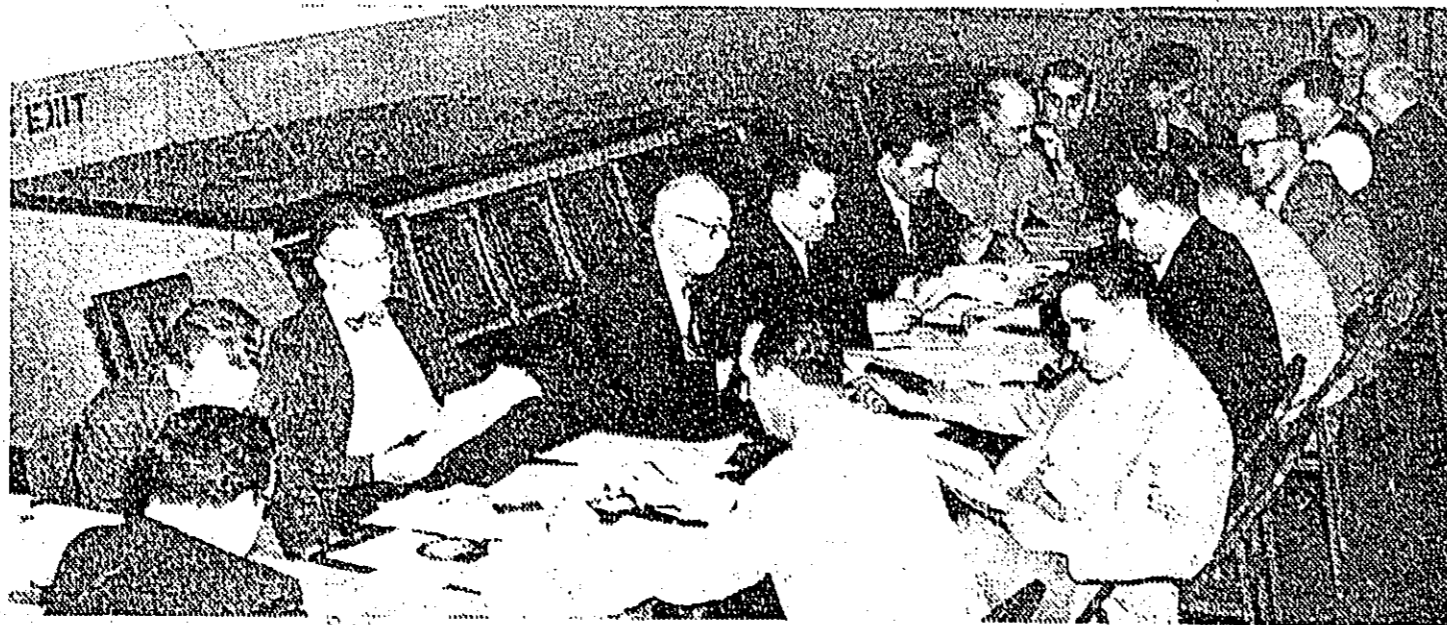




BRIEFING. On right, stewards from Bldg. 273, sections 1-2, meeting on April 9. On left, the first session, which kicked off the stewards classes, on March 18. Below that is seen the group that met on April 3 and below them are the stewards from Bldgs. 15, 17, 19, meeting on March 20. Bottom, left, vigorous discussion marked this April 1 session.



AND MORE BRIEFING. Top right, stewards from section one, Bldg. 273 and Malta, Alplaus, Flight Test and Knolls met on April 8, while bottom, right, is small part of stewards representing over 18 buildings that met on April 2.



UE Local 301's 'Spring Training'

UE Local 301 has been having its own "spring training" to get in fighting trim for the battles that lie ahead.

The shape and size of the battles are varied. There are the day-to-day grievances. There is the current wage re-opener with GE. In September, the entire contract is up for discussion. There are attacks from the outside, such as GE is trying to get Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D, Minn.) to launch against UE.

And the people who make the difference in successfully winning the fights ahead and beating off attacks by anti-union elements—the 609 shop stewards of '301' have been working hard the last few weeks (as seen on this page) to make sure they are best able at all times to serve and lead the membership.

Beginning on March 18 and continuing through April 10, the stewards in each division have each held a one night "briefing" session at Union Headquarters. These sessions have at length dealt with the UE contract, UE constitution, the Union's collective bargaining goals for 1952 and the nature of the attacks that GE and anti-union elements would like to launch against UE.

