



## April 25 Dance To Celebrate 20 Years of Union Progress

UE Local 301 will hold its big 20th anniversary dance at the union hall on Saturday night, April 25. A complete redecoration of the hall is planned in preparation for the event.

Plans for the dance were approved by the executive board Monday. Tickets will sell for \$1 each, with the price including refreshments. Arrangements are being made to hire a top dance orchestra to provide the music.

This social event, actually the first on the crowded 1953 union calendar, will mark 20 years of industrial unionism in Schenectady. It was in 1933 that the Electric City Industrial Union was organized by GE workers, sick and tired of pay cuts and miserable working conditions.

This union 3 years later affiliated with the newly-organized UE as Local 301. From an organization of a few hundred, the union has grown to a mighty force of 17,000 men and women. Sweatshop wages and conditions have been replaced by high standards. It will be this progress that will be celebrated by the April 25 dance.

Distribution of the dance tickets, which will be necessarily limited, will begin in the shops in about a week.

### Fight New IH Attack

UE Local 236 members in Louisville, Ky., this week, were fighting against the latest attempt of the company to break their union. This attempt took the form of the suspension of 64 workers who had protested the failure of management to process their grievances. The grievances grew out of a company speedup program.

Local 236 represents 4,500 Harvester workers in Louisville.

## Give Complete Breakdown Of Grievance Jurisdiction

UE Local 301's new setup in which each 3 assistant business agents has jurisdiction over approximately one-third of the Schenectady works grievance machinery went into effect this week as the new assistant, Roy Schaffer, took up his duties at the union office.

Main purpose of the system is to

### Buffalo Wage Meeting Adopts 19c Pay Demand

Forty-six delegates from UE locals in Western New York drew up an economic program featuring a demand for pay increases of at least 19c an hour at a wage conference in Buffalo on Sunday.

Represented were UE-organized shops in the Attica, Buffalo, Jamestown and Tonawandas areas. The delegates agreed on a basic outline of economic demands to be presented to the nearly 2 dozen companies with which the union has contracts.

The 19c demand was based on the lag between wages and living costs, based on the UE cost-of-living index. It represents the average amount needed by the workers in the area to catch up with rising prices and taxes.

Also approved were minimum demands on inequities, piece work safeguards, vacations, holidays and welfare provisions. Among these demands were those calling for elimination of pay discrimination against women, skilled workers and day workers.

On the question of pensions, the locals agreed that company-paid pension of \$100 a month exclusive of social security was in order.

make each of the assistants experts in the handling of problems of his section of the plant. A complete breakdown of the jurisdictions is printed below. Shop stewards are urged to contact the business agent over their building on all grievance matters. The breakdown:

Fred Sheehan—Turbine, Building 273; Gas Turbine, 49; and Motor Generator, 16, 52, 64, 66, part of 60.

Serafin Pita—Aeronautics, 10C, 23, 24, 26, 28, 46, part of 60, part of Campbell Ave.; Ordinance Manufacturing, Campbell Ave.

Also Industrial Control, 53, 69, 73, 73A, 81, 89, 285, part of 60; and Small and Medium Motor, 11, 15, 17, 18, 19, 40.

Roy Schaffer—Schenectady works, screw machine and building trades, 15F, 60 and 63; General Machine Repair, 101; Power Stations, 13, 61, 258; Salvage, 93; Grounds and Buildings, 107.

Also Transportation, 84, 227; Drop Forge, 97; Fire Patrol, 49A; Office Service, 2, 22, 23; Shipping and Receiving, 50, 59; Wire and Cable, 85, 109; Carpenter-Cabinet, 72, 74, 76.

Also Special Metals, 10; Foundries, 57, 95, 99, 99A; Porcelain, 68; Tube, 269; Racetrack; Research Lab, Knolls; Engineering Lab, 5, 37; Chemical Products, 67, 71, 75, 77, 77A, 79, 234; Laminated Insulation, 29; Industrial Heating, 105.

## Question and Answer Corner

Every day in the shops UE stewards and active members are approached by their fellow members and asked certain questions on our union. In an effort to help provide complete answers to these questions, this paper will from time to time print some of the most common inquiries, together with what UE believes to be complete, factual and honest answers.

**Question:** UE often speaks of the Carey-led split in our union as a division planned and inspired by GE, Westinghouse and the other big corporations. Just how have these corporations benefited from the split?

