

Urge All Stewards to Attend Monday Meeting on Strikes

A special effort on the part of all committeemen to attend Monday's meeting of the shop stewards was urged by the officers of UE Local 301. The importance of the meeting, which is to take up the question of the International Harvester General Cable strike collections, was emphasized by local President James Cognetta.

Two strikers, one from each of the major stoppages, will address the meetings. The stewards will discuss methods of insuring a successful collection in the works.

Cognetta stressed the need to make a go of the collections, aimed at getting \$1 a month from every member of the union. He pointed out that the failure of either strike would seriously weaken the union and do us more damage than all of the raids and splitting activities against UE in the past three years.

In order to make sure that every one of the 630 groups in the plant is represented at the meeting, members were urged to check with their stewards and see that either the stewards or alternates would attend one of the two Monday sessions. The second shift stewards will get together at 1:00 p.m., and the first and third shift committeemen will meet at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting will be the first major gathering of the union since Tuesday's special meeting in Syracuse at which all District 3 local presidents and business agents got together with UE Director of Organization James Mattles and members of the union staff. The Syracuse session thoroughly discussed the problems confronting the union in the strikes and made plans for insuring adequate financial support for the strikers from upstate New York.

Shortage Pays Off

Here's a case in which a shortage in pay paid off, and not for the company.

A couple of weeks ago, Ray Szuty, a handyman in the Building 285 shipping department, got his pay and found it short. He went to steward Louis Riano to ask help. Riano checked and found out that not only was this pay short but that the company had been shorting Szuty every week for nine months by paying him only at a rate of \$1.43 rather than at the \$1.47 hourly wage to which he was entitled.

Riano took the matter up with the general foreman, and it was agreed that Szuty would be paid at the higher rate from now on, and that he would get a retroactive adjustment amounting to just under \$50.

Friday, November 14, 1952

Brashear on Mend

Dewey Brashear, UE Local 301 executive board member, is on the road to recovery following an emergency appendectomy a week ago Wednesday in the St. Mary's Hospital of Amsterdam. Brashear is now at home.

Election

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fer, is running for recording secretary. He will have the opposition of Ignatius Mack of 60. John Smith of 273 was also nominated, but he declined as a "contribution to unity."

The contest for the job of assistant recording secretary will be between Rudy Risland, now recording secretary, and Robert Popowitz of 273. Four men are seeking the post of treasurer to succeed Helen Quirini who decided not to run for reelection. They are Joseph Whitbeck of 76, Henry Kaminski of 76, Reginald Cartier of 273 and Bill Fisher of 81.

Rodney Bardin of 273 and Jack DeGraff of 60 will attempt to wrest the office of chief shop steward from its current holder, William Mastriani. Business Agent Leo Jandreau will be the only officer not opposed for reelection.

However, there will be no opposition for two other posts, not listed among the officers. Mario Bagnato and Joseph Saccocio are assured of being reelected as guide and sergeant-at-arms respectively. Five candidates will be in the field for the three local trusteeships. They are Vincent Palazek, Anders Christiansen, William Garrison, Edward Luberdia and Joseph Hill. The committee elected its officers on Friday. John Saccocio was named as chairman and Anthony Rossi as secretary.

Schenectady Welfare Hinges On UE Dixie Drive Success

The future economic prosperity of the people of Schenectady, particularly those who work for General Electric, may well be decided by the fate of a UE organizing drive now

enabled the corporations to return to their old practices of pitting white against Negro and keeping the wages of all way down. Similarly the CIO textile union has failed miserably to organize the South, where most of its industry is now located, because it refused to assure equal treatment for Negro workers.

UE is determined not to make this mistake, and its record of fighting discrimination in the North gives it a good basis on which to appeal to the workers of the South. That the job of organizing Dixie will not be an easy one was emphasized in recent weeks by the arrest and holding in jail without any semblance of a fair trial, of a UE organizer who was working at GE Anniston plant. But easy or hard, the job of bringing the union to the South is vital to workers from Savannah to Schenectady.

