



VETERAN SPEAKS. Andy Peterson, who was president of UE Local 301 during the 1946 strike, takes the microphone to speak at Monday's membership meeting. The veteran union leader drew enthusiastic applause as he rose to speak.

Office Workers Make Big Gains Under UE Contracts

UE has won major improvements in wages and working conditions for office and salaried workers in the Westinghouse and General Electric chains throughout the country.

A survey made by the union shows that most workers in these groups are under union contracts, with the most important exception being the unorganized men and women in Schenectady.

For the salaried workers, unionization has meant the end of sub-standard conditions and universal favoritism. Just recently GE draftsmen in the Fort Edward and Hudson Falls plants were brought into UE. As a result they now have a grievance machinery which they are using to the fullest extent. A supplement which is aimed

at bringing these workers the full benefits of UE representation is now being negotiated.

Throughout the country similar situations exist in organized shops. Office and salaried workers have gotten exact job classifications, which has meant upgrading and salary increases for thousands of them. Whereas formerly management and supervision were able to play one worker against another, to upgrade, fire and layoff completely outside of seniority and to keep wages down, now the office groups have full seniority protections.

Right now an office worker in Schenectady who has a grievance can only depend on the good will of supervision to settle it. Since the beef is usually against this same supervision, it's not much to depend on.

UE Local 301 stewards have already received many union applications signed by Schenectady office and salaried workers. They have been authorized to take any such applications so that if the demand is big enough, full organization of the groups can be undertaken.

Expose Crude Frameup Of Harvester Striker

The real story behind the frame-up on a murder charge of Harold Ward, union leader of striking Intl. Harvester workers, is told in a 29-page document issued here by the Natl. Committee to Free Harold Ward.

Ward, financial secretary of McCormick Local 108, United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers, is being held in Cook county jail on a charge of murdering William Foster, a Harvester non-striker. Foster was beaten near his home, five miles from the plant where he worked.

The document points out that "the underlying motives for pursuing such a frameup go far beyond the strike itself. Any champion of a better life for workers earns a bitter and unrelenting opposition from a powerful corporation."

The exposure shows how the murder of a Harvester worker and the indictment of Ward came after the company had tried unsuccessfully for six weeks to break the strike. It shows how the Chicago police force lent itself to the frameup plot. It recalls a statement in the Kefauver crime report which declared: "Everywhere we went the committee found a certain amount of police immorality, but in Chicago the rawness of this sort of thing was particularly shocking."

The case history shows some of the discrepancies already visible in the frameup and points out the conflicting statements about the time, place and circumstances surrounding the murder of Foster.

Friday, November 7, 1952

Strong Fight on Anti-Union Laws Vital in New Congress

With a strongly anti-labor Congress likely to take over national legislation next year, a renewed fight by the entire labor movement against Taft-Hartley and other proposals to cripple unions loomed as more vital than ever.

As this issue of the EU News went to press, it appeared likely that the Republican Party would control both houses of Congress. This would probably mean that the post of chairman of the Senate Labor Committee would go to Sen. Robert Taft, the senior GOP member of the group.

In this position, Taft would have a big say on all labor legislation. Undoubtedly this would produce more schemes to bust organized labor by the man who co-authored the Taft-Hartley law. Labor's only hope to prevent passage of such laws is through a united fight for repeal of Taft-Hartley, as well as for repeal of the other measures aimed at limiting the rights of labor and of the entire American people, such as the Smith Act, the McCarran Act and the McCarran-Walter immigration law.

UE will continue to press for legislation in the interests of the American working men and women regardless of who controls the Congress. The union's position of fighting for the economic well-being of labor will not be changed by the election. If the CIO and AFL realize that the rights of organized labor can not be protected

by tying unions to political machines of any party, an effective, united fight against the wage freeze and against union-busting laws can be developed successfully.



ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

Facts of Union Life We Must Face

Sometime within the next few days you will be approached by your shop steward and asked to contribute to help support the 40,000 UE members now on strike against International Harvester, General Cable and several other corporations.

Never before has any member of this union been called on to make a more important contribution to his or her own future. The economic well-being of each of us is tied unbreakably to the success or failure of the strikes now in progress. This simple fact can not be stressed too often.

UE's national organization has poured out tens of thousands of dollars a week to support these strikes in the past few weeks. Despite the Cleveland convention pledge of \$1 per member per month for the duration of the strikes, only a small amount of this money has come back to the union as contributions from the local membership.

