

Members Aided by UE In Many Ways

UE is more than a union. It's also a part of call for members in distress, many of whom have problems that go far beyond the realm of collective bargaining.

And there are many workers whose personal credo is: "Once a UE'er always a UE'er."

That conclusion is certainly borne out by the experience of UE Local 301. Talk to Leon Novak, '301' attorney, who handles compensation and other problems of members, and you'll soon agree. For instance:

John Klaysmith, who had worked in Bldgs. 99-A, 42 and 95 as a laborer, has not worked since 1942. On May 13 of that year he sus-

tained an injury in Bldg. 95 that led to the loss of his leg.

Eight years later, in 1950, when he faced the problem of securing adequate compensation from GE for his disability and required a new artificial leg, he came to '301' for help.

The local represented this former member at six hearings between Nov., 1950 and Jan., 1952 and secured a specialist to testify on his behalf. The result: A new leg was secured from New York City, plus compensation of \$25 a week—both paid by GE.

Then there's the case of Willard Hotaling, who worked in Bldg. 95 as a smelter until June, 1951. At

that time he became too ill to work because of a lung condition that required an operation.

Hotaling came to '301' this month. Too ill to work, he was destitute, with a wife and two small children to support. The union, at its own expense, is now investigating the source of his lung condition and will press to obtain compensation for him.

Thyra Jacobson, who had secured an honorable withdrawal card from her UE local in New York City when she bought a farm in upstate New York, applied for unemployment insurance in Cobleskill, N. Y. The N. Y. placement service office there offered her a job 10 miles from her new home.

She had no means of transportation to the plant.

She was told she'd either take it or be disqualified for unemployment benefits. She volunteered to take a job that would require 40 miles travel, since she could get transportation to that point. Her offer was rejected and she was disqualified for benefits.

She turned for help to the nearest UE office—UE Local 301. The Union's attorney appealed the case and the decision was reversed. She's now getting weekly unemployment payments.

Is it any wonder that on the job or off . . . so many electrical workers say: "UE is a worker's best friend."

Wishing Won't Make It True

The wish is certainly the father to the thought when it comes to the scraggly remnants of the IUE-CIO left in Schenectady.

IUE predicts Senator Humphrey will get a bill passed to take away UE's bargaining rights. (It doesn't mention that CIO Pres. Phil Murray has opposed such a bill).

If such happens, an IUE handbill says it is ready and willing to be the bargaining agent for GE workers. One UE member, before he threw the hand-bill in the nearest trash can, remarked:

"That gang is always willing to get some more dues payers. But I haven't seen them willing yet to do any real bargaining with GE or any other company."

Miners Union Won't Swap Bargaining For Graphs

Attempts to create a wage increase formula based on employers' productivity figures were raked over the coals in a recent issue of the United Mine Workers Journal.

Such a theory was termed a measure that would place "another restraint on free collective bargaining."

The UMW, which will enter into wage negotiations this year about the same time as UE negotiates with GE, sarcastically commented that such bright boy concepts as tying increases to charts and graphs "could hardly be classified

as anything new."

Pointing out that the mine workers have always insisted that labor and the public should share in any increased wealth made possible by improved production techniques as "a fundamental in America's economic progress," the union's paper remarked:

"Undoubtedly an attempt will be made to present this development (new wage formula based on productivity) as something of a gain for labor whereas actually it is just another restraint on free collective bargaining."



IUE's 'Godfather' Is Sellout Artist

The kind of man that the IUE's Jim Carey draws his inspiration from is enough to make any worker shudder these days. That man is Emil Rieve, president of CIO's Textile Union, a vice president of CIO and the man who as a labor "representative" on the WSB voted to set up the wage freeze.

