

Union's Message to Schenectady

We are here for 16000 striking General Electric workers because we believe that the City Council has an obligation to take a stand on the vital strike and wage issue, involving not just the strikers and their families who form such a large part of the community, but actually affecting the welfare of all the storekeepers, professional men and women, office workers of Schenectady, and the farmers in the surrounding county.

We call your attention to the fact that an increasing number of industrial cities are recognizing their obligations in the present problems of the American worker. Only last night the City Council of Pittsfield, Mass., voted by ten to one to support the local GE employees on strike, and appealed to the company to alter its policy in favor of "a just and equitable attitude toward the wage needs of Pittsfield GE employees." The Mansfield, Ohio council had previously voted for similar action in support of the Westinghouse strikers in that town.

The City's Stake in the Fight
The city fathers of Pittsfield and Mansfield, towns in which electrical workers form an important part of the population, have recognized the direct, immediate stake of the city in the fight of those workers for a living wage.

As you know, the issue in the GE strike is, in its simplest terms, that since V-J Day a GE employee has had his weekly take-home cut from \$45.18 to \$24.59. This is not theory. It is the actual story of the pay check of a good Schenectadian, GE worker, who supports a family of four.

It must be obvious that if this is not corrected, not only will our workers be unable to take proper care of their families, but they will not be buying the farmer's milk, beef, and vegetables. They will not pay bills to the doctor and the dentist, and will be very poor customers of the grocer, baker, butcher, and candlestick maker. Money in our workers' pockets pays the bills.

Money in Charlie Wilson's coffers builds up toward another 1929 crash and depression.

That Gloating GE Ad

How does this City Council feel about the gloating advertisement which GE runs every day in the local press, rubbing its hands over the fact that while it refuses even to try to meet its employees' wage demands, some \$120,000 a day is lost to the workers in wages?

General Electric feels it can afford to gloat, because Mr. Wilson and his fellow captains of industry saw to it during the war, while GE workers were busy producing for victory, that Congress passed a strange tax law under which this company is guaranteed millions of dollars of profits out of the taxes which we the people pay.

But you gentlemen have a responsibility to the city to see to it that not only is the company forced to settle the strike, but that it do so on terms which will restore and maintain the purchasing power of the workers. This cannot be done through higher prices, fabulous profits and resulting inflation. It must be done out of the outrageous profits of this money-hungry corporation.

And you must realize that raises won for the factory workers will mean raises for GE office workers. In the long run it will determine what the small business man earns, and what city policemen and firemen, school teachers, and unorganized office workers are paid in real wages, in food and clothing.

The Record of GE Dealings

The story of our dealings with General Electric is known to you. In months of patient effort by our union to negotiate our \$2-a-day demand, we have met with a curt "No" on the part of the company. It has not offered any facts or figures to justify its position, and of course it cannot do so. When it finally offered with the right hand a ten percent increase, far below the other offers by major companies in dealings with the CIO, it took back the offer

with the left hand by making it conditional upon the union accepting an unlimited speed-up. It refused to obey the War Labor order to stop exploiting its women workers. Its entire conduct before the strike proved that it would understand nothing but compulsion.

The answer as to whether or not General Electric can pay the increases asked for is given directly by an official government survey, out of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, which found that American industry could pay a 24 percent raise in hourly rates, without increasing prices and without loss of profits, simply because of excess tax repeal, reduction of overtime, and downgrading of wartime jobs, and even considering the constantly increasing productivity of workers resulting from technical improvements.

A Dangerous Prospect

The same report found that the 1946 prospect was rising profits for corporations, reduced earnings for workers still employed, and rapidly rising unemployment. That picture, gentlemen, of rising profits and reduced purchasing power in the hands of workers, the great mass of people, spells disaster. It spells a repetition of the post-war period after World War I, which led to a boom and bust, the wiping out of hundreds of thousands of small business men, the foreclosure of hundreds of thousands of farms.

It is to prevent this that millions of CIO members, 25,000 of them in Schenectady, are undergoing their present severe hardships, more than willing to make such a sacrifice in the interest of our community.

