

Father Masse Praises Wage Program of CIO

Demands of the CIO for substantial wage increases are morally and economically justified, the Rev. Benjamin L. Masse, associate editor of the Jesuit paper, "America", told a CIO wage conference Monday in Albany.

The priest was a speaker at a round table discussion of the CIO wage program, and the Nathan report, arranged by the State CIO Council at the De Witt Clinton Hotel.

Wage Increases Needed

"A large number of American workers are not receiving enough wages, in relation to prices, to maintain a decent standard of living for themselves and their families," Father Masse said.

Lowering prices would be the best way of heading off a depression, he declared, but as there apparently is no hope of industry and business taking any such step, the only alternative is to seek higher wages.

He praised the CIO for presenting facts and figures in a thoughtful, reasonable way, as the basis of its wage negotiations, instead of making "take-it-or-leave-it" threats to management. He commended the Nathan report on wages, prices and profits.

For three reasons, the public should support the CIO wage program, Father Masse pointed out.

The increases are needed to maintain a decent standard of living for the workers.

Industry can pay the increases out of its great profits without increasing prices.

The pay increases will contribute to the good of the American people as a whole.

Nathan Report Praised

All other speakers at the conference joined in praising the CIO approach to the wage problem. Taking part in the round-table discussion were Herman A. Gray, director of the advisory board of the State Unemployment Insurance Division; James B. Carey, national CIO secretary; Jerome I. Udell, New York business man; Mrs. Rhea M. Eckel, executive secretary of the State Citizens' Council, and Archie Wright, of the National Farmers Union.

Local 301 was represented by President Andrew Peterson and Business Agent Leo Jandreau, and UE District 3 by Jerry Steinberg, Fay Marvin and Milo Lathrop. The following 301 members represented the Capital District

Nice Going

The 1946 GE profits (before deducting taxes) are estimated at 108 million dollars, James Matles, UE director of organization, reported to the GE Conference Board.

This figure is based on the earnings for the first nine months of the year and on the estimate for the last three months.

After taxes are deducted, money set aside for the pension system and other purposes, there's a profit of 67 million dollars left.

That's a jump of 20 per cent over the 1941 profit at 56 million dollars.

Company Will Face NLRB Hearing Today

The General Electric Co. has been ordered to appear at a National Labor Relations Board hearing in New York City today to answer charges of unfair labor practices in its treatment of workers after last winter's strike.

When UE settled the strike with the 18½ cent increase victory, GE entered into an agreement with the union that there would be no discrimination against the returned strikers.

The union has charged the company with bad faith and unfair labor practices in its violation of that pledge. The company discriminated against strikers by refusing to count the nine week strike period in estimating service time.

Seniority, pension rights, vacations and other safeguards and benefits are affected by this ruling of the company.

Workers in the Schenectady plant and all other GE plants suffered losses as a result of the company's policy.

The union also charges the company with bad faith for not consulting or negotiating with UE before putting the rules into effect.

Moreover, conditions of employment have been unfairly altered without consultation with the union.

Still No Radio Time

Another week without a Capital District CIO Council radio broadcast! Station WTRY at Troy says its schedule is still jammed because of the recent shift to CBS.

CIO Council: William Mastriani, president, Dewey Brashear, Fred Pacelli, and Joseph Dominelli.

Stevens Produces Brand New 'Offer'

A five-cent increase in the AER, with no increase in either present or future piece work prices, was the novel "offer" made by management last week to a group employed on spot weld and assembly in Bldg. 78-A. A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, proposed the plan.

To this "offer" Stevens added the opinion that workers should earn only the AER (anticipated earning rate) and that it was wrong for any substantial number of workers to earn more than the AER. The union committee said that high earnings reflected increased effort by the workers. Stevens replied that high earnings reflect "loose" piece prices.

'Offer' Rejected

The representatives of the group rejected Stevens' "offer" promptly and sent the case to Works Manager J. M. Howell in the next grievance step.

