

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE CIO

Vol. 2 — No. 15

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

January 27, 1956

Westinghouse Strikers End 15th Week

The Westinghouse Strike goes on with little progress in reaching a settlement as it ends its 15th week.

The issues remain the same with the Company proposing to scrap a contract that has a year to run and proposing a substitute in its place. The Company's proposal is inferior to

the offer made by G. E. and accepted by our Union. The Company proposes to time study day workers and set quotas of production. They refuse to include in their proposal an arbitration provision which equals the one in the G. E. contract. However, they insist on penalizing over 100 Westinghouse strikers by stating they will not be reemployed upon settlement of the strike for actions on the picket line. They propose to arbitrate these 100 cases individually which would take several years.

The Company has stood firm on these issues which makes a settlement practically impossible. The Union's offer to arbitrate was turned down by the Westinghouse officials who claimed that arbitration of the strike issues would not be fair to their stock holders. However, the Westinghouse officials who are prolonging the strike apparently think 15 weeks of no production is O. K. for the stock holder.

While we go to press, the reports from Pittsburg, where negotiations are under way with the help of the U. S. Federal Mediation Department, rumor that there may be some headway being made towards a settlement.

(Continued on Page 2)

Standing Committees Approved by Membership

At the January membership meeting the eleven Standing Committees and their personnel was approved.

The Legislative Committee which consists of the entire Executive Board intends to meet in Albany, Monday, Feb. 6th, to contact legislative representatives on certain State legislation beneficial to our membership.

The Activities Committee held its first meeting at Union Headquarters Thursday evening to discuss the program for 1956.

Membership Elect Conference Board Delegates

At the January membership meeting nominations and elections were held for G. E. Conference Board delegates for 1956. The first and third shift meetings elected James Cognetta and Leo Jandreau and the second shift meeting elected John Warren.

The G. E. Conference Board represents all General Electric IUE Locals covered by the National Contract. The Board elects the National Negotiations Committee, and, likewise, the Conference Board is a policy making body in coordinating the activities of the GE-IUE Locals.

The Board meets quarterly for regular meetings to discuss problems referred from G. E. Locals.

301 Committee Investigates Surplus Food

Local 301 Welfare Committee composed of President James Cognetta and Board Members Allen Townsend and Ralph Vitallo met with Welfare Commissioner Leo Vosburg last week to discuss Government surplus food.

Our committee was informed that Schenectady would be one of the areas to be used as a distribution center. The food would be available on March 1st for those already on county welfare. Others not on county welfare would be entitled to surplus food on or after April 1st provided those making application could meet certain welfare requirements as to maximum

(Continued on Page 2)

State AFL-CIO Maps Labor Legislative Program

In a letter from Harold Garno, legislative representative, the Union's program for labor legislation this year in New York State is chock full of demands for improvements in various fields that will help the working men and women of our State. Much of this legislation is long overdue and the labor representatives in Albany are hoping for support from both Democrat and Republican legislators in the Assembly and Senate this year to enact labor's program before the adjournment. The program in brief covers the following:

Workmen's Compensation

1. Increase weekly benefits \$25.00 min.-\$40.00 max. \$4.00 additional for each dependent — max. 3 dependents. Death benefit increased to \$45.00 for widows.
2. Compensation benefits should start from day of disability.
3. Increase benefits now being paid to permanently disabled workers.
4. Liberalize basis of payment for disfigurement regardless of whether earning capacity is impaired.
5. Liberalize rules on loss of vision that can be corrected.
6. Payment of compensation due to partial disability from Silicosis or other dust sickness.
7. Physicians must be required to transmit all reports to claimant or his authorized representative.
8. Claimants to be paid for time lost while attending hearings.

Unemployment Insurance

1. Repeal of Hughes-Brees Amendments.
2. Extend coverage to establishments employing 1 person.
3. Increase maximum weekly benefit to \$40.00 plus \$4.00 for each dependent, maximum 3 dependents.
4. Extend benefit period to 36 weeks.

(Continued on Page 4)

Membership Votes \$10,000 to Westinghouse Strike

At the January membership meeting all shifts voted unanimously to send \$10,000 to the Westinghouse strikers, making a total of \$30,000 donated to the strikers from IUE Local 301. The Westinghouse strikers, members of IUE, have been on strike since October 17, 1955.

On January 17, 1956, Senator Pat McNamara made a report on the floor of the U. S. Senate pointing out that Governors of 3 states, mayors of several cities, Congressmen from several Districts and the Director of Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service urged the Company and the Union to arbitrate or a Fact Finding Board be used as a means of reaching settlement in the strike. He pointed out that the Union had agreed to accept the recommendations made by the Governors. However, he also pointed out that the Company had refused to accept such recommendations. Senator McNamara read individually the communications from each Government head and the Union's and Company's reply which was made part of the Congressional Record.