**Answer:** The sad truth is that since the 1949 split, all unions in the electrical industry as well as throughout the labor movement have devoted a great portion of

their time to fighting each other, rather than to fighting the companies. In other words, instead of the workers battling the bosses, the workers are put into the position of fighting other workers whose basic interests are the same as theirs.

Every time the IUE-CIO launches a raid against the UE, Carey spends thousands of dollars of his members' money for disruptive activities. At the same time, UE is forced to spend money, the time of its organizational staff and the efforts of its members to defend itself.

On the negotiations front, the split is even more harmful. Back in the old days, the workers were able to present a united front

against the companies to win wage increases, better conditions and security. Now the companies all too often are able to play one union against another, and come out without giving anybody very much of anything.

When it comes to new organization, the life blood of a union, the situation is just as bad. It used to be that a union went in to organize the unorganized knowing that the workers would have a clear choice—union wages and conditions versus unorganized or company-union sweatshop conditions. Now, the situation is that a worker is often faced with a choice from among 5 or 6 unions, none of which he or she has any experience with, on an NLRB ballot. Frequently, the result is a "no union" vote.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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Friday, April 3, 1953



## Negotiations Deadlocked as GE Refuses To Budge from 'Zero or Less' Proposal

General Electric management Tuesday refused to budge from its arrogant "zero or less" offer to UE members, bringing the reopening negotiations between the company and union to an almost complete deadlock. Union demands are for a substantial wage increase, payment

### 301 To Show TV Film on FDR April 12

UE Local 301 will sponsor a special Franklin D. Roosevelt memorial program over television station WRGB on Sunday, April 12, the 8th anniversary of the death of the late president.

Feature of the show, which will be on channel 4 from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m., will be a film, "The Roosevelt Story." This film depicts the life and accomplishments of FDR and includes a number of newsreels of famous Roosevelt speeches. In addition, there is a commentary which clearly points up the role of the late president in drawing up a program in the interests of the American people.

New York—A 12½c wage boost has been negotiated for 150,000 clothing workers by the CIO Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union.

The new pact, providing the workers with their first wage boost since 1950, was agreed on by the Clothing Manufacturers Association, which acts for 850 factories making 90% of all men's clothing turned out in the U. S.

## National UE Proposes United Action To Aid Cincy Strikers

UE has proposed a meeting with leaders of 2 striking GE unions to discuss the working out of a program of support for the men and women on the picket lines. The proposal was

contained in telegrams from the UE-GE conference board to leaders of the AFL machinists' and the CIO autoworkers' locals on strike against the company at the Even-

Pittsburgh—AFL heavy construction workers have won wage increases of 8c to 10c an hour as the result of a strike which idled 25,000 Western Pennsylvania workers for 3 days.

New Haven, Conn.—Employees of the MB Manufacturing Co. shop have won a 5% wage boost retroactive to March 1 in a new contract negotiated by UE Local 243.

New York—More than 3,000 workers employed by 1,150 independent drug stores in the New York area have won a 5-day, 40-hour week in a new contract negotiated by Local 1199 of the Distributive, Processing and Office Workers union. The pact also provides wage increases ranging from \$4 to \$7.50 a week.

AIDS LOCAL 332. UE Local 301 Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani, pictured above, has agreed to attend the next shop stewards' meeting of UE Local 332, representing GE workers in Fort Edward and Hudson Falls, to teach a class on time studies.

These resolutions emphasized the importance of the success of the Cincinnati strikers to the negotiations of UE and all other unions dealing with General Electric. The company is seeking to force the 2 striking locals to accept wage scales almost identical to those now prevailing in UE-organized plants. It is felt that if the company is successful in beating the strike, our job in gaining a substantial wage increase will be even tougher than it is.

era. It will be the only television tribute to FDR scheduled in the area.

Roosevelt's views on organized labor are high-lighted in the picture. It shows clearly the difference between the FDR Wagner Act days, when millions of workers were organized, and the Taft-Hartley slave labor law days which followed the death of Roosevelt.

Showing of the film is considered particularly important because of the tremendous efforts by the big corporations and their spokesmen to make the working people forget FDR and all that he stood for. Other UE locals throughout the country are presenting similar programs designed to pierce the curtain of silence and slander which is being dropped around the memory of one of the greatest Americans who ever lived.

