



BOARD MEETING. UE Local 301's executive board is pictured above as it met this past Monday. The board mapped plans for a "mop up" organizing drive, and to help the UE Mica campaign.

301 Letter Calls on Mica Employees to Vote for UE

UE Local 301 this week sent a letter to Mica Insulator workers urging them to vote for UE in next Friday's NLRB election. The letter stressed the UE-GE contract as the strongest possible argument for Mica workers to rid themselves of the company unionism which has long kept their wages far below GE levels.

The 301 letter was sent in accordance with a membership decision to go all out in support of UE's drive to organize the 600 Mica workers. In addition, execu-

tive board members, stewards and rank-and-file members of the GE local were aiding the drive by visiting friends and relatives who work at Mica. Purpose of these visits was to tell the Mica workers about union conditions at GE.

As the campaign entered its final week, the company union suffered a severe blow when nine officers and stewards resigned their posts and came out for UE. The group issued a statement saying that the company union had made it completely impossible for them to do anything for their fellow workers.

The failures of the company union "make it impossible for us to continue as officers and stewards, and leave us no choice but to resign these jobs," the statement declared. It continued:

"We find that one union—the UE—is doing the kind of job needed by Mica workers.

"We find that UE has won rates for the 20,000 Schenectady GE workers which are far ahead of Mica rates.

"We find that UE is a democratic union in which all members have a say in all decisions . . .

"Therefore, we urge all of our fellow workers to vote as we will on August 14, for UE and for unity with the 20,000 Schenectady GE workers."

The statement was endorsed by the vice president, financial secretary and seven of the stewards of the company union.



ON COMMUNITY CHEST. UE Local 301 President James Cognetta will participate in planning the fall drive of the Schenectady County Community Chest. Cognetta is a member of the board of directors of the chest. His participation was approved Monday by the 301 executive board.

NY State AFL Blasts Anti-Labor Measures

The three-day New York State Federation of Labor convention adjourned in Buffalo on July 29 after approving a program that President Thomas A. Murray said was "only the opening gun of a new offensive" against labor's big business enemies in the legislature.

The 1,200 delegates voted support of an action program outlined by Secretary-Treasurer Harold C. Hanover in a report on how the GOP-controlled legislature was cutting away labor's economic and social standards.

"Under the present administration," Hanover warned, "the struggle for improved labor conditions is being shifted from Washington to the state capitals. Instead of one major battle on the Potomac, there will be 48 separate battlefields. The struggle in New York, largest and wealthiest state in the nation, is therefore of greatest significance."

Hanover's report focused attention on the 1951 Hughes-Brees unemployment insurance law, which he said was disqualifying thousands of workers from benefits. In the building trades, he said, there was a 60% increase in the number of workers ruled ineligible to receive unemployment insurance. In the retail and restaurant trades, one out of every four workers applying are ruled out; in can-

neries, one out of every two; and in the theatrical profession, more than three in four are denied benefits.

The AFL leader also reported on employer attacks on compensation.

Stewards Start Sale of Tickets for UE 301 Clambake Slated for Sunday, September 13

Tickets for the Local 301 clambake, to be held at Republican Park on Princetown Road, Sunday, September 13, have been sent to all shop stewards. Priced at \$4 each, including all food and drink, the bake tickets are expected to go fast. Since the park can accommodate

750 Capital District Workers Leave CIO

More than 750 Capital District workers have voted to quit the CIO in the past week. Involved are 100 locals of the brewery workers which voted to affiliate with the AFL Teamsters.

Capping the secessions from the CIO was a vote Monday by Brewery Local 50, representing 80 workers in Schenectady. They voted unanimously to switch affiliations. Previously locals in Troy and Albany had taken similar action.

The actions by the Capital District workers virtually eliminated the CIO from the New York State beer industry. Previously locals from New York City to Buffalo had left CIO.

These secessions were new proof of UE's position when it left CIO three years ago, that the CIO could not survive unless it returned to its original policies of fighting militantly for the workers and allowing complete union autonomy in its own ranks. Since then the CIO has spent most of its money in fruitless raiding operations which have disgusted thousands of workers.

To Attend Hearings

UE Local 301 has accepted the invitation of the Schenectady Board of Education to attend open hearings on new taxation plans being made to finance school building and improvement.

President James Cognetta was authorized by the executive board to appoint local representatives to the hearings next month.

only 1,000 persons, those who want to attend are urged to buy the tickets as quickly as possible.

Ten tickets have been sent to each steward. September 7 has been set as the last day for getting ticket stubs back to the union hall.

The bake promises to be a gala affair on the local activities schedule. Menu plans call for everyone to get a half roasted chicken, roasted corn, all the clams they can eat and plenty to drink. In order to keep the price as low as possible, a portion of the money made at the recent field day has been set aside to help defray the clambake expenses.

Persons wishing to help out with the running of the event are urged to contact Activities Committee Chairman Buckley Phillips or Office Manager Marshall White at the union hall. Phillips and White will also be able to handle any ticket problems with regard to the bake.

Meeting Schedule

The next combined meeting of UE Local 301 members and stewards will take place on Monday, August 17. The second shift session will be at 1 p.m., and the first and third shifts will meet at 7:30 p.m.

