

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

U. E. R. & M. W. A.

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

November 17, 1949

COME TO THE MEETING TO DEFEND THE UNION

Tonight's meeting will be called upon to defend the gains of GE workers in 13 years of UE organization.

HERE'S WHAT WE HAVE

UE - which established itself here after numerous unions and numerous strikes had failed. In 13 years, with only one short strike, UE won the following:

1. National contract.
2. 10 percent wage cut defeated in 1938.
3. Wages up an average of 70 cents an hour.
4. Piece work safeguards.
5. Seniority as a protection against unfair lay-offs, against favoritism, against penalties because of age, against job selling.
6. Vacations - cancelled entirely in early 1930's now raised to 1 week after 1 year, 2 weeks after 5, and 3 weeks after 20.
7. Holidays - 6 with pay.
8. Overtime premium for Saturday and Sunday as such.
9. Continuous process conditions improved, including overtime for Saturday and Sunday.
10. Call-in time and reporting time pay.
11. Equal division of overtime and of lost time.
12. Standardized job rates, progression and transfer rates.
13. Night shift bonus of 10 percent.
14. Smoking privileges on the job.
15. Guarantees against unjust firings.
16. Pensions gradually improved through union pressure.
17. Free expert legal service on workmen's compensation and unemployment insurance.
18. A GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE AVAILABLE TO EVERY WORKER EVERY DAY.

UE will extend and advance this program because it is run by the by the membership and the officers take their orders from the membership alone.

Fight for UE, the real union. Keep the Carey- Kriss-Fiorillo stooge union away.

Come to the meeting: 1st and third shift, 7:30 tonight at the Armory. Second shift 12:45 a.m. at the union hall.

uopwa-local 70

AND HERE IS WHAT CAREY AND HIS LOCAL STOOGES, KRISS AND FIORILLO, OFFER YOU:

1. Give up the contract. Turn back the clock 14 years and start fighting for a contract.
2. Split the GE workers so the company can do what it pleases.
3. A new union name, and you're a "red" if you don't like it.
4. A set of high-paid top officials who have never negotiated a contract, but who will tell the members who they may vote for and what they may think, what contracts they shall have and when they shall strike.
5. The right of members to pay dues but make no decisions.

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THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 - - - U. E. R. & M. W. A.

Vol. 7—No. 45

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

November 18, 1949

Working Conditions at GE Are at Stake

Reasons Big Business Liked CIO Convention

"Business Week" is frankly a Big Business magazine. Its issue of Nov. 12 devotes over four pages of reporting and pictures to the CIO Convention, from the viewpoint of big employers. It freely uses the name "Communist" for unions run by the members instead of the officers. It is happy over the splitting job done by Murray and Carey.

But there is buried in the piece some remarkable information as to what both big employers and the CIO top leaders have in store for workers. The piece states:

"Labor relations are today a game of follow-the-leader. When one big union undertakes militant, anti-employer policies, others, which might prefer stability and collaboration, have to do the same. As long as a left-led U. E. is strong enough and unchallenged in its jurisdiction it can set the pace for a large section of the labor movement."

Then the piece goes on to say that in order to deal with employers according to their "special circumstances," the CIO must "break the grip of Moscow on its affiliates."

