

## It Was A Big Night At 301 Hall

Hundreds of 301 members crowded into the union hall to make last Saturday night's 20th anniversary celebration the most successful spring dance held by the local in recent years.

The newly-redecorated union hall was really jumping as Tony Villano and his band kept things lively from 9 in the evening until the small hours of the morning. The success of the dance got the union's 1953 activities program off to a flying start.

Next big event on the activities schedule is the annual field day, which is scheduled for Sunday, June 28. This affair will be followed by a baseball hooster night, a clam bake and the final event on the program, a set of Christmas parties for the children of union members. It is expected that these events will continue the trend of increasing participation by the men and women of GE in the social events of UE Local 301.

Speaking a lot louder than words, the pictures on this page show the big doings last Saturday night.



**DANCE DOINGS.** Some sat back and enjoyed themselves and the available refreshments. The group pictured in the upper right hand corner of the page belonged in that category, or at least they did when the camera swung around to them. However, others crowded the dance floor through most of the evening, as the picture directly above shows. Still others had to work so that the hundreds of union members could enjoy themselves. The man with the horn at the right is one of these.

He and his fellow musicians of Tony Villano's band provided dance music ranging from dreamy waltzes to fast polkas. One of the slower pieces gave the camera a chance to catch the dancing scene at the lower right. This picture also provides a view of some of the new decorations which turned the union hall into a ballroom. Many of these improvements, made by the activities committee, will remain a permanent part of the hall's decorations.



**MARKING ANNIVERSARY.** Saturday's dance was devoted to celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of an industrial union for General Electric workers in Schenectady. There were many at the dance who could remember the early days before there was even a union hall. Some of those pictured above were in this group.



ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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**A BIG PROBLEM.** Ernest Thompson, secretary of UE's national fair employment practices committee discussed the union's effort to organize the new GE plants being established in the South at Monday's stewards' meeting. Thompson, pictured above, emphasized the importance of this effort to Schenectady GE workers.

## Union Starts Daily WTRY Program Monday Morning

UE Local 301 will go on the air with a daily program of news and commentary beginning Monday morning over radio station WTRY. The Monday-through-Friday broadcasts will be aired between 6:45 and 6:50 a.m.

One of the chief purposes of the program will be to bring the union membership and the families of union members up-to-the-minute reports on the progress of negotiations with GE. Developments throughout the labor movement and news of special significance to working people will also be broadcast, as will important community happenings.

Above all, the broadcasts will attempt to "really belong" to the men and women who work in GE. Many shop workers will be interviewed during the programs.

The 6:45 to 6:50 morning hour was chosen because the executive board felt that this would give the greatest possible number of 301 members opportunity to listen.

Because this broadcast, in contrast to most news and commentary shows which are bought and paid for by large corporations, will belong to working men and women, suggestions and comments from members of the local will be more than welcome.

WTRY, a Columbia Broadcasting System affiliate is one of the most widely listened to radio stations in the Capital District. The 301 series will be the first union sponsored programs carried by the station on a regular basis.

## 301 Shop Meetings and Leaflets Demand End Of GE's Pay Discrimination Against Women

UE's fight to end discrimination against women workers was the chief subject of discussion at shop meetings in the Schenectady works this week. This discussion was based both on 2 leaflets, and on reports by Local 301 delegates to this past weekend's UE national women's conference. (A complete report on this conference can be found on page 4 of this week's UE News.) As in the previous leaflets and meetings on the subjects of GE earnings and the Saturday holiday steal, this week's campaign emphasized the contrast between huge company profits and management refusal to grant GE employees badly needed economic improvements.

## Mastriani Aids Union Louisville GE Drive

UE Local 301 Chief Show Steward and William Mastriani flew to Louisville, Kentucky this week to address a UE organizational meeting at the big new appliance plant of GE in the southern city. Mastriani went to Louisville at the invitation of General Electric workers who are seeking to establish strong union conditions in the plant which is expected to employ 16,000 workers within the next few years.

In approving the Mastriani trip to Kentucky, the 301 executive board took note of the importance of UE's Louisville organizing drive to the whole union, and particularly to GE workers. This importance is based on the need to prevent the company from paying lower wages in the South, and in that way taking jobs away from northern plants in Schenectady.

Mastriani told the Louisville workers about the operation of UE 301 on behalf of Schenectady GE employees, and urged the Kentucky people to join UE in order to assure themselves of equal conditions. He pledged the active support of Local 301 for the Louisville men and women in their fight for militant and democratic unionism.

