

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA U.E. LOCAL 301

Vol. 12 — No. 12

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, January 8, 1954

That Tax Cut Finally Arrives

Your income tax went down Jan. 1. If you are married, have two children and an income of \$3,000, your income tax dropped from \$67 to \$60, but your social security tax, because of the increase from 1½% to 2% effective Jan. 1, went up from \$45 to \$60. If you are married, with two children, and earn \$250,000, your income tax dropped from \$167,772 to \$154,754 and your social security tax went up from \$54 to \$72.

Married persons with two children had a net increase in taxes, including both income and social security, if their incomes came in the \$2,000-\$2,500 or \$3,000 bracket. Those with \$4,000 or more showed a net decrease.

The income tax reduction was automatic in legislation passed under the Truman administration, which provided a 10% increase in income taxes to pay for the Korean war and set that increase to expire Jan. 1. The increase in social security taxes affects both employers and workers. It had the backing of organized labor.

New dangers were ahead on taxes. It was generally expected that the administration will ask for an increase in manufacturers' excise taxes which would be passed on to consumers and hit small-income families hardest. The excess profits tax also expired Jan. 1.



Washington—"Millions of working men and women are plagued by the fear that their jobs and their income may be snatched away by a depression," said CIO Pres. Walter P. Reuther in a Jan. 1 statement.

Detroit—Work was slack in most Detroit auto plants the last half of December and the smaller makers have little prospect of a good year in 1954, it is believed.

Washington—The AFL and the railroad unions blasted the report of a bunch of experts, financed by big business, who told President Eisenhower to abolish the Labor Department in its present form, as

Shop Stewards Take Oath

U. E. Local 301 Shop Stewards were sworn into office for their new term at the first shop stewards meeting for 1954 last Monday.

In a report from the officers it was pointed out that 1954 is expected to be a trying year for every representative of our Union; therefore, it is necessary for them to attend these meetings regularly and to carry out their duties to the best of their ability.

It was further pointed out in the report by the officers that the Union had been lax in the past in enforcing the constitution on attendance at meetings and activities of Union representatives. However, this year all Union representatives will be held accountable for their responsibilities.

In the annual elections for shop stewards a total of 568 were elected, 12 of which were disallowed because the elected candidate did not have the required minimum service of one year as a Union member. The Executive Board ordered new elections in these groups.

The annual shop stewards' classes will be held early in February to give the new stewards an opportunity to learn the interpretation of the contract and familiarize them with the functions of the Union. There were approximately 200 new shop stewards elected.

Albert Fitzgerald, National President of the U. E., spoke at the meeting, stressing the importance of the shop steward's job in the shop. He congratulated the local Union on the good job it has done over the last 17 years in raising the living standards of G. E. workers.

well as the railroad mediation board and the railroad retirement board.

Salem, Ore.—27,000 lumber workers are unemployed in Oregon and thousands of others are working short time, the Intl. Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union survey indicates.

San Francisco—Not even Rep. Robert L. Condon (D, Calif.) could buy time on the air to answer unsubstantiated charges against him before an un-American committee. All three San Francisco stations refused him free time.

83rd Congress Convenes

Last Wednesday the Congress and the Senate of the United States convened the second session of the 83rd Congress. This last session is expected to be quite busy — it will

Journal Reveals McCarthy Backing

As Senate Democrats Jan. 4 planned a showdown fight to clip the inquisitorial power of Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R), interest was fanned by a long feature story in the Milwaukee Journal listing a new group of millionaires backing the Wisconsin witchhunter.

"Almost all McCarthy's new cronies," said the Journal, largest daily in McCarthy's home state, "have two things in common—immense wealth and a fierce contempt for liberals. They are men who are looking for new worlds to conquer. They have made all the money anyone could possibly want and they now have entered a new field—that of influencing public opinion."

One of the new McCarthy supporters is listed as millionaire Eugene Biggers, who supplied the senator with a \$6,000 Cadillac automobile plus fixings. Clint Murchison, Dallas, Tex., millionaire, is another. H. R. Cullen, Houston millionaire, has joined the parade, as has E. B. Germany, Dallas millionaire oil and steel man.

As Congress prepared to resume its activities, leading Democrats in the upper house were at work on a scheme to clip McCarthy's activities as a 1-man investigating committee. They were appealing to liberal Republicans to join them in the move.