It is estimated that half of GE's production may be in these plants south of the Mason-Dixon line within a few years. The company's purpose in moving to these areas is to take advantage of the low-wage, non-union conditions prevailing wherever Jim Crow rules the roost.

UE has recognized that the only way to prevent GE from shifting more and more of its operations away from the northern states is to organize the southern plants and raise wages there to levels prevailing elsewhere. If this is accomplished, then the company's incentive to "run away" will be removed.

This was highlighted at the recent national convention in Cleveland which made the southern organizing drive one of the key programs to be carried through in the next year. The convention also emphasized that only one kind of organizing could be successful in the South—organization based on equal treatment for all workers of all races and nationalities in hiring, upgrading and in all phases of economic life.

While at first glance it might seem easier to bow down to the existing prejudices in Kentucky, Georgia and Alabama, the lessons learned in previous attempts to organize the southern workers show that to bow to Jim Crow is to destroy all organizational efforts.

For example, CIO's highly-touted "Operation Dixie" ground to a sickening standstill when the leaders sold out and sought to exclude Negro workers from unions. This



Success, J. B. ... We can now commence with the layoffs ...

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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Friday, November 21, 1952



Tiffin, O.—The latest series of splitting raids by the IUE-CIO in GE shops ran into its third straight defeat at the hands of the workers here last week. In an NLRB election, GE employees followed the example set for them in Niles, Ohio, and Fort Edward and Hudson Falls by routing the IUE. The vote to continue UE as collective bargaining agent was 265 to 206.

St. Louis—The CIO Amalgamated Clothing workers are continuing to picket the offices and warehouses of the Rice-Stix Co. after defeating an attempt by the company to obtain an anti-picketing injunction. Almost 1,000 members of the AFL teamsters union have respected the lines thrown up by the 650 CIO members who are fighting against incredibly low wages. Many workers have not even been paid the federal minimum wage of 75¢ an hour. In retaliation for the AFL union's respecting of the picket lines, the company has filed a \$1-million Taft-Hartley damage suit against the teamsters.

Hastings-on-Hudson, N. Y.—A wage re-opener has brought Anaconda Copper workers here pay boosts ranging from 8¢ to 18¢ an hour. The 8¢ was a general wage increase won by UE Local 404, with about 300 workers getting additional money in inequity adjustments. An important aspect of the agreement was that it completely wiped out sex differentials for the 1,200 workers involved.

Pittsburgh — The CIO convention, originally scheduled to open this week, has been postponed until Dec. 1 in order to give CIO leaders a chance to come up with some semblance of unity in their race to succeed Philip Murray as president of the organization. Organizational Director Alan Haywood and auto workers' president Walter Reuther continued as the leading candidates for the job. At the same time, another of Murray's key posts has been filled on a temporary basis. Steelworkers' secretary-treasurer David MacDonald has been named as acting president of the union.

Ask Your Steward

The question of the continuation of the strike fund collections was thoroughly discussed and approved by the UE Local 301 shop stewards on Monday. This discussion is of vital importance to everyone in the Schenectady works. Was your steward there so that he can report to you on the meeting? If not, it's your job to make sure that you are represented at the next stewards' council meeting in December.

Strike Aid Remains Vital Despite Harvester Accord

UE Local 301 officers stressed the importance of continuing collections to aid striking members of the union even though the 87-day strike involving 30,000 International Harvester workers ended with the signing of a new contract on Saturday.

The continuing financial need of the Harvester workers and of the General Cable strikers was em-

phasized in a talk at Monday's stewards' meeting by Business Agent Leo Jandreau. Jandreau pointed out that the national union had spent hundreds of thousands of dollars during the 3-month Harvester tieup, and these expenses had left the UE treasury in a dangerously low condition. The lack of financial resources was one of the most important factors in forcing the union to sign a contract which failed to meet the needs of the Harvester workers on many important scores, Jandreau said.

The Harvester contract was signed Saturday after the company had announced that it would never make an agreement with UE, and launched a drive to get the strikers back to work without any contract at all. This drive was backed by decertification petitions instituted in a number of plants by company stooges working closely with the CIO autoworkers.

