not be in good standing as a condition of employment.

"That a schedule of less than 40 hours a week be permitted, even if it involves a cut in pay. (The company did not propose to make up for the loss in hours by a pay increase for short schedules).

"These few examples show that the company's approach to contract negotiations this year is on a strictly commercial basis," Peterson said. "It's on a very low level."

"They intend to make each clause in the new contract pay dividends to the company even if it means loss of wages to the employees."

Union representatives have told the company, Peterson pointed out, that the GE itself would gain from a good contract which granted job security and satisfactory pay to the workers and promoted good will.

"This would be the smartest way to lower production costs," he said.

Tune In

Don't forget your union radio broadcasts. Local 301 goes on the air at 7:15 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday over WSNY, 1240 on your dial.



Andrew Peterson

Park Rally Opens Drive To Save Price Control

Labor, civic and religious leaders of the community were speakers at the "Save Price Control" rally at Crescent Park Apr. 25.

The meeting was called to launch the Schenectady drive to save OPA and to change the vote of Congressman Bernard Kearney, who represents Schenectady in the House of Representatives and who voted to cripple price enforcement.

Rabbi Aaron M. Wise warned that the destruction of price control will be felt in every country of the world and that when American food prices jump it will be impossible to relieve the hunger of Asia and Europe.

Andrew Peterson, president of Local 301; Milo Lathrop, education director of Local 301; W. A. Collar, representing the city manager; Meyer Bernstein, of the national CIO veterans' committee; the Rev. Edwin H. Wilson, Herbert M. Merrill, secretary of the Schenectady Federation of Labor; Mrs. Sadie Iovinella, and Joseph Dominelli, both of Local 301, were among the speakers. Kenneth Hallenbeck, president.

The meeting outlined plans for interesting thousands of Schenectady residents in saving OPA.

Win Pay Raises For 917 Women

(Continued from Page 1)

years that the GE unfairly established lower rates for women than for men on the same or comparable jobs. It found that in case after case the rates were not established on the basis of job content, but primarily because of the sex of the employee.

When the New York state "equal pay for equal work" law went into effect in July, 1944, the UE started legal procedure to get pay adjustments in certain jobs at the Schenectady GE plant.

After the litigation was well under way, the union finally convinced management that the increases would have to be made.

If the CIO and other groups hadn't taken political action to have the "equal pay for equal work" law passed, this victory would not have been possible, Local 301 leaders pointed out today.

UE Organizes New GE Plants

The General Electric Company is opening up plants in many places of the state in line with its decentralization program announced last year. The new plants are at Clyde, Utica, Poughkeepsie, Saugerties, Milerton and Waterford.

In each case the international UE has been on the job with organizers as quickly as possible.

A National Labor Relations Board election will be conducted at Utica tomorrow. UE has a majority of the plant.

The union has filed a petition for an NLRB election for salaried workers at the Elmira GE, as the result of a brisk organizing drive.

Emspak Urges UE Locals Enter Primary Contests

Julius Emspak, international UE secretary-treasurer, has written all GE locals on the importance of entering candidates in the primaries to pave the way for the November 1946 elections.

He pointed out that 51 Senators and Congressmen and certain other officials were of aid in winning the GE strike, but that many others harmed the strike.

"We all know the difficulties we were confronted with in the forms of injunctions, police violence, the readiness of judges to act against us, the hostility of certain political leaders and of state governors, the difficulty of getting welfare or unemployment insurance," he said.

LOADED DICE

An alert 301 representative discovered last week what we will politely call "a new departure in time studies" on the part of GE.

Employees in a shop complained that the present prices were inadequate and asked for a new time study. The Union representative, on watch while the time study was made, asked the foreman if the employees' performance was satisfactory during that period. The foreman said, "Yes."

The company rate man took his new time study figures into a private office where he compared them with an earlier time study. He took the fastest time from both studies and came out with a lower price than existed when the complaint was made!

Ready To Lead 9th Ward Political Action



Willard Kuschel, Local 301 committeeman, center, was elected chairman of the 9th Ward Independent Citizens Committee at a special meeting Apr. 21 at CIO ward headquarters, 1096 Forest Rd. Pictured with him are: Mrs. Alma De Cesare, who was named secretary, and Samuel De Cesare, vice-chairman. A complete ward committee representing every district is being organized.

Around the Plant with the Business Agents

Sanford L. Archer and Ray Flanigan, assistant business agents, have been swamped with grievance work in the weeks following the strike.

Archer reported obtaining the overtime premium for a third shift employee who was asked by management to work Sunday at straight time and to stay out Friday and Saturday.

In the mica department, the company proposed to cut costs on a regular job that was done by operators by having it done at a day work rate of 88 cents an hour. This would have been substantially below the average earnings of the group. In the end the company agreed to pay the average earnings.

The GE policy on veterans, as shown in recent cases mentioned by Archer, depends on what will benefit the company most in each set of circumstances.

The company grants super-seniority to veterans to displace long service employees, but lays off veterans at the end of a 12 months period. It refuses to give veterans credit for training received in the armed forces.

Flanigan has found the company "not living up to the seniority clause in the contract by trying to lay off on the

same old basis of showing partiality instead of observing seniority."

He has had to complain to the company about several violations of the contract provision on unsafe employment conditions.

Flanigan also handled a case involving the setting of prices too low. All elements in the work were not considered in the over-all time and rate men were deliberately leaving out necessary time in order to arrive at a low price, the union charges.

Wards 7, 13, Join Forces To Preserve Price Control

A Save Price Control Committee composed of CIO members living in the 7th and 13th Wards was set up at a meeting Apr. 26 at CIO 13th Ward headquarters, 543 Schenectady St.

The committee has two immediate aims. 1. To acquaint the voters of the two wards with the bad voting record of Congressman Bernard W. Kearney, Republican, who represents Schenectady in the House of Representatives. 2. To collect signatures for a petition to continue and strengthen price control.