

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 10 — No. 1

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, January 11, 1952

END WSB STALLING

*Take It
From Here . . .*

New York—UE Sylvania workers won WSB approval of pay increases of from nine to 16 cents by petitioning the board, pressuring the company and by sending a delegation to the WSB in Washington.

★ ★ ★

Tiffin, Ohio—Employees of the General Electric have begun an extensive campaign against layoffs and are enlisting the help of the community.

★ ★ ★

New York—A 3½ week strike brought members of UE Local 430 at Espey Mfg. Co. a pay package stalling 14½ cents an hour retroactive to July 1.

★ ★ ★

Washington, D. C.—In the first test of the Taft-Hartley Act's provisions that a union is liable for damages on an unfair labor practice charge by an employer, the U. S. Supreme Court has unanimously ruled the International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union (Ind.) must pay \$750,000 in damages to an Alaska lumber firm. The firm lodged its charges on the basis that its employees refused to cross an ILWU picket line outside its properties.

★ ★ ★

Tokyo — General Ridgway reported some candy missing from his office. The suspects—two privates first class and a corporal, the latter twice-wounded in Korea—were busted. All were members of the Allied Commander's honor guard. One suspect said he saw a box of candy on the General's filing cabinet, "I was a little hungry and lifted the lid and tried a piece. Then I took several more to give the other boys."

★ ★ ★

Washington, D. C.—Manufacturers of war materials milked the U. S. Government and the American people of \$7 billion in the first year of the Korean War by price-gouging, according to an analysis prepared for the Pentagon.

Up To UE Members To Get 3.58 Out Of Deep Freeze

Petitions addressed to the Wage Stabilization Board are now being circulated in the Schenectady Works. They call for prompt approval of the 3.58 general wage increase offered UE and 59 other unions by General Electric.

Petition In Shop

TO: MR. NATHAN FEINSINGER, CHAIRMAN
NATIONAL WAGE STABILIZATION BOARD
WASHINGTON-25, D. C.

We, the undersigned are members of Local 301, United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE). Your Board has before it the Wage agreement reached between our union and the General Electric Company.

While the amount of the wage increase is small compared to our needs, most of us are desperate in trying to make our family budget meet with the high cost of living and taxes. We ask prompt action in approving our case in the full amount that has been negotiated and with the effective date that has been agreed upon.

NAME ADDRESS CITY

Union Spurs Protection Of Job Rights In Lay-offs

Layoffs continue to plague parts of the Works and more production cut-backs seem to be in the offing.

The full resources of the local are being mobilized to deal with the problem. The local insists that suitable jobs be found where necessary without undue loss of time and strictly in line with seniority.

An Assistant Business Agent, Fred Sheehan, has been assigned full time to deal with placements, upgrading, dismissals and other problems arising out of layoffs.

At the same time, the Local is constantly after management to

anticipate work shortages and, by better planning, avoid or reduce them. Largely because of this insistence, GE announced well in advance that it intends to move its paper-covered cable operations out of Schenectady.

UE Stewards are completing a survey of those who would be affected by the move. Each worker's classification, seniority, wage rate and average earnings are noted with a view to prompt transfer to suitable work at suitable pay.

(Continued on Page 3)

"No general wage increase has been or will be put into effect in any GE plant, UE or IUE, until the WSB gives approval," the UE-GE Conference Board this week notified UE 301. At press time the WSB had not acted on any of the 60 GE agreements.

It is up to the UE membership to get the WSB to act. The IUE, for all its boasted pull with the board and its fast acceptance of GE's terms back in September, is helpless because of its avowed support of the wage freeze. If IUE were genuinely interested, it would demand that the CIO get off the board so that workers could get increases, not freezes.

Money Needed

The UE petition to the board calls the five to eight cents "small compared to our needs" but says the people need the money in view of "the high cost of living and taxes."

The delay makes it increasingly questionable whether GE made its offer in sincerity or in the hope it would be stymied by a board which is bossed by GE's Charles Wilson and loaded with company-minded AFL and CIO officials.