Since the strike started General Electric has spent millions of dollars in publicity to attack their employees, misrepresent the facts and issues in the strike, and attempt, most unsuccessfully, to split the 100 percent unity of those workers. GE has run into courts all over the land looking for strikebreaking injunctions. It has even sought to create trouble on the picketline. It has

put pressure on the police to lend themselves to anti-picketing activity. Charlie Wilson has run to Washington to tell the president that GE should be allowed higher prices on its electric irons, washing machines and refrigerators. And Mr. Wilson's friends in Congress have been trying to solve his problems by jamming through the strikebreaking Case bill.

How Not to Settle the Strike

This strike will not be settled in the courts. It will not be settled by attacks on the peaceful picket lines of this union. It will not be settled in the newspapers. And the basic problem of the strikers and the city will not be solved if settlement means price increases which take away the raises given the workers.

In the interest of this community, of the whole country, General Electric must be compelled to settle this strike by meeting substantially the most reasonable wage demands of its employees, and to do so out of its profits, with full maintenance of price control. As long as it fails to settle, then General Electric must be denied the benefits of a tax bonus for its sitdown. It must be prevented from using police against the strikers.

We ask the City Council to give the wage demands of 16,000 GE workers of Schenectady the Council's full public support. We ask you to call upon the company to settle the strike on those terms. We ask you to call upon Senators Mead and Wagner to fight against the Case bill and all other anti-union legislation. We ask you to demand that Congress repeal the carry-back provisions of the tax law, and to maintain full price control. We ask you to take your police force off the spot by ruling that those men assigned to duty at the picket lines shall not carry nightsticks. And we ask you to request an appropriation of funds by the County to meet the relief needs of the families of strikers as pointed out by the Commissioner of Welfare.

We ask you to do this as part of your duty to the whole community.

UE Wins Opening Round

(Continued from Page 1)

side the building in the cold mist to await the outcome of the efforts of the giant corporation to use the courts in a desperate move to break their picket lines.

Inside, George A. Marcus, local union attorney, and David Scribner, national union attorney from New York, argued that under the New York anti-injunction law, the company had failed to sue the union properly, and that the two-day show cause order was improperly short notice.

Instructing the lawyers to submit written material on the question, Judge Alexander declared:

"I am saying right now that I shall not decide this from the bench."

The company's move is plainly an act of desperation, inspired by its failure to shake the unity and determination of its employees, not only here but from coast to coast.

After Wednesday's court hearing, Leo Jandreau, business agent of the local, made the following statement: "This strike of 100,000 workers for a \$2-a-day raise will not be settled in the courts. It will be settled only around the conference table.

"General Electric made a serious mistake in taking this action.

"General Electric thought it could rush into court for an injunction, as a strikebreaking move, but it found that the court insisted on serious and careful consideration of the matter. "The company manages to be everywhere for action on the strike—the White House, the courts, the newspapers—everywhere but the bargaining room. It is spending in court costs, legal fees, million dollar publicity campaigns, probably enough to pay its employees the \$2-a-day they need."

Vets' Insurance Benefit Passage Due Monday

A major victory on behalf of striking veterans was scored last Monday in Albany, when the Assembly adopted unanimously the Pittsfield bill which provides unemployment insurance benefits for Veterans under the same terms as it is given non-vets on strike, namely payment after a 7-week waiting period.

Members of the Local 301 Veterans' Committee were advised that the measure would come up in the Senate for final action next Monday, and that there was no doubt it would pass without opposition.

Votes Against Case Measure

After this paper was prepared to go to press, word has been received that Congressman Kearney voted against the passage of the Case Bill. This union compliments the Congressman for taking note of the vicious nature of the bill and following the wishes of his constituents as expressed through this union.

Early in the week the Joint Strike Committee had wired Kearney as follows:

"The issue is simple: Are you for or against the people? If you support any anti-strike, anti-labor legislation, 25,000 Schenectadians and their families must conclude you are for big business and against the people. If you are for the people, you will speak and fight against all the strike-busting proposals."

Pittsfield, Mass.—The City Council here Wednesday voted ten to one "to go on record in support of local General Electric employees now on strike," and appealed to the company to alter its present policy "in

Captains' Tuesday Meet Enthusiastic

Picket captains and committeemen last Tuesday night held their most enthusiastic meeting since the start of the strike.