Having decisively defeated the IUE-CIO splitters two years running '301' is rolling up its sleeves to build the maximum unity of all GE workers to accomplish one thing—compel GE to fork over the improved wages and conditions that its workers deserve.

It's all part of an increased participation by the membership that is at its highest since before the IUE-CIO began its split over two years ago.

It all adds up to a stronger Union — which will be even more strengthened as more join '301' and participate in its activities.



Take It From Here...

Jamestown, N. Y.—The 65 workers at the Jamestown Metal Products Co. selected UE as their bargaining representative in an NLRB election that took place on Apr. 12.

Portland, Ore.—The CIO Woodworkers charge lumber employers are trying to provoke a strike. Membership sentiment is reflected in a vote showing 98 percent in favor of striking if no reasonable offers are made.

Mansfield, Ohio—UE Locals 758 and 747 have won a 8 1/2 cent package increase for workers in the Ohio Brass Co. plants in Mansfield and Barberton.

Washington, D. C.—The Washington District Council of the AFL Painters Union is considering picketing the Capitol by airplane because Capitol architect David Lynn awarded a painting job on the structure and dome to a non-union contractor. Capitol rules forbid picketing on the grounds.

Columbus, Ohio — UE General Counsel David Scribner is seeking a test in court of his charge that the Ohio un-American activities commission is illegal. The commission recently subpoenaed four UE members in Dayton, Ohio. The commission chairman agreed to Scribner's stipulation that their testimony was subject to the court's decision.

Troy, N. Y.—CIO Auto Workers were scheduled to go on strike at the Ford Green Island plant on May 1 unless the company agrees to negotiate a grievance involving a speed up of production.

Port Edward, N. Y.—The IUE-CIO, which filed for an election in the Port Edward and Hudson Falls GE plants, failed to even show up for an NLRB hearing to set the date. UE Local 332 members called upon the IUE-CIO to either "put up or shut up," charging the IUE has no members or supporters in either plant.



Fight GE's 'Get Tough' Policy in Local Works

Not content with a wage freeze that aids immeasurably their mounting profits, GE in the Schenectady Works has in recent weeks embarked on a program of speed up in the divisions to get even more out of its workers, while at the same time it is trying to throw collective bargaining out the window at top management level on grievances.

Pacesetters

Two sections in Bldg. 273 are setting the pace on the second shift in contributions to the UE '301' Fighting Fund.

Out of about 50 in the polishing room in D Bay, Steward Joseph Thomas reports that over 95 percent have paid their \$5 in full.

Steward Joseph Kozan reports that his group of 23 in the bucket department in C Bay has gone over the 90 percent on \$5 payments. Kozan attributes the high total to the fact that his section leads other bucket sections in settling grievances and halting attempted price cuts by the Company.

That was the strongly expressed opinion of '301' leaders this week, who based their conclusion on a series of incidents that have occurred in recent weeks in the Works.

They cited grievance after grievance, resulting from this "get tough" speed up policy of GE, that has ended up at top management level, with Works management playing the role of diplomats but claiming the authority for settlement rests in the divisions.

An illustration of management's attitude was displayed towards approximately 40 wire enamellers in Bldg. 109 on April 25. These workers had been running a group of machines with 10 heads and the foreman insisted on increasing it to 16. When efforts were made to discuss the speed up, the foreman told the workers to take it or go home—which the workers did. At presstime, word was received that top management has agreed to discuss the grievance on May 5.

Equally glaring has been a whole series of grievances in the aeronautics division that have gone to management level with no sincere effort by GE to resolve them.

A leader, who was a trouble-shooting expert in Bldg. 28 turned in boreamatic machine suggestions to GE which eliminated a few operations and computed prices on jobs through his own short cuts. He received over \$1100 for the suggestions and was made a

A HELPING HAND. That's what Local 301 delegates to the UE National Wage Conference in Buffalo, April 19, 20, gave to the two delegates from the Mica Insulator Co., where UE's organizing campaign has rolled up a majority in the plant. Seen above, l. to r., Charles Ferris, John Smith, William Mastrianni, '301' chief shop steward; Mica workers Leonard Wronkowski and Florence Hoyle, James J. Cagnetta, '301' president; Vincent Palazake and Ray Ellis.

Upstate Craftsmen Meet In Syracuse

Skilled toolmakers and building trades craftsmen from several upstate New York plants will meet on Sunday, May 4, in Syracuse, to discuss ways and means to break through the freeze on their wages.