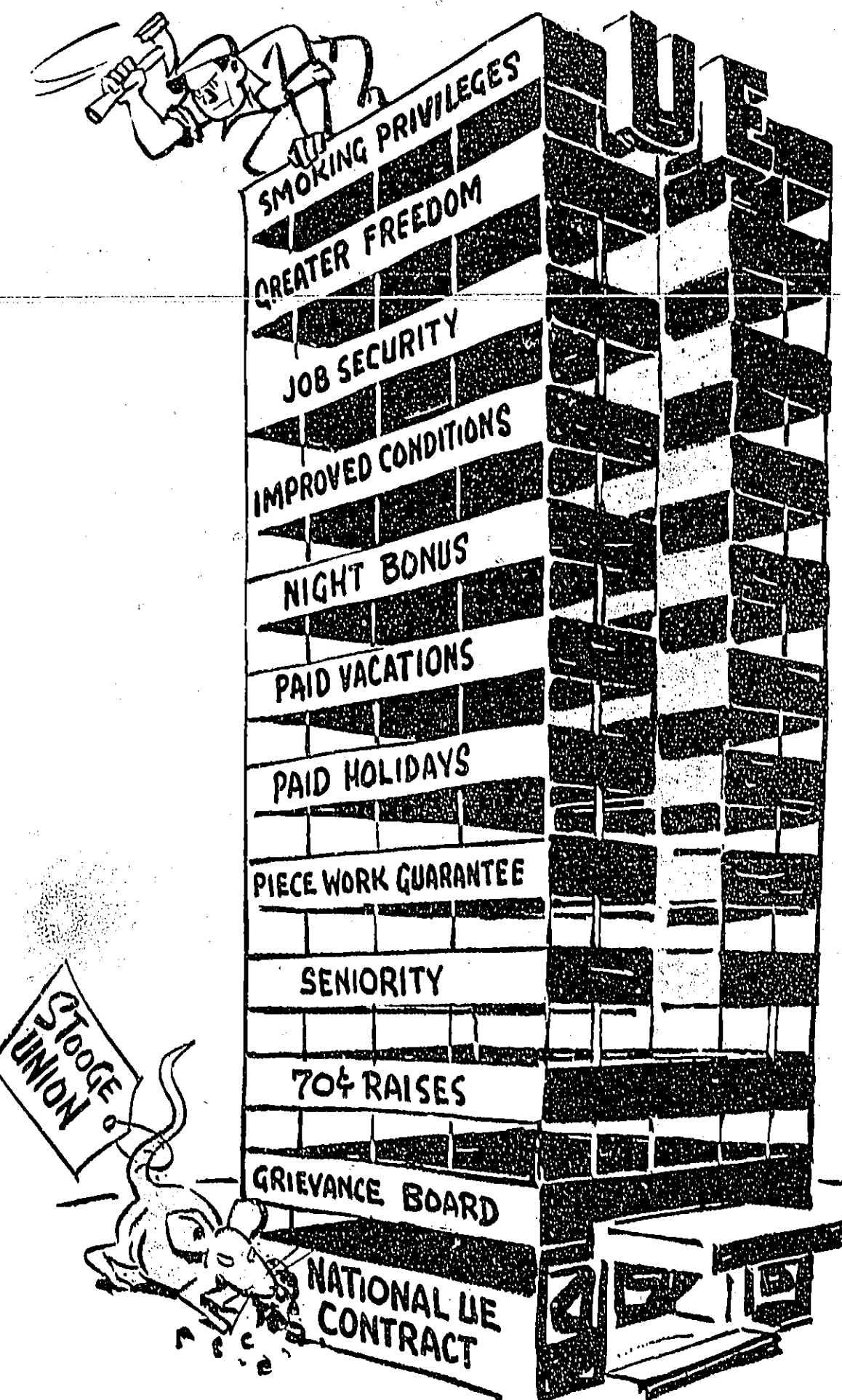
Of course, in the Big Business lingo of the magazine, "breaking the grip of Moscow" means ending membership control and substituting top dictation by "labor statesmen" at \$25,000 a year.

The piece tells plainly why UE is under attack. UE has set the highest pattern of benefits. That makes it difficult for the "labor statesmen" to sell out their own members. So they drag out the red herring, shout "Communist" and try to destroy UE. If they should succeed, they could take care of employers fine, and things would be just too bad for the workers.

Over 5 Million Jobless

Unemployment in the United States in October reached 5,200,000, the national UE jobless survey showed. The figure is over twice as high as for October, 1948.

Keep Carey's Boys Away



Rate Raise and \$50 Won for Woman by 301

The union has obtained about \$50 back pay and a rate correction for a woman worker in Building 81. She was paid a learner's starting rate, instead of 10 cents above that rate, when she was put on a sub-assembly job after a lay-off.

The management agreed to correct the rate after a meeting in Building 69 with a union committee, including Executive Board Member Dewey Brashear, Shop Stewart Raymond Forslund and

Savings Dwindling

Over 14½ million families (spending units) in the United States have no liquid assets—no government bonds, no savings account, no check account. The Federal Reserve Board, which released this figure, said it had increased from 1946 when there were only about 11 million spending units without liquid assets.

Harold Allen, all of 81, assisted by William Templeton, assistant to the business agent.

Carey Would Scrap Gains Of 14 Years

James B. Carey this week tried to put into effect his program of destruction of hard-won union conditions in the electrical industry. He announced he was petitioning the Taft-Hartley labor board for elections in plants represented by UE.