The occasion was the visit to the strike scene of national UE leaders and attorneys in preparation for the injunction hearing the next day. Rank and file members followed up the national figures in their discussion of political action as it bears on a worker's bread and butter.

David Scribner, national UE attorney, William Senter, national UE vice-president from St. Louis, International Representative Joseph Dermody and Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent, spoke on various phases of the strike. Murray Svett, Bill Hodges, and Blanchard Mowers spoke from the floor.

BULLETIN

favor of a just and equitable attitude toward the wage needs of Pittsfield GE employees."

Note—This is the type of action Schenectady's City Council should take immediately to help solve the serious situation.

Electrical Union News

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

Vol. III—No. 6

SHENECTADY, NEW YORK

February 15, 1946

Spicer Is A "Confused" Witness

Women - All Out Monday Famous Dancer To Join In

Monday has been declared Woman's Day at the main gate, and all women strikers, as well as wives, sisters and daughters of strikers are urged to be there early.

Sono Oato, beautiful new dance sensation on Broadway, is coming up here just to join in the demonstration. She will speak to strikers at the hall at 7 o'clock Sunday evening.

The men pickets are expected to report according to their schedule. The men also are asked to urge the women to show up for the demonstration.

GE's Chief Negotiator Claims Ignorance Of Company's Low Rates Paid Women—Hearing Recessed By Judge Until Saturday Morning

With typical indifference toward the problems of General Electric employees, Elmer D. Spicer, vice-president of the company in charge of labor relations, formerly plant manager here, admitted on the stand in the injunction hearing in Supreme Court here yesterday (Thursday) that he did not know the low rates for women in the Schenectady plant.

Spicer was put on by the company to describe the negotiations from its viewpoint. His cross-examination by David Scribner, national UE attorney, was interrupted for today because Scribner has to defend the UE in another injunction suit in Pittsburgh, brought by Westinghouse. Supreme Court Justice John Alexander indicated he wanted to rush the hearing and make a decision early next week. The hearing will continue all day Saturday.

Under Scribner's cross-examination, Spicer claimed he had no knowledge of the 56½-cent starting rate for women here, nor of the fact that thousands of GE women all over the country earned less than 70 cents an hour. He did not know the set-up of the UE's Conference Board with which he had negotiated for years. He only "assumed" the union represented the employees, but had to admit he knew it now, in view of the strike.

"Progression Too Fast"

When Scribner refreshed his mind about the automatic progression, provisions of the contract which provides for a period of 8 months before an employee progresses the job rate Spicer said: "It's much too fast, in my opinion."

A dozen foremen took the stand under company orders to tell of their efforts to go through the picketlines. They were obviously uncomfortable at testifying in a case against the men and women they worked with, and it was clear that only lack of union protection made most of them play that part.

Among a number of company executives who complained of the effectiveness of the strike in hurting the company's business was John W. Belanger, assistant sales manager of the apparatus division. He made a point that he could not get to records needed for his work. On cross-examination he admitted that he had a union pass, but "did not choose to use it."

