

TAFT-HARTLEY INFLUENCE?

Company Thinks It Has Green Light to Censor Lunch Conversations; Local Files Grievance

The Taft-Hartley bill not only guarantees "free speech" to employers, but evidently the General Electric Co. thinks it gives management the right to tell workers what not to talk about at lunch.

A group in Bldg. 60, got together for lunch July 3, near the dart board in their shop. They talked about the carboly situation. It was the kind of lunch discussion that has gone on for years all over the plant.

Their foreman, Barney Gardener, entered the group with the assistant general foreman, Alfred La Casse, Jr. Gardener told Steward Roy Lash he was breaking the rules.

"What rules?" Lash asked.

"You're holding a meeting on company property," Gardener said.

"It's not a meeting," Lash told him.

"We're eating lunch, and while we're eating I'm explaining

the carboly case. Why don't you sit down and listen to what we're talking about."

Gardener and La Casse, Jr. sat down for a few minutes. Then Gardener told Lash to report to his office at 12:30.

When Lash went to the office, Gardener repeated the charge about his violating a rule. Fifteen minutes later Gardener went to Lash's machine and read him a warning notice. If there is another "violation" more drastic action will be taken, the warning stated.

The union has filed a grievance, charging the company with discrimination against a union representative.

CIO Council Sponsors Two Radio Programs

The Capital District CIO Council presents a radio program at 5:55 p.m. every Monday on WTRY (980 on your dial).

Every two weeks the Council broadcasts over WGLN in Glens Falls. CIO locals in Warren and Washington Counties support the program financially. You can hear a broadcast at 8 p.m. Thursday, July 17. It's 1230 on your dial.

Frank Pincheon, business agent of Local 832, UE, at Fort Edward, was on the opening program.



Roy Lash

Union Challenges Basis For Bldg. 60 Time Study

"Change of method" based on minor mechanical differences between an old and new slotter machine was given last week by Foreman James Hotaling in Bldg. 60 (Turbine) as the reason for taking complete new time studies on the machine. Steward Ray H. Fredericks had protested the time studies as the prices had been standard for several years.

In his reply, Hotaling cited the fact that in the new machine "all table feed controls are in front," and similar adjustments, as justifying new standards. Fredericks had said that if there was a genuine change of speed on certain parts of the job, he would not object to time studying those parts, but the foreman insisted the whole job must be time studied anew.

The case is being taken up formally with the works management.

Mark Lost Time On Clock Cards

Here's another reminder that committeemen must note on their clock cards all lost time (for union business) either outside or inside the plant. The union office has recently received an increasing number of claims for lost time not reported by the company.

Sometimes this lost time is not reported because the pink voucher for union work was lost in transit to the GE Payroll Department. But if the clock card is properly marked, the Payroll Department can check on the claim.

Any committeeman who has trouble with his foreman over lost time claims should report at once to the Local 301 office.

Accordion Player

There have been inquiries about the identity of the talented accordion player who helped entertain the Local 301 field day crowd. He is George Casbone of Amsterdam, a union member in the Campbell Ave. plant.

KEEP SIGNING UP UE MEMBERS

Cornell Student Assigned to 301

Joseph J. Sulli, 29, of Schuylerville, held for six months by the Nazis as a prisoner-of-war, is working in the Local 301 office for 10 weeks as part of his Cornell training. He is a student at the State School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Ithaca.



J. J. Sulli

Former Staff Sergeant Sulli holds the purple heart with oak leaf cluster and a silver star. He served in the infantry from January, 1941, until his discharge in October, 1945. He was in Europe 13 months, including six months at the German prison camp at Barth-on-the-Baltic. The Russian Army liberated him.

Probably the Un-American Committee wouldn't approve of the statement, but Sulli says he and the other GI's were mighty pleased when the Red Army arrived!

Sulli is the second student assigned by the state school to serve part of his college "internship" in the Local 301 office. Another student was here last summer. The local voted both years to cooperate with the state plan.

Correct Information On Temporary Prices

A number of members have indicated they are under the impression that temporary piece work prices automatically become standard prices after six months. Here is what the contract provision actually says:

"Temporary prices will be set on new jobs as quickly as possible. Ordinarily, standard prices will be set on jobs within six months where the manufacturing method has been developed and the operator has attained average efficiency."