Their plan is to have the Senate deny the investigations subcommittee under McCarthy further authority to operate until McCarthy takes back Democratic members who walked off the subcommittee in disgust last summer. The Democrats would be taken back on their own terms — namely, that they have a voice in the affairs of the subcommittee and it cease to be a 1-man show.

ASK YOUR SHOP STEWARD ABOUT U. E. LOCAL 301 COMPENSATION SERVICE

pick up where it left off last August.

It is a closely divided Congress as far as Republicans and Democrats are concerned. Of the 96 Senators, 48 are Democrats and 47 are Republicans and one Senator, Morse of Oregon, is an Independent. Of the 435 members of the House of Representatives, 220 are Republicans, 214 are Democrats and one is an Independent.

Many issues will come before both Houses that will affect the welfare of every working man and woman — issues such as how many billions of dollars to spend and how much money to raise in the form of taxes and whom to get it from. Organized labor will be faced with proposals to toughen up on Taft-Hartley and new legislation to clamp controls on Unions who fight hard for wages and better working conditions. Social Security, education and unemployment will be among the key issues.

The elections this year will be on every legislator's mind during the last session of this Congress, because 435 Congressmen will be up for election this coming fall. Also, 35 Senate seats will be on the ballot in November 1954.

The working men and women should keep abreast of the news of Congress between now and next August when they adjourn. There will be plenty of campaigning and lobbying done by those groups that are not interested in the security or standards of working people. The Union will do everything possible to protect its members. However, to be successful we need the interest and support of the membership.

District #3 Council to Meet in Schenectady

The next meeting of U. E. District #3 Council will be held January 15 and 16 in Schenectady. The Council represents the U. E. Locals in upstate New York.

Local 301 delegates are: James Brown, #273; William Stewart, #273; Philip Cognetta, #52; William Mastriani, #73; William Christman, #18.

We Speak From Experience

Veteran GE workers take stock in this issue of the Electrical Union News as UE Local 301 begins its 18th year in the Schenectady Works. Of all the benefits won through the Union they count this the greatest:

FREEDOM FROM FEAR!

They remember when —
 "You had to sneak a smoke . . . eat your sandwich on the whistle."
 "You couldn't even talk to the man on the machine next to yours."
 "Some of us had to kick back part of our wages . . . some of us even paid for our jobs."
 "You couldn't talk back to your foreman."
 "Whatever they wanted you to do, you did . . . or else."
 "Always, we were afraid of losing our jobs."
 "There was no appeal from the company."
 "They laid you off when, as, and how they wanted to."
 "We came to work and if there wasn't work we waited . . . on our time."

UE CHANGED ALL THIS!

"That's why GE is trying to turn us against UE."
 ". . . And bring back the years of fear."

Louis Santabarbara, Bldg. 16, All-Around Machinist, 33 yrs.



It's hard to imagine what it was like before we had UE. You had to beg for your job. There were arguments about pay all the time. The foremen would say, 'You're lucky you have a job,' and that usually ended the argument. Today, you have a strong union. You don't have to be afraid. You can speak your mind. Another thing I think about when I hear or read about another depression, is the way it was in the last depression. Wage cuts. Big layoffs. No seniority. The first thing UE did after 1936 was to stop the wage cuts even though we were still in a depression, and win seniority. It seems to me the company wants to go back to the old way in case of a depression. UE will never let them do that.

John Steslow, Bldg. 273, Turbine Erector, 35 yrs. service.



Our Union has cost the company millions of dollars. Each year a raise, not to mention many benefits. That's why the company is trying to turn us against our union with talk about "communism". Yet, we're the same union that won the highest honors any union could get during World War II. We were given the Navy "E". The President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, saluted our union. Even General Electric paid tribute to the patriotism of our union. We were good then. We are just as good now. This talk about "espionage" is a lot of spinach, if you ask me.



William Hodges, Past Pres., UE Local 301, Retired.

I was President at the time of the split. Before that, I was Vice-President for three years and Recording Secretary for 10 years.

We had the AFL here after World War I but it broke up. No unity. Then we had the Works Council, a company union. The company paid the salaries of union officers and, of course, dominated the organization. We were unable to do a thing for the workers through the Works Council.

So, we organized in UE and I swore to do everything I could to help build a fighting union that would be the most democratic in the country. That purpose was fulfilled. Nobody dominated me. Nobody dominated the union, then or since.