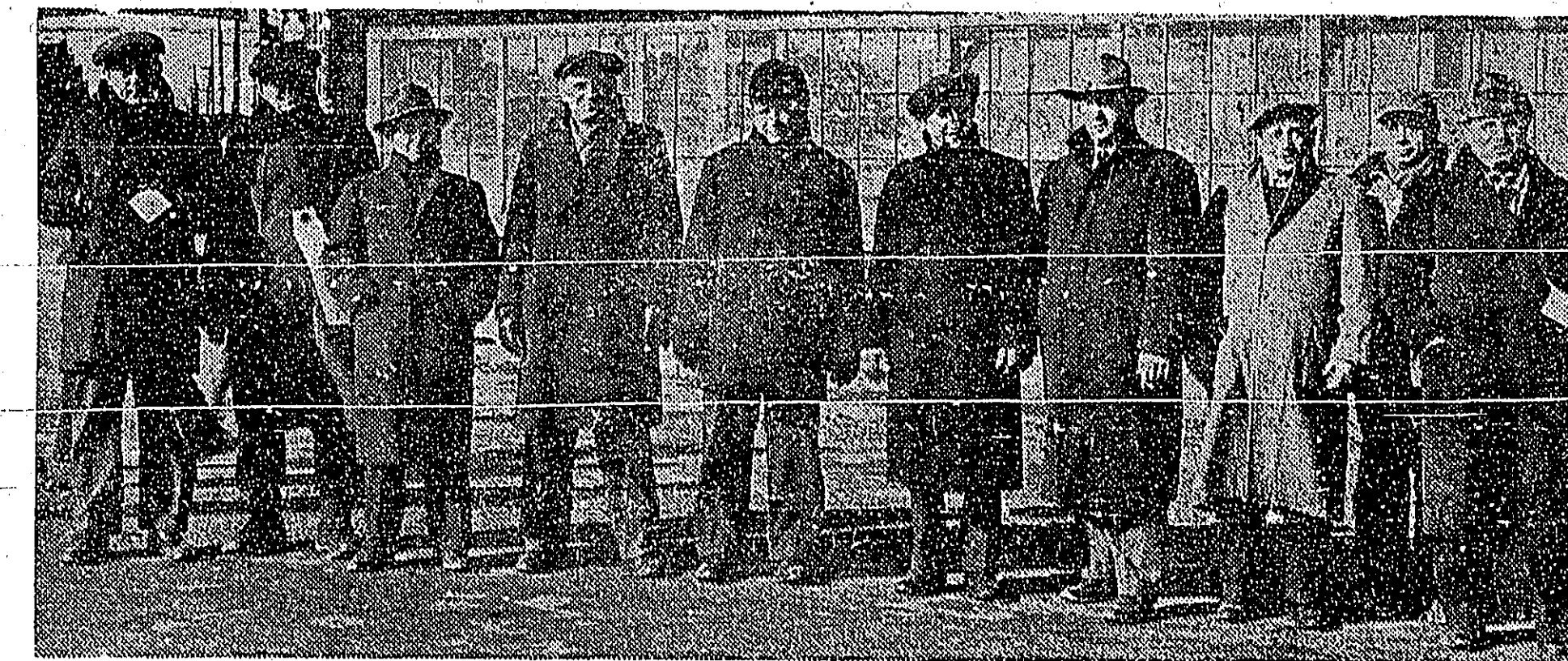
Senate OK's Vets' Bill

Only the signature of Governor Dewey is needed to put into effect the bill which will give striking veterans unemployment compensation on the same basis as non-vets, namely after seven weeks. The rate of compensation will be the same as they would have received if unemployed for reasons other than a strike, under the GI Bill of Rights.

The veterans' committee of UE Local 301 and Steelworkers' Local 2054, working with the State and the Capital District CIO Council, played a leading part in getting the bill passed. Foster Campbell, chairman of the 301 committee, wired Governor Dewey urging him to sign immediately.

The bill passed the Senate Tuesday.

Nine Pickets Add Up to 285 Years of GE Service



OLD-TIMERS are among the mainstays of the picket lines. A casual visit to the Main gate last week brought forth nine strikers with a total service to the company of 285 years, or an average seniority of 32 years. They are, from left to right above, B. BICKERING, 33 years; E. A. DROMS, 29; SAM GRIFFITHS, 47; S. ORDEN, 29; PAUL TONDERA, 25; LARRY PANGUAY, 28; ANTHONY MAROTTE, 30; A. PELLEGRINO, 29; TOM PALERMO, 35. The man immediately behind the line (second from right) got into the picture by mistake and was not identified. Said Sam Griffith, the 47-year man, for the group: "We old timers know best what the union has done for the workers at GE. We know how important it is not to back to the old days. This fight is not only for us, but for our sons and grandsons also."

GM Electrical Settles, GE Wants To Be Tough

While General Electric is concentrating all its efforts on getting tough with the strikers, it is making no effort to negotiate a strike settlement, the big single development of the strike picture this week was the settlement with General Motors Electrical Division.