This can't continue for very long without bringing about a serious financial crisis for our union, a crisis which will weaken us in the face of increasing company attacks and more splitting raids. The job must be done by the men and women of UE Local 301 and their union brothers and sisters across the country.

The Harvester strikers don't ask for much. Although they are not receiving and will not receive any unemployment insurance, the only aid they are getting is in the form of a

weekly \$5 food basket for two persons, with an additional \$1 thrown in for each dependent.

In exchange for this, they have given up 12 weeks of wages; they have fought against vicious police frameups and company and CIO strikebreaking efforts; they have withstood violence and intimidations, injunctions and evictions from their homes.

Let's not forget for one moment that this gallant struggle is being waged for one reason and one reason alone—the profit-swollen International Harvester Corporation tried to cut wages and destroy all contract conditions won by Harvester workers over the years.

If UE loses in Harvester, then it is an almost absolute certainty that General Electric will try to follow the same path next year. A defeat now would mean that GE would come back next fall with dozens of demands to cut wages, end seniority protections, establish piece work ceilings way below current earnings and cripple the grievance machinery—all things demanded by Harvester.

But we can prevent this by giving the right kind of support to the strikers. A dollar a month is not much to ask. In exchange for your contributions, you will be given a strike support card to carry. Keep it with you at all times. Make sure everyone you're working with has one. This is everybody's fight!

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 10 -- No. 45

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, November 14, 1952

Join the "\$5 Club"

A special "\$5 Club" made up of UE Local 301 members who have contributed \$5 or more to help the International Harvester and General Cable strikers is springing up throughout the works.

Names of the men and women who qualify for the club will be printed in the EU News every week. The club got off to a flying start Monday when all members of the local executive board voted to turn their \$5 contributions to the defense fund over to the strike collection.

Officer Elections Set for December 4 & 5 With Stewards Ballot on December 15 & 16

UE Local 301 will ballot for its 1953 officers on Thursday, Dec. 4, and Friday, Dec. 5, according to a decision made last Friday by the union's elections committee. The committee also set up procedures to be followed in these elections and in the voting for shop stewards, which was scheduled for Monday, Dec. 15 and Tuesday, Dec. 16.

All voting will be by means of secret ballots as required under the union constitution. The election of officers will be conducted on voting machines borrowed from the city and set up in the union hall. Polls will be open continuously from noon on Thursday until 6 p.m. on Friday, a stretch of 30 hours. All of the voting will be supervised by two custodians appointed by the city elections commission.

At stake in the Thursday and Friday voting will be seven key offices and five other posts. With the deadline for declarations past, it appears as if the contest for the local presidency will be a three-cornered race. President James Cognetta will be opposed in his bid for reelection by Devey Bra-shear of Building 81, and John Clune of 273.

Two hats are in the ring for the vice presidency, those of Joe Alois and Bill McColl, both of 273. The present vice president, Roy Schaf-

(Continued on Page 4)

Cards to Identify Strike Supporters in 301 Drive

Special blue cards to identify all those who have made contributions to the fund being raised to support the International Harvester and General Cable strikers have been prepared by UE Local 301.

The cards indicating the amount of the donation will be given out each time a man or woman gives money to the shop steward. In addition, the contributors will get regular receipts.

The card system was devised by the local because of the tremendous importance of the strikes to the future of GE workers. The union is seeking to get as close to its quota of \$1 per member per month as possible. This quota was fixed by the union's national convention.

Thus far, Local 301 has contributed \$4,000 to the strike fund since Oct. 1. Of this, \$2,500 is an advance to tide the strikers over in the current emergency.

UE **Strike Support FOR VICTORY!**
General Cable—Since June 1
Local 301 Harvester—Since Aug. 22
Fight to Save WAGES AND CONTRACT

GOT YOUR CARD? Pictured above is the Strike Support contribution card which will be issued to all UE Local 301 members who contribute to the collection being taken up to aid 40,000 UE members on strike.

