

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, June 19, 1953



Philadelphia — UE Local 155 has organized a new toolmaking job shop and won an NLRB election there by a 2 to 1 ratio. The victory at the Walter Laussterer, Inc., plant followed on the heels of the local's winning a 15c package increase for some 700 tool and die workers in the Quaker City.

Washington — Pres. John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers has warned that residents of the Pittsburgh area face a threat greater than the H-bomb. Lewis said this threat came from "rapacious natural gas interests" who are storing huge quantities of gas under Pittsburgh and near coal mining centers. The Mine leader said that these gas reserves could explode with a destructive force greater than that of the hydrogen bomb.

Kansas City — UE members at the GE service shop here have won special increases of 6c to 14c an hour following a community survey made by the union.

New York — More than 40,000 members of the CIO National Maritime Union tied up shipping on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts this week as they struck for higher pay, better overtime provisions, dues checkoff and a clause providing that all employment of seamen must be done through NMU hiring halls.

Greensburg, Pa. — An IUE-CIO raid has been nipped in the bud by 1,000 members of UE Locals 625 and 626 at the Railway & Industrial Engineering plant. The IUE waited until the UE workers were opening contract negotiations, and then sent a letter to the company saying they "represented" the workers. However, when it came time to petition for an election, the disrupters were forced to admit publicly that they did not have enough cards.

Pittsburgh — The new contract between the CIO steelworkers and the steel corporations, which provides an 8½c hourly increase, will affect 600,000 workers in basic steel plants, and another 550,000 in steel fabricating shops. It brought the common labor rate up to \$1.52 an hour.

UE Conference Board Urges Acceptance of Pact Proposal

UE's General Electric conference board Wednesday recommended acceptance of the company's latest proposal providing wage increases of 5c to 16c an hour. The board's recommendation will be forwarded to all UE locals in the GE chain for acceptance or rejection.

In Schenectady, local action will be taken at meetings conducted in the shops by stewards and executive board members. This will give every UE Local 301 member an opportunity to vote on the contract.

In recommending the OK, the conference board, which includes James Cognetta, Leo Jandreau and Fred Pacelli from 301, pointed out that the contract was far from adequate on a number of points. The delegates stressed that the wage increases for lower-paid dayworkers and for many piece workers are not sufficient in the light of the needs of the workers and the company's huge profits.

However, the board also noted the fact that IUE-CIO President James Carey had grabbed the pact, without even consulting his own membership, and that this cut the ground out from under a further fight.

The new contract, if accepted by the membership, would run for one year. All workers will get a 3.26% general wage increase. In addition day workers getting \$1.79½ an hour or more will get special boosts ranging from 1c to 8c. This special increase will also be added to new piece work job A.E.R.'s corresponding to the \$1.79½ or higher daywork job rates. In most cases, this would mean A.E.R.'s of \$1.97 or more, since practice in Schenectady is for A.E.R.'s to be 3 steps above the corresponding daywork job rates.

Fringe benefits in the proposed one-year pact include providing pro-rated vacations for workers out sick who do not return to their jobs before the end of the year, and maintenance of seniority for workers laid off for more than one but less than 3 years.

LOOKING IT OVER. UE Local 301 members who attended Monday's membership meeting had an opportunity to look over a display of Giveaway Program prizes. Pictured above are several members admiring the awards. Full field day details are on page 4.

Sabotage by Carey Balked Workers' Contract Fight

The story of 1953 negotiations with the General Electric management can be summed up in one sentence—a determined fight by the workers to win a decent contract in spite of repeated betrayals by IUE-CIO President James Carey.

From the very opening of the negotiations, Carey behaved as if he was directly employed by GE. He started off with a long list of demands, and then when GE said "no," he immediately called for strike votes. There was no mobilization of IUE members, no preparation for the votes, and of course, no strike votes.

As a result of the votes against strike, Carey went back to the company without any bargaining power. This was particularly true because he viciously rejected the proposals of UE, and the mandate of the membership of his largest local (Lynn GE) for united action.