As soon as the manufacturing method has been stabilized and vouchers still show temporary or special prices, it is advisable for the members and stewards to press for the proper standard price. Letting the matter drag will cause trouble later.

Cow for Strikers

The Otsego County Farmers Union gave a live beef cow to the UE strikers at the Remington Rand plant in Iliion.

Electrical Union News

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

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July 18, 1947

As 301 Members Join Iliion Pickets



Picket-line scene at the Remington Rand plant in Iliion Monday, with a delegation of 17 UE members from Schenectady on hand to help smash a phony "back-to-work" movement. It was the company's third unsuccessful strikebreaking attempt in the past three weeks.

Delegates Elected For UE Convention

Six officers of the local and Julius Emspak, a charter 301 member who is now international UE secretary-treasurer, were elected as delegates to the annual UE convention at the 301 membership meeting Tuesday night.

The Local also adopted nine resolutions, recommended by the Executive Board, to be presented on behalf of 301 to the convention Sept. 22-26 at Boston.

The group of officers chosen as delegates comprises Andrew Peterson, president; William Hodges, vice-president; Helen Quirini, secretary; Marshall White, treasurer; Leo Jandreau, business agent, and William Mastriani, chief shop steward.

Election of these seven delegates was recommended by the Board. A motion from the floor of the membership meeting to increase the number of the delegation by three was voted down.

(Continued on Page 4)

Union Wins Raises For Bldg. 69 Group

A group of Class A and Class B maintenance and repair workers in Bldg. 69 will receive an increase in rates as the result of a shop investigation by a union committee.

The company agreed to raise the top rate for Class A from \$1.40 to \$1.45 an hour and for Class B from \$1.26 to \$1.35, retroactive to June 13. Men below the top rate are to receive a one-step increase, also effective June 13. On the committee were Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani, Board Member Michael Tedisco and Shop Steward Joseph Whitbeck. Over 10 men get raises.

Grievance Session

In the absence of Business Agent Leo Jandreau, President Andrew Peterson was scheduled to go to New York City yesterday to handle a list of grievances with GE at the national level. Jandreau is recovering at his home from a recent illness.

Local In Favor Of Independent Political Slate

Schenectady Program

The 301 membership meeting Tuesday night approved an Executive Board recommendation that labor, in alliance with other groups, put forward a complete independent slate in this November's local elections.

This slate will consist chiefly of candidates already running on various party tickets, who have individually endorsed the 301-PAC program submitted to them.

As independent candidate for mayor, the meeting voted to seek "an outstanding citizen of progressive views, and one who can unite not only labor, but liberal small business and professional people as well."

The Executive Board report pointed out that a number of candidates on the Republican and Democratic tickets "were willing and anxious" to accept the 301-PAC program and that all but one of this group had sought and obtained ALP nominations.

Machines Spurn Labor
"But at the head of the ballot, for city offices," the report stated, "the machines of both parties prevented the candidates from even seeking PAC support. The Republican machine is anti-labor and evidently the Democratic machine now also rejects any labor influence in its work. The need for genuine independent action by labor was thus directly confirmed."

All the American Labor Party candidates support the PAC program, according to the Board report.

"The principal difficulty with the ALP slate is that it is not headed by a strong candidate for mayor," the Board stated. No name was proposed for the independent mayoralty candidate at the membership meeting or in the report.

Suggested Candidates
For the other candidates, however, the (Continued on Page 4)

Political Action

Here is the 301 resolution on political action.

"The Taft-Hartley law and the whole program of reaction which today threatens the liberties and living standards of the American people are the result of the working people voting along traditional party lines instead of uniting among themselves and with other groups of the common people to elect genuine representatives of the people to office.

"Since the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the working people have found themselves under ceaseless attack by virtually all Republicans in Congress, and most of the time by a majority of Democrats. President Truman has wavered between an occasional weak defense of labor's rights and vicious attacks on labor and surrender to Big Business. The Taft-Hartley bill could not have become law if he had not laid the basis for it with his use of troops against the railroad strike, and his violent attacks on the 1946 maritime strike and later the miners' strike.

"The fact is that labor cannot limit itself to choosing between candidates offered by Big Business political machines. If the working people unite politically, they can elect their own representatives, and reject the crumbs thrown them by Big Business politicians.