After a grievance was filed on the AER over a month ago, a joint investigation was made of the job. The union members of the joint committee, Board Member James Cognetta, Chief Steward William Mastriani who represents the group, and Ray Bezio of the group, showed that the work involved assembly and lay-out work from complicated blueprints, with spot welding only a part of the job.

Thereupon Stevens made his "offer", saying there should be no increase in either present prices or in the price factors in the PR tables as a result.

Asked if a raise in the AER should not automatically raise prices, he said, "No." He indicated that he thought the present earnings already too high.

Usual Ceremonies Skipped As Three Workers Retire

A total of 108 years continuous GE service was represented by workers in Bldg. 107 who retired New Year's Eve. They were Vito Originale, washroom attendant, 36 years service; Sal Sabatini, mason, 35 years, and Julius Bowen, painter, 37 years. The other men in Grounds and Buildings joined in farewell gifts to all three.

For an unexplained reason there was not the usual party nor other attention customarily given retiring employees by the company. Members in the department expressed some anger at supervisor's refusal to recognize the men's services.

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Electrical Union News

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

Vol. III—No. 40

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

January 16, 1947

Matles Warns Union Of Company Efforts To Stall Bargaining

General Electric and other corporations are trying to prevent collective bargaining this year by starting a strike scare.

This charge was made by James Matles, national UE director of organization, at the Local 301 meeting Jan. 7. He came to Schenectady to install local officers and Executive Board members and to discuss the UE and CIO wage program.

"Don't be sidetracked by a strike scare," he urged.

"Any labor union officer or labor union member who wants a strike should have his head examined!"

"UE doesn't want a strike. We are ready to take every step in our power to reach a contract agreement without a strike. All that UE asks is for GE management to sit down and bargain in good faith, instead of trying to argue their case in the newspapers."

Union Wants Chance to Bargain

Matles said that in last year's negotiations GE top management refused every offer of the union as part of a nationwide effort to smash the big CIO unions. He expressed hope that this year there may be a change in the attitude of management.

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New Starting Rates Put Into Operation

The slightly increased starting rates for piece workers, announced in the EU News of Dec. 19, went into effect this past week.

The new starting rates are: 77½ cents for jobs with AER's of not more than 98½ cents; 83½ cents for AER's of \$1.02½ and \$1.06½; and 92½ cents for AER's of \$1.10½ and up.

The corresponding breaking-in rates for persons transferred for lack of work are 10 cents higher, and will therefore be 87½ cents, 93½ cents and \$1.02½, respectively.

Wants More Women In Union Activities



MARY M. McCARTIN

As Executive Board representative for women-at-large, Mary M. McCartin thinks her No. 1 job is getting as many women as possible to take an active part in Local 301 affairs.

She didn't waste any time starting her program, as she conducted a meeting of union committeewomen at 301 Hall Jan. 8, the night after she took office. The group discussed shop problems affecting women, had refreshments and made plans for a larger meeting soon.

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Local 301 Approves Contract Proposals

Local 301 has stamped its approval on the UE General Electric Conference Board's proposals for the 1947 GE contract.

The combined membership and committeemen's meeting Jan. 7 voted unanimously in favor of the proposals as outlined by Leo Jandreau, business agent.

Earlier in the meeting, James Matles, UE director of organization, explained in detail the new UE approach to negotiations. Under the new plan, the union will present facts and figures to GE and the other great electrical corporations to support the case for a substantial wage

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GE Head Asked To Take Action On Arbitration

After continued GE refusal to arbitrate grievances, the Executive Board of Local 301 this week put squarely up to GE President Charles E. Wilson the company violation of the arbitration section of the national contract.

At the direction of the Board, President Andrew Peterson of Local 301 sent the following telegram Monday to Wilson:

"The company is not settling grievances with the union at the Schenectady Works. The union has complied with the contract by processing these grievances through the procedure, to the New York level. At the top, we find refusal by the company to arbitrate our differences.

"This attitude by the company provokes labor trouble and is the cause of unsatisfactory labor relations. Refusing to arbitrate grievances defeats the purpose of the machinery in the contract for settlement of grievances. Likewise, refusal to arbitrate a dispute under our contract is a violation of the contract.