These decertification petitions were aimed at dislodging UE from the Harvester plants, something the top leadership of the CIO union has failed to do in 22 successive raids. All of these raids ended in smashing UE victories in NLRB elections.

Faced with this two-pronged attack, the Harvester workers voted to go back to work after forcing management to backtrack on all but a few of the more than 60 demands it had made on the union. The new contract provides a 7¢ general wage increase, a 1¢ to 5¢ adjustment for skilled workers and a modified union shop agreement.

On the other hand, the CIO and AFL sellouts on certain basic provisions cut the ground out from under the UE strikers and they were forced to accept certain provisions which had been taken by the other unions during the course of the strike. These changes included modification of the incentive system so that ceilings on

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Report Company OK's Terms To End General Cable Strike

A magnificent six-month struggle by General Cable workers appeared to be rapidly nearing a successful conclusion as this week's issue of the EU News went to press. In meetings

try to provoke the workers by moving materials into the plant. Trucks from all over the area rolled up to the plant gates, but in almost all cases they were turned back by the pickets who explained the situation to the truck drivers. Then the Cable bosses tried to get materials through on a railroad spur leading right into the plant. This was frustrated by pickets who threw themselves across the tracks and brought the freight cars to a grinding stop.

This agreement resulted in an announcement by the Utica Daily Press and other area newspapers that the strike had been settled. The mayor's assurance that the company had given its word that it would live up to its agreements in good faith also caused the members of UE Local 331 to remove its picket lines and report back for work on Wednesday morning.

If the agreement announced by the mayor proves to be in good faith, then the workers will be back at work with full protection of the UE contract. The last major roadblock to be cleared away was the question of seniority rights, and according to Mayor Townsend the company has agreed to respect fully the seniority of all workers.

In addition the agreement announced provided substantial economic improvements for the 1,350 General Cable workers in Rome. Among these gains were a 5¢ hourly pay boost, an entirely new pension plan providing a \$110 minimum pension for retiring workers, and improvements in the company-financed medical plan. The employees also gained a third week's vacation after 15 years.

The events leading up to the reported settlement showed that the company was determined to break the union right up until the last minute. On Monday, the company's long heralded back to work movement was launched and it failed completely.

The next company plan was to

Strike Card Vital

The UE Local 301 strike support card is vital to all of us because it means that we have contributed to strengthening our union against future company attacks.



BILL SENTNER, UE International Representative who spoke at Monday's stewards' meeting. Story on page 3.

Honor Roll

Last week we began publishing the names of those members of UE Local 301 who have joined the "\$5 Club" by contributing \$5 or more to the fund to aid UE members who are now on strike, or who have been fighting for our union on the picket lines in recent months.

The list is continued this week with the publication of the names of those who made contributions either in cash or by transferring earlier donations to the UE Local 301 defense fund in time to be included in this week's paper. The new "\$5 Club" members are:

S. Lupi, Bldg. 89
M. Stockhaus, 40
P. Bissonette, 40
C. Butler, 40
M. Fernandez, 10
S. De Pietro, 49
D. Testardo, 69
O. Hasse, 69
J. Gregorek, 69
C. Fuchs, 73
J. Leguire, 69
J. Thorpe, 69
S. Speidel, 69
D. Fiore, 69
A. Knight, 73
A. DellaRocco, 73
J. Miccolo, 73
J. DiLorenzo, 73
R. Jordan, 73
J. Raytynski, 73
E. DeGasperi, 73
S. Cicisinski, 73
D. Gabriele, 73
A. Benacquisto, 73
R. Bezio, 73
E. DeMatteo, 73
A. DePresis, 73
R. Salerno, 73
L. Horinka, 73
H. Von Stentina, 73
P. Miranda, 73
J. Duba, 73
F. Burdick, 73
R. Musco, 73
C. DeSilva, 73
P. Pasmore, 73
L. Bove, 73
M. Eddy, 73
S. Burton, 73
A. Barkley, 73
J. Cwikichshaw, 73
D. Pitucci, 69
R. Baker, 69
B. Simboli, 69
A. Campanello, 73
J. Teller, 53
R. Linsboth, 17
E. Constanza, 68
M. Riggi, 46
D. McWhinnie, Racetrack
P. Raczos, RT
A. Langrock, RT
R. Van Allen, RT
O. Lehman, RT
W. Sussdorf, RT
A. McAleavy, RT
J. Hogal, RT
W. Sebast, RT
H. DeGenova, RT
P. Ward, RT
K. Saylis, RT
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UE ON THE JOB!