It is expected that skilled workers from AFL, CIO and independent union shops will plan steps to wage a common fight to solve a common problem—the refusal of the Wage Stabilization Board, under pressure from industry members, to put into effect the wage ceilings ranging from 30 to 77 cents for these workers that a WSB panel recommended last fall. The '301' executive board designated Leo Jandreau, business agent and William Mastrianni, chief shop steward, to attend the meeting, with the '301' skilled workers steering committee on April 29 electing four additional representatives. They are Anthony Esposito and Ray Ellis, toolmakers; George Diemer, electricians and Henry Caputo, masons.

3 Week Vacation OK'd

The Wage Stabilization Board has approved three weeks paid vacation after 15 years service that UE won from General Electric in last fall's negotiations. WSB industry members voted against approval, while labor and public members voted for it.

Continued on page 2

Fight GE's 'Get Tough' Policy in Local Works

Continued from Page 1

foreman. When the job was transferred to Bldg. 10C, boreamatic operators found it impossible to make out on the prices. Neither 10C supervision or management would grant a requested time study.

In 10C, an operator who had a boreamatic job set up and ready to run was told by his foreman to tear down another job and install a new design quill. The foreman paid only waiting time for the work instead of average earnings.

Also in 10C, an operator was ready to run a job and his foreman told him not to until he got more information about a different job and paid the operator only waiting time for 2½ hours.

In Bldg. 28, a B test job was moved from the glass room to Bldg. 10C and downgraded by cutting the rate to C.

Also in 28, a day shift milling machine operator was paid \$1.70 piece work, day work, while the second shift operator was paid \$1.60 PWDW for the same work.

In Bldg. 24, the workers charged timing rates are too low in relation to similar jobs done within the aeronautic division, including resistance check on the Wheatstone Bridge test, spot welding has a 54 cent timing rate, assembly jobs paying women only 54 cents timing rate and a thrust selector job that pays only \$1.29 an hour.

In 10C, a class A wire assembler job that has been day work for five years was filled with women. It was cut to C, with a timing rate of 60 cents for the same type of wiring done elsewhere for 92 cents.

In Bldg. 46, a new inspection departure was introduced. GE hired new applicants from the gate on a 12 week inspection training pro-

gram, after which they're classified as B and C mechanical inspectors, while C inspectors with 20, 12 and 10 years are by-passed for upgrading.

Supervision in both Bldgs. 46 and 60 has introduced a D and E assembly classification which was never before in existence and never negotiated with the Union. Over 150 workers have filed a petition stating that C has always been the lowest assembly classification and demanding an end to the new departure.

Proper Hiring Rate Won for Welder

Retroactive pay to March 3, 1952 was won for G. E. Cruickshank in a grievance settlement involving hiring below his rate.

Hired recently as an arc welder with previous experience, he was started in Bldg. 273 at a \$1.42 rate instead of the \$1.65 per hour the contract provides, which is two steps below the job rate of \$1.75. The retroactive pay was for the difference between the \$1.42 and \$1.65.

Steward J. Lynch handled the grievance.

37 Papers Folded in 1951

Thirty seven morning and Sunday newspapers folded during 1951, continuing the trend toward one-newspaper towns, according to the 84th annual Directory of Newspapers & Periodicals.



What is there to stop us from coming out for the elimination of wages entirely?

AFL Hits 'Do Nothing' Congress Record

A labor's eye view of the actions of the second session of the current Congress, as given in a recent issue of the AFL News Reporter, cites a record of a "do-nothing" Congress for the people as far as this organ of the AFL is concerned.

Checking the record since January on issues labor considers most important, the AFL listed its election year activities to date as follows:

Price control, nothing; taxes, nothing; housing, nothing (but the House has done worse than nothing by reducing the public housing program to 5,000 units); rent control, nothing; Taft-Hartley Act, nothing; social security, nothing; health insurance, nothing; hospital care, nothing; doctor shortage, nothing; jobless pay, nothing; minimum wage, nothing; school shortage, nothing; civil rights, nothing.

Textile Unemployment

Of New England's 140,000 textile workers, 62,000 are unemployed, according to a Wall Street Journal survey.

Urge Check At 65 By Pensioners

GE workers who retire before reaching the age of 65 should be careful to check their total pension, including social security, upon reaching the age of 65 to make sure they receive the correct amount on reaching that age.

William Templeton, '301' assistant business agent, last week pointed to the need of this, citing three cases of "short-changing" when workers at 65 changed from the company supplementary pension to social security. He explained that upon reaching 65 the social security becomes available and the company reduces their pension approximately the same amount.