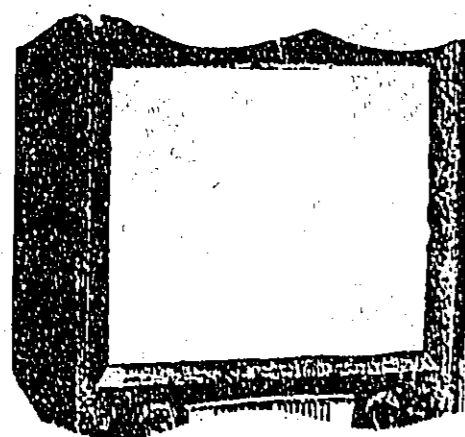
Rieve announced recently that his union would not seek any improvements this year for its 70,000 woolen mill workers. When the bosses saw him giving in so easy, they announced they would cancel the contract on March 15, since they don't want to keep it as is—but want to water it down. The cotton and rayon bosses, knowing a good thing when they see it, followed this up by announcing they would also cancel their contracts on March 15, covering 95,000 workers.

Then Rieve's union pressured two of its locals to help out Wyandotte Worsteds plants Pittsfield, Mass. and Waterville, Maine, by granting a 50 percent speed-up in work. Substantial layoffs are now expected.

Rieve is the same man whom Jim Carey fondly threw his arms about at IUE's first convention, calling him the "Godfather of IUE."

After Channel 4

WHAT?



Any TV owner in Schenectady knows the answer to that. It's just one big blank space.

Have you filled out the UE Local 301 petition to the Federal Communications Commission, demanding another television channel for our city?

Sign it today. Let the FCC know that Schenectady citizens aren't satisfied with only the programs picked and selected by WRGB, General Electric's station.

Sign the petition and give yourself . . .

. . . A Chance to See What YOU Want to See.

'301' Leader Keynotes Women's Conference

Helen Quirini, UE '301' treasurer, was the keynote speaker on January 19 at a conference called by UE District II in Chicago to deal with problems of women workers.

Bringing greetings from Schenectady GE women workers, she praised UE's recognition that the fight for women's jobs and wages is the fight of the whole Union and stressed that the women, men and the public must be educated to understand and fight the discriminatory double standard of such corporations as GE.

The '301' treasurer also participated, on January 21, in setting up an organizing committee in the GE Utica plant, which is resuming production.

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Take It From Here . . .

Lock Haven, Pa.—Meetings of UE Pennsylvania Locals in Emporium, Mill Hall and Sunbury have demanded an end to the Wage Stabilization Board and called upon labor members to resign from the Board. Wages is the only thing frozen, it was pointed out, while prices and taxes continue to rise.

Hanover, N. M.—After maintaining their strike solidly for 15 months, Mine, Mill & Smelter members employed by Empire Zinc have won increases of 24 cents an hour, a pension plan and improved vacations.

Alliance, Ohio — An arbitration award, won by the UE Local 705, has defeated attempts by the Alliance Mfg. Co. to cut rates because of introduction of war work. The victory firmly established seniority as the deciding factor in filling openings and meant an increase of five to 23 cents an hour on 16 jobs.

