

# Labor Criticism Gives Campbell The Squirms

State Sen. Thomas F. Campbell has been extended an invitation by the '301' executive board to attend the next Union membership meeting if he wants to avail himself of the opportunity to further set his record straight.

The invitation was extended following the reading of a two page letter from Campbell in which he complained that the '301' NEWS was not presenting "true facts" about him.

The point at issue is Local 301's charge, as printed in the NEWS, that Campbell told a '301' committee he'd try to win repeal of some—not all—Hughes-Brees unemployment insurance law amendments.

Campbell says this is a "deliberate untruth," which the Board felt proved two things. He in effect says '301' members who saw him are liars—and it bears out UE's charge that he turned his back on the major demand of his labor constituency.

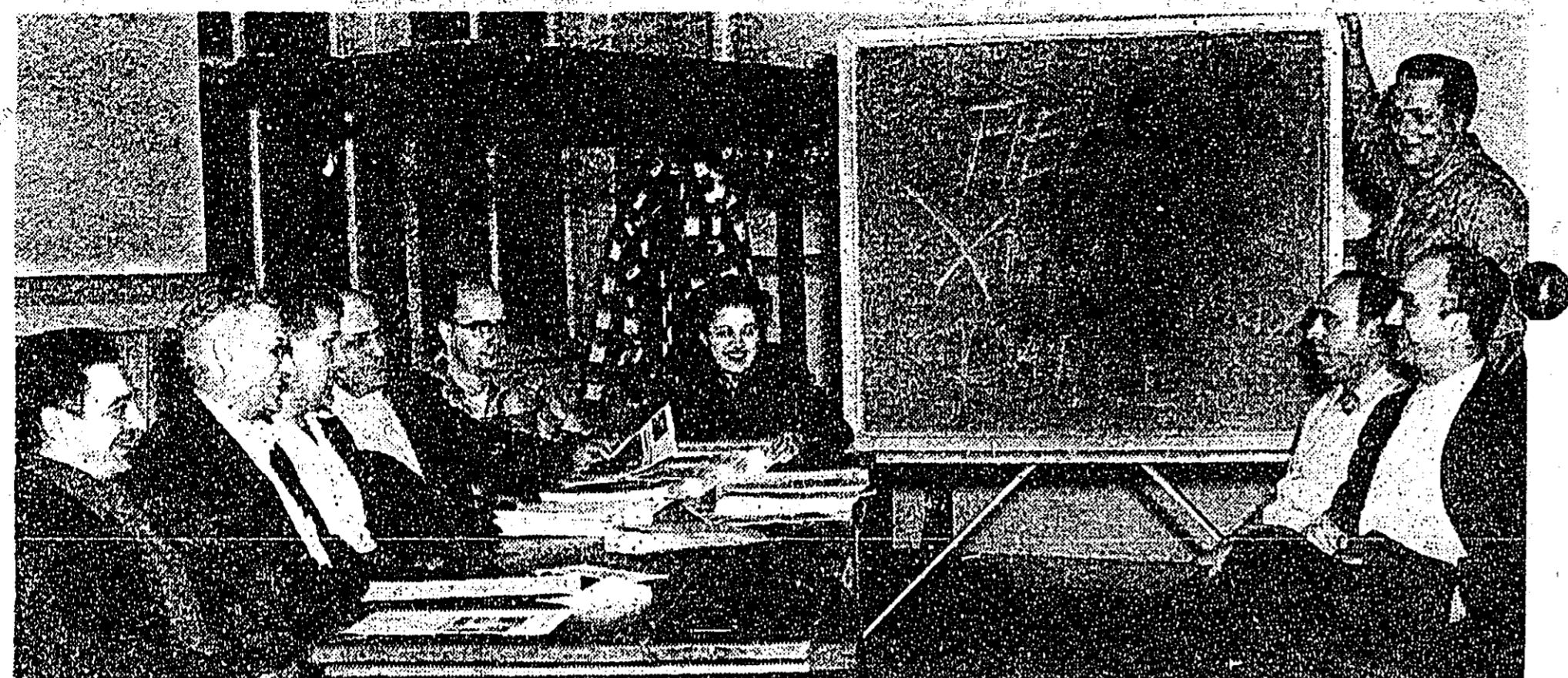
Campbell further made the damaging admission in his letter that a senate committee recommended no Hughes-Brees changes and he decided to "abide by their decision," rather than the wishes of his own voters.

