

## Nationwide Strike Hits Phone Industry

Telephone workers were in the midst of their first nationwide strike when this week's issue of EU News went to press.

About 300,000 telephone workers are involved in the struggle with the American Telephone and Telegraph Co., one of the nation's largest corporations. AT and T cleared a net income of \$191,903,000 in 1946.

The corporation forced the strike vote by refusing to arbitrate any of the points in dispute except wages. Obviously the AT and T thinks it is a favorable time to smash the telephone unions—with the help of Congress and President Truman. The corporation is counting on the strike-breaking Hartley Bill or on the federal government "seizing" the industry long enough to defeat the telephone workers as the government defeated the mine workers.

### Many Unions

The telephone workers have a complex independent union set-up. Some 250,000 belong to the National Federation of Telephone Workers. Others belong to smaller independent unions, especially in New York State.

The weakness of this set-up was shown in the failure of Albany workers to join the strike and the return to work by Schenectady employees. There were a few other gaps in the ranks of the strikers, due chiefly to the workers being split into small craft and regional unions.

They have demanded a \$12 weekly wage increase, a union shop, seven-hour day, seniority, pension changes and other safeguards and improvements. Wages average \$43.19.

### Lay-offs Feared

The Bell Telephone Co. and other AT and T subsidiaries have refused to arbitrate anything but wages. Because mass lay-offs are threatened, the other issues are particularly important right now to the telephone workers.

The AT and T is making a phony claim that it cannot bargain on a national basis with the unions.

Telephone workers are worried about unemployment resulting from increased use of dial phones and the installing of other mechanical improvements. The shorter workday, union security and seniority are important safeguards. AT and T has just completed arrangements for the sale of \$200,000,000 in bonds as part of a \$400,000,000 financing program to mechanize its plans still further.

## GE Shows Husky 1946 Profits Despite Strike; Uncle Sam Hands Out \$24,000,000 Tax Rebate

During the last quarter of 1946, the General Electric Co. made profits (after taxes) at the annual rate of \$44,600,000, even with the shortage of various materials.

This figure excludes the 1946 tax rebates or any other financial adjustment. It is considerably higher than the pre-war 1939 income (after taxes) of GE, \$41,200,000.

### Honor Roll

Names of 19 committeemen have been added to the organizing drive's honor roll for having 100 per cent union membership in the groups they represent. They are:

L. Santa Barbara, Bldg. 16; J. C. Nelson, Francis A. Collins, Edwin G. Coons and Joseph H. Halenbeck, all of Bldg. 49; Joseph Krone, Bldg. 46; John Rej, Bldg. 42; and the following from Bldg. 60, John Christina, Michael De-Celli, John De Graff, D. F. Devereaux, Sam Dinardo, Theodore Griffith, Jachert Jensen, Casmer Kisowski, Harmon McCann, R. H. Reisinger, George A. Reynolds and Fred Sefcovik.

Charles O'Malley, who made the honor roll recently for the group he represents in Bldg. 99A, also reported 100 per cent union membership in the group he represents in Bldg. 87.

### Leland Stowe to Broadcast Every Week on UE Program

The national UE has engaged Leland Stowe, famous war correspondent, author and lecturer, to give a series of 52 weekly broadcasts commenting on news. The program, "You—and the News", will be broadcast at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday, starting Apr. 23, over the Mutual network. The 55 stations carrying it include WABY in Albany and the Schenectady FM station, WBCA.

This is the first regular weekly news analysis to be presented on a nationwide basis under sponsorship of a union. Both the national CIO and UE have protested recently against the alarming dismissal of liberal radio commentators from commercial programs.

### Protest Against Hartley Bill

The 301 Legislative Committee has telegraphed President Truman, Senators Irving M. Ives and Robert F. Wagner and Representative Bernard W. Kearney urging them to oppose the Hartley Bill, designed to break the telephone workers' strike.

There is every indication that the profit rate so far in 1947 is even greater.

GE reported that profits for the full year 1946 were \$43,000,000 after payment of taxes. These profits were rolled up in spite of the fact that GE plants were shut down during the first three months of the year by the strike which the company deliberately forced on its workers.