Bldg. 28: Marie Sweeney is classified as a J inspector. Her duties during the past two years have included work on disassembling motors and submitting reports indicating which parts need replacement and reworking. The union believes that the experience and knowledge required on the job merits a much higher classification and demands upgrading from J to F.

Bldg. 37: The cleaners' group under Foreman Rueter objects to being required to wash windows, a job which is outside of their classification. The union demands an immediate end to this practice.

Bldg. 40: John Butler and Milton Vester are being criticized for the number of burnouts on their work although these burnouts are caused by inferior materials. The union demands that the work of these two men be given fair consideration.

Bldg. 49: John Hunt is classified as an accumulator. Recently he has broken a number of men in on the job. When openings for better jobs have been available, he approached his foreman to request the upgrading to which he was entitled. However, the foreman has refused to give him proper consideration and assigned the jobs to new men with much less service. The union demands that Hunt be given proper consideration for upgrading.

The vertical turret lathe operators are being converted from day work to piece work with timing rates ranging from \$1.06 to \$1.21 for 40" to 72" Bullards. The union feels that the workers are entitled to much higher rates and demands that they be given them.

Welders working under Foreman Zimmerman are assigned to welding turbine wheels of various sizes. In converting them from day to piece work, supervision has given them a \$1.06 timing rate. The work they are doing merits a \$1.16 rate and the union demands a two step increase to bring them up to this price.

Bldg. 52: Robert Jordan has been transferred from 2nd to 3rd shift for the convenience of the company. The union demands he be given a change of shift premium in line with the provisions of the contract.

Eugene Kolacki, on the advice of his physician, requests a change to 1st shift.

A group is protesting the price on hand operation. They feel that the record shows the price to be inadequate. The union demands a proper increase.

Bldg. 60: Core assembly group protests being forced to work 3rd shift. They do not feel that this is necessary during the present lack of work situation and the union demands that their hours of work be kept as before until conditions are normalized, at which time the proposed changes could be discussed.

Bldg. 69: A male operator was paid \$1.02 for a frame assembly job. Supervision gave this job to

a woman and paid only 81c. The union demands payment of the \$1.02 standard price and an end to this discrimination on the basis of sex.

Bldg. 109: Recently three machines have been installed to apply fibre glass covering to wire. Supervision is compelling the operator to run the machines at speeds from 20' to 24' per minute, as compared with speeds on the old machines of 13½' to 15'. As a result, parts of the machine can not take the abuse and v-belts, wipers, drive shaft couplings, etc. have been breaking down. The operator has been held responsible for these breakdowns. Production has been increased from 95% to 130%. This is an outright case of speedup and the union demands that management investigate and correct the existing conditions.

Bldg. 269: Peter Elser is classified as a G inspector. His duties are comparable to those of C workers in other jobs in the plant. The union demands a 3 step increase in rate and a C classification for Elser.

Bldg. 273: Robert Bufe is doing work which should be classified as boring mill-vertical turret-special classification. This rating along with increase in pay is demanded. William Nightengale was classified as a B turret lathe operator in July, and was then transferred to engine lathe Class C. He has performed B work since then but has not had his classification or rate changed. The union demands a retroactive adjustment in both classification and pay.

Carl Cummings feels that based on his outside experience, his record in GE welding school and his job performance, he was improperly rated when hired. The union demands that his starting rate be adjusted to two steps below job rate in accordance with the contract.

William J. Hogan protests the progress report issued on Nov. 10. The union demands correction of this report in line with Hogan's job performance, earnings, I.R. record, etc.