GM Electrical, a direct competitor of GE in refrigerators (Frigidaire) and home appliances, agreed to a raise of 18½ cents, and in addition 19½ cents per hour back pay to Nov. 7, amounting to \$1,250,000, crease conditions. RCA, GE's competitor in radios, had previously agreed to 17½c without a strike.

GE, still refusing to raise its ten cent, ten percent stand, despite the numerous better offers by other companies, tried desperately to argue it could not offer more without price increase now. UE ads have emphasized that this simply means that GE wants super-profits, a profit margin that would make inflation and a crash certain.

NEEDS A HOME—A union member who is devoting every minute of the day on the job helping the strike needs a 5 or 6 room flat or bungalow for April 1 . . . if you can help him find a place, call 2-1309.

Expect Supervisor's Action On Strike Stand Tonight

An answer to the union's request for support was promised by the Schenectady County Board of Supervisors which put over until tonight final action on a Democratic-sponsored resolution calling for support of the union's wage demand.

At Tuesday night's regular public hearing, the county solons heard Leo Jandreau give an 18-minute review of the entire situation leading up to the present strike and call upon the Board to give the wage demands of the GE strikers full public support.

Adequate aid through the County Welfare Department for needy strikers was assured by the unanimous vote "yes" of the Board on the request of Leo Vosburg, County Welfare Commissioner who requested assurances that the Board would approve appropriation of funds from time to time, upon the Commissioner's request, to meet the needs during the strike or any other emergency.

"In the interest of this county, General Electric must be compelled to settle this strike by meeting substantially the most reasonable wage

demands of its employees, and do so out of its profits," he said.

Immediately after hearing the discussion from the floor, Supervisor Albert Male, 2nd Ward, offered the strongly-worded resolution which emphasized the immense profits the company has made through its low wage policy and requested the Board to "call upon the management of the General Electric Company to make a wage offer, at least equal to that agreed upon by General Motors and the Electrical Union through negotiations on Feb. 9."

Supervisor John Dalton, 13th Ward, seconded the resolution. Approximately 100 union members who jammed the small Board chambers to support the union proposals, showed their approval of the proposed resolution with prolonged applause.

Captains' Meeting Every Tuesday 8 P. M.

