

LOCAL 301 NEWS

TUE CIO

Vol. 1, No. 3

The Voice of GE Workers, Local 301, Schenectady, N. Y.

April 16, 1954

IUE-CIO Strength in GE Now Over 100,000 Mark!

IUE-CIO now represents more than 100,000 employees of the General Electric Company!

This was disclosed today by Business Agent Leo Jandreau who announced that he had received this up-to-date figure on IUE-CIO strength in GE in a letter from James B. Carey, President of IUE-CIO.

Carey's letter was a report on IUE-CIO organizing victories since March 15, the date Local 301 disaffiliated from UE. This report disclosed that since that time IUE-CIO has scored almost a dozen victories in elections against the UE, the IAM and non-union companies.

The account of these victories as contained in President Carey's letter follows:

Solid Vote Shaping Up

Local 301 members are behind the move to unite GE workers in IUE-CIO as they have never been behind any major action of Local 301 in its entire history.

So solid is this support that all indications point to a victory with better than 90% of the plant voting for IUE-CIO.

That was the conclusion of the entire Local 301 Executive Board at its regular meeting Monday night. With the entire Board present, the Board Members gave a complete report of the feeling in the plant.

Every Board Member indicated that his department would be behind the move by 90 to 95%.

The Board also reported on UE.

That outfit is so weak and so repudiated throughout the shop that it will actually get less votes than IAM! The Board members estimated that the maximum number of votes UE will get will be about 4%.

The IAM, it was agreed, is good for about 6%. No more!

This is not only the feeling of the Executive Board. Almost every Board Member brought along a key leader from a key section in his area to provide an additional report. They, too, agreed that the vote for IUE-CIO will be approximately 90%.

According to all the reports, the response is terrific.

This is the logical end for a decision that was solid in the beginning: First the Officers endorsed it unanimously. Then the Executive Board considered it and the vote in favor saw 37 out of 38 Board Members recommending the move. Then the Shop Stewards considered it and they voted by better than 90% in favor of joining IUE-CIO.

After that more than 12,000 members signed petitions endorsing it and voted in favor of it at meetings in the plant. The climax came when the regular membership meetings confirmed those earlier decisions in one mighty voice.

The next step is the election.

When that is held and the vote is equally overwhelming for IUE-CIO, Schenectady GE workers can reap the fruits of the victory. The harvest will be in negotiations when our Union sits down across from Boulware and speaks for more than 100,000 GE workers.

"1. Since March 15, three UE units in GE have moved into IUE-CIO. One of these, GE in Bloomfield, N. J., has 1,400 employees. Other GE shops that have voted to affiliate with IUE-CIO include the former UE Local 1227 and the GE Warehouse in Cleveland.

"2. NLRB certifications since March 15 have given IUE-CIO new locals at Vickers of Detroit, Mich., (where IUE-CIO defeated UE 1,105 to 754); Underwood Typewriter of Bridgeport, Conn., (where IUE-CIO defeated IAM); Remington Rand of San Francisco (which was previously unorganized); Montague Rod & Reel of Greenfield, Mass.; (previously unorganized); Sperry Gyroscope Company of Montreal, Canada, (previously unorganized); and R. P. Mallory Co., of Frankfort, Ind. (previously unorganized.)

"With the recent addition of the large Bloomfield local and the two smaller units, IUE-CIO now represents beyond any question more than 100,000 GE workers."

In closing, Carey wrote:

"I regret that your efforts are made more difficult and that the Schenectady situation has been complicated by headline hunters who seek to muddy the waters with false and irresponsible statements. The cause of unity is far too important to be confused and clouded by persons whose interests do not lie with the welfare of the workers in GE or in our industry."

Strength of IUE-CIO in GE Result of Support in 55 Plants

Printed below is an up-to-date list of IUE-CIO plants in the G.E. chain. Those plants give IUE-CIO strength of more than 100,000 employees.

The ten biggest IUE-CIO plants alone now represent 78,000 GE workers. They are: Schenectady . . . 20,000; Lynn . . . 18,500; Fort Wayne . . . 9,000; Pittsfield . . . 7,600; Syracuse . . . 6,300; Philadelphia . . . 5,100; Cleveland . . . 3,600; Bridgeport . . . 3,000; Louisville . . . 2,800; Tell City . . . 2,100.

While IUE-CIO represents more than 100,000 GE Workers in more than 50 plants, UE has only a handful of workers left. The total UE strength in GE is less than one-fourth of what IUE-CIO bargains for. The 55 IUE-CIO Locals in the GE chain are:

Bargaining Session Set For April 20

Bolstered by the additional strength of 20,000 Schenectady GE workers, IUE-CIO now moves into the Collective Bargaining table to make GE come across and meet our demands.

Today the IUE-CIO meets in New York with GE officials to discuss the question of GE's arbitrary firing of employees who invoke the Fifth Amendment before Congressional Committees. (This was one of the important points discussed by Carey in his original exchange of letters with Local 301, which paved the way for unity in GE.)

Next Tuesday IUE-CIO opens negotiations with GE by presenting our demands for a new Contract. Heading the list is a substantial general wage increase.