Campbell also says he did his job by arranging a meeting for UE with Republican legislative leaders, which the AFL attended, inferring that he did his job for labor by arranging a meeting, while admitting he did nothing else.

Board members generally felt Campbell is alarmed at the prospect that labor may do to him next November what labor did to ex-Mayor Begley last fall for his anti-labor record, and noted that Campbell should get credit for his commitment to vote against the Irwin-Travia bill which would restrict union political action.

## 'Do Nothing'

In the second shortest session in history, the State Legislature adjourned what labor generally regarded as a 'do-nothing' session dictated by Gov. Thomas E. Dewey. All workmen's compensation bills that labor wanted were killed in committee, repeal of Hughes-Brees was killed, with the Republican majority exercising an iron hand over all legislation. New York City had its three percent sales tax continued and a \$60 parking tax added.



**SPELLING IT OUT.** The '301' Activities Committee is seen above at its first session planning a full schedule of social functions and activities for the membership in the year ahead. Seen l. to r. are: Anthony Rossi, 60; Ralph Pipe, 52; Michael Rakvica, 53; Philip Cognetta, 52; William Garrison, 73A; Ann De Celli, secretary, 28; O. B. "Bucky" Phillips, chairman, 285; Fred Pacelli, 46 and Michael Riggi, 60.

# Wilson Rushes To Bail Out Big Steel Bosses

Charles E. Wilson proved dramatically this week that he's still working the same side of the street as Defense Mobilizer as he did when he was GE President — the employers' side. After meeting with steel executives last week in New York City and then flying to see President Truman, Wilson announced

he was out to drastically cut down the inadequate improvements recommended by the WSB that the CIO steel union accepted. Acting like the anti-labor Wilson that GE workers have grown familiar with through the years, Wilson ignored:

The WSB chairman's statement that the steel recommendations "do not set a new pattern or start another round of increases or fringe adjustments for industry generally."

Steel contracts have not been re-opened on non-wage issues since 1945 and CIO Pres. Philip Murray had said "the workers in steel are merely requesting they be accorded substantially the same protections that are generally prevalent throughout American industry."

The real gimmick in Wilson's action was considered the fact that steel is only permitted a \$3 a ton increase under stabilization and the industrialists are aiming for a \$12 a ton increase — with Wilson acting as their front man.

There was a distinct possibility that Wilson acting so flagrantly on behalf of big business as "assistant" president might explode the whole wage freeze he set up for the employers, with labor members finally waking up and walking out of this employer set up that has frozen collective bargaining—while taxes, prices and profits keep going up.

GE workers, who are confronted

with GE using Wilson's freeze formula to offer only a 1.36 percent increase, were united in supporting

the fight of the steel workers and urging an end to the whole employer wage freeze program.

## Comparing UE and CIO Steel

A point-by-comparison of the WSB's major CIO steel recommendations with what UE has won demonstrates clearly why all of labor must back up the steel union's fight not to let Defense Mobilizer Charles E. Wilson water it down. It shows that steel still wouldn't have "caught-up." To let Wilson "water it down" would seriously hurt other unions—such as UE—in their efforts to improve their already better conditions. Here's the comparison:

	CIO Steel	UE
<b>Wages</b>	12 1/2 cents as of Jan. 1, 1952 (This is steel's 1951 wage increase) Another 5 cents for the next 18 months, ending July 1, 1953. 2 1/2 cents on July 1, 1952 and 2 1/2 cents on Jan. 1, 1953.	14 to 17 cents (An average 15 cents increase for 1951) No "closed" contract. A wage reopener now and reopening of entire contract in September.
<b>Holidays</b>	Six paid holidays	Six paid holidays since 1946. Seven since 1947.
<b>Premium Pay</b>	1 1/2 time for Sunday work as such after Jan. 1, 1953. 1 1/2 time for work after 40 hours, as in past according to Federal law. Double time for holidays. Straight time for Saturday work as such.	Double time for Sundays and holidays as such since 1941. 1 1/2 time for Saturday work as such since 1911. This is paid regardless of number of hours worked previously in the week.
<b>Shift Differentials</b>	6 cents for second shift 9 cents for third shift	10% of average earnings for both shifts.
<b>Incentive Pay</b>	Steel Union said its agreements on this are "unjust and impractical" — complicated, unfair and erratic" and asked new protections based on "fair day's pay for fair day's work." WSB referred it back. No change.	A price can't be changed unless there is a change of method and present earnings are guaranteed in case of a change of method on standard price.
<b>Vacations</b>	Three weeks after 15 years.	Three weeks after 15 years. (Won in 1951)
<b>Seniority</b>	Steel asked that seniority be determining factor in layoffs and rehiring. WSB referred it back. No change.	Seniority has been determining factor in layoffs and rehiring in UE contract for many years.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 10 — No. 13

