

"Our country is facing its most critical period and you worry about an insignificant thing like eating!"

Mayor Begley Is Worried

Mayor Begley is reported to be concerned about the labor vote. This is not surprising. He has always been concerned about labor, concerned that it should have the full Taft-Hartley treatment, a wage freeze in summer and in winter, too, and an abundance of taxes the year 'round.

The Mayor is reported to be especially worried about the 11,542 GE workers who voted for UE last September against IUE-CIO. Now what put that in Mayor Begley's mind?

What makes him think that UE supporters, their families and friends won't vote for a man who gave the company union, IUE-CIO, the backing of his public office in 1949, 1950 and 1951, even going so far as to set himself up as a one-man judge of the Americanism of UE members? Could it be that the Mayor flinches when he remembers his appearance before thousands of hot dogs and a handful of GE workers at the IUE Labor Day picnic?

Does the Mayor think of his refusal, despite UE prodding, to do anything about the unemployed, reduction of taxes on small homes, finding a bus company which will give

A UE membership meeting on October 1 unanimously adopted a resolution branding Owen Begley as "a labor-hating mayor, not fit to be mayor of an industrial city."

So let it be.

service at a reasonable fare, solution of State St. traffic problems, building of homes, parks and playgrounds, renovation of schools? Is it common sense that makes the Mayor worry that UE members will vote against him and urge their relatives and friends to do likewise?

Whatever the state of the Mayor's memory, UE remembers that Mayor Begley—

- Advocated a Payroll Tax.
- Backed the Taft-Hartley Act.
- Supported the Wage Freeze.
- Asked for More State Income Taxes.
- Budgeted a Sharp Tax Increase on Small Property.
- Demanded a 300% Pay Boost for Himself.
- Fought the Union.
- Supported GE and IUE-CIO.

IUE Toolmakers Vote GE Strike for More Pay

This week, the toolmakers in Pittsfield put the IUE-CIO leadership on the spot by demanding more than the 2 1/2 percent agreed to by Carey and his small clique of sellout artists without membership vote.

Not satisfied with the miserly settlement forced on them by the IUE-CIO, these toolmakers are demanding an extra 25 cents an hour wage increase and voted to strike to get it.

John Callahan, business agent of the Pittsfield Local and chairman of the IUE-CIO GE Conference

Board has been forced by these rank and file workers to ask for more money in spite of his recent sellout. This proves that IUE-CIO workers are not satisfied with the 2 1/2 percent IUE sellout and if given the proper leadership would fight for more money as GE workers in UE shops are doing.

With UE leading the way for a fight for a real wage increase, we are positive that workers in IUE shops will either force their leaders to get into the fight for more money or they will lead the fight themselves to join with us in UE for more money.

STRIKE THREAT GETS WESTINGHOUSE OFFER

Westinghouse, GE's major competitor, last week made a wage offer to UE after the UE Westinghouse Conference Board had directed its locals to take strike votes in support of the union's wage and contract demands.

The offer is similar to GE's. UE Westinghouse workers lost no time turning it down and are going ahead with their strike votes.

In an attempt to weaken UE's fight for real money, Westinghouse made the same offer to IUE-CIO, although the company union has no wage reopener.

IUE IN SCAB ROLE IN FT. EDWARD

Not satisfied with selling out its own members for 2 1/2 percent and fearing the effect of a UE wage victory, the IUE-CIO is now trying to disrupt our wage fight by filing for an NLRB election in Ft. Edward and Hudson Falls.

In petitioning for an election IUE-CIO is coming to the company's rescue. It doesn't have the necessary cards in Ft. Edward or Hudson Falls anymore than it did in Schenectady or Erie. A more contemptible trick of disruption would be hard to imagine.