But neither GE, the IUE nor the wage freeze board will hand working men and women the money and working conditions they require for a better life. On the contrary, only by fighting GE, by eliminating IUE disruption, by ending the board and the

(Continued on Page 3)

IUE Readys New Wage Sell-Out

The IUE-CIO leading clique has already begun laying the groundwork for its sell-out of the wage fight in March. It did this in the Dec. 31 issue of the IUE-CIO News.

Discussing the wage demands of the steelworkers, the IUE editors are worried that UE will ask GE and Westinghouse for more money if the steelworkers get what they're after.

The position attributed to UE in the newspaper is that if steel gets a general wage increase of 15 cents an hour, "then the UE as a result should get 15 cents from GE and Westinghouse." (Is that bad?)

The IUE then rushes to the aid of the two giants of the electrical industry with some figures. These figures make the point that the steelworkers would get little more on a percentage basis than GE workers received and that a 1.8 percent wage increase would catch electrical workers up to steelworkers.

Is the "catch-up" formula to be the basis for IUE's 1952 sell-out? Murray has frequently stated that "the steel union is simply seeking to "catch up." It is a formula de-

signed to keep the wage freeze and the Wage Stabilization Board in power.

UE's position on wage negotiations, unlike the position attributed to it by the IUE-CIO News, is to draw up demands based on the needs of its members and not on what some other union is asking for or getting. At the same time, UE regards any wage victory by any union as a shot in the arm in its own negotiations. It therefore supports the wage struggles of all workers, including of course, the steelworkers.

UE will cheer for the mine workers when they go in to negotiate at the very time of our own wage reopening. It will give support where needed and as best it can.

Will the IUE try to tear down the UMW demands as it is now trying to undermine the coming wage struggles with General Electric and Westinghouse?

The IUE leaders, like this year's presidential candidates, have started their campaign early. It is not too early for GE and Westinghouse workers, regardless of union affiliation, to begin closing ranks and girding for a real fight for real benefits.

UNION GAINS NEW JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR NEGRO WORKER

When Earl Page, who had three years service at common labor rate, failed to get an opportunity to work on machines, even though new men were hired for machine work, the Union charged discrimination against this Negro worker.

Action by Local 301 resulted in Page, who worked in Gas Turbine 49, getting the opportunity to work at a higher rated job. First he had an opportunity on the second shift and is now working on milling machines on the first shift.

HALT RATE VIOLATIONS AT MALTA

Attempts by the Company to hire new employees at a rate 13 cents below the established general maintenance rate at its Malta plant have been halted. Two men hired and classified as special labor at 13 cents less an hour, have been reclassified and Bldg. 41 assured the Union that four new employees would be hired at the general maintenance rate.

HOLIDAY PAY DEMANDED FOR CLEANING WOMEN

Part-time office cleaning women, who were denied holiday pay for Christmas and New Year's, a day they would ordinarily work, have had their case taken to the GE top policy committee in New York City.

If their demand is refused, Leo Jandreau, business agent, has announced that Local 301 will place their demand for holiday pay in arbitration.

There are two groups of cleaning women. One group works Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The other works Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. It is the latter group, Local 301 insists, that is entitled to holiday pay for what would be a regular work day.

Jandreau pointed out that "inasmuch as Article IX of the contract only takes exception on holiday pay for continuous process employees," there is no question in the mind of Local 301 that denial of holiday pay in this case is a contract violation and the Union will exert every effort on both the local and national level to see that it is paid.

Wilson Plan Hits Jobs And Butter

The "guns vs. butter" program of GE's Charles Wilson, now Defense Mobilizer, has a large part of the country up in arms including GE's top officials, President Ralph Cordiner and Chairman of the Board Philip D. Reed.

Wilson had promised that everyone not in the caviar class would have to give up butter altogether to make way for guns. This did not go over with Detroit's 120,000 unemployed, most of whom are out because of metal shortages for non-military goods. The mayor and the governor of the state packed their bags and hurried to Washington to put in a beef against guns in place of butter.