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, April 4, 1952



**STANDING ROOM ONLY.** UE Local 301 stewards jam-packed the Union Hall last Monday night as they charted a program to change GE's tune from a one percent offer and get down to genuine collective bargaining on wage increases its workers are demanding.

# '301' Shop Stewards Map Fighting Program To Change GE's 1% Tune

Over 500 UE 301 stewards, meeting at a wage conference in the Union Hall, Monday, March 31, branded as "unmitigated gall" GE's attempt to shove over a Charley Wilson one percent wage formula in the current wage reopener and charted a program inside the Schenectady Works and throughout the chain to mobilize the rank and file in a fight to change GE's tune.

The stewards, who occupied every available seat and spilled over into standing room only in the rear of the hall, came to the conference armed with the rejection of GE's offer by members in building after building and their avowed determination to bring a change in GE's attitude.

GE's profits before taxes (which is the way a worker's wage is figured) set an all-time high last year, it was pointed out, hitting a peak of \$415,617,000 — which averages over \$2,000 in profits sweated out of each GE worker.

Speakers at the conference were Leo Jandreau, '301' business agent; Julius Emspak, UE general secretary-treasurer and James J. Matles, UE Director of Organization. GE's offer of a 1.36 percent increase, based on the government's Bureau of Labor Statistics, has already shrunk to 1.03 percent and before the next announcement is

made could fall below one percent or down to zero. On other wage demands, GE said they "weren't subject to negotiations" in this wage reopener.

Stewards made clear that their '301' delegates to the National UE Wage Conference in Buffalo, April 19, 20, should join in setting the specific amount of general increase

to be sought from GE. They spelled out the special wage demands to be fought for that GE says are not a subject for negotiations, including:

- Aiming for the 45 cent increase tool and diemakers and building trades craftsmen are seeking, based on a Wage Stabilization Board survey made

last fall — and killed by employer pressure. They voted to back this fight by mobilizing skilled workers in all GE plants and in other unions. • To eliminate the 9 cent differential between the average woman's job and the lowest men's job, with no woman making lower than common laborer's rate.

- To cut GE's geographical differentials — through which GE builds new tax-paid plants and gets the same work done in lower-paid communities for 20 to 30 cents an hour cheaper —but continues to sell at the same price to consumers. This threatens rates and jobs in all GE plants.

'301' Chief Shop Steward William Mastrianni called upon all stewards to back up the program by calling meetings in their groups,

## National UE Wage Conference

Three important meetings to chart UE's wage and collective bargaining course in the months ahead will take place in Buffalo, N. Y. on April 18, 19, 20.

On April 18, the UE General Executive Board will meet during the day. Friday evening, the GE and Westinghouse Conference Boards will meet and all day Saturday and Sunday, delegates from UE locals throughout the country will hold a two day National UE Wage Conference. Major attention will center on setting specific wage demand objectives and mapping national and community campaigns to achieve the economic demands.

UE Local 301 will elect its delegates to the UE National Wage Conference at its membership meeting, Monday, April 7. '301' GE Conference Board delegates are: Leo Jandreau, business agent; James J. Cognetta, president; and Fred Pacelli, second shift executive board member-at-large.



## ON THE JOB

Bldg. 10C. J. Chischietta, A& OS, on second shift for six years, was promised first available opening on first shift, but foreman refused when opening existed. He demands first shift job.

Bldg. 15: S. Ruziecki, punch press, demands his desk be moved to more suitable location because vibration of large punch press next to him interferes with his performance of close inspection of small parts.

Bldg. 16: A group demands higher classification on spin bearings machine. Work was done for nearly six years at average earnings by bearing group and recently given to rabbit room group at a day rate paying only \$1.65 an hour.