ISSUE MISSING

Westinghouse Strike . . .

HERE'S THE SCORE, LOCAL BY LOCAL

Local 111, Philadelphia, Pa.

Strike solid. No scabs. Greatly aroused by Columbus death and police brutality there. Call for memorial to Troy Tadlock.

Local 130, Baltimore, Maryland

Same number of scabs going in. Company threatening strikers with loss of jobs. Cops mass on picket lines. Local reaffirmed support of strike at well-attended membership meeting Saturday, Jan. 7.

Locals 202 and 219, Springfield, Mass.

Strike is solid and members determined. Appeals for aid going out to all AFL-CIO locals in state.

Local 239, Bridgeport, Conn.

No one going in despite company attempt at back-to-work movement. Strike solid. UE 209 still solid although 100 scabs going in. Some pickets have been arrested.

Locals 315 and 1581, Buffalo, N. Y.

Strike solid. No scabs. Support from unions in area is very good. Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers have pledged 25 cents per member per week. Auto workers 10 cents. Expect hefty aid also from Steel and Rubber workers.

Locals 401 and 491, Metuchen, N. J.

Strike solid. No trouble yet. Westinghouse Vice President Hodnette addressed plant supervisors last week. Told them they must start back-to-work movement. So far no signs of any such attempt.

Locals 410 and 412, Bloomfield and Belleville, N. J.

Solid. No scabs. Company tried to move out machinery to southern plant. Didn't get away with it. (see story). Locals, along with other New Jersey locals, picketed Wall Street again demanding stockholders' meeting.

Local 426, Newark, N. J.

Car parade calls on Westinghouse to "Stop Bloodshed." Agree to Arbitrate," etc. No scabs, no back-to-work movement. Join in picketing Wall Street headquarters of Westinghouse, members of board of directors. Company once again trying to get injunction—

using provocation. Telling supervisors to drive cars in—they never have before, for good reason, there is no parking space.

Local 449, Trenton, N. J.

Very few scabs. Number dropping daily, 12 more on Friday became fed up with company, won't go in any more. Strike solid.

Local 456, Jersey City, N. J.

Morale good. Strikers determined. A few scabs (very few). Police outnumber pickets at least 5 to 1. Getting tougher all the time. Memorial service for Troy Tadlock set for today.

Local 601, E Pittsburgh, Pa.

Strike really solid. No scabs even trying to enter. Only ones entering are those with passes which they display to pickets.

Local 617, Sharon, Pa.

30 fewer scabs Monday: 37 scabs fell off Friday. Many asking to be taken off scab list. Back-to-work movement real flop. Several drivers of cars which management has rented from Ohio have been arrested for hitting pickets. (No one seriously injured). Scab list will be published very soon and will be posted all over town—including all veterans' and fraternal organizations. Strike solid. Morale good.

Local 627, Fairmont, W. Va.

Management has again shown contempt for its own signed agreement. Local through agreement reached between sheriff, union and company had been permitting salaried personnel to go through. Agreement specified that no production etc. would be attempted. Last Wednesday railroad police carrying guns rode train of 15 cars into plant and moved out cars full of sealed beam and fluorescent lamps which salaried people had loaded. Sheriff Campbell accused company of violating its agreement. Next morning solid picket line kept salaried personnel out. Only maintenance men entered. Local President George Dragich accused company of "bad faith, and breach of agreement."

Local 670, Huntington, W. Va.

No scabs. Strike solid. Steelworkers, other local unions "adopting" strikers.

Locals 711 and 759, Mansfield, Ohio

10 less scabs today (Monday). Cops getting tougher, threaten to knock down picket shacks. Mansfield chief of police announced that if he found two strikers congregating on streets they would be arrested.

Local 714, Newark, Ohio

A few scabs going in (15 reported). But membership remains

strong, united and determined. Trying to talk 15 out of entering. Have been successful in doing so in part.

Locals 724 and 760, Lima, Ohio.

Morale good. Some scabs still going in but number decreasing. Meeting last Monday expressed solid support and real determination. Company trying all kinds of provocation.

Local 746, Columbus, Ohio

SEE STORY.

Local 777, Cleveland, Ohio

Strike real solid. No scabs. No attempt at back-to-work movement. Much aroused by Columbus brutality.

Locals 1502 and 850, Los Angeles, Cal.

Morale good. No scabs. No attempt to operate plant. Plant gate collections continue—still successful.

Local 906, Union City, Ind.

Membership meeting last Tuesday got reports of Columbus police and company brutality. Renewed pledge to strike until just-settlement is reached. Urge drastic action to be taken against Columbus police brutality. Some scabs still going in. One scab was arrested for indecency (public exposure) on safe company property. Have filed libel suit against another scab for calling union officer communist.