"This convention endorses the CIO-PAC as a means of uniting labor and working with other groups of the people, including AFL, small business and professional people, and farmers, to secure the nomination and election of a president and Congress who will represent the people instead of Big Business. We must defeat everyone in Congress who voted for the Taft-Hartley bill. We must work within the old parties to nominate people's candidates, and if necessary we must nominate such candidates outside these parties, through a third party."

You're Not Going to Smash THIS Union, Senator Taft!

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Local Gives \$1000 To Rem-Rand Strike

A donation of \$1,000 was voted to UE's Remington Rand strike at the membership meeting of Local 301 Tuesday night. The local also authorized the Executive Board to send additional aid, up to \$2,000, to the strikers before the next 301 membership meeting. The amount to be sent and the time will depend on developments of the strike.

A group of 17 members of Local 301 were on the picket line at the Rem-Rand plant Monday to help defeat the company's latest and much publicized effort to break the strike. More than 2,000 UE workers turned out that day to stop the phony "back-to-work" movement of a handful of strike breakers, led by a company agent.

James H. Rand, Jr. refuses to enter into negotiations to settle the month-old strike at five plants.

With the Taft-Hartley law in effect, he has openly returned to the notorious Mohawk-Valley formula which Remington Rand used to smash unions before the Wagner Act was passed. But his plans didn't turn out right Monday.

John O'Connor, "back-to-work" leader, made the mistake of tangling with some striking veterans. A few minutes later, with his shirt torn, he had to admit over the union's loudspeakers that "we will not go to work today."

Rem-Rand has refused to meet the UE 15 cents-an-hour increase formula on which other electrical companies settled their contract negotiations this year.

Dispute Continues On Step Rate Plan

The 301 Executive Board will act soon on taking to New York the grievance involving application of the step rate plan to piece work prices. Louis Male, assistant to the general superintendent, last week refused to apply the step rate plan to prices set by comparison, estimate, or by table. He upheld the position of A. C. Stevens that the contract provision applied only to prices involving "new figuring or time studies."

The contract provision, applicable to prices set after Apr. 30, 1946, reads:

"New incentive prices will be set on the basis of the established step rate plan for incentive workers."

The step rate plan raised some piece work timing rates from 1/2 to 4 1/2 cents an hour. The union contends that the workers are entitled to have such increases added to all prices set during the past two years, regardless of method.

Membership Rights and Control

The text of the Local 301 resolution on membership rights and control follows:

"The greatest barrage of red-baiting in American history has brought its logical result, the Taft-Hartley law to cut wages and piece work prices. Surrender to red-baiting split the labor movement and the American people so that they fell prey to reactionaries in the 1946 election. Red-baiting was the main campaign weapon of the Republicans and many Democrats in that election, and because many voters were taken in, we have the present Taft-Hartley Congress. Behind the wolf cry of "Communism" American Big Business is driving us down the road to extreme reaction, as Hitler did to the German people.

"Let us stop this drive before it is too late.

"The UE too has felt the damage of the red-baiters, who have served the purposes of our employers by spreading division and suspicion among our members, by attacks upon union officers whose only fault is that they have served loyally and well the interests of the membership and not yielded to employer pressure.

"Because the UE membership as a whole has been outstanding in its resistance to red-baiting, the UE was able to lead the labor movement in setting the wage pattern for 1947 and in winning paid holidays as a permanent part of industrial employment.

"Splitting of the membership by outside forces must be stopped.

"This Convention reaffirms the basic principle of its Constitution, that it shall be governed by its membership only, and that all members shall have equal rights and opportunities in working to defend the union and American democracy, and the right to be judged solely on their record.

"We reaffirm that members and issues shall be judged on their merits, and that the questioning of members' political beliefs shall be out of order in the conduct of union business."