Even Cordiner and Reed of General Electric didn't like the idea of more drastic priorities for war production.

At GE's annual press conference, Cordiner pointed out that only between 20 and 25 percent of GE production is tagged for defense. Wilson's threat to cut fiscal allocations for civilian goods by 50 per cent in the first months of 1952 would of course mean production cut-backs and sweeping layoffs in GE.

The artificially arranged metal shortages will cause an 11 percent leap in unemployment in New York State in the first six months

of '52, according to the State Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance.

Alarmed by this prospect, six New York City Congressmen and Senator Herbert H. Lehman pledged every effort to get steel and other metals for something besides guns. The AFL building trades reported 22,000 steel workers out of work because steel is being stockpiled for the military. The electrical manufacturing industry also looks for a sharp decline in production for the same reason, says the N. Y. Times of Jan. 2.

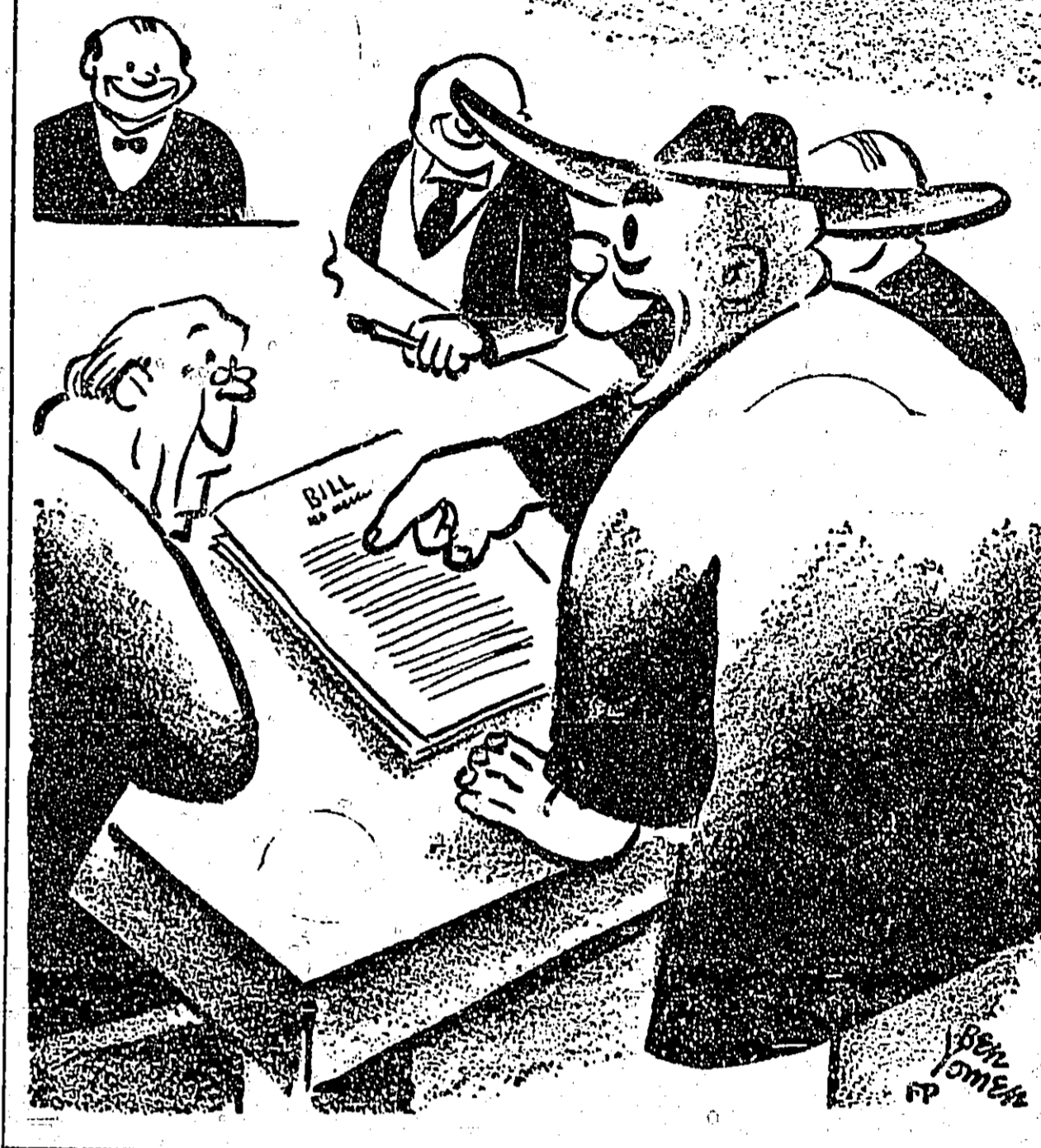
The "guns vs. butter" formula does not mean that those workers in arms manufacture will eat as well or better, in the future. Wilson made it clear in his famous "the people have too much money" dictum. On this point, GE's Cordiner and Reed agreed, both predicting higher prices and inflation, not to mention taxes.