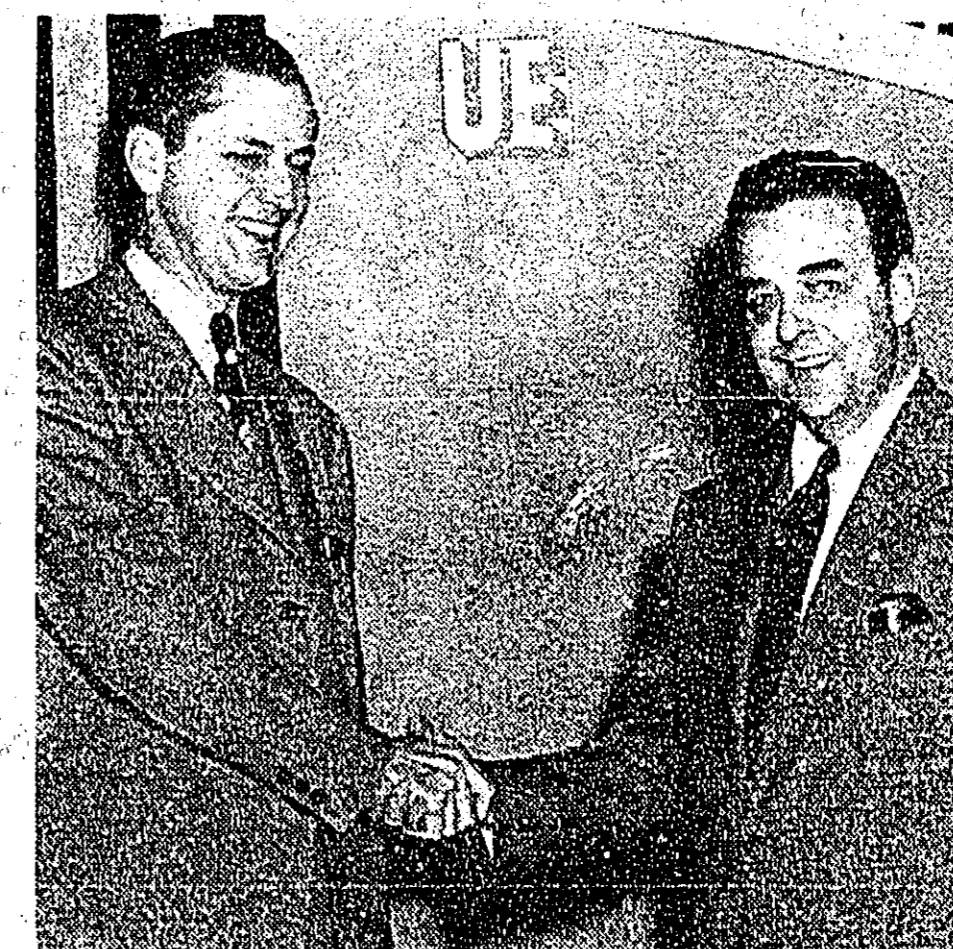
Memphis, Tenn. — Over 20,000 AFL truck drivers in 15 states went on strike when employers failed to sign contracts worked out with the U. S. mediation service. Another 36,000 continued work after employers signed for 19 cent increases, an additional 7½ cents in 1953 and 1954, with a 3/4 cent boost in mileage rates.

Buffalo, N. Y. — A 10 cent an hour wage increase, retroactive to June 25, 1951, was approved by the WSB for UE Local 326 members employed at the Buffalo Wire Works, Inc.

New Orleans, La.—A 191 day strike at the Todd-Johnson Ship-Building Corp. ended with a 32 cent hourly wage increase. WSB approval is now being sought.

Elmira, N. Y.—Workers at the Consolidated Brick plant have voted for UE to represent them. Vote was 38 for UE and 14 for an AFL union.

Long Beach, Cal. — The 2,500 workers at Douglas Aircraft struck for 43 days last fall to win a wage settlement. Last week, they staged lunch hour walk outs to protest stalling of approval by the wage freeze board.



UNITY. That's the keynote expressed above as Leo Jandreau, UE Local 301 business agent, greeted Vincent P. Dembski, of Local 232, AFL Union of Insurance Agents, at last Monday night's '301' membership meeting. That'll be the keynote on Monday, Feb. 11, when UE stewards will conduct a collection throughout the Schenectady Works to aid Prudential agents now in their tenth week of a nationwide strike.

UE To Aid Striking Prudential Agents

The largest white collar strike in the history of the country, conducted by Prudential insurance agents, will have the warm hand of labor solidarity extended to it in the form of cold cash by workers in the largest electrical works in the country, on Monday, February 11.

That's the day UE Local 301 has set as Prudential Day at the GE Schenectady Works.

During lunch hour, '301' stewards will pass collection canisters among the workers in their group for contributions to aid these agents, who are now in the tenth week of their national strike against an \$11 billion corporation.

Collections will also be conducted three times during the day at the Subway Gate, from 6:30 a.m. to 8:15, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

WSB Wage Stall Puts GE Good Faith To the Test

Evidence was growing this week that GE did not negotiate the 3.58 percent increase in good faith—and what's needed to break the log-jam at the wage freeze board is the widest mobilization of the rank and file in the GE chain, regardless of affiliation, to put the heat on GE and the Wage Stabilization Board.

