



Chicago—An attempt by the union-busting International Harvester Co. to cut pay of workers just before Christmas resulted in a mass "sick" movement among UE workers in the rolling mills of the Wisconsin Steel plant. The movement clearly demonstrated to the corporation that the workers' militancy had not been blunted by the recent strike.

New York—The nation's biggest city was in the grip of its first major bus strike in 12 years this week, as CIO employees of 8 private bus lines walked out to bolster their demand for a 40-hour week with no loss in pay. The lines affected usually serve about 3½-million persons a day.

Buffalo—A one-year agreement providing for a 10c hourly wage increase has been signed by UE for employees of the Buffalo Wire Works. The contract also provides a new fair employment practices clause and a third week's vacation after 15 years.

New York—Local 1 of the AFL Bakers union has sent a telegram to President Truman asking clemency for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, the couple who are slated to die for alleged atomic espionage.

Fitchburg, Mass.—Tool and die makers at the Independent Lock Co. have won special wage increases of 5c to 15c an hour to eliminate pay inequities. The boosts were negotiated by UE as part of the union's national campaign to raise pay levels for craftsmen.

New York—A delegation of 40 New York union members paid a New Year's Day call on crew members of the Italian liner, Vulcania, confined to their ship because they refused to submit to a Walter-McCarran inquisition. The Vulcania seamen had plenty of company in New York's harbor, where hundreds of foreign seamen have been confined under the shadow of the Statue of Liberty since the new immigration law went into effect on Dec. 24.

Geneva, Ohio—Wage increases of 6c to 13c an hour have been won for 140 employees of the Geneva Lock Co. The boosts, negotiated by UE Local 720, are retroactive to Oct. 27. Several fringe benefits were also won.

4 • Friday, January 9, 1953

Jandreau Nails Kersten Digest Lies

This month's issue of the Reader's Digest carries a smear article against UE under the by-line of Congressman Charles Kersten of Wisconsin. The article, like the other pieces planted by big business in their magazines recently, strings one lie after another in a desperate effort to break our union.

UE Local 301 Business Agent Leo Jandreau, in the open letter which follows, publicly points out some of the lies told by Kersten. Copies of this newspaper with the open letter are being sent by registered mail to Kersten and to the Digest. The complete text of the open letter:

"UE members in Schenectady, by this time, are accustomed to the efforts of the un-American committees, of the Kerstens and of other anti-labor groups and individuals to weaken their union.

"Despite these efforts, these thousands of UE workers go about their business of negotiating better wages and working conditions.

"This indifference to their disruptive efforts on our part disturbs the big corporations and their loyal servants. For this reason, the Saturday Evening Post a few months ago rehashed all of the old smears against UE which have been sputtered for years by those who would like the working conditions of Schenectady workers to go back to what they were before UE Local 301 came into existence.

"Because this scurrilous article had no more effect on our members than previous smear attempts, another well-known anti-union magazine, the Reader's Digest, was called in to do a job. It is no accident that the man selected to write the new attack on our union was Mr. Kersten.

"This is the same Kersten who in 1948 led a much-publicized smear committee into Schenectady. This committee got its ears pinned back by the working people of Schenectady, one after another of whom paraded to the witness stand to tell Kersten that they, the members of UE, ran their union and that they want no part of any outside interference, including that of Kersten.

"No doubt the congressman has been unhappy about Schenectady ever since then, but it is unfortunate that a man who holds the high office of a representative of the people in Congress should have so little regard for the truth in his efforts to 'get even.'

"His Reader's Digest article is full of falsehoods. Take, for example, his assertion that I signed a letter 'proclaiming' my membership in the Communist Party which allegedly was published in the Daily Worker of March 30, 1943.

"Mr. Kersten, you know very well that there never was such a letter signed by me. You know very well that no such letter ever appeared in the Daily Worker, or in any other newspaper on March 30, 1943, or on any other date.

"I have a photostatic copy of the March 30, 1943 Daily Worker. It proves that you are lying, Mr. Kersten, and anybody who wishes to see it is welcome to see it. Incidentally, I make these assertions without benefit of congressional immunity.

"Mr. Kersten, I am afraid that you are as unsuccessful now in your aim of disrupting our union as you were in 1948, and as you always will be. The working people of Schenectady know you for what you are—a paid agent of the big corporations."