True to the pledge for full representation for our Local in IUE-CIO, a 301 representative will attend these negotiations. In commenting on the negotiations, Business Agent Jandreau said:

"This year will be the first time since 1948 that a block of 100,000 GE workers have sat down across the table from Boulware. He won't like it, and I know he'll fight us just as hard as ever. But now he won't be able to spurn our demands the way he has in the past five years, so we ought to be able to hammer out some real gains for our members."

1. Alameda, Calif.
2. Anniston, Alabama
3. Auburn, New York
4. Bridgeport, Conn. (2 Locals)
5. Bridgeville, Pa.
6. Bucyrus, Ohio
7. Cambridge, Mass.
8. Charleston, W. Va.
9. Cleveland, Ohio
10. Clifton, N. J.
11. Coburg, Ontario
12. DeKalb, Illinois
13. Euclid, Ohio
14. Everett, Mass.
15. Fort Wayne, Ind.
16. Holyoke, Mass.
17. Huntingburg, Ind.
18. Irvington, N. J.
19. Johnstown, Pa.
20. Linton, Ind.
21. Long Beach, Calif.
22. Long Island City, N. Y.
23. Los Angeles, Calif.
24. Louisville, Ky.
25. Lynn, Mass.
26. Milwaukee, Wis.
27. Montreal, Quebec
28. Lachine, Quebec
29. New Kensington, Pa.
30. Newark, N. J.
31. New York, N. Y.
32. Oakland, Calif.
33. Oakville, Ontario
34. Peterborough, Ontario
35. Philadelphia, Pa. (2 Locals)
36. Pittsburgh, Pa. (2 Locals)
37. Pittsfield, Mass. (2 Locals)
38. Providence, R. I.
39. Quebec City, Quebec
40. Schenectady, N. Y. (Main Plant)
41. Schenectady, N. Y. (Knolls 2)
42. Schenectady, N. Y. (Maqua)
43. Seattle, Wash.
44. Springfield, N. J.
45. Syracuse, N. Y.
46. Tell City, Ind.
47. Toronto, Ontario
48. Trenton, N. J.
49. Wabash, Ind.
50. Warren, Ohio
51. Waterford, N. Y.
52. Youngstown, Ohio

IAM Can Do Nothing For GE Workers

In a leaflet issued this week, IAM exposed its complete ignorance of GE.

It claimed to have support in "seven departments." Then it proceeded to name the same department five times. This is due to the fact that IAM isn't familiar with the way GE is run anywhere.

At the rate it is learning, it will be another 20 years before IAM even knows where GE workers work.

In a desperate attempt to make a dent in the united front of GE workers, IAM is also peddling outright lies. Examples:

1. "Reasonable dues . . ." it says. But it does not mention that you would have to send \$1.30 off to the International. Therefore, in order to maintain the present rate of operations in Local 301, the members would have to pay at least \$3.30. That would mean an increase of at least 30c a month.
2. "Strike and Death Benefits . . ." it says. But it fails to mention that the maximum death benefit is \$50 "after three years of continuous membership" and only \$300 "after 20 years of continuous membership." That wouldn't even pay the cost of a decent funeral! And as for strike benefits, IAM can't show a single place where its members ever collected.
3. "You elect officers . . ." it says. The fact is, however, that IAM tells you who you can elect and who you can't. That is because the IAM Constitution is rigged up by small craft units who dominate that outfit.

5 Petitions In GE Shops

IUE-CIO now has five petitions pending for NLRB elections in GE plants. They are:

1. Erie, Pa.
2. Bloomfield, N. J.
3. Newark, N. J.
4. Cincinnati, O.
5. Schenectady

All are UE shops where the members are sick and tired of UE's failure in the past five years.

UE Enters Plea Of Bankruptcy

The UE is so hard up it has taken to "designating" certain GE workers as "Executive Board members of UE." This is unconstitutional, as UE knows. Also, it is not recognized by the company as a proper basis for representation.

Still UE does it. It can't do anything else, what with no support in the shop!



Big Deal!

Last Tuesday morning UE called a Stewards Meeting. It was supposed to be a big deal—Matles coming in, and all!

Six "stewards" showed up out of the entire plant. One of them immediately denounced UE after he asked Matles if the UE would change its Constitution to prevent Communists from holding office.

Matles said "No", and then there were five!

UE Pollutes Basic Idea Of Seniority

In Local 301, our Seniority system was developed to protect the Stewards from the Company. It was never intended to be used to protect Stewards from the membership.

However, the outsiders are so bankrupt that they are corrupting this principle in an attempt to win some sort of following in the shop.

That was the case this week in Industrial Control, Bldg. 69, General Purpose.

There is one UE supporter in the entire department — Frances Tallman. She is the shortest-service person in the group. A lay-off is scheduled and she is to be bumped. The people in her department unanimously petitioned to recall her as a Steward.

But suddenly UE popped up and claimed that Frances was a UE steward. Then it invoked the super-seniority to protect her from the membership!

