

## Bills in Congress Threaten Back Pay

Two bills now in Congress would make it impossible for UE to collect back pay for long term GE employees who were illegally laid off or demoted under the company's policy of super-seniority for all returned veterans.

These bills would relieve any employer of liability for contract violations or injustices committed by applying super-seniority before the United States Supreme Court decision in the matter.

The Supreme Court ruled that under the Selective Service Act a veteran's seniority is limited to his employment time plus his time in military service. GE was one of the corporations which insisted that any veteran, no matter how short his employment record or his military service, had seniority rights above any non-veteran employee.

These firms used their super-seniority policy to violate union contracts, but were quick to fire ex-GI's at the end of a year's reemployment.

After the Supreme Court decision was handed down, the manufacturers' lobby rushed legislation to safeguard companies from having to hand out back pay.

The Gurney Bill (S2140) has passed the House of Representatives and is now before the Senate Military Affairs Committee.

The Gwynne Bill (HR 2738) has also passed the House and is on the Senate calendar.

It's impossible to estimate how many thousands of workers will be defrauded of money due them if these bills pass.

Union members should wire or write immediately to their Senators and Representatives in Congress demanding that the bills be killed.

## Action Needed Now To Save Wage Bill

The 65 cent minimum wage bill is stalled in the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives.

Representative Biemiller of Wisconsin has introduced Discharge Petition No. 84 to get the bill out of the Rules Committee so that it can be voted on. So far only 60 Congressmen have signed the petition.

Write or wire Congressman Bernard Kearney at once demanding that he sign the petition. If you live in another Congressional District, wire your own representative.

## CIO Sends Organizer to Beechnut Plant After Unorganized Workers Lose Strike

Through the efforts of the Capitol District Industrial Union Council, CIO, a CIO representative has been assigned to organize the employees at the Beechnut Packing Co. in Canajoharie. The 1900 unorganized workers at this plant went out in a spontaneous strike July 1 for a wage increase of 18½ cents an hour.

A committee of 12 employees, previously elected from various departments to take care of small grievances, was chosen to meet with the company and with J. B. English of the State Mediation Board.

During the three days of the strike, the workers said they would not return without getting their demands. There was no formal strike organization, however, and no picket line.

On the third day, after 25 hours of negotiations, the committee voted 11 to one in favor of a return to work with no wage settlement and only a verbal agreement that they could form an independent employees' association.

The company put pressure on the committee by threatening to move the plant and by pleading that Beechnut's contribution to the world's food supply should not be cut off. Another argument was that the pea crop would spoil unless the peas were processed immediately.

The workers went back. There's still been no pay raise, according to the latest reports.

The CIO Council contacted the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers of America, CIO, which has sent an organizer to Canajoharie.



Is feeding your kids an attraction? Are you after some job satisfaction? Stop trusting to luck — Just shell out a buck for Labor's political actions.

Why is every worker asked to contribute his dollar to PAC?

Because we have learned the hard way that we have to make politics our business; because that dollar is an investment in security for every worker's family — an investment against legislation that would destroy his recent wage gains — an investment in progress and prosperity: PAC IS THE INSTRUMENT OF THE WORKERS TO FIGHT FOR ALL THESE AIMS.

## McAvoy to Address Upstate PAC Groups

Cliff McAvoy, national PAC director of UE, will discuss PAC activities at a series of upstate meetings soon.

He will meet with UE members of Rome, Utica and Iliion July 29; will be in Syracuse July 30; Rochester July 31 and Schenectady, Aug. 2.

## Fur and Leather Strike Commences 20th Week

Members of Local 410, Fur and Leather Workers Union, CIO, have started their 20th week on strike against the American Hide and Leather Co. at Ballston Spa.

The 200 workers are determined to stick it out until the company agrees to union security, the check-off, retroactive pay and an 18½ cent an hour raise.

The union has asked workers throughout the Capital District to write letters to Mayor Percy Ball of Ballston Spa demanding that he take steps to see the union gets a just settlement. Mayor Ball is a foreman of American Hide and Leather.

## Iliion Election July 24

The 1700 production maintenance workers and production clerks at Remington Rand Plant No. 1 at Iliion will vote July 24 in a National Labor Relations Board Election. The vote will be between UE and "no union."

