

Engineers' Meeting Gets Real Laugh

Some GE engineers aren't showing a real GE spirit about the statement they are supposed to endorse opposing a wage increase.

As the EU News reported two weeks ago, a proposed statement against a pay raise has been mailed to members of the GE Engineers Associations for a non-secret vote.

A statement burlesquing the anti-increase statement was distributed recently at a meeting of the Schenectady GE Engineers Association and caused some real guffaws. It was labeled a statement by "The G-D Engineers Associations for release to the CIO-UE News." ("G-D" was not a typographical error.)

Here are some quotations:

"G-D engineers said today that they feel that they are being greatly overpaid . . ."

"Based on a poll conducted recently, 50 per cent of the G-D engineers thought that they were being paid three times their value to society. Another 48 per cent thought that they were paid at least twice their worth.

"The remaining one per cent—belonging to a small craft guild called the Advanced Engineering Program—felt that they were being paid just what they were worth.

Ask Cut in Pay

"We believe that industry should lower all wages by 25 per cent, and those of engineers by 50 per cent. . . Engineers have occupied for too long a choice position in the public's eye. They can afford to get along without yachts and country homes for the duration of the present inflationary period."

There's room to vote "Yes" or "No" at the bottom of the GDEA statement. Anyone voting "No" is asked "Ain't you happy?" and "Don't you like opium?"

The directions urge engineers to mark and return the questionnaire at once because "speed is essential to prevent another catastrophic rise in engineering salaries."

Some Schenectady GE engineers recently told the company they would have to have more money to meet the increased cost of living. They pointed out that many engineers have to take outside jobs to get along.

Movies for Pensioners

National UE motion pictures will be shown at the meeting of the UE-CIO-301 Pension Organization at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Local 301 Hall.

Ballyhoo Doesn't Take the Place of Food



Stop Move to Cut Prices in Bldg. 81

A move by supervision in Bldg. 81 to cut certain prices under a piece-rate table was stopped last week when Shop Stewards William Landau and Art Di Lallo showed the table had been applied for at least six years and had established standard prices.

Prices were raised, with back pay, on two jobs in dispute. The company modified its position to claim that only certain values on the table did not apply, and undertook to show what operations were not covered by the table. Supervision agreed to meet with Landau and Di Lallo in an effort to show that time studies are needed to establish new values on these operations only. This will be done before any such studies are taken. The meetings have started. The table originally was set up for

Elizabeth Templeton

Elizabeth Templeton, 16, only child of William Templeton, chairman of the Local 301 Editorial Committee, and Mrs. Templeton, died Sunday at Deaconess Hospital, Boston, Mass. She underwent an operation there several weeks ago. Her father is a shop steward in Bldg. 11.

the assembly of magnetic panels, but for at least six years has been used to price electronic panels. When the case was first discussed in 41, the company committee argued there was "no table for electronic panels," and that the table had been used for comparison only. They backed down when the shop stewards showed actual practice.

Assisting the shop stewards in the case were Board Member Dewey Brashar and the union grievance committee.

WEAR YOUR UNION BUTTON

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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New Bill Aimed At Pensioners

A bill threatening the unemployment insurance rights of pensioners has been introduced into the state legislature by Assemblyman John F. Wadlin, Republican, of Ulster County.

Pensioners retired under a compulsory retiring system now have the right to receive unemployment insurance payments up to a total period of 52 weeks. The bill would let the pension be deducted from the unemployment insurance benefit check.

Reports as to the people who influenced Wadlin to introduce the bill cannot be verified. However, the facts show clearly that the largest group of victims would be GE pensioners.

GE took the lead in pressuring the legislature for merit rating, the system under which huge rebates are given to the largest corporations. These millions of dollars in tax credits could be used to increase unemployment insurance benefit payments or extend the benefit period.

There's no doubt that by cutting off pensioners from unemployment insurance, companies probably figure the merit rating book-keeping system will entitle them to still bigger rebates.

Plenty of Money For GE Pay Raise

Can GE raise wages and hold the price line?

Look at the record.

Wage raises come out of profits before taxes. GE profit for 1947 was \$126,000,000.

