



IUE-CIO NEWS

"IN UNION
THERE IS
STRENGTH"

Volume 1 No. 3

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202 Clinton Street

April 5, 1951

THE TRUTH ABOUT ESCALATORS

UE's weakness as a union, and its desperation as a result of its failures has led UE to use outright lies in its last newspaper, in an effort to stop GE workers from flocking to IUE-CIO.

The March 30 Electrical Union News issued an article under the title, "Experiences at GM with Escalator." UE says, "During the two year period from June, 1948 to August, 1950, under the escalator clause in the GM-CIO Auto Workers' contract, the GM workers received a wage cut of two cents an hour from the richest corporation in the world."

Here is the truth about the contract with General Motors. First, according to the principles of CIO unions, the workers receive straight wage increases, plus cost of living increases. In 1948, GM workers received a six cent per hour wage increase over and above cost of living increases. In 1949 they received a three cent per hour straight increase, and in 1950, a four cent per hour increase. In another month, GM workers will receive another four cent per hour increase over and above cost of living increases. No matter what happens to the cost of living, the workers will keep these increases.

In the period from June 1, 1948 to the present, GM workers received total increases of 18 cents per hour based on their cost of living clause. In March, 1950, they were forced to take a two cent cost of living decrease, not five cents as UE claims in its lying story. Thus GM workers actually gained 16 cents per hour through cost of living increases alone.

Up to the present, GM workers have received 29 cents per hour in wage increases. They will receive another four cent straight increase on May 29, and cost of living increase in June of this year.

Besides this 29 cents per hour in actual money, GM workers also won a pension plan paid for completely by management, and a health insurance plan which pays all hospital expenses, doctor and medical bills, plus weekly sick benefits from \$28 to \$45.50 a week for 26

weeks. The company's contribution to these plans amounts to 10 cents per hour per worker.

Thus GM workers during the last two years have made gains amounting to over 39 cents per hour.

GE workers in Schenectady know what UE has done during this same period of time. Make the comparison between these two records for yourselves.

Moreover, in the IUE-CIO contract with GE, the cost of living clause is a one-way escalator. The company can never take the increase away from the workers.

UE AGREES WITH GE COMPANY IN CONDEMNING COST OF LIVING RAISE

An interesting note in the latest Electrical Union News is the fact that UE condemns cost of living escalator clauses, not on one page, but on three of the four pages in the paper.

This fact becomes even more interesting in view of the position on cost of living increases taken by General Electric Co.

UE and GE see eye to eye on this subject! The GE Employees Relations Newsletter (for circulation among GE management) for February 12 of this year launched a wholesale attack on cost of living clauses. GE flatly demanded that the government not only prohibit future escalator clauses, but also declare those in effect now as illegal.

The Newsletter says: "There is only one way it (the escalator problem) should be settled. That is by ruling out these automatic protectors of the few." In subsequent issues of its Newsletter, GE has continued its attack on escalator clauses, as well as on company paid pensions and insurance programs, and on laws protecting labor, such as the Federal Wage-Hour Law.

None of this surprises anyone, however, since the General Electric Co. has never been successful in hiding its anti-union feelings.

And just as the company condemns the cost of living clauses, so does the UE. The March 30 Electrical Union News fights all the rest of organized labor by sticking to the line laid down by GE!

UE says: "Militant trade unions have, therefore, opposed tying workers' wages to so-called cost of living or escalator clauses."

That much is true. No fighting union would accept just an escalator clause, without a wage increase. But when a union is strong enough to win an escalator clause along with a wage increase, then the members benefit. And that is what many CIO unions have been able to do in recent years.

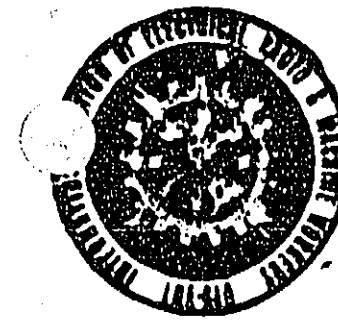
In September, 1950, IUE-CIO won a 10-cent per hour wage increase, plus a cost of living clause by which workers' wages could be raised in just six months. Besides that, IUE-CIO will enter negotiations this summer on a new contract and wage increases, while UE must wait two years before its contract opens.

Could it be that UE and GE both condemn escalator clauses because the IUE-CIO escalator will mean about 10 cents per hour more for each worker under IUE-CIO contract as of March 15?

THE GM STORY

Year	UE Lie	Actual Raises
1948	3-cent increase	11-cent increases
1949	3-cent cut	3-cent increase
1950	2-cent cut	12-cent increase 2-cent cut
1951	No Figures 2-cent cut	9-cent increase 33-cent increase

STOP AND SEE THE NEW IUE-CIO HEADQUARTERS AT 202 CLINTON STREET



IUE-CIO NEWS

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April 12, 1951

ARE THEY STILL HAM-ACTING?