Report Approved

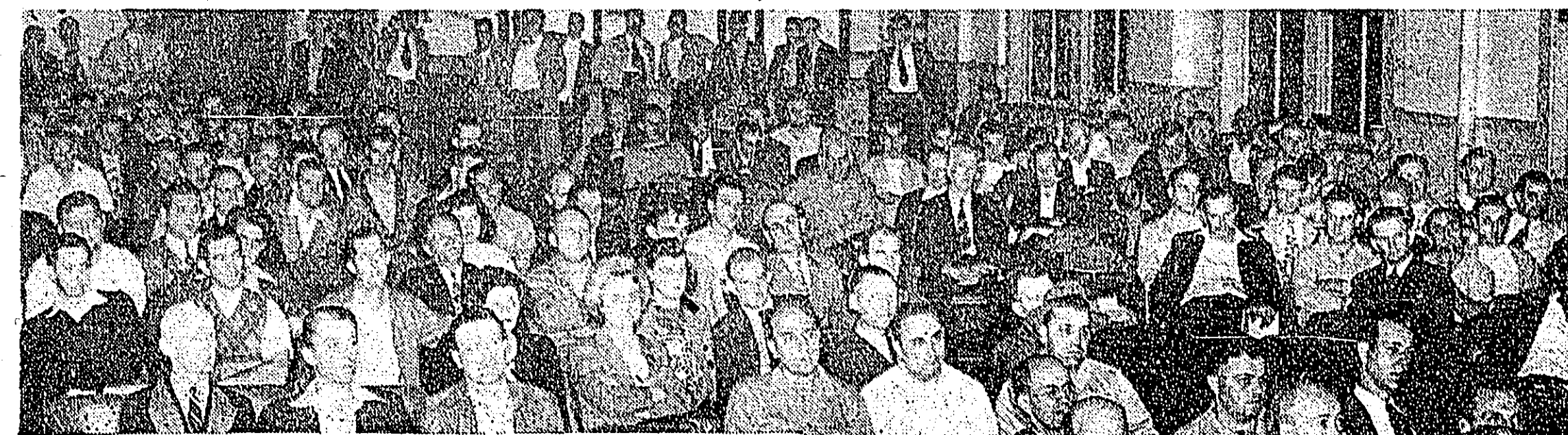
A report by President Andrew Peterson on the recent meeting of the GE Conference Board of UE was approved at the membership meeting Tuesday night.

Male offered no concession on any of the other cases taken up at the so-called Howell level last week.

301 Stewards Prepare for Job of Enforcing Contract



Treasurer Marshall White swearing in new stewards at the July 8 meeting of the Stewards' Council. The stewards, left to right, are: Anthony Rossi, Bldg. 71; Clifford J. Leger, CAP; William Pickett, Bldg. 84; Antoinette Daley, Bldg. 69, (hidden from view); E. H. Carriere, Bldg. 61; Charles E. McCabe, Bldg. 69; Adam Krawczyk, Bldg. 64; Raymond Ahl, Bldg. 50; Chester Greene, Bldg. 73; Ray Ginac, Bldg. 16; Albert Bursi, Bldg. 273; Edward Repka, Bldg. 11 and Leonard Melsert, Bldg. 59.



Local 301 stewards hear reports of problems facing UE in dealing with GE under the Taft-Hartley anti-labor law. The picture shows a section of the well attended stewards' meeting, the first meeting since the new constitutional provision of the local went into effect tightening the requirements about stewards being present at the Stewards' Council.

GE Congratulates Bridgeport Local

Reports of delegates to the GE Conference Board of UE at its meeting in New York June 30 showed that the company's vicious anti-union advertisement on the Taft-Hartley law had appeared the previous week in every city with a big GE plant, except Bridgeport.

But since then, on July 6, the advertisement did appear in Bridgeport in much modified form over the signature of the local works manager, and with these words inserted:

"Your management feels that GE Local 203 (UER & MWA) should be sincerely congratulated for making public acknowledgment of its resolution to accept the Taft-Hartley Bill as law . . . This is a commendable action and reflects the high-minded principles of good citizenship and fair play."

Local 203 is the one whose officers follow closely the red-baiting tactics of the Carey-Block group. Shortly after their election last year, these officers expelled previous officers and other members, including several founders of the union, without a trial, as "Communists."

Two of the present officers of Local 203 are scheduled to be the star witnesses next week, when the Dies-Thomas "Un-American" Committee opens its drive against UE.

\$100 a Week Voted For Baseball Strike

The Local 301 membership meeting Tuesday night voted \$100 a week to the CIO strikers against the Wilson Baseball Co. for the duration of the strike. The union on strike is Local 574, Textile Workers.

Members of 301 and of three other CIO unions, Steelworkers, Transport Workers and Paper Workers, took part in a mass picket line Tuesday at the plant. Next morning the doors were locked at the usual opening time, but about 10:30 a group of 11 supervisors showed up with a couple of employees who have worked throughout the strike.