"The Executive Board of our union requests an answer from you on this matter at your earliest convenience."

EU News went to press Tuesday before an answer from Wilson could be expected.

At New York conferences GE management has declared it will not allow "outsiders" (GE term for arbiters) to make decisions in disputes with the union, although the contract clearly pledges it to such arbitration. The contract provides that as a final grievance step questions concerning interpretation and application of the contract be submitted to arbitration.

To Help with Audit

Three members were named by the Local 301 membership meeting Jan. 7 to work with the trustees and the auditors on the annual report on the local's books. The three are Joseph Dominelli, Gordon Belgrave and Carl Quirini.

Pro-Labor Senator Opens Bilbo Fight

Senator Taylor of Idaho stole the show the opening day of Congress, according to Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative.

A pro-labor Democrat, Taylor started the fight against Bilbo by arranging to be recognized first when he jumped up to speak. This kept the Republicans from taking narrow partisan advantage of the out-Bilbo issue.

"Taylor made a hard-hitting speech which was neither a Republican or a Democratic speech," Nixon reported.

"He attacked Bilbo on the basic issue of civil right of Negroes. He attacked Democratic Senator Ellender who, as chairman of the Senate Investigating Committee, had helped cover up for Bilbo.

"He attacked the southern Democrats on the rotten situation in the South generally which is at the root of the Bilbo issue."

Nixon said "Republicans were sore because they had wanted to appear as the sole champions of Negro rights and political reforms in the South."

"Actually, the Republicans in the past have always managed to be lacking whenever there was a real chance to abolish the poll tax, establish the Fair Employment Practices Committee or outlaw lynching", Nixon pointed out.

Movie to Avoid!! 'Song of the South'

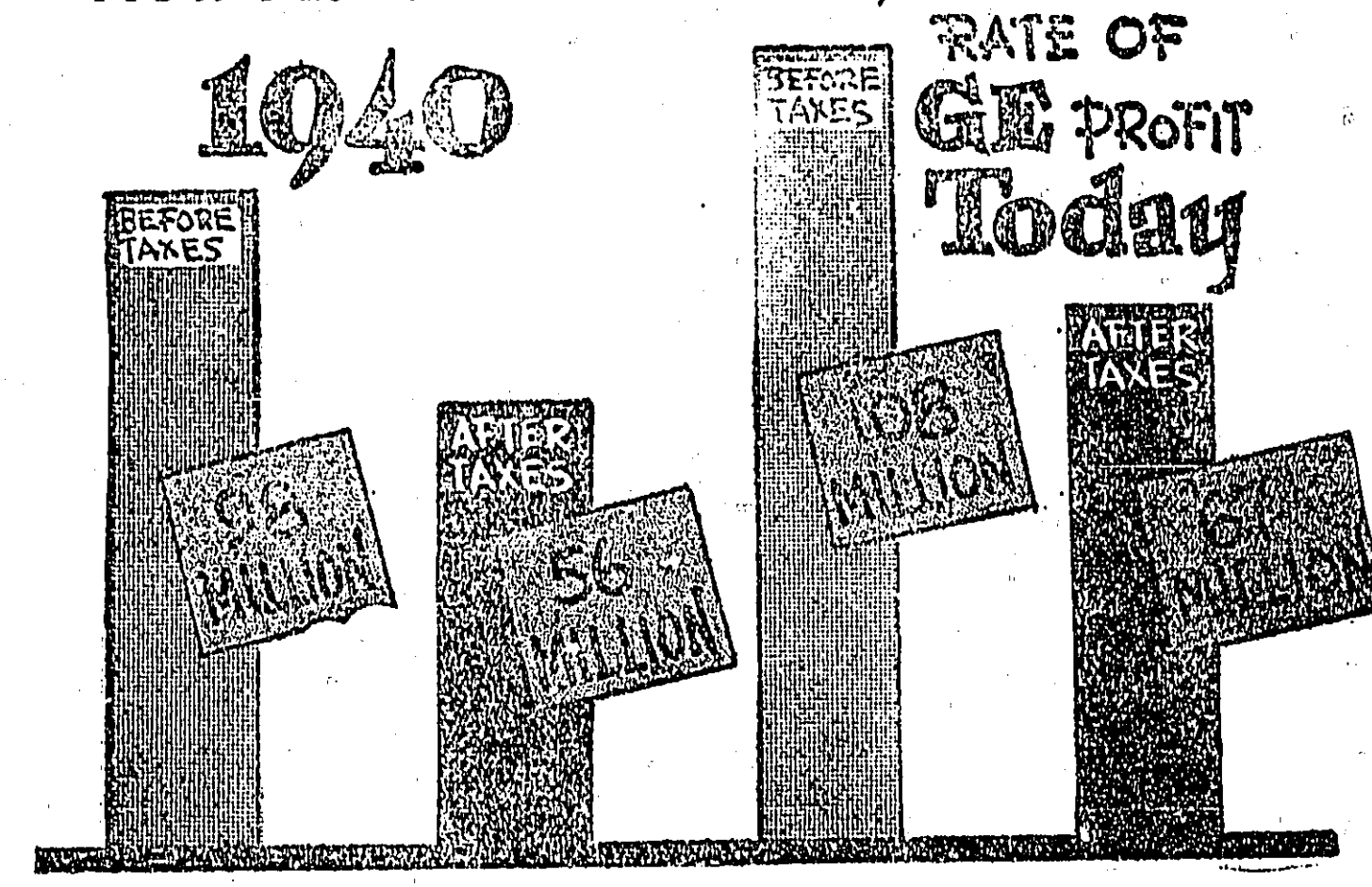
"Song of the South", which was to open yesterday at Proctors, has brought protests from inter-racial organizations, Negro groups, labor and other groups throughout the country for its caricature of the Negro people.