S A M P L E

BALLOT

United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America -- Local 301

I am a member of U.E. Local 301

IN THE EVENT NEGOTIATIONS DO NOT RESULT IN A JUST AND SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT OF THE UNION'S DEMANDS, THE UE-GE CONFERENCE BOARD IS AUTHORIZED TO CALL A STRIKE AGAINST THE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SET THE DATE ON WHICH THE STRIKE SHALL BEGIN.

YES

NO

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 9 — No. 25

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, November 9, 1951

Negotiations Broken Off In Schenectady GE Works!

As we go to press, Leo Jandreau, UE Local 301 Business Agent, announced that negotiations between the union and the company on grievances have been broken off.

The immediate cause for this development, the first of its kind in the 15 years UE has represented Schenectady workers, was the laying off of a shop steward for her refusal to turn over to a foreman the results of the strike authorization vote in her unit.

The shop steward is Josephine Riggi, Bldg. 89. The foreman in the picture is M. Leifels.

In a statement announcing the breaking off of grievance meetings with the company, Jandreau said, "if shop stewards can be discriminated against because of union activity and laid off in violation of contract, there is no use trying to bring any case to the company."

This shocking case, fruit of the company's mistaken belief that its employees are not prepared to strike for their rights, begins on October 26 when Mrs. Riggi and three women in her group were given layoff notices. Mrs. Riggi pointed out at the time that under the contract work had to be found for a shop steward for the purpose of giving repre-

sentation to workers. The case went to Mr. Van Heusen of Personnel who directed on October 30 that a job be found for Steward Riggi.

Then came the strike vote on November 2nd which coincided with the end of Mrs. Riggi's week's notice. Foreman Leifels, at the conclusion of the balloting demanded the results. He was told by the shop steward that it was none of his business. Night Board Member Fred Pacelli upheld her position.

Nevertheless, after a conference with General Foreman Oden Witbeck, Foreman Reifels handed Mrs. Riggi her unemployment slip and told her to stay out of the plant until Friday, November 9. The other 3 girls involved in the original layoff notices were given jobs and without loss of time.

On Monday when the strike vote results were made official Tom Hughes, an assistant to the Works Manager, phoned the union and said that while work would be found for Josephine Riggi, she would be obliged to stay out until Friday.

A clear case of discrimination, it violates the very heart of the contract. If stewards can be placed on the chopping block for refusing to take orders from foremen, there is no protection for anyone in the plant and no use of trying to settle grievances.

The matter was being considered by the Executive Board at press time.

UE Backed By Strike Vote In Most Plants to Meet GE

Backed by a large national majority authorizing strike action against GE and with a practically unanimous mandate to turn down the company's 2 1/2 percent wage offer, the UE Negotiating Committee will make another try at

getting GE to bargain on wages and related issues. A meeting with the company is tentatively scheduled for November 19, one week after the UE-GE Conference Board meets.

The close vote in Schenectady — 7,221 to 6,496 — can give the company no comfort. Although Management will attempt to interpret the results as a company "victory" and try to make it a "dreary Christmas" and an unhappy New Year for many through rate cuts, speed-up layoffs. As a result of the strike

vote here and nationally, the UE Negotiating Committee can play a stronger card in negotiations. It would be unrealistic however, to expect that we may not yet have to play our trump card. And in the labor movement, since its birth, strikes are the last trump.

Of the 41 GE plants under UE contract, Schenectady and four small locations voted against strike authorization at the present time. The Erie vote was 5,150 "yes" to 1,797 "no."

The UE 301 Executive Board, meeting Monday morning after the final tabulation, analyzed the Schenectady vote as a "decision on timing, not on issues" and warned the company that if it refuses to bargain on wages and settle local grievances "a new decision can be made overnight." Another strike vote in the near future was advanced as a possibility by national UE president Albert J. Fitzgerald at the 7:30 P.M. membership meeting and the (Continued on Page 2)

STRIKE VOTE WINNING IN WESTINGHOUSE

The first eight UE-Westinghouse locals to complete their strike-if-necessary votes have reported overwhelming authorization to the UE-Westinghouse Conference Board to set a strike date should the company continue to refuse to bargain on wages and benefits.