It is not possible to say what a board set up under the vicious anti-labor Taft-Hartley law will do with the petitions. But what Carey's program would mean to GE workers is clear:

Would Go Back 14 Years

In any GE plant in which Carey's phony "IUE-CIO" might win, the national contract would be out the window. Workers would be back where they were 14 years ago, with the job of fighting for recognition and for wage, holiday, vacation, seniority and piece work guarantee provisions which UE established in 13 years, and which the company wants to get rid of.

GE publicized an official "neutral" position. But GE Vice-President L. R. Boulware indicated a fond hope of what might come out of the fight by pointing out that the workers might choose UE or a new union, or "having none at all."

GE Violates Agreement

And here in the GE plant the company, in illegal collusion with Carey's stooges, Frank Kriss and Frank Fiorillo, held up payment of the monthly check-off of dues to Local 301. The action not only violates the union agreement, but also the individual agreement with every worker authorizing the check-off of dues to be paid to 301. The union is considering the proper legal steps against the company.

Alexander's Injunction

Kriss and Fiorillo also obtained the assistance of Supreme Court Justice John Alexander with the

(Continued on Page 2)

Silicosis Dispute Goes to New York

Local 301 has moved to the New York level the Executive Board proposal for joint union and company action against silicosis hazards in Porcelain, the foundries, Mica, and elsewhere.

At the Male level of the grievance procedure, the company proposed a joint inspection of the Porcelain Division. The union representatives, Vice-President William Hodges and Board Member Henry Kaminski, reported back that they still felt the union proposal was called for. They also felt the place had been cleaned up for the inspection.

A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, still objected to experts or doctors representing the union. The union proposed that union experts make a survey of health hazards, and that the company make X-rays of workers available to doctors named by the union.

Stevens declared the union was "not doing any good" by taking X-rays and telling the people their condition. He said the company was doing everything possible to improve health conditions.

Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent, pointed out that the union members exposed to dust conditions felt strongly that they needed expert union advice and examination, rather than rely entirely on company action.

Former U. S. Senator Journeyman Lobbyist

Former Senator Joseph Ball of Minnesota, a strict Taft-Hartley man, is a full-fledged journeyman Washington lobbyist now. He has been named vice-president of the Association of American Shipowners and manager of its Washington office.

He served his apprenticeship last spring when he helped the experienced anti-labor lobbyist, Gerald Reilly, who was hired by General Electric Company and General Motors to help fight Taft-Hartley repeal.

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New Shop Stewards Take Over Duties



A trio of new shop stewards taking the oath of office at the stewards' meeting Nov. 1 at the union hall. Left to right, Clarence Perry, Building 273; Adam Glover, Bldg. 17, and Elliott Loucks, Bldg. 40.

Job Conditions At GE At Stake

(Continued from Page 1)

same case with which Alexander gave an injunction against 301 during the strike. Alexander gave Kriss and Fiorillo an order restraining 301's use of funds, although under clear-cut federal law the case was not even before Alexander to act on. (See separate story).

A crew from LIFE, notorious anti-union magazine, also came to town to do a job on Local 301.

While Carey and his various stooges and the newspapers were blowing hard with their claims of UE members joining the Carey outfit, the claims were being debunked by the workers themselves.

Typical was the situation in the big GE plant in Lynn, Mass.: There the union machinery has been tightly in the hands of Fred Kelley, Carey's ally and rival for the top paid job in the new outfit. But Kelley had to call in shoe workers and textile workers to build up an anti-UE meeting, while 1,500 members came last week to a UE meeting limited to GE workers. UE local 201 has been reorganized with officers loyal to their trust, and the demand for UE buttons has been great. Kelley's answer has been to hold rigged "elections" for shop stewards, with anti-UE members allowed to vote over and over.

Despite trickery, Kelley is learning that the Lynn plant is very far from being in the bag for the Carey union.

The loud claims are made by Carey and Kelley, but the decision will be made by the workers, and the workers know UE has the contracts.

And in Philadelphia, Federal

Mangino At Meeting On Bus Situation

Executive Board Member Joseph Mangino, chairman of the 301 transportation committee, represented the union recently at a meeting of the Schenectady joint legislative transportation committee on the Schenectady bus situation.

President A. Frank Geiler of the Schenectady Railway Company proposed:

That a fare zone be established whereby fare would be reduced from 12 to 10 cents but an extra nickel would be collected for riding beyond specified points. (The result would be that many workers would have to pay 15 cents to get to or from GE.)

That the city's 1 per cent utility tax against the company be abolished.