A CIO member of the WSB charged last Sunday, in a national radio broadcast, that industry members of the WSB, (who are GE's representatives) were conducting a "sit-down" and a "war of attrition" on such cases as GE's by "dragging their feet and doing a lot of double-talk."

UE '301' officers commented: "It is GE's responsibility to pressure their industry members. Either they represent GE, which agreed to the increase, or they don't—in which case they should get off the WSB."

"Otherwise," they added, "there is no other conclusion to draw but that GE is trying to get out of its 3.58 percent commitment by hiding behind the skirts of government representatives to whom they dictate."

The '301' membership meeting went on record on Monday, Feb. 4, calling upon GE to show its good faith by sending top GE officials to Washington, together with top Na-

tional UE officers, to see industry and labor members and insist upon prompt approval of the 3.58 percent increase.

Should GE fail to demonstrate such good faith, it was recommended that demonstrations in all plants of the GE chain be organized to put the heat where it belongs—on GE.

Meanwhile, the National UE was last week distributing leaflets at all GE, Westinghouse and Sylvania plants, urging workers, regardless of whether they belong to UE, AFL or CIO unions, to unite against their companies' policy of stalling increases in the WSB.

Prudential has held up payments of commissions earned by the agents before the strike began.

"This corporation has more influence even than GE," said Jandreau to the Feb. membership meeting. "A loss of their strike could harm all of us, since GE would be encouraged to try the same with us."

AFL insurance union spokesmen pointed out that no insurance that is ordinarily collected by agents will be cancelled during the strike, but that insurance normally paid directly to the company at its offices or through the mails should be paid. Under no conditions, they said, should insurance be paid to seab agents.

Call GE Board

The National UE has called a meeting of the GE Conference Board on Feb. 16, 17, to be held in New York City.

Delegates from plants throughout the GE chain will lay plans for the March 5 wage reopening, securing approval of increases now in the WSB, strengthening UE shops and organizing shops now outside UE.

One session will be a joint one with delegates of the UE Westinghouse Conference Board.

Rotterdam Gets An Assist From UE On Floods

Residents of Rotterdam, Colonie and Guilderland continue to avail themselves of UE Local 301's aid to obtain relief from flooded basements that have created a serious health hazard and caused property damage to homes.

While a N. Y. State official reported the obvious when he said it is "obvious that a large percentage of homes in this area are seriously affected by ground water," UE's attorney, Leon Novak, spoke before the Colonie Town Board on Jan. 31, urging that a covered natural drainage ditch be opened.

The Colonie Board agreed and residents have since secured consent of property owners for the county to do the work. They have asked Novak to present their point of view before the Rotterdam Town Board on Feb. 14. Rotterdam cooperation is needed.

Meanwhile, the Union's request that the Federal Housing Administration investigate the situation and act has been answered by James F. Neville, zone commissioner, who has launched an investigation of the matter.

The Rotterdam Town Board has authorized engineers to draw up preliminary plans for storm sewers, but a N. Y. State official, who urged emergency action, has warned that the project planned is not adequate to remove storm water as rapidly as it accumulates.

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 in this column 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.

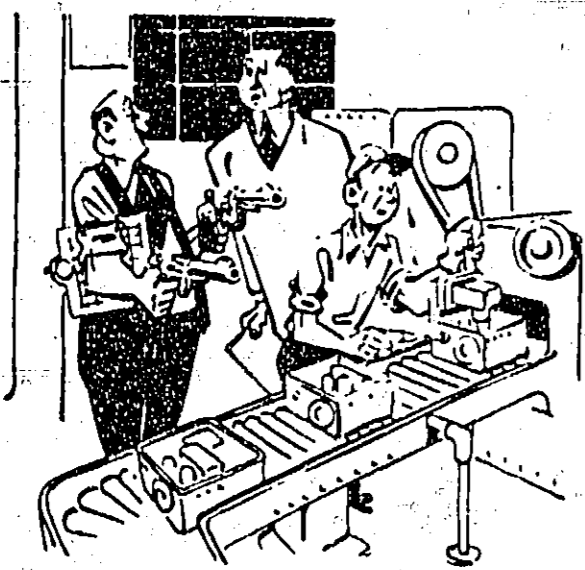
Bldg. 46: Management is requested to investigate miscellaneous machine operator classification, TG190. A group in A&OS claims the job value is low in comparison with other jobs.