Company statements to newspapers complained of a sales loss of \$543,000. This gives a false impression, because the loss occurred during the three months when the plants were shut down. The company wasted \$28,000,000 during the period of non-operation, instead of granting long overdue pay raises and continuing production. GE made profits on sales during the last nine months of 1946.

The federal government handed GE a carry-back tax credit of \$24,000,000 for 1946. GE strikers did not receive tax refunds and most of them received no unemployment insurance.

Of course, even the 43,000,000 profit figure for 1946 didn't give the real profit picture of the company. GE could keep the figure down by increasing expenditures for research and development of new products which will pay off in later years. Costs in 1946 were increased by the mushroom growth of new plants which will not come into full production until 1947. Meanwhile, it's good publicity for GE to complain of "lower profits" while wage negotiations are under way.

Actually, the company's reports show its financial conditions today as much improved over 1939. For instance:

	Dec. 31, 1946	Dec. 31, 1939
Total assets...	\$837,891,000	\$392,000,000
Plant and equipment ..	101,011,000	37,094,000
Working capital .....	349,890,000	165,624,000
Earned surplus .....	168,999,000	124,310,000
Reserves .....	56,060,000	35,598,000

### Veterans' Center

The Local 301 Veterans' Center is open every Tuesday and Friday, from 1 to 5 p.m., at the union hall.

HOW MANY NEW 301 MEMBERS CAN YOU GET TODAY?

# Electrical Union News

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

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## Fight Union-Busting Bill

### Congress Blueprint For Destroying Unions

The Omnibus Bill approved by the House Labor Committee is the most open, brazen, anti-labor legislation ever introduced into Congress. It threatens the job, the wages and the union of every Local 301 member.

Here are some of the things it would do:

1. Prevent industry-wide bargaining. Under this bill, UE would not be permitted to negotiate with GE on a national scale. The bill forbids a union to negotiate or sign contracts on a national level with companies that compete with each other. UE would have to scrap its national contracts with GE, Westinghouse, Sylvania, General Cable, General Motors and RCA.
2. Allow employers to stall contract negotiations and settling disputes indefinitely, by requiring a union to observe a four-month "cooling off period" before striking.
3. Forbid mass picketing or practically anything but "token" picketing. This would permit employers to import scabs and strike-breakers wholesale during strikes.
4. Break down CIO unions into craft unions, by requiring that a plant be reorganized into craft bargaining units wherever a majority of the craft involved want to bargain on that basis.
5. Take the collective bargaining rights away from a union on the thinnest pretext for the action of an individual member for contract "violation". For instance, an individual worker's protest over his own job might be called a stoppage.
6. Take the collective bargaining rights away from any union whenever a government agency decides to label any leader of the union as "Communist" or "promoting" Communism. A neat way to lop off the heads of any progressive, fighting union leader.
7. Destroy the union shop and all union security. The bill would permit a union shop only if the employer agrees voluntarily to it.
8. Break strikes and cripple unions by injunctions.

These are high-lights of the bill. There are other provisions too, all of them designed to weaken and to destroy unions, AFL as well as CIO.

### Speaks at YWCA

President Andrew Peterson of Local 301 spoke on "What Labor Wants" at a recent meeting of the executive board of the Schenectady Young Women's Christian Association.

### Durrer Appointed

The Activities Committee has a new member, Louis Durrer, Bldg. 85. The Executive Board appointed him recently at the request of the Activities Committee.

## Members Plan Vigorous Battle On Legislation

The membership of Local 301 has swung into the nation-wide CIO fight against the anti-labor legislation which CIO President Philip Murray condemned as "the first real step to the development of fascism in this country."

Plans were unanimously approved at the membership meeting Tuesday night to marshal the widest labor and community protest against the Omnibus anti-labor bill drawn up by the House Labor Committee.

The meeting voted unanimously to telegraph President Murray that Local 301 favors a 24-hour national strike as a demonstration against the legislation.