Leo Jandreau

Kersten Record Exposes Him As Veteran Company Agent

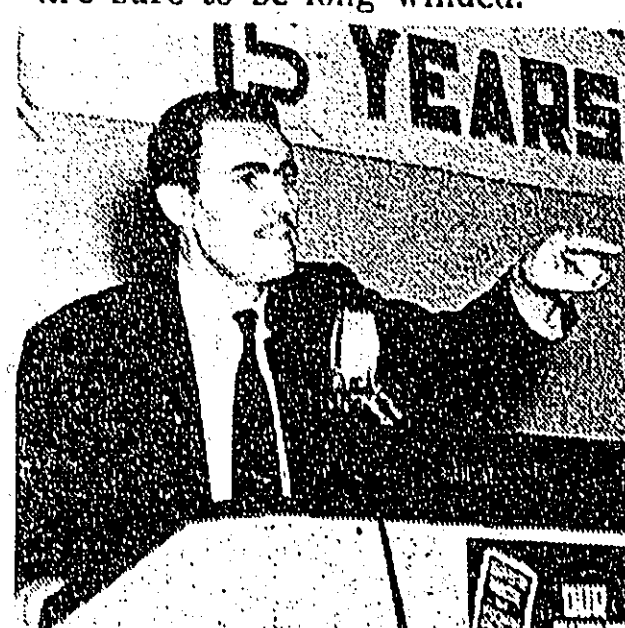
One look at the record of Charles Kersten makes it pretty plain why he goes in for writing smear articles against the UE like the one currently appearing in the Reader's Digest.

Throughout his political life, Kersten has been a paid agent of the big corporations—and for a while it was even official.

Kersten was defeated for reelection to Congress in 1948, largely through the efforts of UE and other unions. Their opposition to the Wisconsin Republican was based on both his reactionary voting record and on his leadership of the witch-hunt committee which found such rough going in Schenectady.

Just as soon as he was thrown out by the voters, Kersten came out into the open on the corporations' payroll, becoming a lobbyist for a group of the nation's biggest companies—including General Electric.

In 1950, Kersten got back into Congress, and since then has done his bit for the big money boys on Capitol Hill.



JIM MATLES, UE director of organization's speech is reported on page 1.

Court Action

(Continued from page 3)

sentment" that forms the basis for the Taft-Hartley board action. In hitting at the whole illegal "presentment" procedure, the UE received widespread support from conservative newspapers. Among the publications to attack the grand jury procedure were the Washington Post, the New York Times and the Schenectady Gazette.

Board Vote

(Continued from page 1)

len Townsend, 46, 48, 50, 60; Paul Landolfo, 28; A. J. Griffith, 10C, 26, 28; Manuel Fernandez, 5, 9, 10; Joseph Whitbeck, 53; and A. Pepicelli, Campbell Avenue.

Hits Witch Hunters

Denver—The International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers described as totally "unfounded, undocumented and foolish" the charge by the McCarran witch-hunt committee that Mine-Mill strikes were dictated from outside the union.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 11 — No. 3

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, January 16, 1953



Richmond, Ind.—UE decisively defeated a raid by the AFL machinists at the Automotive Gear works here. The vote in an NLRB election was 139 to 72 in favor of UE.

New York—Interviewed on his return from South America, John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers, declared that he still prefers outright repeal of Taft-Hartley to any plan to amend the law. Lewis called T-H a "pestilence and a scourge."

Toronto—UE has negotiated a 17c to 26c hourly wage increase for employees of the Peterboro Lock Co. When negotiations began last March, the company proposed a general wage cut of 3c and additional wage slashes of 12c for women and 20c for foundry workers.

New York—For the first time in its 70-year history, the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen has admitted a Negro to its membership. The breakdown in the union's Jim Crow policy was the first victory in a long campaign.

Elmsford, N. Y.—Wage increases ranging from 6c to 10c an hour have been won for 800 Sonotone employees. Half of the increase, negotiated by UE, is retroactive to July 21.

Boston—An 8c hourly wage increase has been won by the CIO shoe workers for 12,000 employees of 65 plants in the Boston area.