# Electrical Union News

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

Vol. III—No. 28

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

July 25, 1946

## Special Membership Meeting Tonight

### Union Platform For Peace and Security

1. Lasting peace by carrying through the Roosevelt peace program.
2. Jobs for all who want to work.
3. Decent wages to provide adequate food, clothing and recreation.
4. Equal pay for equal work to women.
5. A decent home for every family.
6. For veterans, jobs, education, housing and full adjustment to peacetime living.
7. A social security system which is just and adequate.
8. Education and medical care, adequate for all.
9. An end to discrimination in all forms, based on race, color, creed, sex or national origin.
10. No legislation restricting the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively with their employers.
11. For farmers, an opportunity to raise and sell their products at a return which will give them and their families a decent living.
12. For small businessmen, an opportunity to trade in an atmosphere of freedom from unfair competition and domination by monopolies.
13. A tax program based on the ability to pay.
14. Effective price control.

### Dominelli Committee Field Day Profit Calls for Volunteers Hits \$1100 Mark

All union members who want to volunteer to help in Joe Dominelli's primary campaign are invited to report after work at 4 p.m. Monday, July 29, at Local 301 headquarters, 301 Liberty Street.

He is assured of ALP nomination, but needs plenty of help to fight organization candidates in the Democratic and Republican primaries.

Dominelli-for-Sheriff committees are being organized in every ward in Schenectady.

Profits from the Local 301 Field Day are approximately \$1,100, Foster Campbell, chairman of the Activities Committee, has announced.

This means Tippecanoe, the YMCA camp, will receive \$550, as Local 301 voted to turn half the proceeds over to this youth project. About 8,000 Field Day tickets were sold.

The final statement on income and expenses will appear in the next issue after a few outstanding bills come in.

President Andrew Peterson of Local 301 has called a special membership meeting of the union for 7:30 o'clock tonight, Thursday, July 25, at the union hall, 301 Liberty St., to take up important questions on which action cannot be delayed until the regular August meeting.

One of the subjects to be voted on, in addition to the regular order of business, is union action to force Congress to pass an effective price control bill.

Shop meetings scheduled for 7 p. m. will finish in time for the members to attend the general meeting.

### Dominelli Makes Triple Campaign For Sheriff Post

Joseph Dominelli of Local 301, American Labor Party designee for Schenectady County sheriff, will also be on the Republican and Democratic ballots in a fight for the nomination of the major parties in the August 20 primaries.

Two other leading CIO men will run for office on the ALP ticket. They are Thomas F. Fyvie, secretary-treasurer of Local 2054, United Steelworkers of America, whose petition for state senator was filed, and Lewis A. Benedict, president of Local 159 Transport Workers Union, who will run for City Council.

Dominelli, an enrolled Republican, filed a petition with 1,442 Republican signatures and a petition with 774 Democratic names. As 500 signatures were the top number needed to get on the ballot of either major party he had a very safe margin.

He must fight William H. Dunn, General Electric general foreman and majority whip in the City Council, for

(Continued on Page 2)



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### Questions Asked On Vacation Pay

Workers who have been transferred to another job or expect to be transferred are asking questions of the union office these days about the effect of job changes on vacation pay rates.

This is the contract provision. "The amount of vacation allowance will be determined by multiplying the average hourly earnings (exclusive of overtime) by the average weekly scheduled hours. The average earnings will be obtained from the last available regular monthly statistics, except when an employee's job and rate has been changed prior to or coincident with the vacation period, the new rate of earnings will be used."

### Labor Groups Fear Freeport Whitewash

Many labor unions and other organizations have protested to Governor Dewey about methods being used in the investigation he ordered of the Freeport Ferguson case. There are signs the "investigation" may turn out to be a whitewash of the white policeman who killed two Negro servicemen last February, at Freeport, L. I.

Robert Northrop, as secretary-treasurer of the Capitol District Industrial Union Council, CIO, has asked Governor Dewey to see that the attorney for the Justice in Freeport Committee has a chance to cross-examine witnesses.

**Tune in!**  
**C.I.O. PROGRAM**  
 MON - WED - FRI  
 7:15 PM. OR FOLLOWING  
 BALL GAME  
**WSNY 1240 ON EVERY DIAL**

### Joe Louis Picks a Winner for Sheriff



It's a case of "Good luck to Joe from Joe" when Joe Louis, world's heavyweight champion, wishes success to Joe Dominelli of Local 301 in his campaign to become Schenectady County sheriff. The two met first at a Red Cross Center in Taunton, England, when both were in the Army. They renewed the acquaintance recently at Kingston where this picture was taken.

### Dominelli Campaigns

(Continued from Page 1)

the Republican nomination. His opponent in the Democratic primary is William J. Sherry.

Dominelli drew first or top place over Dunn for the Republican ballot, but will have second place on the Democratic ballot.