Honor Roll

The following Local 301 members have joined the "85 Club" by turning over the money they contributed to the defense fund to aid UE strikers who are fighting for our union on the picket lines:

Vince Di Lorenzo, Bldg. 73
William Linka, 273
Anthony Villano, Knolls
P. Rosa, 60
William Stewart, 273
F. Hildreth, 57
A. Christiansen, 273
Sadie Iovinelli, 81
J. Parisi, 89
John Oberlies, 16
L. Cebo, 273
E. Marine, 57
R. Slocum, 18
R. Vittalo, 273
John Saccocio, 66
Sam De Cesare
Ella De Massio, 46
W. Templeton, 63
Fred Paecelli, 46
Sam Scott, 285
Sid Friedlander, 17
Miles Moon, 85
H. McClean, Racetrack
Joe Alois, 273
H. Simpson, 28
Ed La Bombard, 97
Rossiter Lighthall, 46
Vince Palazke, 60
F. D'Amico, 40
R. Schaffer, 60
J. Cognetta, 52
William Mastriani, 73A
Helen Quirino, 81
Leo Jandreau, office
S. Pita, office
M. White, office
Fred Sheehan, office
Leon Novak, office

Plan to Hold Big Xmas Party in Mt. Pleasant

UE Local 301's Christmas Party will be held at Mt. Pleasant High School in order to assure that a maximum number of union members and their children will be accommodated.

An exact date has not yet been selected for the big affair, nor has the method of distributing tickets been completely worked out. However, aside from these points, almost all plans have been completed by the activities committee.

The membership last week appropriated \$2,500 for the party. Cartons of toys have already started piling up in the union hall. These toys will be used as gifts which will be given to every child who attends.

The Christmas affair will climax a year of highly successful work by the activities committee.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

UE LOCAL 301 STEWARDS MEETING

2nd SHIFT
Monday, Nov. 17, 1952
1:00 P.M. (before work)

1st and 3rd SHIFTS
Monday, Nov. 17, 1952
7:30 P.M.

Local 301 Hall
Erie Blvd. & Liberty St.

Strikers' Sacrifice

If you're making \$2 an hour one day of strike would cost you \$16 in wages. International Harvester strikers have been on the picket lines for 12 weeks.

Have you met your quota of \$1 a month to help the strikers who are fighting to save their wages and contract—and to protect ours?

UE ON THE JOB!

Bldg. 10C: A group of women whose job classification calls for simple drill press work have a timing rate of 60c and an AER of \$1.40. They are now doing work which requires extremely close tolerances and which therefore qualifies them for a 75c timing rate and an AER of \$1.60½. The union demands the 3 step increase necessary to correct this inequity.

Bldg. 14: Frank W. Horton, B. L. Glaser, C. E. Kazmierczyk and R. Hertzfel demand investigation and correction of the failure of supervision to grant them merit increases when they were justified, the failure to pay them for the performance of work in a classification higher than they are rated for, and the failure to reevaluate their classifications to conform with the general inspection duties they are performing.

Bldg. 28: M. H. Frisconi is classified as a B intermediate cutter grinder. His work includes grinding all types of cutters, grinding irregular shapes, angles and contours of all descriptions and working from blueprints while maintaining very close tolerances. This is strictly A work and the union demands proper reclassification and rate adjustment.

Bldg. 49: A 3rd shift welders group protests the hiring of a new man on 1st shift although they had requested transfers to days. One of the eligible members of this group should have been transferred and the union demands that this be done in accordance with the contract and past practice.

James Swisher is classified as a C mechanical inspector with a rate of \$1.87½. For the past 7 months, he has devoted 75% of his time to

GE, Westinghouse Compete For Pension Steal Honors

The big corporations work closely together, even when it comes to chiseling a few dollars from the meager pensions of elderly, retired workers.

This fact became obvious this week when it was revealed that UE members in the Westinghouse chain are fighting exactly the same kind of pension steal as has been perpetrated by General Electric.

Both giants of the electrical industry saw fit to cut the \$5 to \$8 monthly increase recently granted under social security from the pensions being paid to retired workers. Only difference is that pensions in Westinghouse are lower than GE's to begin with.

In both cases the corporations are saving what to them is a piddling amount, but which is to the individual retired worker trying to scrape along in these days of high prices an important sum.

Here in Schenectady, the pensioners are reportedly organizing for an all-out fight with two objectives. The first is to force the

company to restore the cut, and the second is to outlaw this kind of chiseling in the future. The national and local unions have pledged full support for the old-timers.

The problem of obtaining a law which will forbid companies to cut pensions because of increases in social security is one which will occupy an important position in the UE legislative program for the 1953 congressional session. It is felt that even many anti-labor congressmen will be forced to line up behind such a proposal because of the strong sentiment existing on behalf of retired men and women in their districts.