That shifts at GE and ALCO be staggered to avoid peak loads.

The committee is studying the proposals. The State Public Service Commission recently turned down the bus company's request for a 15 cent fare. Local 301 opposed the increase at the hearing.

UE Broadcast

The weekly broadcast by Arthur Gaeth, sponsored by UE, will be at 10 p.m. Monday on WXXW.

9 1/2 Cent Package

UE recently won a 9 1/2 cent package increase for workers at the Magnetic Metal Company, Camden, N. J.

Judge Bard permitted the Carey outfit to use the initials IUE-CIO, but forbade their using either UE or UE-CIO.

Another GE-UE Session On Contract Yesterday

National UE contract negotiations with GE were scheduled to continue yesterday in New York City. The union had notified the company that at the session it expected to review the entire scope of its demands.

Discussions Wednesday and Thursday of last week covered insurance benefits, wages and pensions. GE's position was influenced greatly by the failure of the Steel workers and Auto Workers to win settlements that would benefit their members NOW. The pension payments negotiated in the steel and auto industries will go to relatively few people and will not begin until sometime during 1950.

GE claimed that the UE insurance proposals are very costly, but would not offer any figure to back up their arguments when challenged by UE negotiators. The union continued to press for inclusion of hospital and surgical benefits to be paid by the company. Leo Jandreau took part in the sessions last week.

Here's Real Score In UE District 3

Newspapers this week continued doing a job for James Carey's rump "union" by printing distorted scores on voting among UE members.

Take the situation in District 3, for instance, which contains 28 UE locals in upstate New York with a membership of about 40,000. Here is the actual picture.

Locals with over 75 per cent of the entire District 3 membership have declared their intention of remaining in UE by direct action of the membership or by combined meetings of executive boards and shop stewards. (When EU News went to press only the Board and stewards of Local 301 had voted as last night's membership meeting had not taken place.)

It is UE, not the Carey outfit, that has the contracts with employers. Even if a local should vote in favor of the Carey paper outfit the UE contract still stands. It would take a victory in Labor Relations Board election for the Carey outfit to become bargaining agent for a local. And then Carey couldn't take over the UE contract. He would have to start negotiating from scratch, from the point UE started 14 years ago.

WEAR YOUR UE BUTTON

Judge Alexander Again Rules Against Union

In a courtroom proceeding that resembled a smoothly rehearsed stage performance, Supreme Court Justice John Alexander on Tuesday ruled that the 301 membership cannot decide how to use their own union funds but shall be limited to \$3,500 a week.

He granted a temporary injunction asked by three Carey followers, Frank Kriss, Frank Fiorillo and Ralph Miranda, to tie up union funds.

The union contends that the judge has no power to interfere with the rights of the 301 membership to run their own union and is taking legal steps to set aside this decision.

Issued Picketing Order

Justice Alexander gave the General Electric Company an anti-picketing injunction against 301 in the 1946 strike. He didn't even pretend to take the union's arguments under consideration then, for he snapped out his decision the minute UE Attorney David Scribner ended his plea.

At the Schenectady County courthouse Tuesday Justice Alexander posed in front of an American flag for a Life photographer. The attorney for the three Carey stooges had read only about one-quarter of his speech when the judge said, "I'll grant that."

Should Be in Federal Court

Justice Alexander paid no attention to the fact that the case, by action of Local 301, has been removed from state court to federal court, because it involves federal law. Ignoring protests of Local 301 Attorney Marshall Perlin that he had no jurisdiction, the judge set Dec. 8 for a further hearing at which Kriss and his colleagues will have a chance to smear 301 again.

The complaint filed by the Carey trio was packed with lies and slanders about the 301 membership and officers. The material was obviously designed to let newspapers smear the union without running any risk of libel suits, as charges in a court proceeding are "privileged." The Union-Star made free use of the chance to smear.

Object to 'Lost Time' Pay

Kriss and his colleagues charged, among other things, that paying "lost time" to stewards is a "widespread system of patronage," and part of a Communist plot! (Lost time is paid for time spent handling grievances.) They took the stand that the

Unemployed 301 Members Visit City Council



Robert Northrop, chairman of the 301 committee on unemployment, urging that the City Council immediately tackle Schenectady's growing unemployment problem. Behind Northrop is Evelyn Patnode, who also spoke, and in the rear row, at the right, is another speaker, Dewey Webster. This picture was made Oct. 31. Unemployed members met Wednesday night at the union hall and made plans for more visits to the City Council.