A raise of 25 cents per hour—\$10 a week—for all 100,000 workers covered by UE contract would cost GE \$1,000,000 a week, or \$52,000,000 a year. It would still leave a profit almost \$20,000,000 above the 1936-1939 average, which was \$54,536,000. After paying taxes on that profit, the company made an average net return on investment of 13 per cent a year for those years.

If GE really wants to "help you conquer inflation", as Vicepresident Boulware claims, let it both raise wages and really reduce prices. For inflation is the growing gap between wages and prices.

Company Says No Wage Raise As UE Contract Sessions Begin

Contract negotiations got under way Tuesday at the General Electric Company's office in New York, with the company telling both the union committee and the newspapers that it did not intend to agree to a wage raise.

George Pfeif, principal company spokesman, said that rather than increase wages, the company's job was to get more production and get "a full day's work out of people."

Pfeif said the company would oppose any contract proposal involving a cost increase. But he also said the company would not go along with the proposed one-year individual dues check-off authorizations. This of course is not a cost item. It is a mild union security provision under Taft-Hartley requirements, which has been accepted by all the major UE companies, Westinghouse, RCA, Sylvania, Phelps-Dodge, etc. Pfeif wanted authorizations revocable at any time. Under that form, a move can always be started to get members out of the union.

Boulware at Meeting

The company came in with the largest committee in the history of bargaining, eleven members.

L. R. Boulware, the new labor relations vice-president was present, but mainly took notes. He was in and out frequently and talked to newspaper reporters.

Joseph Dermody, secretary of the GE Conference Board of UE, heads the union committee of nine.

Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent and district 3 president, is the senior member of the committee. General President Albert Fitzgerald and Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak attended the first bargaining session. Early discussion went into the various union and company proposals. Bargaining continued all this week and will resume Tuesday.

GE Publicity Plans

The company indicated that it intends to make full use of its current big and expensive publicity drive, and its easy access to the press, to help its fight

against the workers' proposals.

Pfeif emphasized the company's present attitude by saying that in past years there had been an understanding on negotiations by mutual agreement, but that this year the company wanted each side to be free to give out publicity as it saw fit.

The union will report fully and regularly to the membership on all developments.

Pfeif based the company's opposition to a raise on the same grounds as in the current Boulware advertising, leaflet, and comic strip campaign—namely that the company is fighting "inflation" and that workers should work harder, eat cheaper, and spend less. The union negotiators pointed out that wages to buy necessary food and clothing were not inflationary.

GE Entertains Legislators

President Charles E. Wilson used the reception given for New York State legislators by Schenectady GE last week to argue against a wage increase. He complained to the legislators at the dinner that the company was not properly rewarded for its "statesmanlike action" in cutting prices on some products, because "our union still insists" on a raise. He thought labor-management disputes over wages and prices hurt "unity." He also attacked the "Communists."

From newspaper reports of the speech, it did not appear that Wilson mentioned the company's record profits, nor the big price increases it established before the 3 to 10 percent cuts, nor the comment of competitors that GE cut some prices simply because they were out of line.



Jandreau



Dermody



Raising Steel Price - 'Okay' Raising Wages - 'Inflation'

Benjamin F. Fairless, president of U. S. Steel Corporation, told the Joint Congressional Economic Committee on Tuesday that the recent steel price increases were "too small and unimportant" to be inflationary, according to the New York Times.

On the same day the General Electric Company was telling the newspapers in New York that it did not intend to give its workers a raise to meet the cost of living rise, because such a raise would be inflationary.

GE and U. S. Steel are both part of the J. P. Morgan-First National Bank interest group (the world's largest), according to an official finding of the gov-

ernment Smaller War Plants Corporation in its report to the Senate Small Business Committee in 1946. Two members of the GE board of directors are members of the U. S. Steel board of directors.

U. S. Steel has been operating at a near-record profit, while GE's 1947 profit set an all-time high.

It is the solid experience of working people that inflation is caused by profiteering through excessive prices, while wage increases correct part of the trouble.

Fairless denied to the Congressional Committee that U. S. Steel acted with other companies in raising prices. He could not deny that the major companies all put the price increase into effect. Yet GE's propaganda to its workers says that "prices are not fixed by big business," but by "decision made by individual consumers at the market place." Now you tell one!

Incidentally, the steel companies said they were against any general wage increase for their workers.