The leaflets pointed out that GE is now making profits at the record rate of \$1.50 for every hour worked by an employee, and that less than 1% of this, applied to women's wages below the common labor rate, would go a long way toward ending discrimination. However, GE management refuses to apply any of its huge income toward ending the "pay the women less" racket because it wants to preserve sex discrimination as a weapon to force down all wage rates.

Another key reason for GE's stand is the growing company policy of eliminating collective bargaining. This policy is obviously designed to break the strength of UE and all other unions in the chain, not only in negotiating on national issues, but also in the settling of local and shop grievances. Obviously Boulware and the other company "labor relations" bosses are seeking to take advantage of the split they inspired in the ranks of GE workers to bring back the old open shop days.

## Field Day June 28

Local 301's 1953 field day has been set for Sunday, June 28, at Republic Park on the Princetown Road. The park has facilities to handle a large crowd either indoors or outdoors, depending on the weather.

## Louisville Drive Seen as Key

Eliminating the southern differential and organizing runaway plants in the South was described this week as the "greatest problem facing UE and all workers in the electrical industry." This estimate was given by Ernest Thompson, UE National FEPC secretary in an address before the UE Local 301 stewards' meeting on Monday.

Thompson, who spoke in Schenectady on the invitation of the local FEPC group, cited the effort of UE to organize the Louisville General Electric plant on a democratic basis, as the number one job of our union. "On the success of the Louisville organizing campaign rests the job security of every Schenectady GE worker," Thompson asserted. He added:

"If GE can carry through its current plan to establish in Louisville a plant with 16,000 unorganized, low-wage workers, then obviously it will be able to turn out jobs in Louisville at lower cost than in Schenectady, Erie or Lynn. And in the company's drive for greater and greater profits, this will spell unemployment, speedup, rate cutting and union-busting in northern centers."

Of the 1,000 workers already hired in Louisville, only about 25 have been Negroes, and all of these have been put on as janitors, Thompson revealed. He said that this Jim Crow hiring policy had been followed by the company even though UE and the Louisville Board of Education has established a special job training program specifically designed to provide Negro workers with the special skills needed by General Electric.

"GE's policy of hiring only white production workers is based on the knowledge that by keeping white and Negro workers divided, they can make sure that there will be no strong union in GE Louisville," Thompson charged.

The UE anti-discrimination leader was optimistic on the union's chance of beating the company tactics and organizing the Kentucky plant. He pointed to the success of UE in breaking all discrimination at the 5,000-worker International Harvester plant in Louisville where complete unity among Negro and white workers now exists. This unity has meant the destruction of the southern differential in the Harvester chain.

## UE-Westinghouse Locals Issue United Action Call

Faced with company determination not to give its employees one cent in needed wage increases out of its \$169-million 1952 profits, UE's Westinghouse Conference board has called on all unions in the chain to unite. Such unity was termed by the board as the sole means of gaining real economic improvements this year.

In a resolution passed at a meeting to discuss the current wage reopener talks, the UE-Westinghouse board pointed to the failure of the workers to make any substantial economic gains since the split in 1949, a situation identical with that in GE. The resolution noted that UE has stood for united action right along, and that there were growing signs that IUE-CIO members wanted such action too. Specifically cited was the united action taken by the membership of the big IUE-CIO Westinghouse local at Cheektowaga near Buffalo, and the recent action for unity by Lynn GE workers.

This unity call was addressed to the IUE-Westinghouse conference

board which is also faced with the company's refusal to negotiate for wage increases in its reopener. The UE resolution asserted that the union conference board had "authorized its national negotiating committee to meet with representatives of all or any unions in Westinghouse to arrange for the calling of a conference for the above purpose (united action)."

UE's demands in Westinghouse include a substantial wage increase, elimination of inequities with respect to day workers and skilled workers, and the ending of geographical differentials. As in the case of GE, the company has refused to make any concessions on these demands, but is arrogantly depending on the split to keep Westinghouse workers from making an effective fight for the things they need.

**TUNE IN!**  
**UE on the Air**

**Mon. Thru Fri.**

**6:45-6:50 A.M.**

**WTRY — 980 kc**

**It's Your Show**

## Rock Island Ballot Rejects Open Shop

International Harvester's hopes for establishing an open shop at its big Farmall plant in Rock Island, Ill., went up in smoke last month when the workers voted overwhelmingly for continued representation by UE. The count in a special company-inspired decertification election was 2,162 for UE and 1,302 for the company.

This victory just about cleaned up the last disruptive effort by the company and its allies within the CIO autoworkers. Previously the union had crushed UAW raids at the Chicago and Richmond, Ind. plants. In the midst of these raids, the UE had successfully organized and won bargaining rights for Harvester office workers in East Moline.