The business agent of UE Local 301 is reported to have put the blame for UE's failures in negotiations on IUE-CIO's campaign in Schenectady when he reported to the UE meeting April 2. Certain UE leaders in the plant have echoed this sentiment of their leader.

IUE-CIO, the largest union in the GE chain, has made its program for GE workers a matter of public record. Because of the concerted effort of America's bona fide labor unions, among which UE is not numbered, it is believed that the laws will be changed so that all unions will be able, this summer, to win a seventh round of wage increases.

But right now, the wage freeze is on. Fortunately, IUE-CIO had the wisdom to write a cost-of-living clause into its GE contract. This clause guarantees GE workers about 10 cents per hour in wage increases as of March 15. Then, this summer IUE-CIO has contract and wage negotiations already planned. Working with the rest of organized labor, IUE-CIO intends to win a substantial wage increase for GE workers an increase which will bring GE workers' wages up to the average paid in comparable industries.

This program of IUE-CIO is known to GE and to UE. IUE-CIO has dedicated itself to putting GE workers among the highest paid workers in the heavy metals industries. At the present, through the efforts of the UE, they are the lowest paid workers in the heavy metals industries.

In view of IUE-CIO program for GE workers, IUE-CIO defies UE to blame this organization or its members for UE's failure to win 32 cents per hour at this time.

WHEN UE BACKS UP WITH ACTION ITS DEMAND FOR A 32-CENT PER HOUR INCREASE, NO IUE-CIO MEMBER OR SUPPORTER WILL STAND IN UE'S WAY.

WHY DOESN'T UE DEMAND DAILY MEETINGS WITH MANAGEMENT UNTIL IT GETS AN OFFER OF SOME KIND? WHY HAS UE MET ONLY THREE OR FOUR TIMES WITH

THE COMPANY SINCE MARCH 15, IF IT IS SINCERE IN ITS EFFORTS?

IUE-CIO HAS A PROGRAM FOR GE WORKERS TO WIPE OUT THE INEQUITIES AND DIFFERENTIALS WHICH UE'S LEADERSHIP ADMITS EXISTS. IT IS UE'S FAULT THAT GE WORKERS ARE UNDERPAID, AND THAT WOMEN AND ALL DAY WORKERS ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR UE TO SHOW ITS WORTH, IF IT IS WORTH ANYTHING, OR FOREVER HOLD ITS PEACE.

SHOP TALK

IUE-CIO News is beginning a new feature! Shop Talk is your column the column through which all GE workers can express their views. Drop us a line or stop in with your news if you have heard any interesting "shop talk."

Over in building 16, some of the workers are wondering just what to do with their grievances whenever the foreman is away. It seems that whenever Foreman Dom Vanauken is out, the UE steward, John Oberlise, becomes acting foreman. It's obvious that this creates a problem for the fellow with a grievance.

The foreman problem in building 11 has been settled. IUE-CIO members were told they couldn't distribute membership cards during lunch period. When the foreman was challenged in this matter, he checked, and discovered that he was wrong. Remember, the company can't stop any worker from doing what he wants to do on his own time!

A reader wrote IUE-CIO News last week and asked that we reprint a recent article by Drew Pearson. This GE worker was kind enough to enclose the article with his letter. This is it.

"The United Electrical Workers Union recently admitted two Russian newsmen but simultaneously barred the American press from a district meeting

in Chicago.

"As a result the only news of the meeting was broadcast over Radio Moscow. Quoting two Russian writers named Filippov and Rassadin, the Soviet broadcast reported: The representative of the Central Executive of the UE, Julius Emspak, delivered a short report in which he proved how the aggressive policy of the US government, carried out in the interest of monopolies, is loading more and more burdens upon the shoulders of the American people."

It seems to us that the UE knows how to make friends and influence people in Russia if nowhere else!

According to page four of the March 30 UE newspaper, the UE is a failure and is willing to admit it. To the women in the plant, the most interesting fact in "Facts for GE Workers" is that UE failed completely to do its job for the women by forcing the company to abide by a labor board recommendation, back in 1945.

Certainly in six years UE could have forced the company to toe the line in this respect if the UE had been on the job as a real trade union.

GE workers are wondering if the 29, 300 UE members who have escalator clauses in their contract know that UE has condemned such cost of living clauses openly and viciously. Most of these 29,300 work at International Harvester, and formerly were members of the left-wing Farm Equipment workers organization, which joined UE after both organizations were expelled from CIO because of Communist domination.

UE Board members and some stewards are having a hard time these days. Apparently they have orders to find out who is signing IUE-CIO cards. So far they haven't been successful.

Joe Bilak, acting UE Board member

in Bldg. 16 is generally known as the "assistant" foreman. Rather than fight grievances, he gives out orders. But he gets all the overtime. Perhaps this brand of "unionism" pays off for the UE steward at least.

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