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8 Paid Holidays

The first UE contract at Snap-on Tool Company, New Toronto, Canada, brought the workers eight paid holidays. Wages were raised 10 cents an hour and wage negotiations can be reopened June 1.

UE Organizes Waterford GE

The recently organized UE local at the new GE Works at Waterford has served formal demand on the company for recognition as the collective bargaining agent there. A large majority of the workers at the silicone plant have joined the union since the organizing drive started in December, under the direction of Richard Linsley, UE District 3 representative. There are about 90 employees.

Donald Morrissey of Cohoes is president of the local; Edward Dudden, Waterford, recording secretary; Patrick Griffin, Cohoes, financial secretary; and Raymond Charette, Cohoes; Edward J. Gunther, Troy, and Wilfred Poliquin, Waterford, Board members. The Waterford Works does work which used to be performed at a pilot plant in Schenectady.

Another Raise

A general wage increase of 7½ cents an hour, retroactive to Dec. 12, was obtained in the renewed contract between UE and the Eisler Engineering Company, Newark, N. J. This brings total gains for the 165 Eisler workers to 27¼ cents during the past year.

Need Any Help On Income Tax?

Local 301 will have its own income tax experts at the union hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday) and Saturday, Mar. 13, to help members make out their federal income tax returns, due Mar. 15.

The assistance was provided last Saturday too, when 60 union members dropped in at the hall. Some of them arrived before 9 a.m. and the last didn't leave until 4:30 p.m.

The Saturday service is principally for members who can't go to the Internal Revenue office at the Post Office when that office is open, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

In order to make out their report, people should take along the company statements of their withholding tax.

88 New Union Members Signed Up in Bldg. 60

Bldg. 60, which got off to a head start this year in the organizing drive, has signed up 88 new UE members so far.

It was the first section to receive the cards from the union office on which shop stewards listed the names of all workers in their groups. These cards were turned in at the union office for checking against the membership roll. The office then gave the stewards the list of non-members and UE buttons for all members.

Board Member William Stewart of Bldg. 60 said the stewards are doing such a good organizing job in that section because they are following up every non-member named on the list.

Hodges Speaks On Red Cross

Vicepresident William Hodges of Local 301, co-chairman of the Red Cross fund drive at the Schenectady GE plant, recently addressed a meeting of the campaign section chairmen at the Works Fire House. He spoke of the disaster work of the Red Cross and the organization's establishment of blood banks. As representative of Local 301 on the drive, Hodges is co-chairman of the campaign committee at the plant.



Hodges

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Union Fashion Note— UE Buttons Are in Style

Board Member William Stewart pins a UE button on Shop Steward Marjorie Decker of Bldg. 60, third floor. Local 301 obtained a big supply of buttons as a feature of this year's organizing drive.

There's a big demand for buttons on the part of members because they want to show their union membership.



Male to 'Look Into' Vacation Shut-Down

As a result of protests by workers, reported by Business Agent Leo Jandreau in a grievance session last Friday, Louis Male, general superintendent of the works, has agreed to "look into" the vacation shut-down schedule which the company has announced for several divisions.

A poll taken by shop stewards showed a large majority of members in Industrial Control, Electronic Tube and Induction Motor object to the shut-down schedule. They want to select their own vacation time, within the summer vacation period. The union has asked the company to drop the shut-down plan in those divisions.

The survey revealed that the shut-down schedule is agreeable to the majority of workers in Wire and Cable, the fourth division affected. Therefore the union made no request for the schedule to be changed there.

Jandreau pointed out that it's good personnel policy to give workers their vacations at the times most convenient

Important

Don't forget that if you are injured at work you have the right to be treated by your own physician. Report all injuries to the union.

Control Situation Needs Correction, Male Admits

At a union grievance meeting with Louis Male, general superintendent of the works, last Friday, Business Agent Leo Jandreau demanded that difficulties in the Control Division be brought under control, to end continuing lost time and lay-offs.

Male agreed that the situation is bad and must be corrected. He said that GE executives were meeting at that very time to consider ways of solving the problem. There have been several grievance sessions on the complaints about the Control Division.

to them. At first Male declared he wouldn't consider making any change, but after further discussion promised to review the matter.