That the company had no intention of making a sincere offer was clear from the "no further negotiations" gimmick thrown in. This gimmick provided that if UE members would accept the 1.79% wage increase proposed now, they would not be able to negotiate on wages in September when the full contract is open for bargaining.

Following Tuesday's meeting with the company in New York, the union negotiating committee set a meeting among its members for early next week. This gathering will be for the purpose of discussing further steps to be taken to force the company to make a reasonable offer. No dates have been set for future meetings with GE management.

UE Local 301 Business Agent Leo Jandreau represented the Schenectady union on the negotiating group. Jandreau is expected to report back to the local at next Monday's meeting of shop stewards.

**Report COL Down**  
The Bureau of Labor Statistics cost of living index showed a 4% drop between Jan. 15 and Feb. 15, it was announced this week.



AIDS LOCAL 332. UE Local 301 Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani, pictured above, has agreed to attend the next shop stewards' meeting of UE Local 332, representing GE workers in Fort Edward and Hudson Falls, to teach a class on time studies.

## Harvester Corporation Sends 277 Home—4,500 Hit Bricks

UE workers at International Harvester's big Chicago tractor plant last week served notice on the company that their militancy had not been lessened by last year's long strike, when they walked out for 2 days to protest wage cuts and suspensions.

It was a demonstration which took management completely by surprise. The company tried to show its fangs by suspending 277 workers for 3 days in a dispute over piecework rates. Taking the position that "if they don't work, we don't work," 4,500 other workers at the tractor plant joined the suspended workers on the streets.

After recovering from the first shock of this militant action, the company tried some of its old strike-breaking tricks by inviting the wives of the workers to inspect the plant and have lunch on International Harvester. The women met and unanimously voted to support the workers and to denounce the company effort to "di-

vide our households." Harvester management has been following a policy of trying to crack down on the workers through unjust disciplinary actions and speedup ever since the end of last year's 3-month strike. However, company efforts have everywhere been met by a stone wall of UE unity.

### Council Set for Utica

UE's District 3 council, which groups together 35,000 Upstate New York workers, will hold its next quarterly meeting in Utica on April 18, District President Lewis King announced this week. Local 301's 5-member delegation to the council consists of James Brown, 273; William Kelly, 273; Leo Jandreau; William Mastriani, 73A; and William Templeton, 13.



Bldg. 21: G. Guerriero has been performing satisfactory work as a B operator for the past 2 years. The union demands that she be given the 1st available opportunity to do an A job.

Class B male assemblers have been working on potentiometer assembly job 9791505-G4 for the past 2 years on day work. Now the job is being converted to piece work and women are being brought in for it. The union demands that these new operators be paid the same rate as the workers who have been doing the job.

Bldg. 40: In a recent time study a like operation on collector rings was timed at 22 1/2 sec. The operators were compelled by Foreman Tanski to run the study at maximum speeds and feeds without making normal allowances. The contract provides that all time studies must be made under normal conditions and with normal effort. The union therefore demands that this job be retimed.

Group under Foreman Tanski protests against his completely unfair attitude and the working conditions he has sought to impose. Tanski's manner is uncouth, dictatorial and completely unjust. As a result, friction between the workers and supervision has been continuous. The union demands a management investigation to correct this situation.

Group under Foreman Tanski protests the unfair treatment accorded to one of their number, F. Choiniere. This operator, whose work record is excellent, was charged with deliberate work spoilage and possible sabotage right after Planning and Wage Rate increased the speeds and feeds on his machine. The charges are completely false, and the union demands that Choiniere's name

be cleared for the record. It further demands an end to this type of brazen coercion and discrimination which clearly violates contract article IV.

Bldg. 42: Group of accumulators under Foreman Babcock protest unsafe working conditions and other contract violations. They are being ordered to repair and charge batteries, which is beyond their classification. In addition, transporters are unsafe and require repairs, lighting facilities are inadequate and work racks are unsafe. The union demands that management immediately correct these conditions.

Bldg. 69: Plasmiths' group demands restoration of 2 leaders' jobs which were abolished when those involved were upgraded. On many occasions, the workers can not find any supervision to get job instructions. A push button crane has recently been installed and supervision is allowing any worker to operate it. This creates a safety hazard. The union demands assignment of a crane operator to the job.