Westinghouse Strikers End 15th Week

(Continued from Page 1)

Last week in Columbus, Ohio, where the Westinghouse Company employed approximately 4,200, the strikers have been hard hit as the result of 89 strikers and their families being evicted from their homes and banks and other loan agencies have repossessed 200 automobiles from strikers who could not keep up their payments. Also, a few scabs broke through the picket lines and are working.

The strike has been a bitter one in every location and while we continue to send strike assistance to our Westinghouse brothers and sisters, we all hope that a settlement will be in the near offing.

Unity In St. Louis

Not waiting for local AFL-CIO merger the St. Louis Labor's League for Political Education has changed its name to the St. Louis COPE. The organization has extended an invitation to the Political Action Committee to work with them on a joint basis.

Shop Steward Classes Well Attended

Last Monday night Local 301's annual Shop Steward Classes got underway with Asst. Business Agent Fred Sheehan conducting the session for Shop Stewards under Executive Board Members Charles Scott and Harry Williams. The following night Asst. Business Agent Serafin Pita conducted the class for Shop Stewards under Executive Board Members Jerry O'Brien, Bill Christman and J. Whitbeck.

These sessions will continue 2 nights each week until the entire Shop Stewards Body has been covered. By attending these classes a Steward shows his sincerity and interest in his duties by sacrificing the time necessary to familiarize himself with the responsibilities of his important role as a Union official.

The attendance record this year is the highest since the classes were first started. Those Stewards unable to attend the night they are scheduled may make arrangements through the Union office to attend on another evening at their convenience. Every Steward owes it to the group he represents to attend the class.

301 Committee Investigates Surplus Food

(Continued from Page 1)

monthly earnings and with minimum resources. The surplus food is earmarked for those in low income brackets with large families including unemployed on or off relief. For example, a household with 4 people could not have an income of over \$224.00 per month and could not have bank accounts or bonds in excess of \$675.00 in order to be eligible for surplus food which approximates 3 times monthly income. The income per month increases approximately \$35.00 for each additional person in the household to be within the welfare standards of eligibility.

The food items available at the time are: cheese, butter, beef, shortening, dry milk and corn meal.

Too Much Pressure

The AFL-CIO merger convention in New York and the Republican controversy on organized labor led to members of Local 6, Hotel Restaurant Workers, winning a pretty neat contract with the National Republican Club. The threat of a picket line at the time was more than managers of the widely-publicized club could take.

Reuther Favors a Shorter Work Week

Labor will seek a shorter work week and extension of the principle of the guaranteed annual wage, United Automobile Workers President Walter P. Reuther predicts in the current American Magazine.

Reuther says that every American worker, whether or not he carries a union card, is entitled to "sufficiently high wages to give him the means of enjoying the products of industry and agriculture" and a "steady year-round income instead of the ups and downs which have created insecurity."

The UAW president, who is a vice-president and member of the Executive Committee of the AFL-CIO, writes that the test for machines is not how much they can produce but whether we have learned to "distribute the wealth that such machines produce."

"The true measure of the greatness of our civilization," he says, is "our ability to translate material wealth into human values and technical progress into human dignity."

"A shorter work week will continue to be one of the long-standing goals of labor, and improvements in technology" will make possible a reduction of weekly hours, he predicts.

Workers do not want a "short work week of the kind we had in the dark depression days," when they "shared misery," he says, but a "sharing of the abundance that the economy of America is capable of producing."

What Is A Scab?

Here is how a scab was defined, many years ago, by Jack London, famed novelist:

"After God finished the rattlesnake, the toad and the vampire, he had some awful substance left with which he made a SCAB.

"A SCAB is a two-legged animal with a corkscrew soul, a water-logged brain and a combination backbone made of jelly and glue. Where others have hearts, he carries a tumor of rotten principles.

"When a SCAB comes down the street, men turn their backs and angels weep in heaven, and the devil shuts the gates of Hell to keep him out.

"No man has a right to SCAB as long as there is a pool of water deep enough to drown his body in or a rope long enough to hang his carcass with.

"Judas was a gentleman compared to a SCAB. For betraying his Master, he had character enough to hang himself. A SCAB hasn't.

"Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. Judas sold his Savior for 30 pieces of silver. Benedict Arnold sold his country for a promise of a commission in the British Army.

"The modern strike-breaker sells his birthright, his country, his wife, his children and his fellow men for an unfulfilled promise from his employer or corporation.

"Esau was a traitor to himself.

"Judas was a traitor to his God.

"Benedict Arnold was a traitor to his country.

"A strike-breaker is a traitor to his God, his country, his family and his class!"