In one case, prior to 65 the worker got \$109.40 monthly pension—\$39.40 regular pension, \$45 supplementary and a \$25 "make-up." Upon reaching 65, this worker should have received \$39.40 pension, \$12.35 supplementary and \$59.50 social security for a total monthly pension of \$111.25.

However, GE had left out the supplementary pension of \$12.35 they were supposed to pay.

This and two other cases were handled and settled as grievances by the Union.

'301' Dance Tickets

Tickets selling at 80 cents each are now available through stewards for the Local 301 Dance to be held on Saturday, June 7, at the Edison Club in Rexford from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Bldg. 273: Anthony Ciabotte demands a rate adjustment on the basis the rate he gets as radial drill press operator is not adequate by comparison with comparable jobs.

A group in polish room insist they're entitled to the same porter service as first and second shifts.

John Bensek asks restoration of service minus the usual deductions for periods over six months. Hired in Feb., 1941, he was laid off in Dec., 1945 for lack of work. All GE offered was downgrading at less pay. Eventually offered a common labor job, he was re-employed in 1947.

A magnetic test group feels the responsibilities of their job warrants a higher rate than \$1.82 and demand a revaluation and rate adjustment.

A group of painters in turbine apparatus demand a revaluation and rate adjustment on the basis their type of painting and spray work requires a high degree of skill in order to produce a high finish.

C. Napiorski and J. Seam making \$1.93, demand a one step increase on basis that this rate is paid first and second shift welders who are performing the same work.

G. Reed asks rediscussion of a disciplinary action he feels was discriminatory, since, he says, his record of absenteeism was excusable.



THIRD SHIFT BRIEFING. Second and third shift stewards all had a night, too, for class in the steward classes which '301' conducted from March 18 to April 10, as is seen above in the third shift class. '301' Board Member Larry Gebo is seen standing discussing a contract point, while at the head of the table are seen instructors Fred Sheehan, assistant business agent and Leo Jandreau, business agent.

What The Post's Writer Found Out About UE

Will the Saturday Evening Post writer who spent a week in Schenectady about 10 days ago accurately report what he learned? The writer visited Schenectady and stayed around during the Bldg. 269 bomb hoax and at a time when GE was mailing a booklet to its workers on What To Do About Fighting Communism In Unions, which most workers subtitled: What To Do About Busting Unions.

Appearing at Local 301's offices asked Leo Jandreau, business agent, what accounted for GE workers voting for UE last September. When he was told it was because the workers run UE, know its record and it doesn't pay lip service to their needs—the writer showed his bent of mind when he said he thought it was because UE had such a "machine" the army and navy wouldn't be able to get in.

When the Post writer said he'd like to talk to some of the workers, Jandreau said he'd give every cooperation. He went down to the Subway Gate and found around 200 workers available for questions.

They told the writer they wanted no part of CIO because they'd found UE the most democratic kind of union, that the rank and file really runs it and they were fed up with CIO and GE's red charges.

They brought out that '301' spends \$5,000 a year to ensure there are democratic elections and for their money if there was another NLRB election the margin of IUE-CIO would be 10 to 1. They suggested he go investigate some of the "sell-out" union practices of CIO. Pres. Philip Murray or IUE Pres. James B. Carey.

Now they're wondering if the Saturday Evening Post will print what it heard—or what some of its

million dollar advertisers, like GE, would like to hear about their Union—the UE.

D'Amico Elected

Frank D'Amico has been elected as '301' executive board for Buildings 40 and 42 to replace Joseph Kernaghan, who has been compelled to resign because of illness. D'Amico will continue to serve in his elected post of '301' assistant recording secretary.

Skilled Ford Workers Urge National Protest

The fight of skilled workers in General Electric to get special adjustments in current negotiations has been strengthened by the action voted by tool and diemakers in the CIO Auto Union's largest local—Ford Local 600.

At a Sunday membership meeting last month, these workers called upon their national union officers to order a nation-wide stoppage of skilled workers to put the heat on the Wage Stabilization Board to approve a 28½ cent an hour increase for skilled auto workers.

The number of skilled workers in the million-and-a-quarter membership of the auto union is estimated at about 10 percent.

A WSB panel ruled that 28½ cents should be paid to begin wiping out the nearly 50 cent hourly differential between skilled workers in General Motors, Ford and Chrysler and those in small jobbing shops, but employer pressure resulted in the full WSB turning down its own panel's support.