Bldg. 69: William Brown, an accumulator, is the victim of discrimination by Foreman Stinson. This is a violation of contract article IV-3, and the union demands that this discrimination be stopped. A sub-committee investigation last April resulted in a 10% price increase on 6 jobs. Since then, there have been major changes in speeds and rolls. The union demands that, in order to prevent the operators from suffering losses in earnings, the price adjustment on 5 jobs should be made up to 20%, and on 1 job to 30%.

Irene Patterson was hired about 7 years ago as a name plate and labeling machine operator. Although she has had ample work on

## UE LOCAL 301 STEWARDS MEETING

**2nd SHIFT**  
Monday, April 6, 1953  
1:00 P.M. (before work)

**1st and 3rd SHIFTS**  
Monday, April 6, 1953  
7:30 P.M.

**Local 301 Hall**

### 307 Passes Strike Vote

UE Local 307 in Jamestown voted this week to take strike action against the Dahlstrom Co. unless current negotiations. The vote for the strike was 311 to 26.

Thousands of grievances are handled by UE Local 301 each year at all levels from the steward up to final appeal in New York City. To keep members posted, we shall each week list some of the grievances that have not been settled at the steward-foreman level and have been referred to the executive board-management level.

these machines, she has now been instructed to operate a mimeograph. The union demands that these additional duties be eliminated.

Harry Wright is classified as a B stockkeeper, with a rate of \$1.73 1/2 an hour. There is a need for an A stockkeeper in 69-2, and he would like to have a chance at the first available opening.

Bldg. 73: Supervision now requires all pieces on silver plating operations to be checked by an inspector. This is a new procedure and results in the operations taking longer to complete. Therefore, the union demands an adjustment in price.

Bldg. 81: A year ago, management agreed to an 82¢ timing rate for all A operators on wiring. The union demands that management live up to this agreement by increasing the timing rate on all operators now making 70¢ to 82¢.

Bldg. 269: Joseph Grubar was taken off his regular piece work job to perform another job to suit the company's convenience. He was paid only P.W.D.W. Under the contract, he is entitled to average earnings, and the union demands that he be paid on this basis. Stockroom under Foreman W.

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## Women in Area Face High Costs

Living costs for working women in this area are higher than in New York City and higher than in all other areas of the state except for Rochester, where costs are most identical. This fact was revealed in a recent survey by the New York State Department of Labor.

The department based its report upon prevailing costs in 8 cities scattered through the state. Included from this area was Glens Falls, where it is estimated that a single working woman living with her family needs a minimum yearly income of \$2,499, just under \$50 a week, to scrape along. In New York City, the minimum figure was \$2,456.

Other facts revealed by the survey were that overall living costs for working women had jumped about 37 1/2%, with food prices up about 45% since 1946.

Kerley was always rated as A. Recently the stockkeeper retired, and his replacement, Joseph Morawski, was put in as a B stockkeeper, although none of the duties were changed. The union demands that the stockroom be restored to A, and that Morawski be upgraded accordingly.

Maintenance men are being utilized to work outside of their classification as exhaust and leak test operators, production jobs. The union demands that this contract violation be halted.

Supervision has been utilizing group leaders on production work during overtime. The union demands that this practice be stopped and that contract article V-9 be adhered to.

Bldg. 273: L. Underhill has suffered a loss of earnings because his old machine was moved and lower work was assigned to him, and because prices on new jobs, such as valves and seats are inadequate. The union demands a management investigation to correct this situation.

Alphus: John Woodward is classified as a general maintenance and repair man. He has been used for relocating, bolting and leveling machines in a machine shop. Therefore, he is entitled to a B millwright's rating, and the union demands that he be given it.

Campbell Ave. T. R. Bellinger is classified as a C stock room keeper. His duties and responsibilities go far beyond the C classification. The union demands he be upgraded to B with proper rate adjustment.

Flight Test: Richard Stanton was temporarily transferred to suit company's convenience October, 1951. Before he returned to flight test in Oct., 1952, 2 new men were hired on his old 1st shift job. When he was transferred back, Stanton was forced to take a 2nd shift job, although the new men were kept on 1st shift. Therefore, the union demands that he be immediately transferred to 1st shift.

## April 25 Dance Preparations Give UE Hall That New Look

With a spring cleaning and sprucing up in full swing, the UE Local 301 hall this week began to take on a festive air in preparation for the big 20th anniversary dance to be held there on Saturday evening, April 25.