A group of painters demand a reevaluation, with reclassification and higher job rate in line with degree of skill performed on painting and spray work of high caliber to produce high finish.

A group of class D testers doing Class C testing demand a reclassification to C.

Bldg. 17: Reuben Mickle, George Croinex, Albert Galpin and Joseph Jablonski feel their set up rate is inadequate and request an increase to \$1.65 an hour.

Charles Vartanessian requests one hour pay for time spent on excess grind job on March 17, 1952.

Bldg. 24: Josephine La Brant, Winifred Haskin and Barbara Sarnowski demand a job reevaluation and higher rate because of added responsibilities and duties to their job as resistance check on Wheatstone Bridge test.

Bldg. 29: An entire group under Forelady Doberneck, performing hand pasting sheets section, ask an investigation of inadequate piece work prices that prevent satisfactory earnings.

Bldg. 46: John O'Reilly charges he was improperly penalized with a warning notice for poor attendance. He's lost time because of invalid mother and tried to keep lost time to minimum.

Bldg. 49: John E. Gilligan demands additional tool crib keepers because elimination of attendant on third shift has left entire load on

one man, whereas there are two men on other shifts.

A change of shift premium is demanded for D. J. Mulligan, who was shifted from third to first shift for one week to work on new machine which failed to enable him to pick up any knowledge that would make him more proficient in his usual line of work.

A group protests locking of men's room by supervision and cites fact that no Bldg. 273 wash-rooms are locked.

C. Purtell, promised a day shift job when an opening was available, demands he be given the present opening.

E. Raczkowski was classified as outside truck driver at the time this group got a one step increase. He demands he get the one step increase with retroactive pay.

Bldg. 52: Ralph Iacobucci and James Stewart protest that large water sight boxes prices are inadequate, with prices practically the same as for small boxes with much fewer parts.

A group of crane men and crane followers protest failure to call them in for overtime when half of men on floor are, and that inexperienced workers doing their work creates safety hazard.

A group protests inexperience and inability reflected by a person's performance in planning jobs.

Since practically all the workers they service are working on Saturdays, a tool room group feels they should get the same.

A group of hand burners demand piece work.

Bldg. 57: Frank Barnes, classified as B crane follower, works with A crane operator and demands reclassification to A crane follower.

Bldg. 59: A group of tallymen, now on one rate, asks that an A classification be established for those required to be versatile for total job, with a B rate for those confined to one part of the job, with the A rate to be three steps higher than the B.

Bldg. 60: A group charges the depth control job was classified as B without a management evaluation committee, though job was previously done in Bldg. 46 by A assemblers. A reevaluation by management evaluating committee is demanded.

Bldg. 66: H. Craft, welded products, claims the price paid for repainting after cylinder back plates and pipes are assembled and welded is not enough and demands an adjustment in price.

A price adjustment so that operator can maintain his hourly rate is demanded on job where operators took a cut because of a change of method.

A group demands that standard practice of a \$1.75 set up price for each different part be maintained. The foreman asserts the pricing table is not standard and is moving prices up and down to suit values set by supervision.

Bldg. 69: Harold W. Reed objects to Foreman O. Whitbeck's using of Albert Wachowicz, classified as grit blast operator, for a half a dozen jobs in shop outside of his regular work assignment.

Bldg. 76: Jack Alvarez, boxmak-

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.

ing, who performs several operations, demands reclassification to highest rated part of job.

E. C. Huestis, Leslie H. Matteson and William H. De Hart, box, perform class A millwork and demand reclassification to A with an increased rate.

Bldg. 107: Henry J. Caputo, a mason helper, feels he has not been given proper consideration for upgrading, based on his ability, experience and seniority.

Bldg. 273: A group demands \$1.21 as proper timing rate for boring mill-vertical turret—4 inch Bullard class A, which now pays \$1.16, but was formerly classified under boring mill vertical—up to 8 inches with a timing rate of \$1.21.

A group demands reinstatement of instructor H. Durran. His removal has resulted in foreman operating machines, outside his duties, and his lack of adequate instructions causes much repair work for which workers are not paid.

F. Starita demands an adjustment in rate and classification, since he feels he's improperly classified as welder hand-special.

Louis Sargent machined two operations at standard table price of \$10, but another job similar in content, except for welding together, is priced at only \$3. Steward A. Dazewski demands table for old standard prices and that new prices be computed from it.