Carey then went to the company and proposed to convert the wage reopener bargaining into full contract negotiations. The company agreed, but set a 5-meeting limit and a May 20 deadline on the meetings. May 20 came and went, and Carey got absolutely nothing.

It was only the persistent fight waged by UE, a fight marked by such events as the tremendous pro-

test walkout in Schenectady, as well as by special meetings among toolmakers, women, and other groups, that finally forced GE management to bargain in good faith and make its present offer.

When the offer was made to both UE and IUE on the same day, UE promptly urged united action to win further concessions. But once again, Carey did the company's job. He signed an "interim" agreement with GE in which he grabbed the offer (before his members had a chance to even discuss it) and cut the ground from underneath a further fight.

Carey's betrayals also extended to strikes. In Syracuse, IUE Local 320 waged a terrific struggle against the company, a struggle marked by GE-inspired strikebreakers riding down pickets on the lines. However, all of this struggle went up in smoke when Carey walked in and signed a closed-door agreement with the company, an agreement which completely failed to meet the workers' demands.



TUNE IN!
UE on the Air
WTRY
6:45 A.M.

Senate Revives Threat Of Goldwater-Rhodes

The Goldwater-Rhodes union-busting bill, once turned down by the Senate labor committee, has been revived and will come up for full-dress discussion at committee sessions during the next few weeks, Chairman H. Alexander Smith (R, N.J.) announced.

The bill, which would make all unions and labor leaders subject to the whim of the Subversive Activities Control Board, is opposed by nearly all organized labor. One of its authors, Sen. Barry M. Goldwater (R, Ariz.), admitted more than a month ago that the committee had turned it down.

After Chairman William E. Jenner (R, Ind.) of the Senate internal security sub-committee wrote a plea for so-called Communist-control legislation to chairmen of the Senate and House labor and judiciary committees, the subject was brought up again in the Senate labor committee. Members discussed it until Sen. Robert A. Taft (R, O.) moved further discussion be put over until the following week.

Wines Big Boost

Three Rivers, Mich. — UE Local 922 has won wage increases of 5c to 14c an hour, and inequity adjustments of 5c to 25c, for workers at the Fairbanks, Morse & Co. plant here. The boosts came after the union successfully defeated a company "job re-evaluation" scheme which would have cut the pay of more than half the workers.



NEW STEWARD. Leonard Cohen Building 17 was sworn in as a shop steward at Monday's membership meeting.

Senator Praises UE On Town Meeting

UE's action in democratizing a Vermont town meeting has brought the congratulations of U.S. Senator Ralph Flanders. Flanders sent a note to UE Washington Representative Russ Nixon, saying, "I congratulate the members of the UE and other citizens in Vermont in making a live democratic affair out of the Town Meeting."

It was through the activities of UE members at the Fairbanks Morse Co., that the traditional New England town meeting in St. Johnsbury, Vt., was shifted from a daytime affair, when only a few business men and executives could attend, to an evening meeting when the workers of the community could come. As a result, thousands jammed the first evening town meeting.

High Court Frees Bridges; Maties Frameup Weakened

The U. S. Supreme Court by a vote of 4 to 3 this week reversed the conviction of President Harry Bridges of International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union and two other union officials on charges of defrauding the government by conspiring to obtain American citizenship for the Australian-born labor leader.

The decision was the latest victorious climax for Bridges in resisting 19 years of concerted efforts by the shipowners and government to deport or jail him. The campaign began in 1934 after Bridges rose from obscurity to national prominence by his successful leadership of the San Francisco general strike.

In the light of the high court action, the Justice Department attempts to deport UE Director of Organization James Maties may have to be reconsidered. The basis for the frameup against Maties is, if possible, even flimsier than that against Bridges.

Informed of the decision by ILWU Washington Rep. Jeff Kibre, Bridges at his union headquarters in San Francisco voiced his tremendous relief and said: "Now it's business as usual for ILWU. We're going right on making union progress."