Rep. Bernard Kearney, who represents the Schenectady area in Congress, has already made a vague promise to give sympathetic consideration to the problem.

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.

These jobs belong to general assembly. The union demands this reclassification and the assignment of a general instrument assembler to do the work.

Bldg. 50: John Wager protests against the failure of supervision to give him proper consideration for B packing work when he was transferred from 81 because of lack of work. He was considered only for C work despite his long service in the B category as well as in A. At the present time there are very short service people whom Wager could replace without involving other long service workers. The union demands fair treatment for this worker.

Bldg. 52: Rowland G. Brown is a B material mover. His work includes maintaining all records and directing the activities of battery truck operators. These, along with other of his activities, qualify him for the A classification. The union demands that Brown be upgraded and given the \$1.65 hourly rate to which he is entitled.

Bldg. 60: An A assembler has been assigned to do major repairs and trouble shooting on the 3" 50 train and elevation gear train jobs.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA (UE)

Local 301
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Vice-President—Roy Schaffer
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301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY 5, N. Y.

The TG 190 main valve unit is being converted from day work to piece work. This job has been developed for the past 2 years with all of the defects taken out. Special prices are being issued and the steward has not been notified of the piece work conversion. The union demands that proper timing rates be negotiated before any prices are issued.

W. R. Willingham is classified as a welder-hand arc, with a \$1.82 job rate. However he is required to do all around welding work and deserves the classification of special welder, with a rate of \$1.90. The union demands proper classification and rate adjustment.

Bldg. 66: J. B. Novak demands an increase in price on his job in line with the rate on a similar job for which a time study was made.

John Saccocio is protesting the attitude of supervision in regard to payment for extra work to which he is entitled. On his oil deflector job, Saccocio was asked to build up a part to drawing requirements in order to make up for defects in machining. At that time, he was asked to further build up work. He is entitled to payment of \$2.00 for this extra build up. The union demands that this payment be made.

Changes in planning have been made in sub-assemblies of buses in violation of contract article VI-5-d. Group demands payment under old method until proper adjustments are made.

Friday, November 14, 1952



Scranton, Pa.—UE Local 122 has administered one of the most crushing defeats in NLRB election history to the CIO furniture workers, who were raiding the Harris Hub Bed and Spring Co. The vote for UE over the CIO union was 149 to 9. Another 43 votes were cast for no union. These ballots resulted from a campaign by the United Mine Workers District 50, which assigned 5 organizers to build up the no union vote as an expression of support for the UMW. However, even counting these votes, the UE victory ratio over its combined opposition was 3 to 1.

San Francisco—The AFL Sailors Union of the Pacific has started a new strike against west coast shippers in protest over the Wage Stabilization Board's long delay in approving a contract won in July after a 62-day strike. The pending pact provides a \$4.50 monthly wage increase and substantial fringe improvements.

Buffalo—UE Local 326 has won a new one-year contract from the Buffalo Wire Works Co. providing 10c hourly wage increase. The contract also includes a non-discrimination clause and a third week's vacation for employees with 15 years of service.

New York—More than 300 members of the AFL flight engineers union ended their strike against United Airlines this week following personal intervention by President Truman. The chief executive set up a fact finding board to investigate the union's demands for a wage scale pegged to the size of planes they fly. The pilots already have this arrangement.

Ashtabula, Ohio—UE Local 733 was celebrating this week following the hiring of two Negro workers at the Ward Products Co., which was previously lily-white. The hiring came as the result of an intensive campaign by the union, and was regarded as the first step in a drive for completely fair employment practices in the area.

Pittsburgh—Speculation on who would succeed Philip Murray as president of the CIO mounted throughout the week following the death of the 66-year-old labor leader. Among those mentioned most prominently were UAW President Walter Reuther, CIO Vice President Alan Haywood, and Steelworkers Vice President David MacDonald.

Friday, November 14, 1952

They Give \$14 a Day

If you're making \$1.75 an hour, one day of strike would cost you \$14 in wages. International Harvester strikers have been on the picket lines for 12 weeks.

Have you met your quota of \$1 a month to help the strikers who are fighting to save their wages and contract—and to protect ours?