ORIGINAL TORN

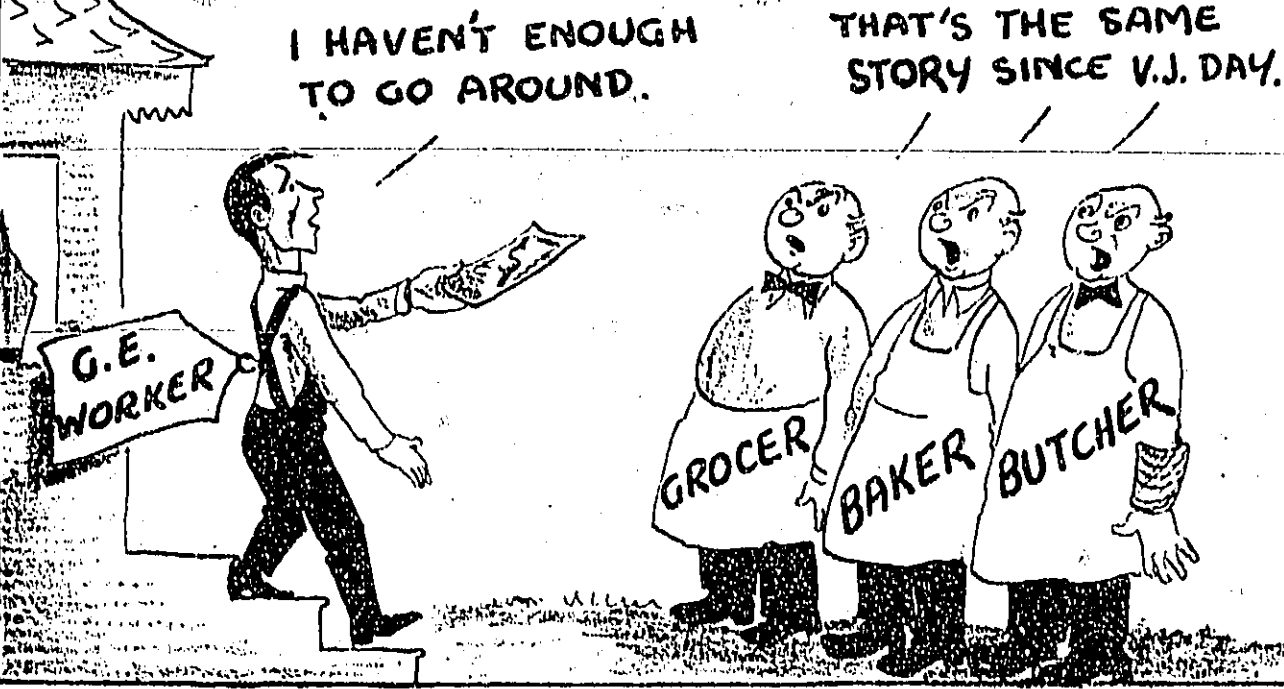
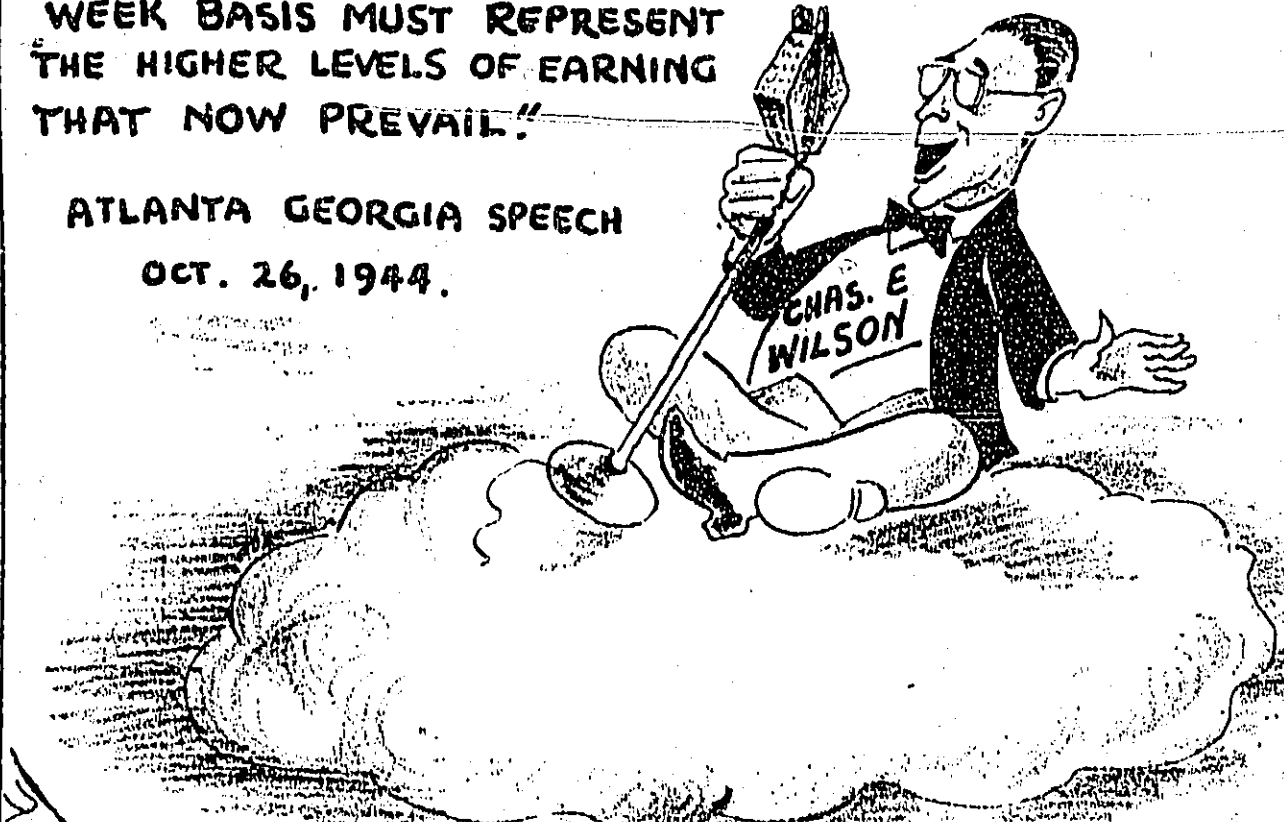
ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers of America, CIO
Schenectady G E Local 301

