

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 9 — No. 16

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, Aug. 24, 1951

## UE Calls IUE-CIO Bluff; Forces Vote Sept. 14 — Before GE Negotiations

The company union IUE-CIO, which petitioned for an NLRB election in Schenectady on the basis of a pocketfull of fraudulent cards, had its bluff called by UE Local 301 Wednesday afternoon. Although IUE-CIO squirmed and protested, it wasn't able to get out of an early election at the GE plant, and finally signed papers for an election September 14. UE representatives called IUE's bluff at a conference called by the NLRB in its regional office in New York City.

## IUE-CIO Now Minority in Lynn; UE Local 201 Keeps Up Fight

After a year as collective bargaining agency at the Lynn GE plant, the IUE-CIO's record of neglected grievances, irresponsibility and undemocratic procedures has brought it down to the status of a minority union in the plant.

Although IUE-CIO managed to hang on to the Lynn plant in an NLRB election August 16, with the active help of the Taft-Hartley Board and the anti-labor House Un-American Committee, it received only 6,927 votes out of a bargaining unit of 16,584.

IUE-CIO in Lynn thus joins IUE-CIO in Bridgeport GE as a minority group with bargaining rights.

The disgust of Lynn GE workers with IUE-CIO, after a year of experience, is shown by the vote of less than 7,000 received by the IUE, although it claimed 13,000 on its check-off list before the election.

### UE Gets 5,867 Votes

Despite the open favoritism toward IUE-CIO on the part of the Taft-Hartley Board, despite the last-minute interference of the un-American Committee to help IUE-CIO, and despite a campaign marked by threats of violence, red-baiting and intimidation, UE Local 201 received 5,867 votes in the election.

UE Local 201, which has the support of the majority of production and maintenance workers in Lynn, faced the following handicaps.

### Salary in Election

The Taft-Hartley Board threw 3,000 salaried workers into the election to

help IUE-CIO, although UE had asked for a separate unit.

The election was ordered during the vacation period, when old-timers, mostly

### Lynn Workers Leave I.U.E.

Several hundred I.U.E. members in the Wage Rate Dept. of the General Electric Company in Lynn voted to leave the I.U.E. and join the A.F. of L. in the N.L.R.B. election held last week.

Out of over 300 eligible voters in the unit, the salaried workers in the Wage Rate Dept voted as follows:

A.F. of L.	197
No Union	112
I.U.E.	10

UE supporters, would be on vacation. During the week of the election 1,500 long-service employees were out of town

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Although US knew that IUE's cards were a fake and its election demand a bluff, UE also knew that IUE and the NLRB between them could keep the GE plant in a turmoil for months, before and during the coming national negotiations between UE and GE.

The UE therefore demanded an election before Sept. 15th, opening date of the negotiations. We suggested Sept. 6th.

At this, IUE representatives fell into a panic and called for a recess. After more than an hour they came back refusing the Sept. 6th date. Then UE offered them the 7th, the 11th and the 13th, which they turned down one by one. Finally, when they were told that unless they agreed to an election before the opening of negotiations UE would withdraw its offer, the IUE representatives present reluctantly signed up for the 14th, the last possible day.

UE Local 301 Business Agent Leo Jandreau, chief representative of the local at the conference, declared:

"The company won't get any comfort out of this election. We must roll up a tremendous vote for UE to repudiate IUE-CIO disruption and to lay the best possible basis for success in our negotiations."

Jandreau pointed out that in addition to the need for a general wage increase to make up for higher prices, there are serious demands that the company must meet to end injustices to its day workers, the skilled crafts and women employees.

## WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

### How the Law Can Be Improved

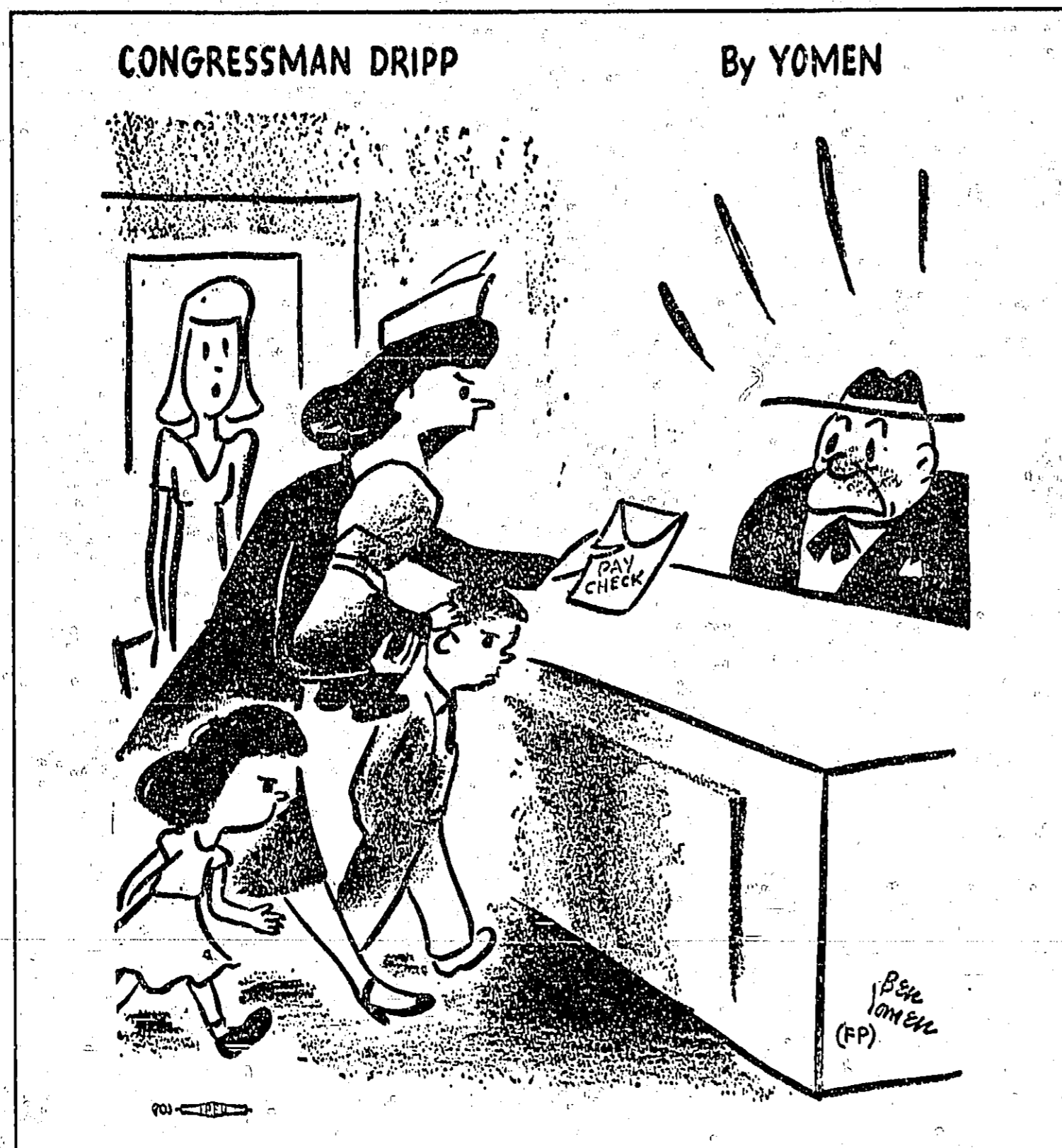
(This is the fourteenth in a series of articles on Workmen's Compensation written by Leon Novak, the Union's lawyer.)

The Workmen's Compensation Law operates in such a fashion that only those workers who suffer a simple injury find it reasonably easy to obtain benefits. Where the injury or an occupational disease is more complicated, the injured worker, if he is not represented by an attorney, finds himself caught in a legal tangle which bewilders him and which often makes him feel that he would have been better off if he had not filed any claim for benefits.

For example, the simple type of case is one where the worker has injured a finger or a hand or a foot and comes into compensation court. He is examined by a state physician. If he needs more medical treatment, the case is adjourned to give him an opportunity to continue to see his doctor. Finally, when his doctor discharges him, he is re-examined by a state doctor to see whether he has a permanent effect from his injury for which he may be entitled to an award.

#### Cause Hard To Prove

There are, however, many cases which are by no means as simple as this. Take for example, the case of a worker who has had a heart attack while doing some particularly hard work on the job. He may be laid up for months as a result of this attack. His employer will very likely take the position that it will not pay compensation benefits or medical bills until it is proved that the heart attack came from the work and not from a cause which might have been unrelated to the man's work. The worker then does not get weekly benefits until he has proved his case; but this is more easily said than done. Months after the heart attack, during which time the worker has not received weekly benefits, his doctor is asked to come into court to testify as to the source of the heart at-



"If you can live on this for a week, I'll eat that new control act you passed."

tack. The doctor may testify that the hard work caused the attack.

The worker finally goes to the Company's doctor. He is examined but he is not told anything about his own condition. After all, this doctor is there to report to the Company.

Weeks later, the Company's doctor is called into court. He testifies very briefly that in his opinion the heart attack did not come from the job performed by the worker. He says, instead, that the attack was a heart "insufficiency" which a man can have with or without hard work. The worker listens to this testimony. Even if he understands it, he is not qualified to cross-examine a specialist. The referee, who sits on the case, would like to help the worker but by this time many weeks have passed since the worker's own doctor has testified and he does not recall the testimony. In any event, he is impressed by the testimony of the Company's doctor. The referee decides to postpone his decision in the case. Some time later he reads the testimony. A few days later, the worker receives a notice informing him that his claim has been disallowed because "no causal re-

lationship has been established." The worker has received no compensation; he has to pay his own medical and hospital bills. His case is closed.

Now, what has happened in this case? The worker feels he has gotten a run-around. No one has told him what was going on. Of course, if he is a member of a union like Local 301 which retains a lawyer to help a worker in such a case, the proceedings will be handled by the union's lawyer and the outcome might have been different.

#### State Responsibility

The State has a responsibility to injured workers in these cases. The referee is too busy to keep track of every case he hears in the course of the years. The only reasonable solution is for the State to hire government lawyers to represent injured workers. In the alternative, the compensation law should be amended requiring the employer to pay an attorney's fee for a lawyer who represents the worker where the employer elects to fight the case.

Numerous efforts have been made to get such a law passed. Needless to say, these efforts have not met with any success.

## U.E. Local 301 Petitions For Truck Drivers

The Interstate truck drivers, who voted for the Teamsters Union, A. F. of L., last year against the U.E., have signed sufficient cards requesting that they come back to the U.E.

There were approximately 40 truck drivers who voted for the truck drivers' Union after the N.L.R.B. established them as an appropriate bargaining unit. The A.F. of L. Teamsters were certified by the N.L.R.B. on September 20th, 1950 as the bargaining agent. Since then there has not been a contract signed. We had requests from the truck drivers to come back to the U.E. a few months following the election. Under the N.L.R.B. rules an election could not be held for 12 months following the last election.

More than the required 80 per cent have signed cards requesting U.E. Local 301 to petition for an election. We are filing a petition for the truck drivers, subject to signing them up 100 per cent before a hearing date is set by the N.L.R.B.

## League of Women Voters to Send Speaker to Next Membership Meeting

A representative of the Schenectady County League of Women Voters will appear before the September membership meeting to discuss Permanent Personal Registration.

Upon request from the League of Women Voters to appear before our membership meeting, the Executive Board voted to allow a representative from that organization speaking on the September 10th meeting agenda.

The speaker will be allowed 10 minutes and time for questions from the floor.

## Union Member Requests Blood Donors

H. Sears, a Union member of Local 301 U.E., who works as a Craneman on the 1st shift in Bldg. 273, Turbine Division, under Foreman Rossi, is asking for volunteers to replace three pints of blood owed to Ellis Hospital as a result of a recent illness.

Volunteers can either contact Mr. Sears in the shop, at his home, 2117 Westside Ave., or at the Union office. His shop representative is William Stewart.

The Union pays one hour's lost time to blood donors.

## GE Conference Board Meeting To Discuss Demands for Sept. 15

### NOTICE UER & MWA Membership-Stewards Meeting

MONDAY, SEPT. 10th

2nd shift — 1:30 p.m.  
1st and 3rd shifts — 7:30 p.m.  
at Union Headquarters  
301 Liberty St.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS  
Report on recommendations of  
the General Electric Confer-  
ence Board, affecting Wage  
Negotiations.  
Regular order of business

The General Electric Conference Board will meet in New York City on Monday and Tuesday, August 27 and 28, to discuss the coming wage negotiations with the General Electric Company. National negotiations between UE and GE are scheduled to open September 15 under the National Contract re-opener on wages and other economic issues.

The delegates representing Local 301 are William Kelly, Fred Pacelli, and Leo Jandreau.

The Schenectady delegates will report to the Conference Board that the day workers are demanding a substantial increase in pay. Likewise, the crafts are in the process of demanding an adjustment. Stoppages have occurred in several groups after local management has given a final refusal to increase rates as a result of processing a specific grievance.

## Big Business Benefits Again

The monopolies, more entrenched than ever after a decade of expansion, have drunk their fill from the public trough for the time being. To rule out even "token" competition by small business firms, they now have closed the door to the special tax amortization benefits through which they have taken billions of dollars from the public.

A 60-day moratorium on "certificates of necessity" which permit firms to write off most of their capital investment in

five years, instead of the usual 20 or 25, leaves approximately 8,000 small businessmen holding the bag. Their applications have been pushed aside while big business' agents processed big business request for such certificates totaling some \$8.8 billion.

The public will pay most of the bill, since the rapid tax amortization plan permits firms to save money they otherwise would have to pay the government under excess profits taxes.

## Unemployment Insurance

### How Pensioned Workers Get Runaround

Pensioned workers who have reported recently at the offices of the Unemployment Insurance Division to make an application for benefits have found themselves being given a run-around by that office.

It appears that it is assumed by the Unemployment Insurance Division that every pensioned worker who applies for benefits is simply trying to draw benefits without any attempt to get a suitable job.

Of course, if a worker has taken a voluntary pension at age 60 or 62 he has to undergo a seven-weeks' waiting period. But such workers are ready, willing and able to take suitable employment anywhere and should make this fact plain to the Unemployment Insurance Division.

The only basis on which any worker

can get unemployment insurance benefits is if he is physically able to work, even if only at light jobs. Of course, if a worker is totally unable to do any work, he is considered not in the "labor market" and therefore not eligible for benefits.

In addition to being able to work a worker must also be willing to work. His willingness to work he can only demonstrate by making a reasonable effort to find a job. He cannot be disqualified if for a good reason he turns down a job offered to him, but on the other hand cannot refuse to look for a job and still get benefits.

The worker who takes an involuntary retirement at age 65 does not have to go through a 7-week waiting period, but he too must meet the qualifications of being ready, willing and able to work.

### ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE  
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SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301 UE

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## IUE Minority In Lynn GE

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on vacation. During the week before election, 1,500 other old-timers, mainly UE supporters, were out of the plant and missed a crucial part of the election campaign.

The company hired 3,900 new employees during the year before the election, who were encouraged to join the IUE-CIO.

Despite all this, sentiment against IUE-CIO among production workers was so strong after a year of experience with IUE incompetence and irresponsibility that IUE-CIO openly turned to anti-labor politicians in Washington for help.

### Politicians Step In

Only 36 hours before the election agents of the House un-American Committee served a subpoena on UE Intl. Rep. Don Tormey, leader of the UE Local 201 campaign during the past year. Although Tormey was not asked to appear until two months after the election any may never be required to appear at all, the politicians paid-off IUE-CIO by subpoenaing him just before the election, to steal votes for IUE-CIO.

The next day—the day before the election — Rep. Walter (D.), Pa., acting chairman of the un-American Committee announced that the committee intended to "investigate reports that some of the names on UE's election petition were forgeries."

### 2,900 Don't Vote

This announcement was timed to come out late in the afternoon of the day before the election to prevent its being

## UE Permanent Institution In Lynn, Officers Declare

Officers and leaders of UE Local 201 are confident that the IUE-CIO's days in the Lynn plant are numbered. Already in a minority position among GE Lynn workers because of its refusal to handle grievances and irresponsible strike calls without permitting a vote of the membership, IUE is regarded not only GE workers but most Lynn townspeople as on the way out.

"UE Local 201 has been and will continue to be a permanent institution in the Lynn GE plants and will continue to render every possible service to protect and advance the conditions of GE workers", the Local officers declared in a post-election statement.

## HOLDUP!



## House Un-Americans Follow Pattern in Lynn; Meddle in Election in Political Pay-off to IUE-CIO

answered. This last-minute implied threat that the House un-Americans would drag thousands of the signers of UE cards to Washington, although the Committee knew it could not get the cards, succeeded in frightening many away from the polls, as it was meant to do.

In all, some 2,900 people in the bargaining unit did not vote.

In view of these gross interferences with the election, UE Local 201 was seriously considering filing a protest of the election as this edition of "Electrical News" went to press.

### No Let-up in UE Fight

UE Local 201 members in Lynn, while naturally disappointed at their failure to dump the company union IUE-CIO and join Lynn with Erie and Schenectady, the "Big Three" of the GE chain, are proud of the showing they made in the face of the bare-faced efforts to steal the election for IUE-CIO.

There will be no let-up in the fight of UE Local 201 in Lynn, and with 5,867 votes as a starting point, 500 more than last year, UE is already mapping out its campaign to get rid of the company union once and for all as soon as another election can be held.

The political meddling in the Lynn GE election by the House un-American Committee to help the company union IUE-CIO followed the regular pattern of political back-scratching between IUE and the anti-labor political hacks dominating the committee.

Schenectady GE employees will remember that every time UE has been in negotiations with GE for the past three years, the House un-Americans have stuck their noses in to disrupt. The House politicians have tried to help IUE-CIO in NLRB elections in GE, Westinghouse, Sylvania and many other plants. One of the most recent such efforts was in GE's Baltimore insulator plant, where GE workers had to win two elections in succession to win their bargaining rights with UE.

It pays to belong to UE

Every member get a member

IN GE — IT'S UE

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## These Are The Issues!

FOR THE third time in three years, the company union forces now banded together in IUE-CIO have opened a campaign of disruption in UE Local 301 to break up union negotiations with the General Electric Co. We have forced them into an election on September 14 — before the opening of negotiations — to get them out of the way so that the union can devote its full attention to getting the increases that we must have to keep up with the increasing cost of living.

IUE-CIO does not depend upon the support of working people in its periodic campaigns of raiding and disruption. It depends on the backing of people who never have and never will do anything for GE employees — the company, newspapers, anti-labor politicians. Here as everywhere else its only hope of success lies in creating fear, suspicion, division and hysteria among our ranks. Because it has nothing in the way of service to offer the people it will embark on a campaign of name-calling, slander, red-baiting and vilification to achieve its ends, and will call in every anti-labor force it can find to assist it. During the next three weeks, we in UE Local 301 must face all this and defeat it, just as we did last year.

### GE Workers Built UE Local 301

THE REAL issues in the election on September 14 are simple.

UE Local 301 was built by the people in GE to protect and advance their interests. By sticking together during the past 15 years we have built a union that has more than doubled the wages of GE workers. We have established job protection through seniority. We have set up grievance procedure that handles thousands of cases every year. We have won paid vacations for production and maintenance workers and holidays with pay. All these things and many others, such as protection of the earnings of incentive workers, are protected in the union contract we have built up over the years.

By red-baiting and name-calling, IUE-CIO will try to frighten us into giving all this up.

### Our Job In Negotiations

In the national negotiations with GE next month we will be fighting for wage increases to keep up with the real rise in the cost of living, for increases in the rates of day workers and the skilled crafts. We are fighting against discrimination on the rates of women workers and for fair pay and equal job opportunities for all GE employees.

By red-baiting and name calling, IUE-CIO is trying to break up our fight.

### We Run Our Own Affairs

WE IN UE Local 301 have built and maintained a rank and file, American union, where the decisions are made by the membership. Our UE Constitution guarantees the membership the right to vote on all contract, strikes and settlements.

By red-baiting and name-calling, IUE-CIO will try to frighten us into giving up the right to run our own affairs. They ask us to accept an imitation union run by a little clique of dictators who have sold themselves and their members to the employers and politicians. The IUE-CIO constitution deprives IUE-CIO members of the right to vote on strikes, settlements or contracts. Everything is decided on top.

The company union IUE-CIO had counted on a campaign of months of red smears and hysteria to divide us. They had hoped the company could step in to help them out as it did last year. By forcing an early election UE Local 301 has made it possible for us to clear them out of the way before negotiations begin under our National contract re-opener.

### Unite for Victory

In the election September 14 it will not be enough just to defeat IUE-CIO. We must close our ranks to give UE Local 301 an overwhelming victory, so that three weeks from now, united and strong, we can move ahead again with the job we built our union to do — to protect and advance the interests of all GE workers.

— VOTE UE LOCAL 301 —