Company hopes in the Rock Island campaign had depended on a vicious campaign of intimidation, and the help given by the CIO, which pulled off the ballot only after it had been crushed in the Chicago and Richmond ballots.

## New Canadian Holiday

While UE members in the United States are fighting to win back 2 paid holidays stolen by companies like GE, some of their Canadian brothers and sisters will be enjoying a new holiday this year.

The new holiday is Coronation Day. Workers at the Page Hersey tube plant in Welland, Ontario, have just won an agreement providing full holiday pay for the day, which is to be celebrated in Canada as in other countries of the British Commonwealth as a patriotic holiday, just as Memorial Day and July 4th are patriotic holidays in the U. S.

## Van Der Zee Seeks Improved Social Security for Widows

A letter by UE 301 Pension Club President Albert Van Der Zee to Welfare Secretary Oveta Culp Hobby urging her to take action to assure adequate financial security for widows of retired workers has been acknowledged by the cabinet member.

## Labor Mourns Death Of Senator Wagner

Robert F. Wagner, the man whose name is stamped on the law which made possible the organization of millions of workers, and on many other acts in the interests of the American people, died Tuesday. Wagner, long in ill health, was 76 years old.

Born in Germany, Wagner came to this country as a poor youngster. He learned the needs of the working people through years of struggle to make a living. Bob Wagner applied this knowledge during the 23 years he served in the U. S. Senate, starting in 1926. Before that he had been a champion of the people's rights in the New York legislature.

When Franklin D. Roosevelt became president, Wagner began playing a leading role as author and sponsor of much New Deal legislation. Probably his greatest accomplishment was the Wagner Act, which guaranteed working men and women the right to join labor unions of their choice without fear of firing or other intimidation.

The Wagner Act was replaced by the Taft-Hartley law in 1947, but its reenactment remains the goal of organized labor.

## Scranton Strike Solid

Striking members of UE Local 125 remained solid in their fight against seniority violations and rate cutting by management of the GE Scranton plant.

The walkout concluded its 3rd week with the workers completely determined to stay out until the company agrees to fair prices for newly brought in tube work, and to rehire strictly in accordance with length of service.

## Induct 16 New Shop Stewards

Sixteen members were inducted Monday as UE Local 301 shop stewards. The oath of office was administered to the new committee men and women by Guide Mario Bagnato.

The unusually high number of new stewards resulted from the creation of a number of new groups in Building 273. Eight of the shop representatives came from Turbine, 2 on the 2nd shift and the others on the 1st and 3rd shifts. The other eight stewards were scattered among the remainder of the Schenectady works.

Inducted at the 2nd shift stewards meeting were J. R. La Veyra and S. Watroski, both of 23. The other Turbine committeemen who took the oath were Louis Blumhagen, Harry Ficoone, Rene Perrone, Michel J. Pompay and George A. Sondergard.

New stewards from the other buildings were Gladys Chamberlain, 28; Jack Getgen, 22; A. W. Herbert, 60; Anthony Jarosz, 28; Fernand Pomerleau, 49; Victor Sgambato, 26; Steven Van Allen, 60; and William Williams, 60.

## UE ON THE JOB!

Bldg. 13: Switchboard operators ask that 5 of their group be allowed to take vacations each week so that as many as possible will be able to get summer vacations. This procedure has been in practice in past years as a result of a negotiated agreement with management. Therefore, the union demands it be adhered to this year.

Bldg. 17: Foreman Tryon consistently does work of tullyman, and has told the union representative that he will continue to do so. The union demands that either Tryon be reclassified to tullyman, or that he refrain from doing the duties of that job.

Bldg. 37: Group protests new procedure under which they have to use mops for cleaning. They ask that they be allowed to return to broom cleaning method formerly used. Members also protest miserable condition of bags and rugs that they must use. The union demands correction of these situations.

Bldg. 46: On job 5994574-1 cover, operation 4, planning calls for rough and finish profile top and bottom of P.V. It requires 2 different table setups and 2 inspections. Setup price of 79c is completely inadequate, as is new \$1.05 price. The union demands doubling of price.

Bldg. 60: Sometime during a re-

cent weekend, the toolbox of Thomas A. Smith was broken into and a personal property, were stolen. Included among the stolen tools were a pair of 3" micrometers, a pair of 2" micrometers, a pair of 1" micrometers, a square, a magnifying glass, a pair of depth micrometers and a slide caliper. Smith needs these precision instruments for his work. The union feels that the company is responsible for safeguarding tools which must be left in the shop, and demands that it replace these instruments and provide adequate protection against a recurrence of this type of theft.