I. Malizia and R. Montanaro do not believe that their upgrading should hinge on acceptance of transfers to night work. They demand upgrading on 1st shift.

Peter Ragusa has been doing A work since Jan. 1951, but he was not reclassified until February of this year. He is now giving normal performance on his job and the union demands he be given job rate.

Daniel Massalini is requesting restoration of his service record. He formerly worked for GE in Pittsfield and left to seek employment in Schenectady. He was in Pittsfield on April 29, and after a brief illness went to work in Schenectady. He was paid his vacation pay and notified that his service was intact. However, on Oct. 22, personnel notified him that his service had been broken and he would be obliged to restate his vacation pay. The union demands a management investigation of this unfair treatment.

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.

K. Schoch is classified as a B toolmaker assigned to making gauges. He is performing this work exclusively. The union demands upgrading from B to A with proper rate adjustment.

Rodney Skellis, based on his experience, time spent in welding school and job performance, was entitled to receive a starting rate 2 steps below job rate. The union demands retroactive adjustment.

Bldg. 285: Eugene Fisher is classified as a bench assembler. His foreman is utilizing him on all types of miscellaneous machine work, to which he devotes 60% of his time. The union maintains that this combination of jobs is not within his present job classification and demands that either the practice be stopped or he be upgraded to his proper job classification.

Campbell Ave.: Albert Pepicelli feels that due to an increase in duties and type of work, additional help is required to operate his tool crib properly and he is entitled to reclassification and increase in rate. Supervision has refused to even investigate his demands. The union demands an immediate correction of this situation.

Group working under Foreman Stoodley objects to being transferred to Bldg. 37 without supervision giving one week's notice and furnishing a personnel list as required under the contract. No work of work is involved and the foreman refuses to recognize the move as a permanent transfer. Recently 5 new machinists have been added to the group, and now the proposed transfer involves 4 C machinists. The union demands an immediate halt to this practice.

Racetrack: Louis Liovestro, a B machinist, has been told that he must work on his job for 6 months before getting a raise. He was given an effective date of Dec. 15 for the increase. However, he is entitled to the higher rate as of Nov. 3. The union demands that Liovestro be given the increase from the latter date.

Despite a previous docket, which requested management to take steps to end supervision's disregard of contract article XV-1-a-2, which requires the foreman to reply to the shop steward within one working day of the submission of a grievance, supervision has continued to violate this provision of the agreement. The union demands immediate management action to end these violations.

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NEW STEWARDS. Pictured above are the new shop stewards who were sworn in at the stewards meeting Monday. They are Donald Brust, Bldg. 46; Louis Durrer, 50; Mary Orzali, 269; and Edward Willey, 107. On the right is Harold D. Van Patten, 10C, who was sworn in as a second shift steward. Frederick Pivacek, 285, who was also sworn in at the evening meeting is not pictured.



Harvester

(Continued from Page 1)

piece work earnings are set up, certain reclassifications for day workers, revision in the steward and grievance machinery which obviously had been far better than those provided for in the CIO and AFL pacts. The new contract runs until June 30, 1955.

One of the main lessons to be drawn from the long and gallant fight of the Harvester workers is the importance of a strong union defense fund of at least a million dollars. Our national union must build such a fund in order to protect its members against the company onslaughts which will undoubtedly come in the next few months. It is with this in mind that Local 301 will press for the \$1 a month contributions from each member for October and November.

Did You Get Report?

The story of Bill Sentner's speech to last Monday's meeting of the UE Local 301 shop stewards is told above. However, space does not permit more than a brief summary of what Sentner had to say, and all of it was important.

Your shop steward should have reported to you on the Sentner speech and on other important proceedings of the stewards meeting. But no report could have been given unless your steward attended the meeting. Check and if you were not represented last Monday, make sure that you are at the next stewards meeting in December.

Sentner Tells of Frameup In Talk to 301 Stewards

An appeal for strong unity among all working people to fight off the growing big business attack on organized labor was made before the UE Local 301 stewards meeting on Monday by one of the leading victims of that attack.