Help Provide Party For 301's Children

Remember that shop stewards are selling donation tickets now to finance the Christmas party for children of 301 members Dec. 10 and 11 at Mont Pleasant High School.

The ticket sale is especially important as the Activities Committee has to pay for gifts and other things now and can't get the usual advance from the union treasury because of the court order obtained by Frank Kriss, Frank Fiorillo and Ralph Miranda limiting union expenditures.

membership of 301 is not competent to manage its own affairs and finances and, in the next breath talked about how the membership would vote to support Carey against UE.

Won't Accept Membership Rule

Their attorney turned down the proposal of Perlin, in court, that the three should agree to abide by the decision of the 301 membership and act within the framework of the 301 and UE constitutions.

Kriss, Fiorillo and Miranda demanded an accounting of union funds, although Miranda is a trustee and at the very time of the suit was auditing 301 accounts with the other trustees. The three also asked for other restraints against the union, in addition to limiting expenditures.

The court did not go that far, but limited the order to restricting expenditure of funds and denying the 301 membership the right to control their own union finances.

Same Old Story

Back in the famous depression the New York Times declared in an article Mar. 15, 1931:

"These are really good times but only a few know it."

And just this last summer Senate Majority Leader Scott W. Lucas tried to laugh off the 1949 recession. The Times quoted him July 6, 1949, as saying:

"If it is (a recession), it's the most prosperous one we've ever experienced."

More Vacation Pay

A grievance case pressed by the union has resulted in management agreeing that a woman worker in office service is entitled to \$29 more vacation pay. She had received only \$23, because the amount was improperly based on her present pay rate, instead of the higher pay she received in her former job in the Control Division. Shop Steward Ida Suprunowicz filed the grievance. The case was settled in Building 41.

Get Your Children's Xmas Party Tickets

Fill out the form printed below to obtain free tickets for the 301 children's party Dec. 10 and 11 at Mont Pleasant High School. The age limit is 10 years. Give the form to your shop steward to turn in at the union office, or mail the form to the union or hand it in at the union office yourself.

I want _____ tickets for my child (or children) for the 301 Christmas party.	
Name of child (or children)	Age
_____	_____
_____	_____
My Name is _____	Check No. _____
Address _____	
I prefer to have the tickets for the following time: (Place X in square opposite the time you prefer.)	
Saturday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday, Dec. 11 at 10 a.m. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Answers for GE Workers

1. Q. Who is the legal certified bargaining agent of GE workers?
A. UE is the legal certified bargaining agent, not CIO and not Carey's new paper outfit.
2. Q. Does the GE contract mention the CIO as a party to the contract?
A. No.
3. Q. Do the letters "CIO" appear on the charter of Local 301?
A. No.
4. Q. Do the letters "CIO" appear in the constitution of UE?
A. No.
5. Q. Did CIO help GE workers organize or negotiate a contract?
A. No.
6. Q. Is UE planning to join some "third-labor federation"?
A. No. Newspapers are trying to spread such a rumor to help Carey divide and confuse the membership.
7. Q. What did UE ask the recent CIO convention?
A. For CIO to stop raiding UE and interfering with the right of the UE membership to run the union.
8. Q. How many times has CIO raided UE?
A. 456 times in the 18 months up to last July. In 418 of these cases the raids were defeated.
9. Q. Who benefits from raiding?
A. The company.
10. Q. What is Carey's new "union"?
A. It is a vest pocket union of James Carey, secretary-treasurer of CIO.
11. Q. Why did Carey get tossed out as president of UE in 1941?
A. For incompetence.
12. Q. What would happen if Carey should win a Labor Board election at GE?
A. Carey would have to go to the company and ask it to negotiate a new contract. He would start in where UE did 14 years ago.
13. Q. Would GE be obliged to give Carey what we have in the UE contract?
A. No.
14. Q. What is Carey's aim?
A. To smash UE, the union which won contract protection and gains for GE workers.

Did You Know

The new Wage and Hour Law increasing the federal minimum wage from 40 to 75 cents an hour is a very mixed blessing. One million workers, mainly in the south, will have their wages increased an average of almost 10 cents an hour. But Congress narrowed the coverage of the Wage Hour law so that many workers, formerly covered by the law, are outside its protection. This number may be as high as one million.

301 Children's Christmas Party
Dec. 10 and 11

Seems Almost Enough!