Foreman J. La Rocco in the test area is performing work properly belonging to test personnel. The union demands that management put an immediate stop to this contract violation.

Bldg. 77: Daniely Michetti has been on the accumulator's job for about 9 months, but supervision now claims he is not physically fit for the job. The union disputes this, and demands a management investigation to restore Michetti to the job to which he is entitled.

Bldg. 84: Maintenance and electrical repair group is entitled to a 1-step increase in job rate to bring them up to the level of the A auto mechanics. The 2 classifications have always been equal. The union demands the increase.

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.

Bldg. 107: Group of glassers demand a 3-step increase to \$1.97 to compensate them for the hazards of their job. The union demands this increase.

Group of leaders demand equalization of overtime. On 4/19, a leader with much more overtime than others was called in violation of contract article V-9, and of an agreement between supervision and the union representative in the group. The union demands adherence to the contract.

Bldg. 269: The union demands that the duties of operator on acid dip-vacuum tube parts job, job rate \$1.64, be listed and defined. The foreman has been forcing the operator to do work in the acid dip-special vacuum tube parts classification, which has a \$1.68½ job rate.

Robert Rider is receiving only \$1.41 day work on his job, although 1st shift operator with same duties

is receiving \$1.79½. The union demands retroactive correction of this rate.

Daniel Tiscione was originally supposed to operate 1 machine with a \$1.63½ job rate. He now operates 4 machines at the same rate. The union demands a proper increase in the job rate to compensate for this vast increase in the operator's duties.

Group protests' creation of new classification of A assembler on klystron tubes. This classification not only takes jobs away from this group, but also affects leak test checkers, welders, brazers, assemblers and others. The union demands management investigate and correct this situation.

Bldg. 273: Frank Knapik requests average earnings for time spent looking for work on his machine on foreman's instructions. Bldg. 41 representative is apparently misinformed on this grievance since he said that average earnings were not being paid because a lack of work pass had been offered to Knapik. This is not so, and the union demands payment of average earnings.

W. Butkiewicz was told that his timing rates would be 82c and \$1.06 when he started job as grinder of shafts and studs. Later the general foreman changed these rates to 87c and \$1.06, and after a written grievance was filed, Butkiewicz was notified that the rates would be 82c and 97c, with the bulk of the work at the 82c level. This unjust downgrading will affect the earnings of both 1st and 2nd shift operators. The union demands that this situation be corrected.

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**16 NEW STEWARDS.** Pictured here are the 16 men and women who took the oath of office as shop stewards at Monday's meeting. The photo above on the left shows the 2 who were sworn in at the 2nd shift meeting. Directly above are those from Turbine who took the oath at the 1st and 3rd shift session, while the others who joined the UE Local 301 shop representatives are seen on the left.

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White Plains, N. Y.—Despite an all-out red-baiting campaign and the full cooperation of local politicians, the IUE-CIO raid on the Sonotone Corp. plant was crushed overwhelmingly by the workers in an NLRB election. The vote to maintain UE Local 428 as the Sonotone union was 501 to 320. This represented a sharp increase in UE strength since 1950 when the union repulsed another IUE raid by only 14 votes.

Lexington, Ky.—The type of problem faced by workers seeking to organize unions in the South was dramatically illustrated last week when a grand jury "investigation" into bombing and machine gun attacks on United Mine Workers' leaders resulted in indictments of several victims of the murderous attempts. The indictments charged that the UMW men had "willfully and knowingly conspired" to deprive "citizens in free exercise and enjoyment of rights and privileges—the right to refrain from joining a union."

Fort Wayne, Ind.—UE has crushed a strikebreaking raid by the AFL autoworkers at the Wayne Pump Co. The workers at Wayne, who had been on strike for 4 weeks when the raid was launched, voted 137 to 89 for UE Local 903. However, this vote didn't fully show the strength of UE in the shop since 118 ballots were challenged. Almost all of these were cast by laid off workers. It was to protest the violation of the seniority rights of these workers that the union went on strike, and it was generally conceded that their votes were almost unanimously for UE.

Detroit—The executive board of the CIO United Automobile Workers has called on the Senate to investigate strikebreaking with public funds by General Electric at its Evendale, Ohio jet plant. The board charged that GE had refused to bargain in good faith and had used government funds to attempt to break the strike which involves 4,500 UAW members and 1,100 members of the AFL machinists.

Detroit—After a 1-day strike by 2,000 members of the UE Local 907, the Vickers Co. agreed to meet all demands of the union including reinstatement of the chief shop steward and another worker who had been suspended for fighting speed-up and rate cutting.