In discussing the need for such action, members said labor should speak up now, before its voice is silenced. Speakers pointed out that such anti-

(Continued on Page 3)

### Protest Today!

Send letters or telegrams against the House Omnibus anti-labor bill to Senator Irving M. Ives, Senator Robert F. Wagner and the representative from your Congressional district.

Here are the Congressmen from this vicinity: Representative Bernard W. Kearney, of Gloversville, covering Schenectady, Montgomery, Fulton, Otsego and Hamilton counties; Representative William T. Byrne of Loudonville, covering Albany county and Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of Troy; Representative Dean Taylor of Troy, remaining wards of Troy, the rest of Rensselaer county, Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties.

## UE Wins Raise For GM Workers

An agreement has been reached by General Motors and UE for a raise of 15 cents an hour to be paid more than 30,000 employees represented by UE in the four GM divisions. The increase will be effective as of last Monday, if ratified by the membership.

All wage rates and classifications of the hourly-rate employes are to be increased 11½ cents an hour. The remainder of the 15 cents will be used to cover the cost of six paid holidays and other gains. Paid holidays will be New Year's, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Under the terms of the agreement, the union's demand for a health, welfare and retirement program will continue as a subject for discussion and negotiation.

The contract may be reopened Apr. 28, 1948. Divisions covered are Frigidaire, and Delco, both of Dayton, Ohio; Packard Electric, Warren, Ohio, and Delco Appliance, Rochester.

## Resolution Prepared On Third Shift Hours

The meeting called for all workers in the Turbine Division Tuesday, Apr. 22, on the proposed carboly-tool speed-up will also take up the unsatisfactory working hours of the third shift in the division. The meeting will be in two parts, at the union hall, at 1 p.m. and 4:15 p.m.

The union complained to management that the third shift workers have to work five hours Saturday mornings beyond their usual quitting time.

In an effort to solve the problem without interfering with the first and second shift operations the union proposed:

That the third shift come in early Friday instead of staying late Saturday morning, or

That the third shift regularly overlap with the second and the first, which would be possible on all except machine jobs.

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This cartoon was drawn by Lou Lezzi, mechanic's helper, test department, Bldg. 11.

A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, turned down these proposals Apr. 10 at a meeting with a four-man committee from the shop and William Kelly, assistant to the business agent. Stevens' only suggestion was to put all three shifts on a 7½ hour basis.

Members of the shop committee are Roy R. Rychick, Albert F. Gesare, Joseph Sickinger and Charles P. Burke.

Division committeemen last Friday voted to recommend a resolution on this subject to next Tuesday's meeting, saying:

"We back the third shift workers in Turbine in demanding that their hours be adjusted along the line of the union's proposals, without change in first and second shift hours."

## National UE Broadcasts To Start Wednesday

Don't miss the first of Leland Stowe's broadcasts on the National UE radio program at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Apr. 23, over the Mutual network. That means WABY in Albany and the Schenectady FM station, WBCA.

The usual Local 301 broadcast will be at 7:15 p.m. Monday over WSNY. The National CIO broadcast will be at 6:45 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday) over WOKO.

The Capital District CIO Council will broadcast at 12:15 p.m. Sunday over WOKO.

Back the Contract Negotiations  
With a 100 Per Cent Union Shop

## Executive Board Orders Job Evaluation Study

### Aim To Negotiate Complete Scales For Local Plant

An over-all study of wage rates and job duties in the GE works was begun this week with a series of group meetings of committeemen, with the object of negotiating a complete set of scales based on the value of the jobs in relation to each other.

The study was ordered by the Executive Board in accordance with the policy adopted by the membership recently, to work toward a clear-cut rate structure based on job duties. Such negotiated sets of rates for groups (often called "labor grades") of jobs of like value are in effect under most UE contracts, but only in a few GE plants.

#### New Policy

In the past the cases of groups, such as the machinists, toolmakers, electricians, etc., which felt their rates were too low in relation to the over-all picture of rates in the shop and the community, were taken up as individual grievances. The membership's new policy is to consider wage injustices on an over-all basis.

This study and proposed negotiations are of course no substitute for the urgent need of a general raise for all. This matter is covered in the current national negotiations. The proposed wage and job study is intended to bring out and correct injustices in rates that are too low in comparison with the over-all picture of wages in the plant today.