Westinghouse, GE's chief competitor, had made a wage offer similar to the one cooked up between GE and IUE-CIO. The offer was turned down by UE members.

Deadline for completing strike authorization votes in the Westinghouse chain is November 10.

The plants and locals voting "yes" are Local 627, Fairmont, W. Virginia; Local 443, Trenton, New Jersey; Local 630, Sunbury, Pa.; Local 137, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Local 322, Attica, N. Y.; Local 612, Derry, Pa.; Local 601, Nulta, Pa.; Local 607, Huntington, Virginia.

UE Backed By Strike Vote

(Continued from Page 1)

statement touched off cheers and applause.

Local Board Members and Stewards report that there is no question but that the vast majority of UE members in the Schenectady Works are dissatisfied and impatient and will authorize strike action when they think the time is right.

Democratic Vote

A by-product of the democratic voting procedure was the deep impression it made on all GE workers and the community. Management had tried through the Schenectady Works News and plant rumors to discredit the balloting in advance. It circulated the lie that strike authorization automatically meant a strike the next morning.

Other company tricks included intimidating strike preparations, such as contacting people to sleep in the

plant, bringing cots, ordering tons of food, telling salaried employees they would not draw pay in the event of a strike, laying off tool makers from outside jobs, intimidating whoever "they thought they could." These "tactics" brought the company nothing. That kind of propaganda does not take long to wear off and tomorrow is always another day. It only served to point up the militancy and readiness of those who had made up their minds and voted "yes" and had little affect on the equally militant who were doing their own figuring and voted "no."

Same Issues

The issues remain. Our living standards are on the anvil under the double hammer of rising prices and taxes. A profit-bloated company shows no disposition to meet our just demands. On the contrary, it is losing no time in moving in on established rates and conditions. There is a growing realization that unless we fight soon to get what we need the company will force us onto the streets to keep what we have.