Prepared and Published by the
PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Editorial Office - Electrical Union News
301 LIBERTY ST. - SCHENECTADY, N. Y.
SCHENECTADY PRINTING COMPANY

"AFTER THE WAR IS WON,
TAKE HOME PAY ON A 40 HR.
WEEK BASIS MUST REPRESENT
THE HIGHER LEVELS OF EARNING
THAT NOW PREVAIL."

ATLANTA GEORGIA SPEECH
OCT. 26, 1944.



FOOD GROUP SUCCESSFUL IN TREMENDOUS TASK

By IRENE PATTERSON
Chairman, Strike Food Committee

Feeding thousands of strikers on their various duties means preparing and handing out a lot of food. In the four weeks of the strike completed last Monday, this committee has served, at the union hall and the eight picketline stations, approximately 1,120 gallons of stock soup, 1,200 gallons of beef broth, 45,000 doughnuts, 2,800 gallons of coffee, 35,000 sandwiches, 150 fruit cakes, 100 coffee cakes, and 100 pounds of frankfurters on rolls.

At the hall we have managed to have a special meal, such as baked beans, spare ribs and cabbage, or pasta fasula, two or three times a week. The persons in charge of the various station kitchens also have a fisherman picket brought in four supplemented the regular fare with varied meals, depending on their imagination and resourcefulness.

For example, in the Campbell Avenue station, where Murray Swett runs the kitchen from Monday to Friday, a group of pickets donated enough spaghetti and meat balls to serve a whole shift of pickets. Then

LISTEN MON. TO FRI.
7:15 P. M.



Printers Donate Cash
Another old-established AFL union here has given practical expression to its support of the CIO fight for a living wage. Schenectady Typographical Union 167 voted to give \$50 to our strike and \$50 to that of the Steelworkers at Aleo.

MIDNIGHT 'TILL DAWN watch every night at the Subway Gate is the backing Arthur Clifford and Gino Giuzio from the Porcelin Dept. are giving the strike. Note of warning: "Don't try to get by them!"

SUBWAY ENTRANCE GENERAL ELECTRIC NO THOROUGHFARE



TALENT SHOW REAL HIT WITH MANY PARTICIPANTS

More than 400 GE and Alco strikers and families enjoyed the variety show put on last Sunday night at Redmen's Hall by the joint UE and Steelworkers' Recreation Committee. A large part of the performers were strikers and strikers' children. Strikers on the stage included Hank Von Stettina, Andrew Starr, Joe Nossenau, George Alvard, Ermino Bianchi, and Dorothy Olando. Strikers' children who appeared were Shirley O'Brien, Gladys Watrous, Barbara Nikolski, Patty Williams, Warren Kilmer, and an instrumental group belonging to the Honolulu Conservatory of Music. Charles O'Rourke, enthusiastic strike supporter, played the piano and sang. A huge cake donated by the Mohawk Bakery was cut by Mrs. Genevieve Winarski and Foster Campbell, co-chairmen of the committee for Steel and UE, and Harold Claus, of the Local 301 Activities Committee. It then was served to the guests. Campbell acted as M. C.



VICTORY was the name of the fine yearling beef bull presented to the Food Committee by Herman Schmid, proprietor of the Mohawk River Inn at Wyatt's Crossing. Bought originally because of his V-For-Victory forehead markings, Victory became the pet of Mr. Schmid's son who is shown with his dad at the presentation to Food Chairman Irene Patterson. Lee Hill, former 269 employee helped bring Victory to Schenectady.