The committeemen have been called to meetings to bring up rates which they feel are out of line in the over-all picture. Individual members who believe their job rates are out of line should tell their committeemen. This applies to pieceworkers' AER's as well as to day work rates.

#### Job Evaluation Committee

The Executive Board named a job evaluation committee of nine to listen to the claims, make an over-all study, and later submit them to the board, to the committeemen in full meeting, and then to a membership meeting before asking for negotiations with the company. The job evaluation committee includes Michael Tedisco, Eugene Lemoine, Mary McCartin, James Cognetta, Charles Ferris, Anthony Villano, William Stewart, Alfred Pelrah, and George Judway. They will work with President Andrew

### Wilson Won't Worry About Wolf at Door

Retired GE workers struggling to live on their small pensions will undoubtedly be interested in the financial arrangements made by the company for President Charles E. Wilson's future.

The company reports that Wilson is eligible to retire upon his request at an annual pension of \$43,600.

### Cancer Fund Drive Meets GE Obstacles

GE management has refused to let official cancer drive posters be placed on the shop bulletin boards to aid the union's campaign to collect money for the nationwide cancer fund.

In addition, management raised obstacles to the union's plans for taking collection boxes inside the plant. Arrangements were completed this week, however, and boxes distributed in all sections.

### GE Pensioners To Discuss Bills

A special meeting for all GE pensioners has been called for 2 p.m. Monday, Apr. 21, at 301 Hall by Albert T. Van Der Zee, president of the UE-CIO 301 Pension Organization. The group will take up the threat to pensioners' rights and claims from anti-labor legislation now in Congress.

### UE, CIO Press Fight On Anti-Labor Bills

William Mastriani, chief shop steward of Local 301, will go to Washington, D.C. Wednesday, Apr. 23, to represent UE District 3 at a national CIO legislative meeting. The representatives will visit Congressmen and Senators to urge opposition to anti-labor legislation.

Peterson and Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent, on the study.

The board approved a tentative schedule of labor grades, starting from the present common labor rate of 98½ cents up, as the framework of the study. The general increase being negotiated would be added to all rates. The study will cover piece work jobs as well as day work jobs, with the piece work AER being set by adding the usual 15 per cent incentive factor to the job rate.

### 301 Plans Fight Over Legislation

(Continued from Page 1)

union legislation paved the way for Hitler's rise to power in Germany. Hope was expressed that AFL and railway unions might join in a national stoppage.

A report from Business Agent Leo Jandreau warned 301 members that the Omnibus Bill could destroy at one swoop the efforts of the present UE contract negotiating committee and tear down security and gains achieved by the union in 10 years. Jandreau attended a national CIO legislative emergency session in Washington last weekend.

The membership voted to organize a mass meeting in the Erie Theatre, as a protest against the bill. All branches of labor will be urged to join in sponsoring the affair, and also farmers, small businessmen and other citizens not connected with the labor movement.

Telegrams were sent by the 301 membership meeting to President Truman, Senators Robert F. Wagner and Irving Ives and Congressman Bernard W. Kearney, against the bill. The meeting urged that all members, their wives and husbands send postcards immediately and that advertisements be placed in newspapers.

Proposals for the mass meeting and for local pressure were made by a special planning committee, consisting of the Legislative Committee and a sub-committee of the Executive Board, Marshall White, Dewey Brashear, Helen Quirini, Eugene LeMoine, Michael Tedisco, William Mastriani and William Hodges. The proposal for the 24-hour strike came from the floor.

Committeemen throughout the plant have been urged to ask their groups to send telegrams, signed with individual names and addresses. Each signer will give a dime toward the cost of the telegram.

One of the first groups to respond were 270 workers in Bldgs. 73 and 73A who wired their Congressmen and Senators through their committeemen.

### Reports on Veterans

Joseph Dominelli, chairman of the 301 Veterans' Committee, reported on the progress of the Veterans' Center at the general membership meeting Tuesday night. The Center is open from 1 to 5 p.m. every Tuesday and Friday at the union hall.