Rock Island, Ill.—An appeal to all unions in the area to back striking members of the AFL printers has been issued by UE District 8 President Don Harris. Harris noted that the printers' strike was the seventh walkout forced on workers in Rock Island in the past year.

Portland, Ore.—The CIO woodworkers have announced that they seek a 22½c hourly package increase and a 6-hour day in negotiations with the companies beginning next month.

Seranton, Pa.—UE Local 122 has negotiated 8c to 10c hourly wage increases for employees of the Harris Hub and Spring Co. In addition, all piece workers will get another 5c.



BACK AT WORK. The newly-elected 301 executive board held its first meeting on Monday and mapped plans for 1953. Above the board is pictured during its discussions.

Company Tells Pensioners It Had to Chisel to Compete

If GE hadn't chiselled a few dollars from the pensions of its retired workers when federal social security benefits were raised, then it might not have been able to go on selling its

At least that's the substance of what the company's top management told UE-GE Pensioners' Organization President Albert Van Der Zee in a recent letter.

This letter was a reply to a communication sent by Van Der Zee to General Electric President Ralph Cordiner. Cordiner didn't take the trouble to answer the Schenectady pensioners' leader personally, but one of his aides, Employee Benefits Manager A. D. Marshall did. It was Marshall who made the astounding statement that the com-

pany had to gear its pensions to "keep costs such that its products can compete with those of other companies who are behind in their recognition of this problem."

This, of course is the line that the big corporations always use when their workers ask for more money—"We can't do it unless we raise prices, and the market just won't stand that." Naturally, no one in top management has ever heard of profits which, at last reports, were running at the rate of \$370-million for GE in 1952.

The Marshall letter runs on for four pages about how generous "Generous Electric" has been to its retired employees over the years. No where does it mention the fact that practically every cent of the inadequate pensions now being received by the men and women who gave most of their lives to piling up huge GE profits was wrung from an unwilling company by UE, and that the present pension arrangement is a product of negotiations between the union and the company.

Marshall concludes by telling Van Der Zee that the "problems of industrial management during this inflationary period are indeed serious, and require patient consideration." Mr. Marshall, anytime you and your management colleagues want to swap your problems with those of the elderly folks trying to run their households on \$125 a month, the UE-GE pensioners will be glad to do business.

There are five 301 members on the body. They are James Brown, Leo Jandreau, William Kelly, William Mastriani and William Templeton.

A meeting on Friday of the UE international staff in the district will precede the council session.

Local to Discuss Reopener Monday

Preparation of a set of demands to be presented by UE in next month's economic reopener negotiations with General Electric will occupy an important place on the agenda of the first UE Local 301 membership meeting of 1953 on Monday.

The demands coming out of the meeting will be forwarded to the UE-GE conference board for correlation with the proposals of other union locals in the General Electric chain.

In a preliminary discussion of the reopener demands held by the local executive board on Monday, a number of the demands being raised in the shops were brought up. Among these were proposals for a general wage increase and for inequity adjustments to end pay discrimination against women, day workers and skilled workers.

Also voiced was the resentment felt by many workers over the many deductions now being taken out from paychecks by the company. It was proposed that UE go into the talks with the slogan, "Gross earnings—not net earnings!"

In line with this, several board members urged a renewed fight by UE to bring down the excessive taxes levied on the incomes of working people. It was stressed that this fight would have to go hand-in-hand with the negotiations.

Almost every board member underlined the importance of the union forcing the company to "give back" the two paid holidays which fall on Saturdays this year.

The reopener talks will begin next month, with any contract changes negotiated going into effect on March 15.

CAP Vote Today

A special election to decide who will represent the Campbell Ave. plant on the 301 executive board will be held at noon today.

The voting was ordered by the elections committee after it was learned that confusion in voting instructions had deprived 5 stewards of the opportunity to cast ballots in the original board balloting last Tuesday. That election was decided by a one vote margin, with Albert Pepicelli the winner. The 1952 board member was Floyd Thomas.

Erie Office Group Gets UE Back Pay

The 1,300 Erie office and salaried workers who last month voted overwhelmingly to return to UE will get the full retroactivity provided under the UE-GE contract. The back pay agreement was negotiated by the union with management last week.