GE LAMP WORKERS TO VOTE ON RETURN TO UE

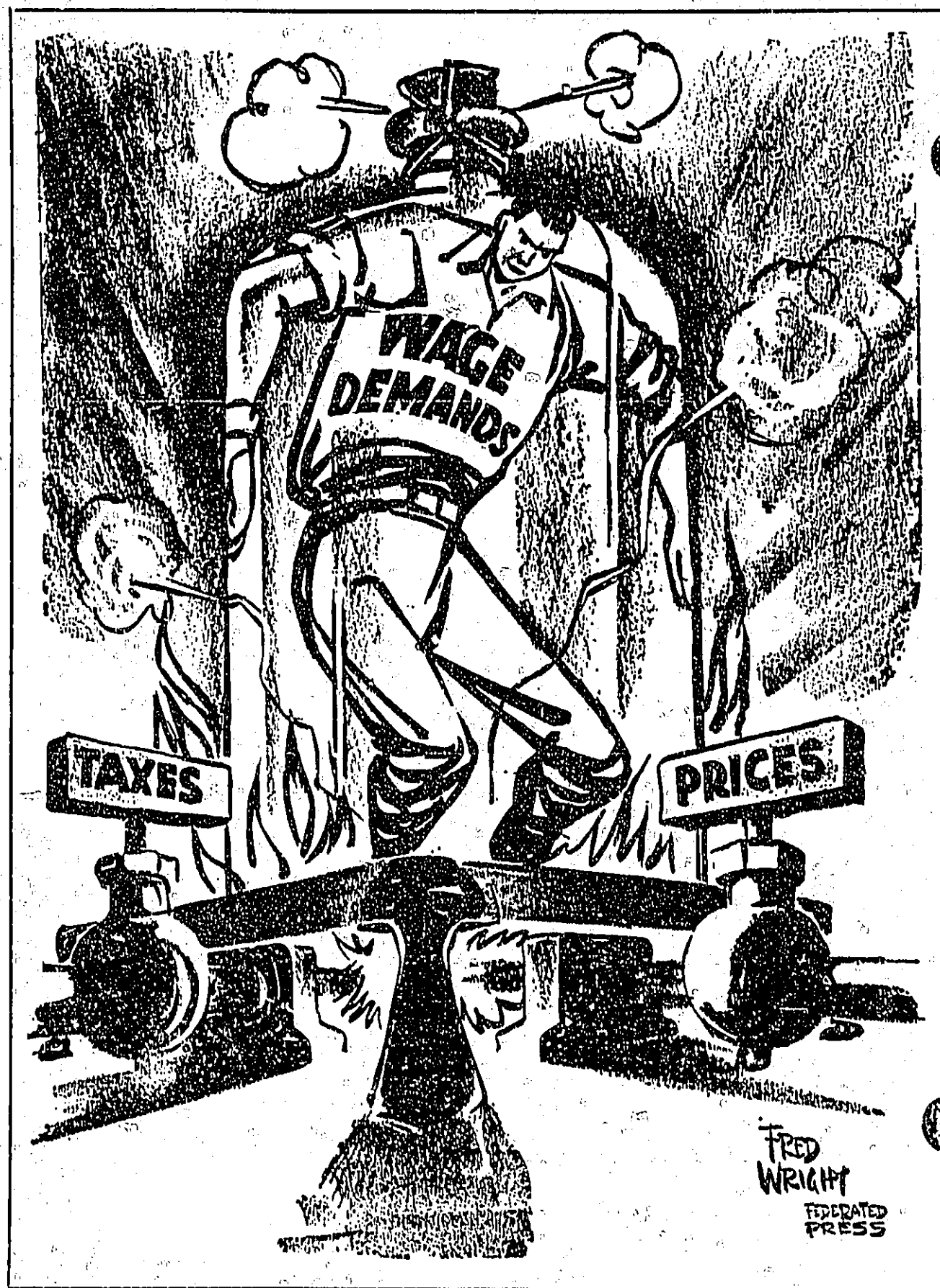
An NLRB election will be held at the GE Lamp Works, Bucyrus, Ohio, November 21 as a result of a petition filed by UE. The plant is now under the IUE. The 2 1/2 percent IUE sell-out followed by rate slashes and attacks on conditions have proved more than the GE lamp workers can stomach.

UE LOCALS THAW WAGE FREEZE

UE Local 1150 in Chicago, Ill. has just forced the Wage Stabilization Board to okay a 15 cent package which came on top of a 20 cents an hour increase won from the Goodman Co. in 1950. It took a number of picket lines around WSB offices and a stoppage to win approval of the raise which brought their increases well above the wage ceiling.

Above the ceiling wage increases have also been won by UE Local 404 for over 900 Anaconda Wire & Cable workers in Hastings, N. Y. The settlement provided for adjustment of wage inequities for over one-third of the plant.

Ready To Bust Open!



CIO Forced To Attack Wage Freeze

Under rank and file pressure, the CIO convention in New York City on Monday quickly turned down pleas by President Truman and Director of Price Stabilization DiSalle to forego real pay increases and foreshadowed nation-wide wage drives. A resolution, drafted by hard-pressed CIO policy makers, called upon the Wage Stabilization Board to stop interfering with wage increases won through collective bargaining. CIO representatives sit on the wage freeze board.

Steel Rebels

Underlying the words of the resolution are the threats of steelworkers, auto workers and others to strike if necessary to protect and improve their living standards. The New York Times account of the opening convention session states, "union officials doubt it will be possible, without govern-

mental intervention, to avert a strike of 1,000,000 steelworkers on New Year's Day."

Cutting The Pie

Although Murray is known to be seeking some formula to hold down the steel workers' money demands, he was forced to go along with the resolution which repudiated the Truman-CIO wage policy.