J. J. Burke, a tool crib keeper class A for eight years, protests downgrading to B and demands restoration of his class A, with retroactive pay.

Bldg. 285: R. Wetzel, downgraded one step from tool follower to material moveman, demands restoration of rate.

Warehouse: Earnest Haverly, classified as accumulator and in charge of warehouse, feels he is under-rated and demands higher classification with increased rate.

Campbell Ave.: Leo Ezrow, Pasquale Perretta and Anthony Leone, classified as class C stockkeepers, feel their work and responsibilities deserve B and A classifications and increased rates.

### Lost and Found

Members have been urged to avail themselves of the Lost & Found Service available at the Patrol Station in Bldg. 49 for any articles they may have lost in the Works. It was reported last week that there is a large backlog of unclaimed articles at the Patrol Station.

**ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS**  
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE  
WORKERS OF AMERICA (UE)  
Local 301

Published by the Editorial Committee

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Vice-President—Roy Schaffner  
Recording Secretary—Rudy Rissland  
President—James Cognetta  
Chief Shop Steward—William Mastrianni  
Business Agent—Leo Jandreau

301 LIBERTY ST SCHENECTADY 5, N. Y.



### Porter, Moveman Win Shared Overtime

Discrimination against a moveman and porter on overtime has been halted in Bldg. 69. The Union took up the grievance of Reynolds G. Baker, a moveman and R. Olmstead, a porter, who were instructed not to come in on a Saturday when Foreman J. Flichta called in the rest of their group to work.

The two workers charged Plichta was using a strictly speed-up proposition, trying to get six days of work in five, and demanded this type of discrimination be ended.

They demanded the share of overtime to which they're entitled under the contract. Steward D. Pucci handled the grievance.

### DVA Veterans Clinic Offers Free Advice

UE member Dominick Tiscione, commander of Lt. V. O. Fryer chapter 88 of the Disabled Veterans Committee, announces that a Veterans Clinic is now open every Thursday evening from 8 to 10 p.m. at the Legion Post Memorial Home on Chrisler Ave.

Free advice is available for veterans, Tiscione said, on such problems as compensation, tax exemptions, insurance and widows' benefits.

### Donato Elected

P. J. Donato was elected to the '301' executive board in a special election held on March 26. He will represent welded products workers in Buildings 66, 52, 60 and 64. He replaces Harry Bayliss, who was compelled to resign for personal reasons.

### Halts Intimidation

A grievance filed by Josephine Strenka, a mica worker in Bldg. 29, has resulted in Forelady Doberneck receiving instructions to cease intimidating, discriminating and reprimanding the worker, who is not even under her supervision.

## Tame 'Horsewhip' General Foreman

General Foreman R. Robinson, Campbell Ave.-Race Track, who was warned two months ago if he continued his "horsewhip" treatment of workers he might find no one to whip some fine day, found out last week it was all too true.

The man who boasted that as far as he was concerned there was no Union contract he'd observe, was compelled to stand by on March 24 while his workers took an extra 15 minutes lunch hour to discuss enforcement of Union conditions.

The next morning Robinson was able to do nothing but bite his lip as no work started until 8:30 a.m., an hour later than usual. The result was that Robinson was called into a three hour meeting in the electronics superintendent's office, along with Howard McLean, '301' Board member; and Stewards Louis Passikoff, Frank Jennings and Edmund Kelly.

Immediate action was promised on grievances involving failure to equalize overtime and paying workers for good A and B work.

Robinson was told to take the handcuffs off of foremen and let them settle grievances without interference.

Robinson the following morning still insisted he didn't agree with the workers' estimate of his conduct, but McLean informed him the workers' opinion was what counted and they were prepared to back it up again.

At last report, the "horsewhip" was on the shelf, with Robinson's attitude showing a marked change for the better on various issues placed before him by Union members.

## "Alert America" April 3, 4, 5

James J. Cognetta, UE Local 301 president, this week personally urged members to attend "Alert America," a giant road show illustrating Civil Defense procedures and showing how the American people may take greater part in the activity, will be in Schenectady at the State Armory on Washington Avenue on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 3, 4, and 5.

The show is sponsored by the Valley Forge Foundation, a non-profit organization which administers national programs in the public interest. Shows in Schenectady and Albany will be the only ones in this part of New York State.