Justice Harold H. Burton read the majority opinion to a hushed courtroom on the final day of the present session. He was joined in the opinion by Hugo L. Black, William O. Douglas and Felix Frankfurter. Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson and Sherman Minton

joined in a dissent read by Stanley Reed. Justices Robert H. Jackson and Tom C. Clark did not participate.

The court threw out the 5-year jail sentence imposed on Bridges and the 2-year sentences ordered for Vice-President J. R. Robertson and Henry Schmidt, veteran union leader, by federal judge George Harris in San Francisco in 1950. The 4½-month trial was marked by defense charges of perjury against government witnesses and jail sentences imposed on defense attorneys Vincent Hallinan and James M. MacInnis for contempt of court.

It was the second time Bridges won an outstanding victory in the country's highest court. The prosecution of the union leader which began in 1934 at the city level was picked up by the Labor Dept. Despite the findings of a distinguished investigating commission under Dean James Landis that there was no evidence Bridges was a Communist, the Labor Dept. brought deportation proceedings against him.

On June 18, 1945, the Supreme Court reversed the deportation order and the late Justice Frank Murphy, in a resounding decision, branded the persecution of Bridges "a monument to man's intolerance of man."

correction of this situation.

Bldg. 60: Electricians protest the fact the test men are being used to do their work in Bldg. 16. As a result, the electricians are frequently called in to do jobs that have been incorrectly done by unqualified workers. The union demands that management guarantee that electricians' work be confined to electricians.

Bldg. 273: During the month of February, Foreman Snare was absent from work, and his place was taken by Foreman Connor. Connor asked S. Barbarese to leave his regular work and do a job for him. Barbarese did this and was promised 2½ hours pay for the work. Now Connor, not only refuses to pay for the work, he denies having any recollection of it. This is impossible to understand since there have been repeated oral contacts on the matter. To make things worse, Connor has maintained an evasive, irresponsible attitude, characterized at one point by his taking a \$5 bill from his pocket, offering to pay for the work with it, and then putting the money back in his pocket. His whole attitude has been intolerable, and the union demands that management take steps to correct it, and to pay Barbarese the money to which he is entitled.

Board Ruling Hits Sex Discrimination

In a precedent-setting decision in Rochester, a referee of the State Labor Department unemployment insurance division ruled that if a woman quits her job because she is getting unequal pay, she is entitled to jobless benefits.

The decision, made public June 10 by the department's division of employment, upholds a previously untested law that has been on the books since 1944. Sec. 199a of the labor law provides: "No employee shall, because of sex, be subjected to any discrimination in the rate of his or her pay."

Involved in the test case was a woman employe of a Rochester firm who worked on a speed lathe. She was paid 25 cents an hour less than men who were doing the same work. The woman quit after the employer turned down her request that she either get the same pay as the men or be transferred to less fatiguing work.

She was denied unemployment insurance on grounds that she did not have "good cause" for quitting. On appeal, the referee held that denial of equal pay was cause and granted the woman the unemployment insurance. His finding was not made public for almost a month to allow the employer time to appeal. No appeal was made.

305 Wins 10c to 16c And Saturday Holidays

UE Local 305 has won 10c to 16c wage increases plus retroactive payment for the 2 Saturday holidays in 1953 as the result of wage reopening negotiations with the Blackstone Co. in Jamestown.

The agreement was reached only after the 650 Blackstone employes had quit work for emergency meetings to discuss strike action. An overwhelming vote to strike unless the company met union demands was taken.

In the holiday settlement, the company agreed to pay all workers who lost Memorial Day, and have all Saturday holidays celebrated on the following Monday in the future.

Ten cents of the wage hike was in the form of a general increase. 160 workers got an additional and 160 other workers were given inequity adjustments of up to 20c an hour.

Aiding the local in negotiations were District 3 President Lewis King, International Representative Michael Jimenez and Field Organizer Ed Landi.



Papers Try To Involve U.E. In Un-American Probe

Local newspapers try to involve UE Local 301 by making reference to the Kersten investigations and printing the old lie, that UE was thrown out of the CIO.