In apparent failure to take into account the temper of workers throughout the country, DiSalle bluntly told the CIO convention that their unions should not attempt to increase their "slice of the nation's pie." This shameful reference to a "pie" which is being divided among the profiteers with crumbs going to the workers caused the CIO resolutions committee to come back with its statement almost before DiSalle had finished speaking.

President Truman, in more indirect language, made the same plea for labor to forego real wage increases, thus letting business

walk off with even bigger "slices."

The CIO resolution declared, in contradiction to CIO policy, that the greatest contribution unions could make to the national welfare was to fight for higher living standards. It accused the wage freeze board, as UE has so often done, of "tampering with the fruits of collective bargaining." It promised that CIO leaders would not submit to "wage freezes or unfair policies of any other kind which will threaten the standard of living and the hard-won collective bargaining advances of free American labor."

Reports of wage fights in CIO local unions show that the rank and file intends to keep that promise whether or not their leaders come along. They forced their leadership into a damaging admission that workers can lick the wage freeze board, and that the board derives strength only from the weakness and corruption of CIO and, by implication, AFL official-

HOW UE LOCALS VOTED ON STRIKE

With seven UE locals in the General Electric chain still to report their strike authorization votes, returns show a large majority voted "yes", in some places by overwhelming majorities.

Erie's votes for strike authorization and the 6,596 polled in Schenectady contributed by far the largest number of votes to the "yes" column.

The UE-GE Conference Board received authorizations from UE locals representing 30 GE plant locations as against five which voted "no" by narrow margins.

The five are Schenectady, N. Y.; Elmira, N. Y.; Taunton, Mass.; Decatur, Ind.; De Kalb, Ill. A strike can be called in these places only if another local strike vote gave the necessary authorization.

Locals voting Yes:

- Local 115, York, Pa.
- Local 120, Baltimore, Md.
- Local 125, Scranton, Pa.
- Local 128, Allentown, Pa.
- Local 224, East Boston, Mass.
- Local 297, Lowell, Mass.
- Local 332, Fort Edward, N. Y.
- Local 422, Bloomfield, N. J.
- Local 429, Newark, N. J. (Warehouse).
- Local 429, Newark, N. J. (Newark Lamp).
- Local 429, Newark, N. J. (Seaboard Lamp).
- Local 429, Elizabeth, N. J. (Drive Unit Repair Station).
- Local 429, Newark, N. J. (Service District).
- Local 506, Erie, Pa.
- Local 707, Cleveland, Ohio (Euclid Lamp Works).
- Local 707, Cleveland, Ohio (Draftsmen-Glass Machine Works)
- Local 707, Cleveland, Ohio (Operating Division—1133 E. 152nd Street).
- Local 707, Cleveland, Ohio (Operating Division and Nela Park).
- Local 713, Bellevue, Ohio.
- Local 731, Conneaut, Ohio.
- Local 751, Niles, Ohio (Glass Works).
- Local 751, Niles, Ohio (Mahoning Glass).
- Local 766, Cincinnati, Ohio (Service Shop)
- Local 1007, San Jose, Calif.
- Local 1151, Chicago, Ill. (Service Shop).
- Local 1412, Oakland, Calif. (Apparatus Plant).
- Local 1412, Oakland, Calif. (Lamp Works).
- Local 1412, San Francisco, Calif. (Products Service Center)
- Local 1412, San Francisco, Calif. (Service Shop).
- Local 1412, San Jose, Calif.

"Dreary Christmas"—And All That Malarky

Management, which so recently expressed such touching concern that our Christmas not be dreary, is spreading lots of Christmas cheer in Control Division in the form of layoff notices.

People with 20 and 30 years' service have been laid off for as much as a week at a time in Bldg. 53, all because Management had them making the wrong parts. By working some people overtime, Management found that it could lay off 30 workers in Bldg. 77. So that they could do their Christmas shopping early?

Still in the holiday spirit, Man-

agement is hiring new people in Bldg. 73 while sending old workers home on personal passes instead of lack of work notices.