In line with the local's emphasis on service to the members, the community and the nation, I served on the U. S. Labor Board, and on the boards of the Red Cross, Community Chest, and similar endeavors.

We, in Schenectady, led the entire country in round after round of wage increases and contract benefits. We were always under attack for that very reason. But we licked them before. We'll lick them again!

Stanley Aldhous, Bldg. 49, 29 yrs. service.



Altogether, I put in 38 years with the company. The biggest thing UE did for us? People aren't afraid of supervision the way they used to be. I remember when we had no security. I never want to see that day again. We were like dirt to the company. We tried to get organized. For a while we were in the AFL.

But the company sold us the "American Plan." Know what the "American Plan" was? A Company union. The company is trying to sell us their "American Plan" all over again. Let's not fall for it.

Jack Mele, Bldg. 46, Tool Maker, 25 yrs. service.



When UE first started out in Schenectady over 17 years ago, the top rate for toolmakers was around 60c an hour. Now, it's \$2.48 and we had to fight for every penny. Our union was the leader in the country in new ideas for contracts. We were first to win paid holidays, 3 weeks vacation for long service workers, etc. Yes, the best proof that the men in the shop run the Union is that the Union has done a job for the people in the shop. We're opposite from outfits like IUE which run from the top, with no secret ballot vote on contracts, strikes and settlements, no respect for the members.

Anthony Esposito, Bldg. 53, Tool Room, 32 yrs. service.



Before UE, tool makers used to wait 25 years to make the top rate. Now, a young fellow can make it in five years. Speaking as an old-timer, I want to say UE did a marvelous job for the young people by fighting for automatic progression. As for who runs this union, there can be no question. I've been on the Executive Board and a Committeeman for years. I know. The members run this union. Nobody else.

George S. Crandall, Bldg. 273, Shipping, 26 yrs. service.



When I became steward in 1948 our price was about 91c. Around the first of each month we would lose a day or two days' pay. Today we get a decent week's pay and we stopped the monthly layoffs. The reason we can get results that the members tell us we can get is that the Executive Board listens to them. Then we work as a team to get what we want. To keep it that way, all we have to do is stay united and refuse to return to the days of fear, when GE workers were scared for their jobs and afraid of their foremen.

Louis DeAngelis, Bldg. 52, Arc Welder, 25 yrs. service.



When we didn't have UE, we didn't have wash-up time, or smoking privileges. We had to eat our sandwiches strictly by the whistle, take whatever work the company offered at whatever the company wanted to pay. Many a time we hung around without pay hoping for a few hours work. That's how it was before UE. The company wants it to be that way again and that's why IUE agents are in town trying to help the company break our unity. Fat chance!

Stefan Skrzynski, Bldg. 17, Punch Press, 42 yrs. service.



I came to work for General Electric in 1912. Whatever they wanted you to do, you did. Whatever they wanted to pay, you took. If you kicked you were told that many were waiting for your job outside the gate. If you were given a 2c raise you had to tip your hat to the general foreman. UE changed all that. Foremen have to treat us like human beings. Back then, we didn't even dream of the benefits we've won since. I had to work 10 years before I got a week's vacation. Now a new worker gets that after a year. UE got that for us. No body else.

Vincent Palazek, Bldg. 60, Millwright, 20 yrs. service.



You hear a lot about kick-backs on the waterfront. We used to have 'em in the old Refrigerator Dept. If you kicked back part of your pay to your foreman you had a job, if not, you were out. A lot of men even bought their jobs. UE brought this to the attention of the authorities and there was a clean-up. UE then won upgrading as we have it now and equalization of overtime. We — the Union — did a good job and the fact that the enemies of our union red-bait us only proves they can't take us on over issues and on the record.

Nick Falvo, Bldg. 17, Tool & Die, 15 yrs. service.



I came to work for GE in 1937 for \$1 an hour. After 7 or 8 months I was laid off together with a lot of other people. I have seen the Union fighting for our jobs, our seniority, our raises, standing by us when we got into trouble. If not for the Union we would have to beg the company for favors instead of demanding what is ours by right. We couldn't do without our Union. Don't let anyone do us out of it.