IUE-CIO's contract with the company, under which the Erie office group was operating before their 738 to 150 vote to come back to UE, provides retroactivity only to Oct. 13. The UE back pay date is Sept. 15, so that the salaried workers will get an extra month's wage increase as part of the first fruits of their decision to end IUE misrepresentation and reunite with Erie production and maintenance workers.

In the meantime, the office people were busy reestablishing democratic unionism, electing their new officers, setting up grievance machinery and signing up hundreds of people who had dropped out of the union because of the IUE failure to take care of any of their problems.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

2nd SHIFT
Monday, Jan. 19, 1953
1:00 P.M. (before work)

1st and 3rd SHIFTS
Monday, Jan. 19, 1953
7:30 P.M.

Local 301 Hall

Correction

In last week's On the Job department, the EU News reported that Foreman Houck had refused payment of \$11 extra work money to several operators in Bldg. 66. Executive Board Member Charles Scott reports that this money has been paid.

However, Houck has refused payment to two men for 19½ hours of work put in to get a job out on schedule. This money is being demanded by the union in a grievance case.

Board Selects 8 Committees For Approval of Membership

UE Local 301's executive board Monday drew up a list of the personnel for 8 important committees. This list will be submitted as a board recommendation to next week's membership meeting which will then vote on it.

Several of the committees are set up with the understanding that they can be enlarged by volunteers. This is particularly true of the House, Fair Employment Practices and Activities groups.

The board's committee recommendations are as follows:

Constitution Committee: Stanley Aldhouse, 46; Anthony Campriello, 52; Frank Emispak, 46; Anthony Esposito, 53; Fay Hildreth, 59; Roy Lash, 273 and George Quick, 14.

Legislative Committee: The entire executive board, with the following five acting as a sub-committee of the board—Frank D'Amico, 40; James De Masseo, 49; Larry Gebo, 273; William Stewart, 273; and Allen Townsend, 46.

House: Henry Kaminski, 76; William Kuschel, 84; Salvatore Maietta, 52; William Mastriani, 73; and Roy Schaffer, 60.

F.E.P.: Joseph Alois, 273; Sidney Friedlander, 17; Sadie Iovinella, 89; Wayman Lewis, 52; Elroy Marine, 57; Horace Perriman, 273; Helen Quirini, 89; Rudy Rissland, 273; Charles Scott, 66; and Floyd Thomas, Campbell Ave.

Grievance: Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani, 73; Recording Secretary Roy Schaffer, 60; Business Agent Leo Jandreau; and the executive board member and steward involved in each case.

Activities: Philip Cognetta, 52; Russell Di Angellis, 40; Manuel Fernandez, 10; Don Gauvreau, 273; A. J. Griffith, 10C; O. B. Phillips, 285; Ralph Pipe, 52; Reatha Pipe, 50; Mary Skrocki, 40; and Clara Spickler, 285.

Appeals: Recording Secretary Roy Schaffer, 60; and 3 persons selected from a panel consisting of Joseph Alois, 273; Larry Gebo, 273; Miles Moon, 85; Rudy Rissland, 273; Paul Rosa, 60; and Charles Scott, 66.

As a result, there have been repeated incidents of losses of money, including one of a large sum recently. The union demands that as a minimum remedy for this situation, the company group the lockers together in accordance with the working groups.

Group protests the lowering of their rates and earnings on boring mill work being transferred from B bay. The union demands they be paid the same timing rate on this work as they were receiving on jobs in bearing section.

Groups protests price of \$6.06 on jobs 9054212-28, 29 & 30. This price does not include a 2% adjustment recently negotiated. The union demands management correct this price and correct a similar situation in the bucket section.

Bldg. 285: B packing group is not being compensated for considerable extra work due to a panel design change. Formerly, the packers opened the panels by just turning a knob. Now, two doors must be removed and reinstalled, in one case, involving the use of a screw driver to remove four screws from each door in the set. Other uncompensated extra work includes making ladders for open switches, cutting slides and ends on brakes and several other items. The union demands full payment for all extra work.

Test and inspection groups protesting the proposed combing of their jobs and should continue to be performed by two correctly classified people at proper rates, or by a new classification with adequate rate increase to compensate for additional skills and responsibilities.



NEW FACES. Seven new members of the Local 301 executive board are pictured above. They are A. J. Griffith, Paul Landolfo, Manuel Fernandez, Lloyd Perue, Allen Townsend, Percy Everett and Charles Scott.