Bldg. 53 workers also received an extra "Christmas present" when a standard price on a job was cut from \$4.40 to \$2.40. The missus will love that in her Christmas stocking!

Management intends to speed similar season's greetings throughout the plant and hopes to overlook no one. Of course, there is always the chance that the workers will prove ungrateful and take another strike vote or go out on stoppages.

More Christmas Cheer



Fifteen minutes after the radio announced that there would be no Schenectady strike for the time being, Management notified the Engine Lathe Group in Bldg. 46 that in case of tool trouble it will pay no more than three steps below the Average Earning Rate. In previous negotiations, Management had indicated it would pay the full A.E.R.

Airplane mechanics at the Airport are being hired in at three steps below the job rate. Management admits that this is a contract violation and it is inviting strike action to keep it from spreading this practice throughout the plant.

Meanwhile, the Union is also fighting the grievances of the tinsmiths in Bldg. 49 who complain that tinsmiths are being hired in at the lower sheet metal rate. The

Union is also asking for more money for sheet metal workers who should be getting Class B tinsmiths' rates. Management bluntly refuses to correct the injustice.

Elsewhere, management has upped the requirements of the jobs of stock room keepers and accumulators but is holding down the rates. Accumulators are doing stock keeper work at the lower accumulator rate while many stock room keepers in the "A" and "B" categories are acting as leaders and not getting paid for it.

It does not take much to see that this is the pattern Management is preparing for every department, in violation of contract and grievance procedure. It will take more than a docket to cut through the pattern. It will take the most united and militant resistance.

RAIL UNION CALLS STRIKE

With 100,000 railroad men getting ready to strike and a strike of 1,000,000 steelworkers forecast for New Year's Day, the mainstream of labor is flowing strongly toward a showdown fight on wages and related issues.

The strike of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engine-men was scheduled to begin yesterday after a 10 to 1 strike vote.

NOMINATE OFFICERS

The following names were placed in nomination for officers of UE Local 301 by the November 5 membership meetings:

- For President**
- John Green Bldg. 66
 - James Cognetta 52
 - Dewey Brashear 89
- For Vice-President**
- Joseph Kelly 16
 - Roy Schaeffer 60
 - Marvin Runnill 273
 - Helen Quirini 81
 - Joseph Kernaghan 40
 - Dewey Brashear 89
 - Fay Hildreth 59
 - Al. Riechert 10
 - Fred Pacelli 46
- For Recording Secretary**
- Rudy Rissland 273
 - Wm. Christman 18
 - Esther Porter 68
 - Helen Quirini 81
- For Asst. Recording Secretary**
- Antoinette Restini 12
 - Marvin Rummill 273
 - Frank D'Amico 49
- For Treasurer**
- Henry Kaminski 68
 - Larry Gebe 273
 - Joseph Witbeck 69
 - Helen Quirini 81
 - Wm. Garrison 73
- For Chief Shop Steward**
- Wm. Mastrianni 73
 - Arthur Diesner 64
 - Joe Alois 273
 - Wm. Christman 18
- For Business Agent**
- Leo Jandreau
- For Sgt. at Arms**
- Owen B. Phillips 285
 - James J. White 273
 - Joseph Saccocio 52
- For Guide**
- Mario Bagnato 52
- For Trustees**
- Nick Ferretti 81
 - Wm. Garrison 73
 - Miles Moon 85
 - Wm. J. McCall 273
 - Tom McGrath 52
 - Ed. Tuberd 17
 - Julius Weisman 273
 - Joseph Witbeck 69
 - Floyd Thomas CAP
 - Harold Simpson 28

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA
Schenectady GE Local 301 UE

Published by the Editorial Com.
Ass't Recording Secretary—Frank D'Amico
Treasurer—Henry Kaminski
Vice-President—Joseph Mangino
Recording Secretary—John P. Green
President—William Kelly
Chief Shop Steward—James Cognetta
Business Agent—Leo Jandreau
301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY, N. Y.