The job of turning the hall into a spick and span ballroom was being handled by the union activities committee, which also is in charge of preparations for the dance. This first event of the 1953 social season will commemorate 20 years of progress for industrial unionism in Schenectady.

Tickets for the dance will be in the hands of the shop stewards by the beginning of next week. They will sell for only \$1 each, with the admission price covering ample liquid refreshment. Plans are being made to sell more solid stuff at cost.

Since the supply of duets will be sharply limited by the capacity of the hall, persons who want to go to the anniversary dance are urged to buy their admissions early to avoid disappointment. The tickets will also be on sale at the union hall.

Musical for the gala event will be provided by Tony Villano and his orchestra, a group which is already familiar to many union members.

Special efforts are being made to make this year's spring dance an especially attractive event because it marks an important anniversary in the union's history. It was in 1933 that the union which was to grow into UE Local 301, the Electric City Industrial Union, was first organized. For 2 decades our organization has grown through depression, war and Taft-Hartley era struggle.

### UE Scranton Group Visits Schenectady

A 4-person delegation from UE Local 125, which represents GE workers in Scranton, Pa., visited Schenectady last week to get information on rates of jobs which have been moved from here to the Pennsylvania shop.

The Scranton workers were interested in rates and classifications in Tube. It's from this division that the Scranton jobs have been taken. After their 2-day visit, they revealed that GE management is trying to cut rates sharply in its move to Scranton.

Jobs taken from Schenectady to the Pennsylvania shop were moved to replace the washing machine division at Scranton. This division was moved to Louisville, Kentucky by GE. The Louisville runaway is designed to take as many jobs as possible away from union wages and conditions.

### Foreman's Devotion Hits 4 A.M. Peak

Most people who don't have to be up and around at 4 in the morning are content to be home in their nice warm beds. However, one exception is General Foreman William Crosby of Building 269, whose devotion to the company is so great that he's rather spend the wee hours of the morning paying surprise visits to the shop for the purpose of catching people who are allegedly napping on the job and firing them.

Of course, when we say "surprise visits," we should note that they aren't a surprise to everyone. In fact, one outwardly human creature in the shop takes the trouble to crawl over to the phone to point out the general foreman's duty to him.

Crosby's last night raid took place early Monday and he took the trouble to bring along Superintendent Alfred Juckett with him. It netted 5 victims. Interesting enough, Crosby's devotion to the company seems to be like certain rare species of flowers, night-blooming. During the day, this devotion is diminished by his desire to do "small favors" for certain of his favorite people. These favors include allowing these people to use his car to joyride during working hours, permitting cooking of steaks (one of Crosby's favorite dishes) in the shop, also during working hours, and granting the privileged few the opportunity to cash checks, once again during working hours.

## 3 Brass Industry Unions Draft United Action Plan

Plans for achieving a common bargaining program for all employees of the American Brass Co. division of Anaconda copper were worked out last week by delegates from 3 unions at a meeting in Waterbury, Conn.

Attending the united action conference were delegates from UE Local 404, which has bargaining rights for the American Brass plant in Hastings, N. Y., the In-

ternational Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, which represents Brass workers in Ansonia, Conn.; Torrington, Conn., and Buffalo; and AFL Local 19322, bargaining agent for the company's Kenosha, Wis. plant.

Unanimous agreement was reached by the delegates on a program of demands which include 25,000 new jobs for brass workers. This demand was adopted after it had been brought out that post-war machinery improvements have resulted in the loss of more than 5,000 jobs in the Connecticut brass industry alone. Despite the reduction in forces, brass output has gone up 31% since 1947, while profits have skyrocketed 218%.

Thirty hours of work a week with 40 hours pay was another goal set by the conference, as was a construction program aimed at producing low-cost homes for workers, schools, roads, rural electrification and increased public power through river valley authorities.

Before closing out the meeting, the delegates agreed to call a national conference of representatives of all American Brass-Anaconda workers in Chicago to work out a common collective bargaining program for 1953. The Waterbury gathering named a continuations committee consisting of UE Local 404 Financial Secretary Frank Lamb, Mine-Mill Regional Director Irving Dichter and AFL Local 19322 President John Madison.



IF THESE STUPID WORKERS DON'T TAKE A PAY CUT THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE A LIVING WAGE!