IUE-CIO 301 On the Job

IUE Local 301 handles thousands of grievances at all levels each year. These are just a few examples of cases, not settled at steward-foreman level, to be processed at management level.

Bldg. 273: G. Puerto under Shop Steward G. Rose requests transfer to 1st shift since there is an opening on his job. Union demands transfer to 1st shift.

Bldg. 16: Group of Lathe Operators under Shop Steward J. Roca protest excessive lost time. Since supervision cannot show an accurate work load, they demand reduction of forces according to Contract.

Bldg. 285: Group of Handymen under Shop Steward L. Riano are being assigned the duties of material movement. Union demands proper reclassification and rate increase.

Bldg. 15: Group under Shop Steward R. Weaver protest inadequate price of 6.95 on job 2026204 to punch center holes. Union demands proper increase in price.

Bldg. 50: George Volpe, C1 C Packer, has been assigned and is performing C1 B work. Union demands proper reclassification and rate increase.

Bldg. 12: Group under Shop Steward B. Mont are not receiving proper payment for time spent in attending the Company dispensary. Union demands proper payment according to Contract and past practice.

Bldg. 16: Group under Shop Steward H. Williams protest price of .40 ea. and .76 SU for tack mounting 436-3254B drwg 692B179. This price includes operations #2 and #3 for which there are standard prices of .40 ea. and .48 SU on Operation #2 and .45 each, and .48 SU on Operation #3. Union demands restoration and adjustment to standard price of .85 ea. and .96 SU.

Bldg. 273: Group under Shop Steward T. Gregory protest cut in standard price in violation of Contract Article VI-4(b). Union demands standard price of 4.60 be restored for taping series connection joints as on 180-3805 drwg. 159C662.

Merger Convention in Canada In April

The call to the merger convention which will give Canada a united labor movement of one million members has been sent out by the Unity Committee of the Canadian Trades & Labor Congress and the Canadian Congress of Labor.

The first constitutional convention of the Canadian Labor Congress, as the merged organization will be called, will be held in Toronto the week of April 23, 1956. Canadian locals of unions which in the U. S. were affiliated with the former AFL belong to the TLC, those associated with the former CIO to the CCL.

Bldg. 273: Group of 3rd shift operators under Shop Steward E. Collis request to receive their pay checks on Thursday night or by Friday 7:30 a.m. They feel that since there are less than 500 employees involved and new machines and systems in use, that management should comply.

Bldg. 85: Raymond Pelletier, Borematic Operator has been absent due to illness since 10/12/55. Union demands proper placement.

Bldg. 8: Group under Shop Steward R. Leonard working on Clean Investment Castings, request increase in job rate based on requirements of the job. Union demands proper increase.

Bldg. 16: Group of Assembler Erectors under Shop Steward F. Maranville were not offered reasonably comparable work when a lack of work on the regular job existed upon reporting. Union demands payment according to Contract, Article V-8-(b).

Bldg. 76: Skid group under Shop Steward M. Barry protest the position Foreman Lyon has taken in an attempt to reduce standard prices that have been in effect many years and where no new method has been introduced. Union demands management correct this situation.

Bldg. 273: Ray Vines has received sickness benefit checks, but has now been informed he will not receive further payment because he has a controverted compensation case. Union demands payments be continued.

Bldg. 69: Anthony Di Cocco, Radial Drill Press Operator with 15 years of service has been absent due to illness since May 1955. Union demands suitable placement.

Bldg. 15: Group under Shop Steward E. Senecal protest inadequate price on Rotor Spider Parts 202C204. Union demands management investigate and make proper increase.

Bldg. 269: E. H. Pickney in Shop Steward M. Bly's group has been refused increase to job rate, although he is doing the complete job. Union demands proper increase.

Bldg. 11: Stator Stacking group under Shop Steward N. DeMarco protest inadequate job rate for stacking synchronous motors. Union demands proper increase.

First 3 Months Cost of Living Report Out

According to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Cost of Living Index for the past three months is 114.7. The September 15, 1955 index was 114.9 which is the base used in the contract to govern wage increases due to increased cost of living. Therefore, the Government survey claims cost of living has declined on the average by 2 tenths of a point. It requires an increase of 5 tenths over the Sept. 15, 1955 Index before wage adjustments will be due. However, a decrease in cost of living will not affect wages.

IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301, REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY GE WORKERS

Published by the Editorial Committee

President.....James J. Cagnotta
Vice President.....Joseph Alois
Treasurer.....Joseph Whitbeck
Recording Secretary.....Miles Moran
Asst. Recording Secretary.....Allen E. Townsend
Chief Shop Steward.....William Mastriani
Business Agent.....Leo Jandrew
121 ERIE BLVD. SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