Chances For Killing Wage Freeze Law Get Better

The chances for getting rid of the legislation which has imposed a wage freeze on workers, while profits, taxes and prices rise constantly, have considerably improved in recent weeks.

That's the estimate of the UE Washington office, which keeps a close eye on congressional developments.

The legislation is the Defense Production Act. Indicative of the increased opposition to DPA was N. Y. Sen. Irving M. Ives' expressed opposition to controls in an interview in Buffalo with a state UE delegation.

Following a report about that interview to the '301' executive board on Monday, April 28, by Fred Pacelli, a delegation member, the Board voted to make definite appointments to see both Ives and Sen. Herbert H. Lehman, as well as Rep. Patrick Kearney. The Board voted that if Kearney is not available in Gloversville, a delegation will be sent to Washington.

In addition to labor opposition, both the National Assn. of Manufacturers and Chamber of Commerce have come out for the elimination of controls. While their objective is undoubtedly to wipe out effective price controls and bully the WSB into a tougher wage freeze, congressmen with their ears to the ground during an election year are very sensitive to all demands to end controls.

UE has urged its members to write their congressmen and senators prior to June 28 to vote against the wage freeze.

Women's Meetings Press Demands

Women workers in Bldgs. 69, 73, 68, 81 and 89 last week took a tip from the skilled craftsmen and started the ball rolling at noon-hour meetings to express their demands for jobs paid on the basis of content and no rate below common labor.

On Tuesday, April 29, about 70 women staged a meeting outside Bldg. 69 during noonhour, with a similar meeting taking place of 81 and 89 women on April 30.

Speakers at the meetings were Pres. James J. Cognetta, Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani and Treasurer Helen Quirini.

They pointed out that UE had raised about 200 to 300 women's rates after a government board in 1945 exposed GE's "exploiting" game—but GE still hadn't given anywhere near enough.

Also cited were jobs, such as assembly in Bldg. 69, where men get \$1.55 on magnetic switch cases and women get \$1.34. Men stewards were urged to take leadership in this fight—because to do so now would prevent men being put on lower rated jobs later on.

The fact was mentioned that GE has hired young men of 20 and 21 on the lower rated women's jobs, with the constant danger the next step could be putting older service workers on these jobs.

Fight Discrimination On Negro Upgradings

The Union is appealing to top management a grievance involving discrimination against two Negro workers in upgradings.

S. Sille, a class B moveman, Bldg. 46, second shift, asked for a dispatcher opening on the second shift. The foreman gave it to a white worker with less service and experience.

Another case involved Sille's father, under the same foreman, I. F. Link. Also a moveman, with 10 years service, he asked for an upgrading on an existing opening over a year ago. It was given to a new worker and Sille was told he wasn't qualified. Shortly after, he was transferred against his will to Bldg. 16, which he charged was a penalty for asking for upgrading.

ON THE JOB

Bldg. 10: A group in torque motor assembly demand a revaluation and increase in timing rate. They work very close tolerances and fits, skills are steadily increasing and they charge a 92 cent timing rate is too low.

Bldg. 10C: Leo Ellis demands average earnings for 2½ hours he was paid waiting time on a job he claims he could have run, which was behind in production, while the foreman made up his mind on how another job should be done.

Robert Furman demands the AER of \$1.93 for time spent breaking a quill set-up down and setting up a new designed quill. He was taken off piece work to do this and foreman only wants to pay highest rate during his break in period, which he has not been off long enough to establish higher earnings.

Bldg. 15: A group on rotor spider job request a price adjustment

and retroactive payment for all work completed, on which at a high incentive effort they were only able to make 60 cents an hour.

A group of class A die setters demand revaluation with a proper rate adjustment on basis their responsibilities have increased beyond the requirements of the job.

Bldg. 17: A group in punch press demands that the AER for PW set up on index work be based on the rate for die setting instead of the AER assigned to the job for set up and operation at present.

Bldg. 24: A group in dip, stack punchings, pot continuity, deflection coil assembly, wrapping and packing for shipment, with a 54 cent timing rate (\$1.34 AER) demand a revaluation and increased rate on the basis their skills and know-how warrant it.

Bldg. 60: A group of "extra" crane operators under Foreman E. Fitzner demand permanent shift

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.

assignments instead of rotating.

The entire second shift on screw machine products under Foreman Miller and Holohan request their pay day be changed from Friday evening to Thursday evening due to legitimate reasons.

Bldg. 84: The tractor train group objects to the methods supervision uses in distribution of overtime and demands equal distribution.

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