A retraction is demanded of a second warning notice given Charles S. Hanson by his foreman. A transfer out of the division is also requested.

Bldg. 49: Conrad Stanglein, gas turbine, was promised a raise on Jan. 2, but foreman now claims it was Jan. 28. It's also charged Stanglein was started too low for a man of his experience.

J. Ferenz and A. Warren, gas turbine, are demanding a review of their rates, since they were transferred and didn't get step increases at proper time.

Lewis M. Jayne, gas turbine, is getting \$1.865 instead of a \$1.92



'Horsewhip' Boss Due For A Fall

Foreman Robert Robinson, in the Class B machine shop in the Race Track & Campbell Ave. Bldgs., who is using the "horsewhip" treatment on workers, may some day find himself with no one present to be "whipped."

He's charged with the following:
• Putting time estimates on jobs that are way out of line, based on rates in non-union and sweatshop plants. He's threatened to "clean house," if workers don't make the time, ignoring seniority.

• Has asserted these matters "are not the Union's business" and that—as far as he's concerned there's no contract he'll observe.

• Resorts to pre-union methods on wash-up, when there were dirty buckets under the bench. He wants no line-up on the clock until the last second (200 use one clock) and cut wash-up time.

• He's compiling a blacklist of those who disobey any of his arbitrary orders, to use as reference for increased rates and layoffs.

Move To End Rate Cuts, Harassment In Bldg. 46

Continued harassment and rate cutting by GE in Bldg. 46 has almost caused a stoppage of work, with the grievance now being argued at management level by the Union.

Serafin Pita, '301' assistant business agent, reports that 14 men were getting \$1.55 with no chance for higher job rates. By eliminating the miscellaneous machine classification, the Union got the jobs off of day rate and on piece rate with A.E.R. by March 1.

Other grievances which GE has promised to resolve in the next couple of weeks are:

Twenty-one piece workers complain they can't establish proper average earnings because there is an excess of P.W.D.R.

Second shift workers complain they aren't allowed to follow up jobs started by the first shift, but are many times put on the same job at P.W. D.R. for eight hours.

Jobs are not issued from the dispatch cage unless the foreman is in the area. This means workers many times stand around on P.W. D.R. until the foreman returns.

There is an excessive waste of time waiting for inspection, while workers are paid P.W.D.R.

GE has hired new men to break in as B drill press operators, while there are C operators in another group who have been employed six months. Fear is expressed the B men will take their jobs, while the C men are doing B work now, on sensitive drill presses.

Set up prices are not adequate. The .51 set up in 3 1/2 hours is not priced high enough.

UE Rejects Wage Freeze Invite

The national UE has rejected a proposal by the Wage Stabilization Board that it participate in various units of the Board.

The WSB on Oct. 15, 1951 had requested UE's views on the possibility of its joining in the work of the Board.

Replying on behalf of the UE Executive Board, Russ Nixon, UE Washington Representative, informed the WSB:

"The UE now, as in the past, remains unalterably opposed to government controls on wages and limits upon collective bargaining and thereby is opposed to the very existence of the Wage Stabilization Board. The continuation of this wage control program damages the welfare of working people in our country and weakens the strength of all trade unions by undermining collective bargaining. Thereby, the wage controls act against the best interests of our country."

Nixon also stressed UE's position that all trade union officials should resign from the WSB, and lend no further support to its "anti-collective bargaining and anti-workers' welfare program."

person uses partiality in upgrading from common laborer to carpenters and iron worker helpers. Demand is made that overtime be equally distributed and upgrading be based on merit and service.

Bldg. 269: Re-engaged on Dec. 26, with service restored to April, 1951. E. Conway, who worked on production at \$1.63, feels he should have been rehired at rate of \$1.42 as an Accumulator.