Robert Northrop, as secretary-treasurer of the Capital District CIO Council, has asked all Schenectady locals to protest the showing of this film and to urge their members to stay away from it.

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How About These Facts, Mr. Wilson?



Wants More Women In Union Activities

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Sister McCartin was graduated from Mont Pleasant High School in 1938, worked for a year in a restaurant and started at GE in 1940 as a wiring girl in the Transmitter Department, Bldg. 89. She was then transferred to Campbell Ave., then back to 89 and then back to Campbell Ave. where she was about the last worker to leave last year.

"I practically turned the key in the door at Campbell Ave. when they closed up Transmitter," she said.

The company shifted her to Bldg. 28 where she now works on developing starters. She had been a committeewoman in Bldg. 89 and Campbell Ave. and was soon elected in Bldg. 28 too. During last winter's strike she did steady picket duty and helped with publicity and with the sound truck.

Board Member McCartin thinks it would be unfair for the State of New York to return Apr. 1 to the 10 p.m. work limit for women workers. This 10 p.m. curfew will be automatically restored unless the Legislature meanwhile votes to authorize women to continue working till midnight.

"If a woman wants to work till midnight, she ought to be allowed to," Sister McCartin said. "Reducing the hours of women is another name for paycut."

Open House

All women 301 members are invited to an open house of the YWCA Industrial Department at 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20, at the Schenectady "Y".

Stevens Says It's Okay To Earn More Than AER

A. C. Stevens, assistant to the superintendent, told the union last week that he had "no objection to people making more than the AER (anticipated earning rate)."

Stevens complained that the story in last week's EU News, quoting him as feeling workers should earn only the AER, did not do justice to his views.

While all members of the union committee who heard him are agreed that Stevens was quoted accurately in this paper, the News is nevertheless glad to give here his present explanation of what his views are on the subject.

Stevens said that "high earnings are not necessarily the result of effort; they may be the result of loose piece prices." He said that "we (the GE) recognize there are many cases where they are the result of effort," and that "we (the GE) encourage everyone to make more than the AER."

To Protest to Gazette

The Executive Board has named a committee to protest to the management of the Schenectady Gazette against the paper's anti-labor policy. The committee consists of Leland Sisto, Mary M. McCartin, Willard Kuschel and William Templeton.