The local executive board has scheduled its next session for August 24.

Mine-Mill Gains

A new agreement providing an 8 1/2% hourly increase for workers in 10 lead and copper smelters and refineries of American Smelting and Refining Co. was won last week by the Mine Mill and Smelter Workers.

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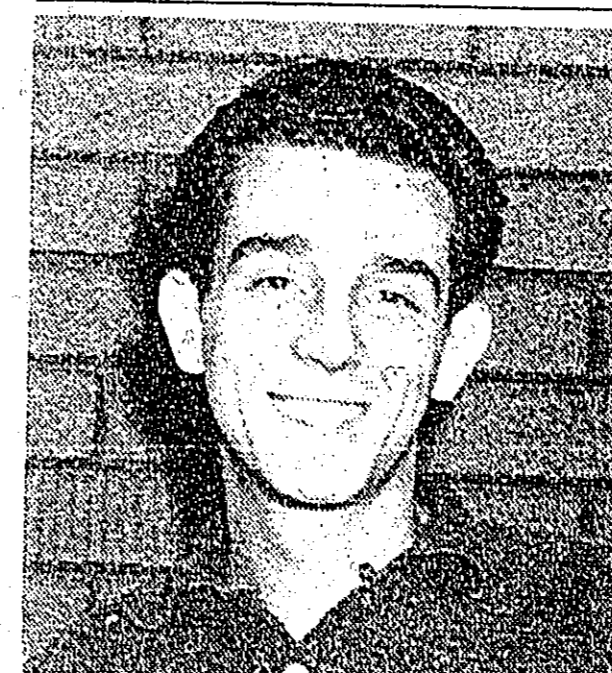
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, August 14, 1953



Local 301's 'Mop Up' Organizing Campaign Brings Sharp Spurt in New Memberships

UE Local 301's "mop up" organizing drive began to pay dividends this week as the number of new membership cards coming into the union hall spurted. Goal of the drive is to bring the membership in Schenectady GE as close to 100% as possible.



HELPING FORMER CO-WORKERS. Picture are two Local 301 members who used to work at the Mica Insulator Co.—Norman Diforo, Bldg. 46, and Linwood Schermerhorn, 53. They are among the many ex-Mica workers who are helping UE organize the Broadway plant.



Because of the vacations, it was not possible to estimate the exact number of new members gained by the drive. The total is likely to show up in the September check-off.

UE is seeking to increase its membership in the plant in order to strengthen its collective bargaining position, both in everyday grievance discussions and in next year's contract talks. The drive was launched from a strong position, with the membership at its highest point in recent years. The local, representing more than 20,000 workers, is the largest one-plant local union in New York State, the largest local in UE and the largest in the electrical industry anywhere in the country.

The strength of the 301 position also stems from being united with GE workers from coast to coast in the one union which has consistently done a job in the interests of its membership—UE. The present 301 organizing drive is particularly important right now because it comes at the same time as the UE organizing drive in Lynn, Victory at the Massachusetts plant would mean that the GE Big 3—Schenectady, Erie and Lynn—will once more be united.

This would mean that UE would go into next year's negotiations with GE in the strongest bargaining position that any union has had since the company-sponsored Carey split in 1949.

Members Meet Mon.

UE Local 301 members and stewards will hold a combined meeting on Monday. The second shift session will be at 1 p.m. The first and third shifts will gather at 7:30 p.m.

LL 'Tag Days'

Today and tomorrow have been designated as "Tag Days" for the Northside Little League, in which UE Local 301 has a team. Youngsters from the league will circulate in the down town area. They will solicit contributions to help meet the costs of operation of the circuit.

New Bedford, Mass.—Salaried workers at the Morse Twist Drill and Machine Co. have voted to join the production and maintenance workers in UE. The vote for the union in the Production Control department of the plant was 40 to 24. UE Local 277 represents 1,300 Morse factory employees in New Bedford.

New York—More than 750 Hearn department store workers have voted to "stay out indefinitely" until a satisfactory contract is won from management. The company has virtually refused to bargain with the CIO distributive workers since the strike began on May 14. Chief issue is the company decision to convert to self service and to lay off workers without regard to seniority.

Sheboygan, Wis.—UE Local 167F has won a 6 1/2% hourly wage increase and a number of fringe benefits in a new contract negotiated with the Vollrath Co. The pact was achieved only after the workers had taken a strike vote. Vollrath is owned by Governor Walter Kohler of Wisconsin.

Pikeville, Ky.—The United Mine Workers this week called on Kentucky Governor Lawrence Wetherby to direct state police to catch those responsible for last Thursday's slaying of UMW Organizer Charles Vermillion. The slain man, father of 7 children, was found shot in the head 3 times. He is the 8th UMW organizer in the state to be shot in the past 2 years.

East Chicago, Ind.—A walkout of 1,500 workers was called at the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Co. plant here after the company moved to cut piece work incentives by 30% to 40%. The CIO steelworkers described the walkout as "authorized."

New York—UE Local 430 announced the winning of 13c hourly package increases for workers at the Cambium Electric Co. Included in the advances was a 7c wage boost now, with another nickel next year, a 3rd week's vacation after 12 years service and a complete health and welfare plan.