Bldg. 273: An adjustment in wages is demanded by Charles Batchelder and Frank Raekowski, turbine. They claim as experienced welders they should have been started two steps below the job rate and stepped up in six months.

Investigation is demanded by a group of welders who were denied an \$1.865 job on grounds there was lack of equipment, but when equipment was found, it was filled from outside the group.

A group of miscellaneous machine operators charges Foreman W. Krug distributes overtime unequally. A correction is demanded.

A boring mill group charges that a new table for pricing machining on deflector holders has much lower rates. They want the old standard table restored.

UE '301' ON THE JOB

job rate, though he has broken men in who get the higher rate.
Bldg. 60: A group in crane is demanding reevaluation to B of the 50 Ton Gentry Crane.

Top rate is demanded for Herman A. Stensel as an elevator repairman, which he has been doing for 10 years.

Bldg. 69: J. Cacherone and A. J. Pallutti, control, are protesting cutting of prices on seven jobs. Foreman J. Begley's answer was that "earnings on these jobs has been good."

Discrimination by Foreman Dickson against Dolores Haley is charged. She was laid off for lack of suitable work, but someone else was assigned work she does. Steward J. Whitbeck had previously found the foreman discriminated against her.

It is demanded that Foreman J. Plichta cease the coercion that has made life miserable for Reynolds G. Baker.

An investigation is demanded by

group in control, who charge that material shortages barely keep them working, and two workers were added to group, resulting in loss of time and earnings.

Bldg. 84: Robert Jacobsen, paid time-and-one-half, when called in for emergency work, charges this is a violation of Article V-8-b. Double time is demanded.

Bldg. 95: Andrew Kramarchyk, iron foundry, demands increase from \$1.55 to \$1.595, claiming his work is in line with Class A Crane-follower.

Bldg. 98-A: Equalization of overtime is demanded by group of pattern handlers in the foundry.

A group in foundry claim that moving time clock from Bldg. 98A, where it has been 18 years, to 99A, causes considerable inconvenience in changing clothes, eating lunch and walking a quarter of a mile. They want it moved back.

Bldg. 107: A group in Grounds & Buildings claims Foreman An-

UE Members Win Break-through On Hughes-Brees

The 1951 Hughes-Brees amendments to the N. Y. State unemployment insurance act, which have aroused state-wide protest from all sections of labor—CIO, AFL and independent, may be in for some sharp changes before this session of the legislature ends.

Playing a prominent part in bringing the battle to a head has been UE Local 301, which last week won a commitment from State Sen. Thomas Campbell that the Senate Labor and Industry Committee, together with top Republican leaders, will meet with a UE delegation on Wednesday, Feb. 13 to discuss changes in the law.

This agreement followed a two hour session a '301' delegation had with Campbell on Saturday, Feb. 2.

Those who were delegated by the '301' Executive Board to meet with Campbell were: Dewey Brashcar, legislative chairman; Sidney Friedlander, Fay Hildreth, Fred Pacelli and William Stewart.

Scheduled to meet with Republican leaders next Wednesday are: Leo Jandreau, '301' business agent; James Cognetta, president; Brashcar and Clifford McAvoy, UE's legislative representative for District 3 and 4. UE has urged representatives of CIO, AFL and independent unions also be invited to attend the meeting.

They will meet with Sen. Ernest Hatfield, chairman of the Labor & Industry Comm.; Campbell; Majority Leader Arthur Wicks, Assembly Speaker Oswald Heck and members of the senate committee.

UE members have been urged to pour in the letters and phone calls to Campbell and Heck, urging that they support proposals for eliminating the Hughes-Brees amendments.

The delegation that met with Campbell last Saturday had petitions signed by 5,000 GE workers.

He's GE's Man!

Does a GE official on the wage freeze board remain a GE employee or does he become impartial? UE Local 707 members in Cleveland answer that he's still GE's man.

They found that out when E. J. Westerlund, a GE top dog in its lamp division, and an industry member of the regional WSB, voted against conditions for a CIO union that he had as an GE negotiator consented to in negotiations with UE.