The show will be brought to Schenectady by a motorcade of trucks. It will be open to the public. There will be no admission charge.

## UE Mica Organizing Drive Paying Off

Mica Insulator workers were last week finding out what the power of organization in UE can accomplish. With over a majority rejecting the company union in that plant and joining UE, the company rushed to put out a 4.2 percent wage increase and get quick Wage Stabilization Board approval.

Mica workers, ignoring the company union officers, have also been taking up their grievances through their UE stewards and getting results on a whole string of accumulated grievances.

With a NLRB election not likely to be set for some weeks, Local 301 officers have urged that members in GE continue to contact friends and relatives in the plant and help sign up the shop.

## Rail, Auto, Textile Get Pay Cuts

The cost-of-living "up and down escalators" that were started in the labor movement by CIO Auto Workers Pres. Walter Reuther as a means of substituting charts for collective bargaining on wage increases are proving to be the "fool's gold" that the United Mine Workers, UE and other unions warned about.

The escalator provides increases if the government BLS living cost index shows an increase and a cut in pay if the BLS figures move down.

IUE-CIO Pres. James B. Carey has tried to foist such escalators on electrical workers and GE is trying to use such an approach to avoid paying a substantial wage increase.

The pay-off on the escalator clauses is coming in April. CIO

northern textile workers, who have such clauses, got a one cent cut in wages last week, as did 1,150,000 railroad workers, based on a BLS announcement that the index went down on Feb. 15.

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## Large Motor & Generator Stoppage Gets Results

An explosive situation in the large motor and generator division, provoked by General Foreman Andrew Terpak for a long time, blew wide open last week when about 2,000 workers work on Friday, March 28, and were joined by Bldg. 60 workers on Monday, March 31.

The blow-off was caused by an accumulation of unsettled grievances involving contract violations that supervision refused to settle satisfactorily. These cases had been referred to management level, but with the lack of authority that exists there because of GE's new decentralization policy in the Works, they were given the brush-off.

The final issue involved was refusal to put R. J. Leger, an apprentice graduate with 22 years service, on a new 42 foot boring mill machine, despite his ability, experience and seniority. A man with nine years' service was put on the machine.

GE on Monday agreed to discuss piled-up grievances that provoked the stoppage. A committee composed of '301' Pres. James J. Cognetta, John Oberlies, '301' board member; Stewards L. Wilkins, G. Seingenberger and R. Banagan, plus Serafin Pita, assistant business agent, on Tuesday won management's agreement on the following:

Leger will be given the first opportunity for a better job on new machines that will be installed. GE agreed that in all future upgradings seniority will be given the full consideration provided in the UE contract.

A warning notice given Oberlies for the stoppage was withdrawn.

## Bldg. 17 Meeting Backs Women

The first in what is planned as a series of meetings to take up the special demands of women in current negotiations with GE was held in Bldg. 17 on March 26, with a good turnout of men and women.

Helen Quirini, '301' treasurer and Sadie Iovinelli, '301' executive board member-at-large, laid stress on the need for men to understand this fight was their fight—that lower rates for women threatened the higher rates of men.

Iovinelli cited the government wartime exposure of GE's rate discrimination towards women and the progress made since by UE, despite bitter GE resistance at every step. She pointed out much more needs to be done. Quirini urged support by all workers of the dockets on wire panelling work now being discussed.

## Rival Unions Unite Against Harvester

UE's appeal for a common fight against International Harvester, as it has appealed for such action in GE, has resulted in joint talks being held by three unions on the question of wage classifications, piecework rates and other conditions.

Three locals, all at Harvester industrial power division plants, UE's Farm Equipment Local 101 and AFL Federal Local 22631 at the Milwaukee Works and CIO United Auto Workers Local 6 at Melrose Park, Ill., have agreed on joint resistance to the "general offensive" of the Harvester Corp. against all unions.

Described as "mutual benefit" talks, another joint meeting has been scheduled in April. UE Local 101 opens negotiations with Harvester on May 1 and the other two unions will begin talks on a health and welfare plan in June.

"Every Member—Bring A Member!"

UE LOCAL 301

## JOINT MEETING

### Members & Stewards

2nd SHIFT  
Monday, April 7, 1952  
1:30 P.M. (before work)

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

Local 301 Hall  
Erie Blvd. & Liberty St.