19 CAP Women Win 6c Hourly Wage Boosts In Discrimination Grievance Breakthrough

In one of the most important breakthroughs against the company practice of discriminating against workers on account of sex, UE Local 301's grievance machinery has won 6c hourly wage increases for 19 women working in the Campbell Ave. plant.

Ambulance Unavailable For Seriously Ill Man

The GE Works News specializes in lots of publicity on the wonderful facilities available to the men and women employed in the Schenectady works. However, an incident which took place last Saturday in 273 makes that publicity sound pretty hollow to the workers who witnessed it.

At about 10 a.m., one of the men who works in tool grinding began to feel ill. Since he is a diabetic, he immediately called up supervision in order to get the limousine used for taking people home under such circumstances.

However, he was told that the driver was out to lunch and there was no man relieving him. Just 30 minutes later, the worker went into a state of shock. The hospital was called up, but this time it was the ambulance which wasn't available.

Local 301 Executive Board Member William Linka tried to obtain other transportation, but was told by the patrol department that the "risk was too great."

It wasn't until 11:15, three-quarters of an hour after the worker went into shock, that the ambulance finally arrived. By this time, the man's blood pressure had sunk to a critically low point.

In this case, the man fortunately recovered. However, unless the hospital immediately arranges for adequate transportation facilities, there is likely to be another situation in which tragedy will not be averted.

All of the people involved are in a bench assembly group. Despite the skills involved in their work, they had been receiving a job rate of only \$1.34, 9c under the rate for common labor. This was a clear example of the practice followed by GE and almost all other large corporations of paying women workers less than men doing similar jobs.

Shop Steward Joseph Sipello was unable to settle the question in direct negotiations with the foreman, and therefore brought the case to the union hall to be processed on the executive board-management level. The union brought it to management on Oct. 23, with a demand that the rate be increased to \$1.47.

The company position early in the negotiations was that the jobs did not justify a higher rate, or at most they justified a one-step increase. However, after a joint investigation in which Floyd Thomas, Rossiter Lighthall, Bonnetta Boyden and Sipello represented the union, management was forced to agree to a 2-step increase, bringing the job rate to \$1.40. This rate was made effective as of Dec. 15. With the new rates resulting from the general increase won by UE nationally, the women will receive \$1.47 an hour, so that they actually got boosts of 13c an hour.

Although, this is an important step forward, the union has long recognized that the "pay the women less" racket, which nets corporations \$5-million in extra profits a year, can not be beaten through grievance victories alone. It is for this reason, that the problem of discrimination on account of sex will be an important item on the agenda of the forthcoming economic reopening negotiations.

UE Shows It Doesn't Pay To Help Bosses Run Freeze

Although the IUE-CIO has had a full-time member on the Wage Stabilization Board, the Carey union gained approval for a smaller percentage of its wage increases than did the UE.

This revelation by the UE's Washington office completely destroys the CIO and AFL excuse for participating in the anti-labor wage freeze setup—that by taking part they can protect the interests of their membership. The facts are that UE, which has maintained its position of refusing to have anything to do with running the board from the beginning, received full approval for 69% of its cases,

while the Carey union, whose attorney, Ben Sigal, is a full-time member of the freeze unit, could win OK's in only 65% of its cases.

The exact figures show that UE gained full approval for 57 out of the 83 cases it had before the WSB in 1952. The IUE-CIO record was 26 approvals out of 40 cases. These figures also show that the UE negotiated more than twice as many wage increases, all of which require board OK, as did the IUE.

UE has opposed the wage freeze as an anti-labor measure ever since big business shoved it down the throats of the American working people. The union has pointed out that without labor participation, the WSB would soon fall apart and free collective bargaining rights would be restored to the workers and their unions.

On the other hand, both the CIO and the AFL have until recently supported the wage freeze despite the fact that both prices and profits have been rising steadily. The CIO convention last month finally came around to agreeing with the UE position and coming out against the wage freeze. However, this change so far has been strictly for the record, since the CIO members of the WSB, including the IUE lawyer, have kept their board jobs and the \$50 daily pay which they receive for helping the corporations cut down pay boosts and other benefits negotiated by the unions.