RATE PROBLEMS. The '301' Job Evaluation Committee on Wiring (above), composed of (l. to r.) William Sulzer, 46; Helen Quirini, 81 and '301' treasurer; H. L. Braid, 73 and H. Gagne, 81, has been surveying rates for wiring of panels, cubicles and sub-assemblies throughout the control division. They've found a considerable amount of jobs on which women are lower rated in comparison with the knowledge and skill needed and what is considered standard for similar work by men. Assisted by William Templeton, '301' assistant business agent, the results of the survey when completed will be used in discussions with GE management.

UE Organizing Drive Booms At Mica Plant

One of the last major strongholds of company-unionism in the area is on its way out. The plant is Schenectady's Mica Insulator Co. UEers in the GE Works can help to make it another solid UE shop.

In an organizing drive that started around Christmas among Mica's 600 employees, already a majority have signed UE cards.

Saddled by a company union for the past 10 years, the hourly rates of these workers range from 20 to 60 cents less than GE workers make, which undermines union standards in the area.

UE Local 301 members have already been of aid in the drive, through contacting friends and members of their family that work in Mica and telling of the benefits to be gained in UE. To put the

drive over the top, the Union has urged even more help by '301' members. Talk to, visit and sign up any Mica workers you know, Union leaders have urged.

Mica workers have already had two well attended membership meetings, have formed contract, constitution and publicity committees and elected officers for their newly chartered UE Local 311. UE Field Organizers Joseph Infante and Ann Adour are in charge of the drive and can be contacted at '301' headquarters for membership cards and information about the drive.

Annual Financial Report	
UNITED ELECTRICAL RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA — UERMWA — LOCAL 301 UE	
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR From January 1 to December 31, 1951	
RECEIPTS	
Dues	\$308,033.00
Initiation Fees	7,458.00
Other Income	185.44
TOTAL INCOME	\$315,676.44
DISBURSEMENTS	
Per Capita Tax	\$134,035.85
Salaries & Allowances	50,322.50
Time Lost Reimbursed to Members	80,282.25
Taxes	2,150.52
Administrative Expense	15,010.33
Organizational Expense	33,408.54
Contributions	1,530.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$327,745.05
Total Assets at the end of the fiscal year	\$70,050.40
Total Liabilities at the end of the fiscal year	\$80,490.23

GE's Cordiner Skips A Few Facts On Taxes

GE President Ralph J. Cordiner failed to mention a few things about taxes (below) when he publicly suggested more taxes for workers and less for the corporations.

For instance: An average worker's tax is up 27 times since 1939. All his taxes amount to about 25 percent of his income. In the last year, the worker's income tax is up 34 percent, while taxes on millionaires has gone up but 13 percent.

For these taxes, the worker in 1939 got 43 percent of government spending for social benefits, health and education. Today, he gets but four percent for such benefits.

In 1939, 12 percent went for guns. Today, 79 percent is spent on military orders—something Mr. Cordiner and his former boss,

Cordiner Takes U. S. to Task on Its Tax Methods

Says Unpopular Job Is Passed On to Industry

Methods under which the tax burden is now being imposed by government on the people were sharply criticized yesterday by Ralph J. Cordiner, president of General Electric.

"In actual practice, the idea that taxes can come from a company entirely rather than from cash and blood individuals is a fallacy."

Charles E. Wilson, Defense Mobilizer, know all about as the profits of GE and other corporations set new records. GE is one of the 50 companies that has gotten two-thirds of the military contracts and \$11 billion worth of free plants under tax provisions affecting defense plants.

Also not mentioned by Cordiner is the well-known fact that tax laws and war contracts take money out of the pockets of workers and put it into the treasuries of the corporations.

What's needed is tax cuts for workers and closing the loopholes in tax legislation that lets profiteers escape paying \$6 billion a year.

That's a job for workers to convince their congressmen and senators in Washington.

Board Elections Held

Stewards were voting all day yesterday to elect Local 301's executive board members for 1952. Full details will be carried in next week's issue.