Kersten came to Schenectady with the intention of attacking Local 301 and found out that the Union was too strong to be weakened by newspaper headlines, and the membership of Local 301 was better informed than the Congressman from Wisconsin as to the policies and activity of their Union. He had the blessings of the General Electric Company when he came here and the lies of a professional informer. While Kersten's payoff was a job with General Electric following the investigation, he certainly learned a lesson, that the membership knew their leaders and their Union and judged them on their record and not by loose statements.

The papers don't take the time to check their source of propaganda against the UE or they would find that the UE had held up their per capita to the CIO for several months prior to the CIO convention, because our Union would not give a blank check to the leadership of CIO on their political action program. The resolution passed to expel us was a belated action due to refusal to pay per capita and refusal to be subjected to CIO dictatorship. The papers carried headlines to the effect that UE pledged to fight the Un-American Committee's investigation in the Capital District. This is nothing more than a provocative headline, hoping to encourage the

committee to involve UE in the investigation.

We want to make our position clear to everyone insofar as UE Local 301 is concerned on this matter.

As far as we know to this date, we are not being harassed or involved in these investigations and we do not see any need for any premature statements or unnecessary activity on our part. We do not believe there is any cause for alarm when we have not been harmed. We have a responsibility to protect the interest of our members in and out of the shop when they are unjustifiably dealt with. Until then Local 301 will continue to service our membership and the community, which keeps us very busy.

Tung-Sol Strikers Score Smashing Victory

Scoring a smashing victory as the result of a 2-week strike, 3,000 UE Local 433 members returned to work this week at four Tung-Sol Co. plants. The Northern New Jersey workers came back armed with a settlement that provides a general wage increase averaging better than 10c an hour, and which breaks through the sex discrimination practiced by Tung-Sol management for many years.

Faced with 100% solidarity in the ranks of the strikers, the company backed down on every point, including a "disciplinary" firing and payment for Saturday holidays.

Feature of the strike was area labor unity. Contributions came from IUE members at the Bloomfield Westinghouse plant and CIO auto workers at Bendix. The AFL building trades respected the picket lines and halted all work on constructing new facilities for the company.

In addition, local merchants contributed large quantities of food for the strikers. The four Tung-Sol plants, all under UE contract, are in Newark, East Orange and Bloomfield. The company makes bulbs and electronic tubes.



Bldg. 12: Group of hand tapers protest attempt to cut paychecks for 2 weeks in violation of past practice. The union demands restoration of cuts.

Bldg. 17: Eugene Hartwell is classified as a B toolmaker with a rate of \$2.14. His jobs require the skills and experience of an A toolmaker. The union demands that he be upgraded with proper rate increase.

John Cuzielek and Kenneth Westcott have been unable to maintain previous punch press earnings because of installation of obstructive guard. The union demands that they be paid average earnings for time involved.

Punch press operator B. Kwisa is suffering a loss of earnings because of obstruction caused by installation of guard. The union demands and upward adjustment of the price on his jobs to enable the worker to maintain his earnings. On rotary punch 5304640 S.O. 219-7619R, 1061, operator reported blanks as part of the setup operation.

The union demands payment of setup rate for the work performed.

Guard on press 129 is proving an obstruction to the operators and resulting in earnings losses. The union demands payment of average earnings to compensate for the losses.

Bldg. 46: As a result of a last-minute change in method on a sleeve job, Thomas McElroy was deprived of work on Saturday, May 30 (Memorial Day). This is a case of discrimination, and the union demands that McElroy be paid for Memorial Day.

Bldg. 49: William Cooly protests violation of article IV-1 of the contract by General Foreman Lomini, who has been seeking to intimidate and interfere with the work of shop stewards. He further protests the fact that Foreman A. E. Lee is doing work belonging to production employes. The union demands that the conduct of supervision in this area be immediately investigated and corrected by management.

A. Vincent is giving normal performance on his Lucas machine job. The union demands that he be paid the job rate.

Group has been suffering loss of earnings due to excessive idle time and day work. The union demands assurance from management that steps will be taken to insure against further losses for these workers.

Group of piece workers protests the repeated delays in receiving their vouchers. The union demands

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