CIO Nights For Fun

Monday, Feb. 25—Dance to Phil Lawrence and His Orchestra.
Thursday, Feb. 28—Orchestra to be announced.
REDMEN'S HALL
Corner Ferry and Liberty Sts.
9 P. M. to MIDNIGHT
FREE TO ALL UNION MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

PARK DEP'T EMPLOYEES CONTRIBUTE TO FUND

By MARSHALL WHITE
Chairman, Strike Finance Committee

Joining efforts with the Steelworkers to raise funds outside the labor movement for aid to both the Alco and GE strikers, our committee has divided up the city on a ward basis, and is systematically appealing to small business men and some other groups for funds. We find much interest in the strike, and many have contributed generously.

This week employees of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, took up a collection and came through with a substantial sum, even though they are low-paid employees. We can hope that there will be similar activity in other departments.

We approach gas stations, taverns, restaurants, liquor stores, coal dealers, in fact all but food stores, because the food stores are donating food supplies generously.

"Bill" Turnbull Writes From Calif. Supports Strike

William "Bill" Turnbull, first president of Local 301, is now a pensioner, living with his son in California. But he is watching the first strike of the union he helped build. Here is a letter received by Leo Jandrea, business agent, with a contribution from Brother Turnbull to the strike fund:

"887 Dearborn Avenue
South Gate, California

"Dear Leo:

"Just a few words of encouragement in these trying times. I can imagine what you and the rest of the boys are going through, and I wish I could be with you. All labor leaders are cussed and maligned by the uninformed, but have the support of thoughtful, intelligent people.

"If government controls are removed, raises will be granted and strikes will end, but we will be heading for inflation and disaster.

"Please accept my humble contribution to the strike fund, and my hope that your combined efforts to raise the living standards of Schenectady will be successful.

"Sincerely yours,
William Turnbull."

UE Petition Circulator Signing 'Em Up



JOHN SACCOCIO, picket captain and committeeman for Welded Products in Building 66, convinces one of his neighbors, Miss Connie Vernacchio, 2328 Turner Avenue, to sign a petition asking the City Council to back the strikers. A friend stands in the doorway. Eight persons in this household signed the petition. UE workers collected 9,732 signatures in this manner in three days.

Charlie Acted Sad

It may seem a little odd to the strikers who have watched Charles E. Wilson act in a high-handed manner toward them and spend company money on everything except a living wage for workers — but Charlie went to Washington last week to ask Congress to make labor "responsible."

Wilson told the Senate Labor Committee that "The best interests of the public demand a full share of responsibility from organized labor." And Wilson was very sad before the Senate Labor Committee because he felt sure the anti-labor legislation he wants would not be passed soon enough to be of use to him in the present strike. We hope he's right.

Pickets Talk Politics

Interest in politics has seized the picket lines. Here is a moment's discussion picked one morning at the main gate strike headquarters.

The shooting was started by Ed Polak, committeeman in the Refrigerator Dept., Bldg. 23, who declared that "if the working man doesn't begin to think about political action now, he should have his head examined."

Martin Folkman, committeeman in industrial control, Bldg. 69, chimed in that "every man and woman should register and vote, they should watch the votes of their local state and federal elected representatives."

"Every man and woman voter regardless of party" Picket Captain Frank Pepicelli, of Turbine, laid it down, "every voter should watch the bills introduced into the state legislature and the Congress of the

Dolph is "Everywhere"

Of real value around strike headquarters is Dolph Mecier, who is in the 'test department in Building 5, but also had previous office experience. He has been doing the typing to get out the daily Strike Bulletin to the pickets. He has been working on distribution of the Electrical Union News, and setting up the card files for the picket system. And he had charge of the check-up on pickets in eight wards and towns.

which will give the workers at least an even break with capital."

Turbine registered again with a remark by Raymond Cartier: "Now that the people of Schenectady have awakened to the fact that their elected representatives haven't had the people's interests at heart, the people themselves should in the future see to it that they elect their own workers to office."



STANDING BY FOR THE NEWS—Hundreds of Local 301 members and friends stood outside the crowded Schenectady County Court House last week while union attorneys locked horns with GE legal staff in the first injunction suit hearings. When Leo Jandrea, flanked by union attorneys George A. Marcus, Schenectady, and David Scribner from New York, emerged on the Court House steps and told that the hearings had been postponed, the crowd cheered and followed their leaders to the union hall where an impromptu meeting was held.

ORIGINAL TORN