As a result, Bldg. 69 is in turmoil over this deliberate disruption by UE. But UE is sticking firm to its anti-union position using Seniority to protect a Steward from the membership!

How bankrupt can you get?

Frantic for Time, UE Stalls Again

UE is again trying to stall the election.

In a last minute appeal to the NLRB in Washington, UE Attorney David Scribner asked that the Board "reopen all NLRB hearings."

Scribner knows that the hearings lasted longer than they should have anyway. But he also knows that UE is headed for one of the worst shellackings in its entire history, and he is frantically fighting for time.

Scribner begged the NLRB to extend the deadline for appeals to May 3. Tomorrow, April 17, is the deadline for appeals that was set when the hearings ended, and that is a week longer than it should have been.

Local 301 is vigorously opposing this additional stall, because more than enough time has already been granted UE and any additional delay only plays further into the hands of the company.



301 Keeps Building Up Its Record

In spite of the advantages the company is taking of UE's stalling and confusion, Local 301 is staying on the job and continuing to win for the people. And—although it means working twice as hard to make up for the UE disruption—Local 301 is maintaining its successful record of the past.

Treasurer Joe Whitbeck is working full-time on the Placement Committee. He cites the following cases as examples of the way Local 301 is continuing to build on its record of winning for GE workers:

Fred Maxwell, Bldg. 273, offered only Common Labor, placed on chipping job.

Helen Kasper, Bldg. 269, offered nothing in Division and only a Punch Press job by Bldg. 1. Placed satisfactorily in Office Cleaning Dept.

Frank Bruo, Bldg. 29, over 25 years service, offered only piece work jobs, wanted day work. Placed on day work job in Bldg. 53.

Edward Berhaupt, Bldg. 84, offered nothing in Division or by Bldg. 1. Placed on job in Division.

Mary Zaccaro, Bldg. 2, short service, offered nothing. Placed on part time cleaning job.

M. Baringer, Bldg. 10-C, no offers, placed on job in Office Service Dept.

Raymond Peacock, Bldg. 24, received notice of layoff and offered job at 24c cut. Layoff rescinded.

Edith Morinelli, Bldg. 269, received notice of layoff—layoff rescinded.

Grace VanDenburgh, Bldg. 269, received notice of layoff—layoff rescinded.

Sid's Sideshow

Last week we reported there were two jobs unfilled in the "union" operating at 201 1/2 Broadway. Now it is apparent only one position remains—that of Chief Steward. The "business agent" post has been taken over by Sid Friedlander—under cover, of course!

Forceful Action Saves CAP Job

Gerald M. Maney, Campbell Avenue Race Track, has his job back today thanks to the efforts of Local 301.

Brother Maney was fired by the company after being unfortunately involved in an incident in Albany. The company fired him arbitrarily without knowing the entire story.

Brother Maney went to his Shop Steward and then to the Local 301 Office where he designated President James Cagnetta to handle his case.

Cagnetta immediately took up the case and demanded a meeting with management. After presenting the case Cagnetta insisted the company re-hire Maney. As a result, Brother Maney—like many other GE workers—has his job, thanks to Local 301.

Stewards Still Settling Cases

The UE outsiders are still interfering.

They are still disrupting affairs . . . trying to foul up the grievance procedure . . . trying to mess up seniority . . . and trying to look like a Union.

Despite this harassment and interference, Local 301 is continuing to do the job of representing GE workers that it has done for 17 years. The people realize who can produce for them and who can only spout hot air. UE is spouting; Local 301 is producing.

So the people continue to designate the elected Local 301 Shop Stewards to handle their grievances in the shop. And if the grievance isn't settled there, they take the case to a Local 301 Executive Board member, who was also elected to do the job, and he takes it into Building 41.

And in cases where management takes advantage of this UE interference and disruption, Local 301 is keeping tabs. We shall insist on adjustments for any such temporary advantages when the election is over and the outside disrupters are out of our hair.

301 On the Job

Airport: The second shift group under Steward E. Baranuskas demand equalization of overtime according to contract.

Bldg. 11: D. LaFountain is classified as a Varnish & Compound Dip Operator. Although he has a full time job, supervision is attempting to assign to him work formerly

done in Bldg. 18. Union demands this situation be corrected.

Bldg. 107: Bernard Dare in Steward J. Christopher's group is regularly performing the duties of Special Labor. Union demands proper reclassification and rate adjustment.

Bldg. 273: Shop Steward I. Sahr protests the issuing of a poor progress report for work not performed by the individual involved. Union demands record be corrected.

Bldg. 68: Group under Steward H. Hall demand increase in prices on jobs 6896-251 and 8334200 as the present prices offered are entirely inadequate.

IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 NEWS
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301,
REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY
GE WORKERS

Published by the Editorial Committee
President.....James J. Cagnetta
Vice President.....Joseph Alois
Treasurer.....Joseph Whitbeck
Recording Secretary.....Miles Moon
Ass't Recording Secretary.....Rudy Rissland
Chief Shop Steward.....William Mastriani
Business Agent.....Leo Jandreau
301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY 5, N. Y.