Labor Foe Martin At New House Helm

Republican control of Congress in the next session will mean that the key job of Speaker of the House of Representatives will return to Joseph Martin of Massachusetts, a man who has spent most of his legislative career seeking new restrictions on organized labor.

Martin will make a good team mate for Sen. Robert Taft, who is slated to head the upper chamber's labor committee. In fact, it was under just this combination that the Taft-Hartley law passed the GOP-controlled 80th Congress in 1947.

The return of these two foes of the American working people will mean tough sledding ahead for all unions, especially if they fail to develop a desperately needed program of united political action. Such a program could stem the tide of reaction, and continue the fight to repeal T-H.

Pat Donato's Son Killed in Crash

The Local 301 executive board Monday sent a wreath in an expression of its deepest sympathy to Board Member Pat Donato and Mrs. Donato on the tragic death of their 22-year-old son, Pfc. Anthony Donato.

Young Donato, who had been married only two weeks, was killed in an automobile accident early Sunday morning. He was home on leave from the Air Force at the time of the fatal accident.



DOING THEIR PART. The UE Local 301 executive board met in a special session Monday to discuss aid for UE strikers, particularly those on the picket lines around General Cable and International Harvester plants. The board members showed their recognition of the importance of the strike collection by unanimously voting to turn over their \$5 contributions from the defense fund to the strike collection.

Nixon Urges Pressure on GE To Assure WSB Increase OK

A petition campaign in the locals to pressure the Wage Stabilization Board to end its stalling on approval of the wage increase negotiated between UE and GE was urged this week by Russ Nixon, Washington representative of the union.

Nixon emphasized that the most effective form of pressure would be that originating in the shops and aimed at the company. He pointed out that GE pressure on the WSB for a quick decision on the boost would assure such action.

The UE legislative expert stressed that the anti-labor character of the wage freeze apparatus made approval of the increase by no means automatic even though the negotiated increases fall within in previously established and approved patterns.

He declared that prompt and widespread action was the only guarantee that UE members in GE, Westinghouse and Sylvania would get their increases before Christmas. As negotiated, the hikes are effective on Sept. 15, with retroactive pay being given to all workers when WSB approval is handed down.

The text of the Nixon communication to UE locals follows:

The GE, Westinghouse and Sylvania WSB cases for approval of the annual productivity increase of 2½ percent in effect will be handled as a single package by the WSB. The GE case which was filed first will be the lead case which when determined will virtually automatically result in approval of the Westinghouse and Sylvania cases. All of the employees in these three chains are involved, totalling perhaps 300,000 persons.

The date of the original filing of the GE petition in Washington is September 9th and that should be considered the effective date for initiation of consideration by WSB of the issue involved in the cases of all three chains.

I checked the Wage Stabilization Board Friday, November 7, and was informed that the GE, Westinghouse and Sylvania cases were being handled in an entirely routine fashion. They are now awaiting analysis by the Review and Analysis Division of the WSB.

These cases will be analyzed on the basis of chronological order of all other cases, with all such cases predating the GE case to be handled first regardless of size or importance. As of today there are numerous cases to be analyzed in the particular WSB Analysis Section handling the GE, Westinghouse and Sylvania cases. Although there is virtually no actual analysis required in these cases in view of the simplicity of the issue, I have been informed by Mr. Vernoff, the analyst in charge at WSB, that there is no guarantee as to how soon these cases will be analyzed.

As matters now stand, after analysis the cases would be sent to the Review and Appeals Committee, put on their agenda to await their turn for consideration by that unit of WSB. Thereafter, it is highly probable they would be sent to the Productivity Subcommittee of the WSB for its consideration, and thereafter to the full WSB for final decision. This process could well take several months.

It must be emphasized that there is no guarantee of approval of the 2½ percent by WSB. The UE has asked that these cases be approved administratively on a virtually automatic basis in view of the previous year's decision on the same issue. This has been refused by WSB which states there is a major policy question involved in the continuation of the annual productivity increase allowance. Although a general policy on this issue was promised by WSB in June 1951, nothing has resulted and the issue is being handled on a purely case by case basis.

This is a result of a bitter fight by the companies and their representatives on the Board against any generalized application of the annual productivity increase principle. Public members of the Board, particularly the present Board Chairman, Archibald Cox, has indicated a lack of sympathy with the productivity principle and it is obvious that a real fight has to be made to assure approval of this 2½ percent factor in the GE, Westinghouse and Sylvania cases.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS