

# National UE Capitulates to GE

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2.68% increase looks pretty thin in the face of this predicament.

The status of the G.E. offer as of the present time is as follows:

Wages—2.68% increase but not less than 4c an hour.

Vacations — (Effective Date — Jan. 1, 1955).

1. Employees who quit, die, are discharged or retire will receive full vacation allowance.
2. Employees laid off for lack of work will receive full vacation.
3. Employees absent from work beyond the end of a vacation year who did not receive vacation shall receive their vacations at end of such absence.
4. Employee may use to determine vacation pay rate, either (a) The regular rate in effect at the time vacation begins, or (b) The employee's regular hourly rate in effect during the last full calendar week worked during the preceding year.

**Holidays**—When any of the 7 holidays listed in the Contract fall on Saturday, the holiday will be observed on the preceding Friday and paid for.

**Continuous Operations** — Holidays—If such employee fails to work as scheduled, he will not be paid for holiday. If, however, such failure to work on the holiday is due to verified personal illness, death in the family, jury duty or emergency illness at home, the employee will be paid.

**Overtime Provision**—In excess of 16 hours in any single work day provided that an employee has not been away from work for 8 hours or more and shall have worked beyond that work day, overtime shall be paid at rate of double time.

**Ingrade Progression**—Automatic

—Will include in the Contract provision providing automatic increases to job rate for the additional occupations:

- Maintenance Machinist
- Tool Welder
- Maintenance Welder

**Upgrading**—The Company will to the extent practical give first consideration for job openings and upgrading to present employees when employees with the necessary qualifications are available.

In upgrading employees to higher rated jobs the Company will take into consideration as an important factor the relative length of continuous service of the employees whom it finds are qualified for such upgrading.

**Continuity of Service** — Where absence of an employee is due to a compensable accident and where the employee is reemployed without loss of continuity of service, service credits will be restored for a period of his absence up to 1 year.

The above offer has been made provided we sign a 15½ month agreement, freezing wages and other conditions of employment during this period.

In the meantime, General Electric will continue its plans to transfer jobs from large plants to smaller plants in new communities. Schenectady is scheduled to lose the large Industrial Control Department which employs several thousand people.

General Electric refuses to do anything on Pensions, Insurance or Hospitalization this year. They offered to set up a committee of Union and Company representatives to study the present plans and make suggestions for next year.

The offer falls short of meeting the needs of the people . . . that is why it was rejected by an overwhelming vote of the majority of G.E. workers throughout the country.

## Newspaper Guild Condemns St. Geo. Bill

New York—The American Newspaper Guild (CIO) condemned the St. George bill, which would deny second and third class postal privileges to certain publications and films, as "contrary to the constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press."

Washington—Latest figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistic and Bureau of Employment Security show that the current load on unemployment compensation is much heavier than a year ago while the factory employment rate continues to decline.

## CONGRESSMAN DRIPP



Now Lem (Boulware) you stop transferring jobs, or I'll be looking for one, says that I.U.E. Delegation.

## Challenge National UE on Sympathies Schenectady Workers

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With regards to item 1 we want you to know that the organized GE workers increased their dues \$8.50 on January 1, 1953 for the sole purpose of constructing a building as a Union Hall. The plans for that building had already been completed when the unwarranted legal suit was brought by you, tying up these funds. The building was to include not only office space for the union, but also a welfare and social center for the use of Schenectady workers who are paying for this out of their own pockets. The building was to have been started April 1st of this year.

About a week ago, our local newspapers announced that the City of Schenectady has purchased the property in which this local union is now located and intends to tear down this building as soon as possible. This puts the workers of Schenectady in danger of having no home for their use despite the fact that over a period of many months they have contributed out of their wages for a new building.

We therefore call upon you, putting aside all other differences which may exist, to immediately apply to the same New York City Court which you asked to tie up these funds to release them immediately to the Schenectady GE work-

ers. If your sympathies with the Schenectady workers will not allow you to be so generous, then at least, you should consider releasing the Building Fund deposited in the Banks specifically under that account, in order that we may proceed immediately without delay to let out contracts in order to have the use of the building by the end of 1954.

Your action in this matter will weigh heavily on the size of the job our local union will have in carrying out our responsibility in protecting the wages, hours and working conditions of Schenectady GE workers in the months to come.

Very truly yours,  
Leo Jandreau.

## Oregon Federation Of Labor Convention

Astoria, Ore.—The Oregon Federation of Labor opened its 52nd annual convention here by putting its full weight behind the AFL and CIO northwest lumber strike.

In the first four months of 1954 the public cashed in \$279.0 million worth of life insurance, a rise of 24% over the corresponding period last year.

## Italian American Night

August 14 - 7:30 P.M.

at Schenectady Stadium

Free Transportations to and from Ball Park also,

Fireworks and Prizes

Tickets are \$1.00 each

Co-Chairman John Famiano

Benefit for AMITY HALL FUND

# LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE CIO

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The Voice of GE Workers, Local 301, Schenectady, N. Y.

July 16, 1954

# GE Stands on UE Sell Out!

## Statement of Officers on Election Proves Sincerity in Behalf of GE Worker

On June 30th, 1954, General Electric workers of Schenectady made history. Too long had we been laboring under the handicap of being part of an international organization that was charged everywhere as being communist-dominated.

Whether this charge is true or not is for the Court to decide. You all know that such influence, if it existed, was never permitted to be used in the operation of our affairs in Schenectady. It was an issue that had to be met and you courageously met the issue and voted overwhelmingly against it.

This was more than a local contest. The eyes of the Country were focused on it. The New York Times in an editorial emphasized the significance of our move away from UE. From the time that we took our stand at the outbreak of the Korean War to cooperate in every way in the national defense, we were spotlighted in the Country's attention. The New York Daily News, commending upon our victory in the recent election, characterized it as clear proof that American Labor, as always in our history, can be counted upon to stand firm in the national interest and against outside and foreign influences that have attempted to undermine the U. S. labor movement.

We of Local 301 are now joined with a great American union. We can and will work out our own destinies, unhampered by those influences that confuse and bewilder. We are only interested in what is best for us. Our attention will never be diverted from the main purpose of our existence—that is to improve the standard of living and the working conditions of our members. We represent people of all races, religions and many diverse interests, but we are one in the hard core of unity for a common purpose. First Americans, we are part of the Community in which we live and we must take a more active part in our Community affairs to the end that we and our children will be part and parcel of an ever-improving community.

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## Boulware Provokes Trouble

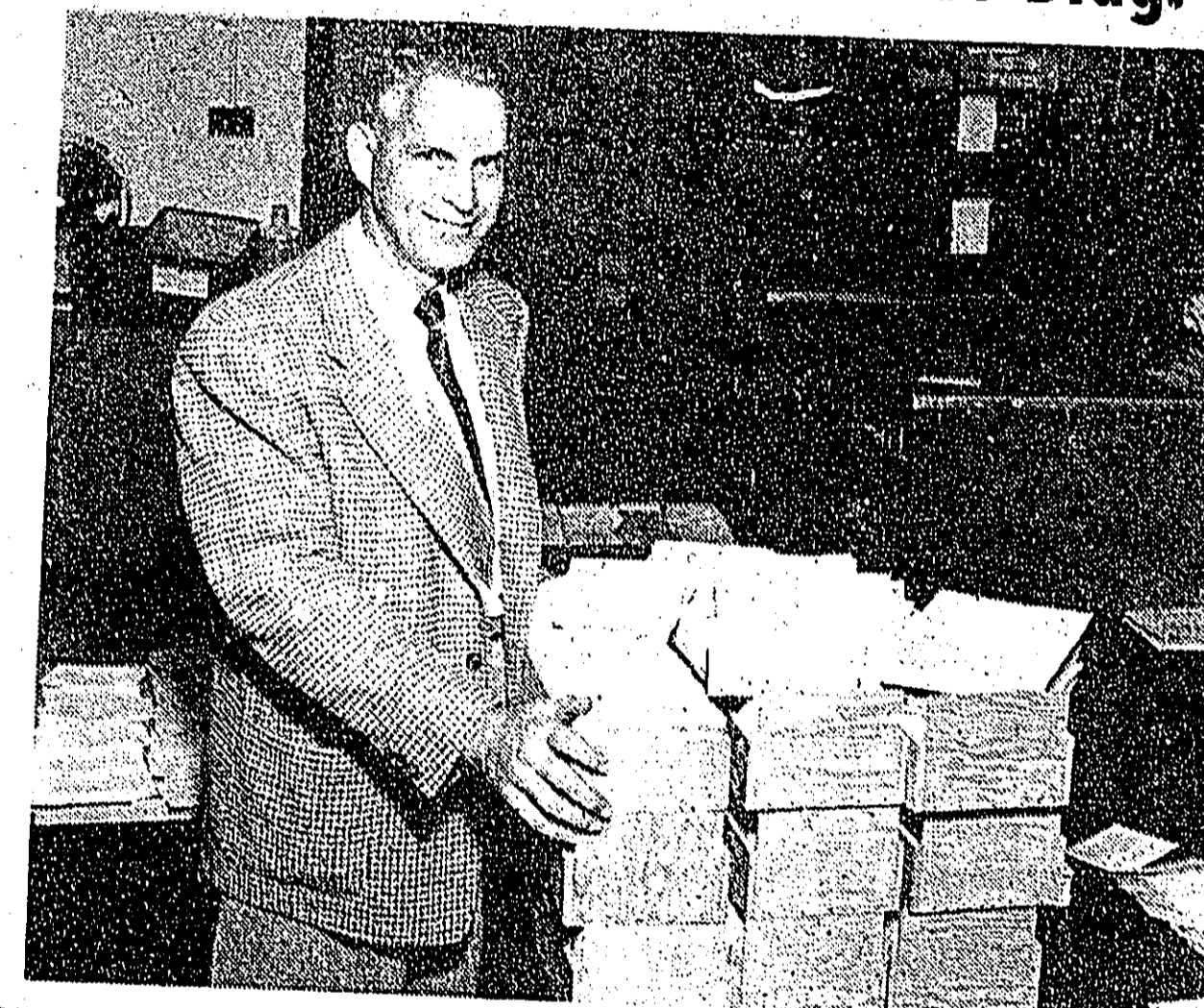
The IUE-CIO Nat'l Negotiations Committee in meetings with representatives of GE in N. Y. City last Tuesday and Wednesday devoted its entire efforts in reaching satisfactory settlement in the current Contract negotiations. The GE representatives headed up by Mr. Day, refused to consider any approach that would lead to a settlement.

The Union Committee spent most of the time requesting the Co. to make a statement that would modify the arbitrary transferring and farming out of work causing GE workers to lose their jobs.

Mr. Day, speaking for the Co., refused to offer any solution that would give GE workers any assurance that their jobs would not be eliminated through the Co.'s Decentralization Plan of transferring work. Schenectady is slated at the present time to lose the Industrial Control work which is scheduled to be transferred to three new locations. Likewise, the Industrial Heating is scheduled to be transferred. Both Depts. constitute over 3,000 employees. The people with long service, of course, will be transferred to other Depts. not affected by the move of jobs and will

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## Over 10,000 Check-off Cards to Bldg. 41



Marshall White, Office Manager at Union Headquarters, is taking the first batch of Union Check-off cards to Bldg. #41.

Even with vacation causing large numbers of the employees to be absent, the first batch of cards sent to Bldg. 41 amounted to 10,500.

The Union office will send the cards to the company as quickly as they are received. It is important to have them recorded with management, not because the cards should be in management's hands in ample time for the August check-off, but, more important, there should not be any questions concerning the organized strength of IUE-CIO Local 301.

When a Union has a check-off of dues, it is common knowledge as to how strong the union is by the number of authorization cards on check-off. A few groups since the NLRB election have been considering cash payments at the Union

office. This method is permissible, however, each member must personally come to the Union office and make his own payment, and he will get a receipt.

Dues collection by shop stewards is not allowed, inasmuch as there are no provisions for bonding shop stewards. Moreover, our experiences in the past have taught us that this method has caused a great deal of trouble.

The main advantage of a union check-off, over and above eliminating the physical task of collecting the dues in cash, is that the management receives notice that the group is well organized.

Show your organized strength by having your group 100% on check-off.

## Certified by N.L.R.B.

The N.L.R.B. certified I.U.E.-C.I.O. Local 301 last Friday. Up until then the company could not recognize our union because National U.E. could have preferred unfair Labor charges under the law. But National U.E. could not find any justified reason to object to the election. The election was run off very smoothly according to the N.L.R.B. who conducted the vote.

The National contract is now in effect. Also, the local Agreement applying Plant-wide Seniority, that was negotiated back in 1951 by Local 301 and local management, is in effect. Meetings in Bldg. #41 with management are in process. The wheels of collective bargaining are again in motion in Local 301 after being tied up four months by National U.E. Board members have been instructed to check their sections to reopen complaints that have arisen during the campaign and have not been settled satisfactorily.

## GE Double Talk

We have just happened on to some important information which seems to uncover some of the mystery and double talk that has been surrounding the General Electric Company's decentralization program as it affects transferring of work.

Last April 21st, there was a three day conference of GE officials, mainly Dept. Heads, held in Schenectady. The so-called Ten Year Program was discussed which is designed to dissolve seven of the Company's largest plants that presently employ 55% of the GE workers. At present GE is operating 132 plants in 105 cities.

In explaining the plan of decentralization, the officials present at the Schenectady meeting claimed the company had hardly scratched the surface, insofar as completing their plans of decentralizing. They pointed out that the objective would be towards smaller plants in small communities.

General Electric claims publicly that it expects the Electrical Industry will double its production within the next few years. However, the plans discussed at the private meeting revealed that General Electric expects to double their capacity within the next few years without increasing their Labor force. Since 1947, General Electric has started operations in 24 new cities and discontinued operations in 12 cities.

Some new cities mentioned in the discussions were: Ashboro, North Carolina; Wainsboro, Va.; Ludlow, Vt.; Edmore, Mich.; Springfield, N. J.; Linton, Ind.; Jonesboro, Arkansas; Morrisson, Ill.; Limerick, Me.; and many more.

The main attention will be devoted to cut down 55% of the employees now located in 7 plants: Schenectady, Lynn, Pittsfield, Erie, Philadelphia, Ft. Wayne, and Cleveland.



## 42,000 Members Gained in 6 Mos.

From Massachusetts to California, from Texas to Canada IUE-CIO has been gaining more members week after week during the first 26 weeks of 1954 — as shown by the table on this page.

IUE-CIO has gained more members during the past six months than the dying UE now represents in the entire GE chain (less than 21,000).

Here is the IUE-CIO score by mid 1954:

- NLRB or Canadian Labor Board elections won: 39
- Certifications in Canada: 4
- Recognition with no vote: 20
- Affiliation of former Playthings (dissolved) Union locals: 8

Our own Local 301's decision to join the vast majority of electrical workers in IUE-CIO was of course a fitting climax to this six month record. The record for the second half of 1954 has already begun with the UE Local 429, Newark, N. J. vote on July 7 to dump UE and join IUE-CIO. Already we have NLRB petitions pending in Bloomfield, N. J., L. I. City, N. Y., Scranton, Pa., Cincinnati, O., Erie, Pa., and Ontario, Cal., all former UE locals. All of this, plus the fact that numerous other UE Locals are asking for Local 301's advice and help as to how to go about joining IUE — makes it look very much like the end of 1954 may very well be the end of UE in the GE chain.

## 1954 NLRB Victories

The complete list of NLRB victories since January 1, 1954 follows:

NAME OF PLANT	LOCATION	DATE OF ELECTION
GE Warehouse (Com. Serv.) Dept.	Auburn, N. Y.	1/6/54
Collins Radio	Dallas, Texas	1/6/54
Westinghouse (Salary)	Metuchen, N. J.	1/8/54
Sterling Optical	New York, N. Y.	1/11/54
GE Serv. Shop	Philadelphia, Pa.	2/2/54
Dage Electric	Beech Grove, Ind.	2/9/54
Goerz Optical	Long Island, N. Y.	2/11/54
Raine-Hawley	Lynn, Mass.	2/12/54
Speer Resistor	Bradford, Pa.	2/16/54
Keystone Watch Case	Riverside, N. J.	2/16/54
Guyer-Enfield	Springfield, Mass.	2/17/54
Anchor Slide Fastener	Westbury, L. I., N. Y.	2/19/54
Douglas Labs	New York, N. Y.	2/19/54
Vickers	Detroit, Mich.	3/5/54
Underwood	Bridgeport, Conn.	3/9/54
Remington-Rand Tab Servicemen	San Francisco Area	3/9/54
Montague Rod & Reel	Greenfield, Mass.	3/25/54
GE Warehouse	Cleveland, Ohio	4/2/54
P. R. Mallory	Frankfort, Ind.	4/13/54
GE Apparatus Service Shop	Minneapolis, Minn.	4/16/54
Power Equipment	Detroit, Mich.	4/22/54
Andrew J. Lloyd Co.	Boston, Mass.	4/28/54
Westinghouse M & R	Huntington, W. Va.	5/5/54
Westinghouse (Sales & Warehouse)	Huntington, W. Va.	5/5/54
Square D	Los Angeles, Calif.	5/11/54
Arma Corp. (IBM Operators)	Brooklyn, N. Y.	5/19/54
Wilcolator	Elizabeth, N. J.	5/20/54
Mercer Foundry	Dayton, Ohio	5/20/54
Westinghouse	Columbus, Ohio	5/26/54
F. B. Dickenson & Co.	Des Moines, Iowa	5/26/54
Remington Rand	Toronto, Ont., Canada	5/31/54
Conmar Zipper (Salary)	Newark, N. J.	6/15/54
North Bros.	Philadelphia, Pa.	6/2/54
Sylvania	Batavia, N. Y.	6/10/54
Montgomery Frost Co.	Boston, Mass.	6/11/54
Mid-South Metal Prods.	Memphis, Tenn.	6/13/54
GE (Aircraft Service)	Dallas, Tex.	6/23/54
GE (Apparatus Service)	Dallas, Tex.	6/23/54
GE (Main Plant)	Schenectady, N. Y.	6/30/54

## IUE-CIO 301 On the Job

Bldg. 60: Steward De Forge and his group are protesting supervision's attempt to transfer men from 1st to 2nd shift in disregard of seniority. Union demands management correct this violation.

Bldg. 93: Wm. Heritage was bumped from his job as Machine Repair Class C 1.86 and placed on a 1.64 Hand Clean job. Steward Garrison has processed a case for proper bump.

Bldg. 273: Steward D. Gunn pointed out verbally to Foreman F. Marshall that overtime was not being equally divided between shifts. His answer was that he did not care. Union demands management inform this foreman he must comply with Contract.

Bldg. 273: Steward L. Curtis has filed a case protesting discrimination against F. Simek. Union demands Management investigate and correct this situation.

Bldg. 10C: J. Chiachiarretta, Cylindrical Grinder Operator 2.11 AER is to be laid off for lack of work. Union demands shortest service employee leave group according to Contract.

Bldg. 26: Ruth McKinney has received notice of layoff due to lack of work, but has not received comparable offer. Union demands suitable offer according to Contract.

Bldg. 273: Steward Aldrich has filed a grievance for 29 in his group protesting the attitude of Foreman Cummings. Union demands Management investigate and correct where there is discrimination, favoritism in upgrading, failure to have overtime list available, failure to discuss problems and to properly classify for work performed.

Bldg. 273: R. Horton, Turbopump Operator, has only been offered crane follower at time of layoff. Union demands proper bump according to Contract.

Bldg. 273: Steward Palleschi's group demands Management correct the situation caused by farming out work. Chippers with as much as 8 years service have been laid off for alleged lack of work.

Bldg. CART: A. Iofus has been laid off due to lack of work. Steward McLean has processed a case for proper offers.

### Price Increases Won



After 17 weeks of disruption by the National UE outsiders, grievance procedures began to get back to normal last week. Joe Gilmore and Walt Zolad, Boring Mill Operators in Bldg. 16, can verify this by the 2 cases settled in one day by their Shop Steward, Paul Beach. Both were price disputes and as a result of grievances filed by Steward Beach, one job was raised 11.00, the other 24.00.

## Local 301 Making Work Survey

IUE Local 301 has initiated a plant-wide survey on unemployment and short time work.

During the past 4 months the Union has not been receiving information on layoffs and rotating schedules, and, therefore, is not in a position to make an accurate appraisal of the amount of unemployment and dislocation caused by lack of work. Many workers are losing time from the job and the Company is not reporting this lack of work in their public statements. Likewise, many workers have been transferred to lower rated jobs which has reduced their earnings—this condition is caused by unemployment and is not reported.

The shop stewards have been sent questionnaires to be filled out, giving information on the unemployment situation in their respective groups. The Union is asking all members to cooperate with the shop stewards so that we can get the most complete information on this problem in to the Union office as quickly as possible.

## Mayor Wemple Calls First Meeting On Jobs July 8

As a result of the Ordinance adopted by the City Council on March 1, 1954, Mayor Archibald C. Wemple called the first meeting of what will be known as "The Schenectady Commission of Commerce and Industrial Progress", on July 8, 1954. Representatives of labor, industry, the Clergy, Chamber of Commerce and City and County Government attended this meeting. President James J. Cognetta represented IUE-CIO Local 301.

Several sub-committees were set up, covering unemployment at G.E. and American Locomotive, public projects and new industry. Cognetta was appointed Chairman of the Public Projects Committee.

The meeting discussed unemployment and how to solve it, allocating sub-committees to investigate the situation. The last point considered was to encourage new industry into Schenectady. Jim Cognetta pointed out that General Electric's decentralization plan of transferring jobs is aggravating the unemployment situation and making conditions worse, not better. He pointed out that, so far, the employees displaced last year through the Cable and Carboly Department's moves have been absorbed in other departments, mainly because the number of people in either department was small. However, the plan to transfer the Industrial Control Department may affect several thousand employees.

## Communist Official Newspaper Condemns Elections

The Daily Worker described the defeat of the National U.E. in Schenectady as a victory for Senator McCarthy and the Taft-Hartley Board.

It actually paraphrased the statement made by Michael Jimenez, International U.E. representative, when he first received the report on the counting of the ballots. The Daily Worker said a minority has voted for I.U.E.-C.I.O. - Local 301. These figures were arrived at by talking the unemployed and those out for illness, compensation, and other reasons back 12 months which numbered 3000 people. The unemployed hardly ever vote in any election—even the Communists know this to be a fact.

16,760 were eligible among the actively employed. Approximately 2000 did not vote. I.U.E.-C.I.O. Local 301 received 9005 votes; National U.E. received 5,179, approximately a 4000 plurality for I.U.E. Local 301.

No matter how you look at it, the facts are practically 2 to 1 in favor of I.U.E.-Local 301.

County Welfare Commissioner Leo Vosburg pointed out that while his case load caused by unemployment is low at present, he expects the welfare cases will increase when more people exhaust their insurance benefits in the next few months.

Mr. Strobe claimed the present economic problem is beyond the control of G.E. However, he admitted that within the next three years the Company would transfer

## Discount Cards Available to Members

The identification cards which entitle Union members and their families to a substantial discount were stapled to the dues authorization and application cards. However, those members who did not receive identification cards may obtain them at Union Headquarters.

A slight bit of confusion was created at the Car Wash plant when the new cards were presented—the attendant had not seen the IUE-CIO cards and was recognizing the old UE cards. The Union office straightened out this situation immediately.

The Bi-Mor store has pointed out that on articles covered by the Fair Trades Law the discount cannot be applied.

The Union is in the process of discussing a plan with a large discount house which will cover a variety of articles and will benefit our members.

the Industrial Control work to three other locations.

Mr. Heckler from the U. S. Employment Service reported that the people looking for work, according to his files, showed an increase from May 31st, 1953 to June 30, 1954.

May 31, 1953 — 1,483 looking for jobs.

June 30, 1954 — 5,375 looking for jobs.

## IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301, REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY GE WORKERS

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