The plea was that of UE International Representative Bill Sentner, who has been indicted on phoney charges under the anti-labor Smith Act. The UE leader pointed out that his arrest on Sept. 17 came during the height of his activity on behalf of the Harvester strikers, and in a city where 10,000 of those strikers were, Rock Island, Illinois. He bluntly accused the Justice Department of cooking up his arrest in order to help the company against the 30,000 UE members who were on strike to protect their contract.

Sentner observed that this kind of tactic was nothing new to him. He said that he had been arrested in Iowa during

the Maytag strike several years ago. At the time, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison for "attempting to overthrow the Iowa state government" but this ridiculous charge had been thrown out by the Iowa appeals court.

The UE leader also told the stewards gathering of the attacks on him through the attempted deportation of his wife, Toni Sentner, who has been in this country since she was eight years old. The Sentners have three children and four grandchildren.

Sentner stressed that UE leaders were not the only ones under legal attack. He cited cases in which leaders of CIO, the AFL and the United Mine Workers had been framed by the government. "Any labor leader who militantly defends the rights of the men and women in his or her union is going to get hit," he warned, adding, "in view of this, labor must be united in its determination to resist the frame-ups wherever they occur."

Citing the arrest of Harvester strike leader Harold Ward on cooked-up murder charges in Chicago as the number one labor frameup now, Sentner declared that UE must do everything possible to secure the freedom of this outstanding Negro trade unionist.

Finally, Sentner pointed out that one of the chief reasons for his own arrest was his experience in working on labor organization in the South, "where two and three dollars a day is big money to a lot of people—and the bosses want to keep it that way."

Sentner's talk was greeted enthusiastically by the stewards who unanimously voted for a resolution supporting the UE leader in his fight against the frameup, and pledging a renewed fight for repeal of the Smith Act and all other legislation under which labor leaders can be framed.

Violate Contract in 10

Attempts by supervision in Building 10 to use foremen in every type of job including porter and sweeper work are being fought by the union. In one case, Foreman Hank Bodorowski was caught being timed on a piece work job. Union members are urged to report all such violations to their stewards.

Petition Urges WSB to Pass On GE Pay Hike Before Xmas

A petition to the Wage Stabilization Board demanding approval of the pay raise won by UE in negotiations with General Electric is being circulated in the Schenectady works by many of the Local 301 shop stewards.

The petition resulted from the revelation last week that the WSB was handling the wage boost as if it were a highly controversial matter and that right now the UE-GE case is bogged down in a sub-committee of the board. This situation was exposed by UE Washington representative Russ Nixon. Nixon warned that there was danger that the pay boost might not be approved before Christmas, and that the retroactive pay to Sept. 15 would not be forthcoming in time to help union members out with their Christmas expenses.

In fact, the UE representative warned that the anti-labor nature of the WSB made it possible that the wage increase would not be approved in full at all, unless there was considerable pressure from the GE shops throughout the country. He stressed that this pressure should be directed both at the board and at GE management, which undoubtedly has the power to insure quick approval of the pay hike.

Actually, the union-negotiated wage increase falls well within patterns previously approved by the board and the OK this time should be little more than a routine matter.

Trial of Harold Ward Set to Open Monday

Defense attorneys have forced a Chicago court to set an early date for the opening of the trial of Harold Ward, Negro leader of the Harvester strikers who is facing frameup murder charges in the death of a non-striker.

The court set Nov. 24 as the opening date of the trial despite prosecution attempts to delay until after Dec. 1, when the present State attorney, who was instrumental in setting up the frameup for the Harvester company, goes out of office.

The whole prosecution case against Ward is based on a so-called "mystery witness," whom the prosecution has never been able to produce. Apparently the prosecutor would rather have somebody else burdened with the job of trying to convict an innocent man without any evidence against him.

The arrest and indictment of the 30-year-old Ward, who is married and the father of two children, was used by the anti-union press to try and inflame public opinion against the Harvester strikers. Ward's arrest was made after the company put up a \$10,000 reward for the capture of the "murderer" of the non-striker.