Good Investment

A gift of \$25 has been sent by Local 301 to the Civil Rights Congress to aid its fight to oust Senator Bilbo. The money was voted by the Executive Board Jan. 8.

Matles Warns Union CIO Wage Program Has Their Full Attention On Company Tactics

(Continued from Page 1)

Industry isn't as well off in one way this year as last, he pointed out. They can't depend now on the tax "kickbacks" which restored their losses from last year's strikes.

Matles said UE is prepared to rest its case on government wage, price and profit figures.

"We will leave our case in the hands of any neutral person or board," he said.

To Ask Government Aid

"We will call upon government conciliation services to help reach an agreement."

Matles said that if GE or other electrical corporations refuse all efforts to reach agreement, the union members will decide then, and only then, what to do.

He declared that electrical workers are determined not to lose a day's pay, but that they "won't buckle down to the company either."

Matles warned union members against letting themselves be talked out of pay raises by believing any of the company propaganda about wage increases causing price increases.

Price Raises Planned

"These companies decided long before the war was over what they would do with prices," he said. "If we hadn't won that 18½ cents last year, the increase in prices would have been just the same, —but we would have been worse off."

Matles said that wage increases in the United States during 1946 amounted to one billion, 700 million dollars, but that prices shot up 18 billion dollars.

Laughing at the request of GE President Charles E. Wilson for a moratorium on wage increases, Matles said, "We've already had a moratorium on wage increases. It went into effect last March for 12 months and we haven't had a raise since."

"GE should have declared a moratorium right then and there on prices, as we did on wage increases! But it boosted prices."

301 Broadcast

The weekly radio broadcast of Local 301 will be at 7:15 p.m. Monday over WSNY. It's a good chance to learn the facts behind the twisted news you read in the commercial press.



Four UE members from Schenectady at the recent State CIO conference in Albany on the Nathan report and the CIO wage program. Left to right, President Andrew Peterson of Local 301, Dewey Brashear, Executive Board member; Jerry Steinberg, UE organizer, and Fred Pacelli, 301 committeeman.

Shop Tragedy Ends Happily

Thanks to prompt action by her committeewoman, Mary Dyndor, tester in control manufacturing, Bldg. 89, will get \$1.50 to replace a pair of stockings ruined at work.

Sister Dyndor stumbled over a pallet full of compensator coils obstructing an aisle and tore her stockings.

Committeewoman Stella Stankavich filed a grievance that the condition of the aisle violated safety rules and that compensation should be paid for the stockings.

The foreman last week said the conditions objected to would be cleared up as soon as possible and okayed \$1.50 to replace the stockings.

Speed Asked in Poll On Hours for Women

Committeemen in departments with a substantial woman membership are urged to return promptly to the union office the filled-out questionnaires on the question of the 10 p.m. work limit. Unless the State Legislature takes action before Apr. 1 to continue the wartime midnight limit, women will have to stop work at 10 p.m.

Questionnaires so far show a heavy majority of Local 301 women favoring the midnight limit, because the 10 p.m. limit would threaten to reduce women's work to seven-hour shifts.

Bldg. 60 Grievances Are Still Unsettled

Grievances arising from low prices set for small lathe work in Bldg. 60 are still deadlocked.

The trouble started several weeks ago when earnings of workers in the first balcony were cut by an unfair new piece work table. Rather than pay a few cents extra on each job to settle the complaints, the company let the dissatisfaction grow until there was a short stoppage last week.

During the past few weeks there have been meetings in the shop and in Bldg. 41 over the price matter. After union representatives last week reported no progress, the stoppage occurred.

Management later worked out a few minimum guarantees to be paid while the whole price question is being settled. A sub-committee of the Executive Board and representatives of management met Monday in the shop but made no further progress. Another meeting is scheduled for today (Thursday).

Toolmakers, Machinists Discuss Wage Problems

A joint meeting of toolmakers, machinists and tool room machine operators was scheduled for last night at 301 Hall. The groups were to discuss the company's refusal to make wage adjustments for these crafts.

The toolmakers were to elect three representatives to go to New York City for meetings on their case.