Actually, labor has no real power on the WSB, especially under the present setup which concentrates all genuine authority in the hands of economic stabilizer. In view of this, the time for the heads of CIO and AFL to pull out of this corporation front is long past due.

Strike Aid from Next Week's Back Pay Urged

Almost all UE Local 301 members will receive substantial retroactive paychecks next Friday, Jan. 23. The money will be the sum due to GE employees from the time that the UE-negotiated wage increase went into effect on Sept. 15 until after the Wage Stabilization Board approved the hike during the final weeks of 1952.

The local executive board took note of this on Monday in urging all union members to take at least \$2 out of the back pay checks and contribute it to the union's fund to aid UE men and women who waged long strike battles in 1952.

Board members pointed out that it was the militant action of these strikers that made our wage boost possible. However, the strikers, themselves, lost hundreds of dollars in the struggle to defend their union conditions.

Among the strikers who have been aided by previous contributions by their UE brothers and sisters are the men and women who walked the picket lines at General Cable for 6 months, those who were out at International Harvester for 12 weeks, the GHR workers who were locked out for more than 6 months and the Marathon Electric workers who are still hitting the bricks, after 10 months of a vicious lockout.

Up to date, Local 301 members have contributed nearly \$8,000 to the UE strike fund. However, this substantial sum is far short of the \$2 per member goal set by the union's national convention in September.

UE ON THE JOB!

Bldg. 24: William A. Smith and Augustus Hasko are classified as C bench assemblers with a rate of \$1.60½. They are performing strictly B work. Therefore the union demands they be upgraded with proper rate adjustment.

Bldg. 40B: Donald D. Morin is classified as an inside common laborer but his work is that of a material handler. The union demands upgrading and rate increase.

Bldg. 42: William A. Cooper, Frank C. Pingitore, Francis G. Tanzillo and Earl Wilkinson are classified as accumulators with a \$1.65½ rate. Their duties are actually those of B stockroom keepers. The union demands they be upgraded with rate adjustments.

Bldg. 69: Group under Foreman P. Regnier protests the additional duties they have to perform outside of their classifications. This group has been reduced from 7 workers to 4 with a bad speedup resulting. The union demands assignment of at least one porter and one material handler to the group.

Paint machine group is now handling cases 5 to 10 times larger than those used when the job was evaluated and the rate set. Therefore, the union demands a reevaluation and rate adjustment.

Bldg. 73: Group working under Foreman Jorhan is classified as miscellaneous machine operators on light sheet metal with a job rate, including layout and setup of

\$1.60½. Supervision is contemplating changing these jobs to piece work. The foreman has not answered the group's request for details on how this conversion is going to be worked out. The union demands clarification of the new plan for these workers.

Bldg. 73A: Paint spraying group protests excessive lost time and lost earnings as a result of work being farmed out. The union demands that management immediately correct this situation.

Bldg. 81: Skills required and rates of comparable jobs throughout the plant make the rate for assembly operation on small electronic panels far too low. The union demands increases for all members of the group working this job.

Bldg. 269: Peter P. DuBiel is entitled to a rate increase on the basis of his ability and job performance. The union demands such an increase.

Bldg. 273: E. H. Jackson has not received proper consideration for upgrading. Supervision has seen fit to go outside of his classification to fill an A opening. Jackson believes that he is being discriminated against because he previously sought a transfer. He is doing A work, and the union demands that he be given A classification and rate.

Emil M. Husak took a transfer from 3rd to 1st shift at the company's convenience. He is there-

Thousands of grievances are handled by UE Local 301 each year at all levels from the steward up to final appeal in New York City. To keep members posted, we shall each week list some of the grievances that have not been settled at the steward-foreman level and have been referred to the executive board-management level.

fore entitled to and should get change of shift payment.

C. Fifield's regular work schedule is from 11 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. During a recent 3-week period, he was told to work a different schedule. Therefore, he is entitled to payment of change of shift premium.

P. F. Krawczyk was classified as a boring mill vertical turret operator on a 4' Bullard with special classification. Since last March, he has been acting as an instructor or during a training program now ended. The union demands he be returned to his old classification and job.

As management knows from repeated protests, all of the employees in the Turbine division consider the locker situation in 273 completely unjust to them. Because of the completely indiscriminate scattering of the lockers, there is no way of safeguarding the contents.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA (IUE)
Local 301

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