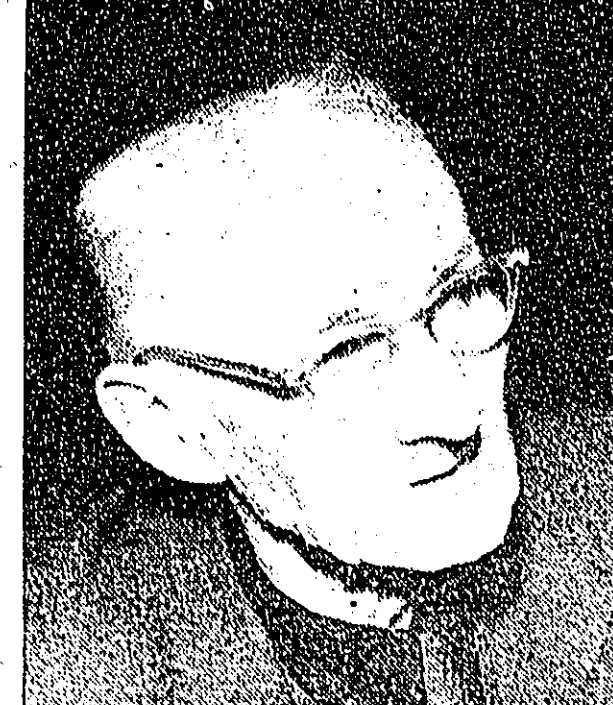
William Kelly, Past Pres., Local 301, Bldg. 273

I started with this company in 1916 and the changes I've seen because of our union have been so great you would not think it the same plant. In the old days, the company handed out extreme penalties and there was no appeal and no one to talk it over with. If GE today is not a bad place to work in, it is thanks to UE. The elimination of abuses, the winning of a shorter work week, higher earnings and greater benefits are due to our unity behind UE.

As President of UE Local 301 for a period of two years — '50 and '51 — I could see what the local was like on the "inside", so to speak. I found myself surrounded by hard-working trade unionists whose only concern was to better the conditions of GE employees. At no time did I ever hear mention of "sabotage" or "subversion" by either the Union or General Electric.

I am convinced that the only way we can keep what we have and win further gains is through our united efforts behind UE.

Albert Van Der Zee, Founder UE Local 301, President, Pensioners Club



I'm proud I had a hand in building the organization. Our Union helped put the city on

Harry Williams, Bldg. 16, Milling Machine Op., 13 yrs. service.



I think Cordiner (GE President) is wrong to try to take Constitutional rights away from GE workers. Our country is in for trouble if a corporation is allowed to decide what part of the Constitution applies to its employees. What happens to equality under the law? As for our union, it can stand on its splendid record during two wars. Our contract ranks with the best in the country. Our seniority clause is second to none. Our democracy is unequalled. I guess Cordiner doesn't like that. What's more important, we do!

Charles Horvedell, Founder, Bldg. 61, All-Around Machinist.



We began organizing here in Schenectady back in '33, a good 16 years before there was sign or smell of IUE. It was the midst of the depression and we had no protection from the company dominated Works Council. The company tried to stop us from organizing into UE. You can see why. UE has meant higher wages, better conditions and substantial benefits. I'm on vacation right now, thanks to UE. But most of all UE has meant FREEDOM FROM FEAR of supervision and management.

The company is trying to bring back the days of fear by manufacturing a red scare. But why be scared? That's what the company wants us to be!

Larry Gebb, Bldg. 273, 13 yrs. service.

I've talked to people from IUE shops and it's as though they were back in the company union days of the Works Council. In Lynn, the Executive Board passes on just about all grievances while here in Schenectady most grievances are settled on the floor by the stewards. From what I've seen and heard, our on-the-spot grievance system is the best in the country. Our Executive Board does a really wonderful job backing up the stewards and carrying out the decisions of the membership. The days when we were afraid to talk to the man on the next machine and lived in constant fear of being fired are over and done with, although the company isn't convinced. Let's convince the company anytime it steps out of line.

its feet when many businessmen were closing their doors in 1936. Since then, not a drive was started to benefit the community but that this organization did everything to put each quota over the top.

Many will recall that I was Shop Chairman when we had the AFL Metal Trades Council. The General Electric Co. broke up the AFL just as it is trying to do to UE and other unions it deals with. But in the case of UE it will not succeed because our's is a fighting organization, a democratic body, whose members have courage in their hearts.