A Trade Union Primary Election Committee for Dominelli has been set up. Members are Thomas F. Fyvie, Local 2054, Andrew Peterson, president, Local 301; Rudy Ellis, Local 301, campaign manager; Leonard Colasuono, president of Local 432, Laundry Workers Union; Stephen Zdunczyk, Local 128, Plumbers and Steamfitters, AFL; James Quigg, vice-president, Local 150, Transport Workers Union, and James Williams, United Transport Service Employees.

### Reminder to Stewards— Get Full Pay from GE

The UE-GE contract calls for the company to give a union committeeman up to 1½ hours pay a week for time spent discussing grievances with his foreman.

The Local 301 office has urged all shop committeemen to make sure they receive this pay for lost time.

After a committeeman discusses a grievance with a foreman, he should request the Union Committeeman Labor Voucher Form SW5403 from him to record the amount of time spent on the case.

Any difficulty in obtaining the voucher should be reported at once to the union office. The office will contact management.

### ALP Supports Pink Gardner Enters City Council Race on ALP Ticket

The American Labor Party will back Carroll A. (Pink) Gardner, Democrat, to oppose Representative Bernard F. Kearney, Republican, who seeks re-election as Congressman from the 31st Congressional District.

Originally the Schenectady County ALP filed a petition designating Andrew Peterson, president of Local 301, for nomination as its candidate for Congress. After the Democrat designated Gardner ALP leaders discussed international, national and local issues with him.

As a move to solidify the anti-Kearney forces, Peterson filed a declination and the ALP filed a substitute petition naming Gardner with the Secretary of State. William Mastriani of Local 301 is county ALP chairman.

Milo Lathrop, education director of Local 301, filed a declination for ALP nomination as Assembly candidate. The Democratic designee, Owen M. Begley, was substituted.

Two other Democrats were also designated by the ALP: Ernest G. Buhrmaster for district attorney and Morris L. Reed for coroner.

#### IMPORTANT!

Andrew Peterson, president of Local 301, has joined with all other CIO presidents in Schenectady in issuing a call for members of their unions to come to an emergency meeting at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, July 27, at 301 Liberty Street.

William Mastriani, chief shop steward of Local 301, has urged all shop committeemen to be present.

### Make Your Foreman Mark Your Voucher

Article VIII of the GE contract states that all piece prices will be classified as standard, temporary or special and that the classification will be marked on all vouchers.

The Local 301 business office reminds all workers that they should insist on their foremen complying with the contract and marking the vouchers. A foreman who refuses to stamp the voucher should be reported at once to your union representative.

The company has agreed to establish standard prices on all jobs as quickly as possible.



Lewis A. Benedict, president of Local 159, Transport Workers Union, CIO, is in the race for Schenectady City Council. A petition nominating him as American Labor Party candidate was filed last week with the Board of Elections. Supporters from Local 301, the TWU and USA have signed up for an active campaign for him.

### Unorganized Office Workers Miss Out On Benefits of New UE-GE Agreement

A large part of the new UE-GE contract deals with "white collar" questions, a statement by the Office Workers Organizing Committee of the Schenectady plant points out.

In addition, many other provisions mention salaried and hourly workers together. The contract is one of the few in the country between any union and a large corporation referring to both office and production employees.

The 100,000 workers whose hours, wages and working conditions are covered by this contract include only "recognized" groups,—or workers who have chosen UE as their collective bargaining agent. Among these "recognized" groups are the white collar employees at Pittsfield, Bridgeport, Erie Lynn, Philadelphia, Fort Wayne, Bloomfield and Taunton. All of them share the benefits and protection written into the agreement.

Because they are not organized, thousands of Schenectady GE office workers miss out on gains and security they could have under the contract, the Office Workers Organizing Committee declared.

"The main feature of protection for all covered employees is the section referring to 'reduction of forces'. The contract reads: 'In all cases of lay-offs or transfers due to lack of work total length of service shall be the major factor governing such lay-offs and transfers.' Among the organized or 'recognized' groups this means just what it says.

"At Schenectady, 'white collar' workers are laid off in slack times in accordance with the whims and fancies of individual supervisors. Many are laid off indiscriminately. SENIORITY IS NOT THE MAJOR FACTOR."

### Union Calendar

Tonight, Thursday, July 25.

7 p.m. Shop meeting, Bldg. 98, with Committeeman Mike Bieliski.

7 p.m. Welded products, with Board Member Foster Campbell.

7:30 p.m. Special Membership meeting.

Saturday, July 27, 10:30 a.m. Bldg. 69.