The General Electric Company's net profit for the first nine months of 1949 was \$67,612,879. A statement by President Charles E. Wilson emphasized that the profit was 19 per cent less than the \$83,898,459 profit earned in the corresponding period of last year. But the \$67,612,879 profit for the first nine months of 1949 is considerably higher than the \$62,466,628 profit for 1947, which was an all time high till 1948 eclipsed it.

Fact Finding Board Says He Needn't Share It



News Item—The Steel Fact Finding Board admitted the huge profits of the steel industry but declared that workers shouldn't get a wage increase—in steel or other industries.

Stewards Shocked at CIO Convention

Here are portions of the reports on the national CIO convention which Shop Steward Emil Voris, Patrol, second shift, and Shop Steward Sadie Iovinella, Building 81, were to give last night at the 301 membership meeting. Last week's EU News carried part of the report of Shop Steward Jack A. Kilmer, Building 273. The three were elected by the membership to attend the convention as observers.

Sadie Iovinella's Report

"The rank and file members attending the CIO convention were shocked at the absolute lack of democracy that prevailed throughout the entire convention.

"Observers coming from UE locals were accustomed to having the membership control their meetings. In Cleveland the very opposite was true. The observers felt that this sort of convention benefited the companies only.

"Phillip Murray spoke for one hour on the expulsion of UE from the CIO and because of a lack of program, he resorted to such terms as 'crawling on their dirty bellies' and of 'standing on their dirty feet.' This sort of name-calling only resulted in a feeling of disgust on the part of the observers.

"The delegates who spoke for expulsion of UE could not cite one instance in which the UE failed to do a job for its members.

"The convention took on all of the aspects of a political conven-

Report by Emil Voris

"My observations were based not as a so-called left winger or right winger nor as a middle-of-the-roader but as a rank and file member of Local 301.

"In my opinion the 11th CIO convention was nothing but a steam roller and was packed with phony delegates. This included disgruntled UE members representing outside unions not connected with UE. In fact, all that these phonies were there for was to discredit the UE. Bear in mind that they were UE members at the time. The only issue with these so-called good union men was red-baiting and Communism. Nothing to better the working man.

"In ousting the UE there was plenty of opposition from the floor but the chair shut them off quite short, but those speaking in favor of the ouster were allowed all the time they wanted."

tion, rather than that of a union convention."

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

U.E.R. & M.W.A.

CAREY SUPPORTERS BREAK UP 301 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 18, 1949

Four thousand members of 301 met at the Armory last night, but their meeting was broken up by Frank Kriss and his small minority of followers. The hall was cleared by police order without doing any business.

Contrary to stories fed to the anti-labor papers by Kriss and Frank Fiorillo, the meeting was in favor of UE by a majority of at least 2 to 1, and probably 3 to 1. But the majority never had a chance to express itself. Kriss again violated all democratic procedures, and refused to recognize members trying to get the floor.

The only person to whom Kriss would give the floor was Fiorillo. On the insistence of police and fire department officers, Leo Jandreau took the mike to appeal for order and a chance for all to present their views and vote. The vast majority of the meeting responded by sitting quiet, but Kriss and Fiorillo and his followers kept up the bedlam.

In the midst of the confusion kept up by the few hundred Carey supporters, Kriss announced that a motion to leave the UE had been passed. Actually the standing vote was at least 2 to 1 against the motion. The vote against would have been much larger if the whole meeting had known what was going on. It was obvious that there had been no legal motion nor discussion. Several hundred strong UE supporters sat without being able even to hear that Kriss was claiming a motion was up.

Kriss and his supporters treated the second shift members in the same manner as the Armory meeting. He ignored members seeking the floor, prevented any discussion, and then declared a series of anti-UE motions carried, even though on every motion the "No" vote was double the "yes" vote. Kriss topped this all by declaring the meeting adjourned after a huge majority vote against adjourning. Two-thirds of the second shift meeting stayed to hear Jandreau discuss the situation facing the union. Kriss and his followers walked out.

The Carey union-busters made it clear that they would go to any lengths to prevent the GE workers from holding an orderly meeting to discuss their problems and nominate and elect officers.

The 301 executive board will meet today to take steps to restore control of union meetings to the membership. It will act to protect the contract and working conditions from those who are trying to destroy everything that GE workers have won through 13 years of UE organization.

uopwa-local 70

PROTECT UE-301 AND THE UNION CONTRACT