The nation, said Wilson a few days ago, is entering a period of "severest pinch." The pinch is on wages and living standards, not on profits and prices.

It has become clear that pressure on Congress for civilian production is a "must" for every union, and every association of small businessmen and professionals.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

by Yomen



"Gentlemen, this time we have the perfect bill. It even outlaws the word wages."

Vigorous Action Strengthens Contract

Vigorous action by the Union has resulted in the satisfactory adjustment of a wide variety of grievances centering around the strict enforcement of UE contract provisions. Though there has been a marked improvement in grievance settlements, Union officials point out that GE is still much too laggard in giving prompt and effective consideration to grievances submitted.

Among some of the grievance adjustments in recent weeks were the following:

J. Marinucci, a Class "B" machine repairman in Turbine doing "A" work, was upgraded after the foreman said there was no opening for him. The union won the case at management level.

Though he had attended safety school and been led to believe by his foreman that he would be up-

graded one step to Welder-Hand-Arc, Robert Barnes in Turbine 273 was unable to get any action. Union action secured the additional step and an additional six cents an hour.

After a series of grievances in Bldg. 273 on effective dates of one step increases, Local 301 has won a change in policy from the company "that in the future a one step increase will be given at the time of reclassification." It is expected this will eliminate grievances in the future on upgrading of erectors.

Some recent retroactive pay cases for erectors, that were won before this policy change, included: Conrad Borra, upgraded from "B" to "A" erector, received back pay to Sept. 3, 1951. J. Whelan won back pay from the time he was transferred from "B" to "A" erect-

or. Clyde Eckstrom's new "B" classification was made effective Dec. 10, 1951.

A group of carpenters in Bldg. 000 doing "A" and "B" work for the past two years were given no step adjustment in all that time. Immediate raises for all were won by the Union. The men were: S. J. Bedits, A. B. Evans and E. A. Farch.

A retroactive raise of five cents to the first part of October was won for Ralph M. McNamara, an operator in Control Bldg. 81, when the Union insisted on strict enforcement on transfers provided in Article 10, section 2, part 7 of the UE contract.

F. Holton, an inspector in Gas Turbine 49, though working on a

job rated as "B" was not given the job rate by his foreman. The Union won the proper rate, effective Nov. 19, 1951.

Approximately \$45 each was won for John Hand and John Walsh when the Union won retroactive pay for changes in rates on Dec. 19, 1951. The two sheet metal workers, in Gas Turbine 49, charged a violation of contract. Settled at management level, the back pay was based on a \$1,595 rate from April 9, a \$1.65 rate from May 7 and \$1.75 from Aug. 6, 1951.

A one step increase, effective Dec. 24, 1951, was won for Peter Link, a machinist helper in Turbine 273. Local 301 maintained that the responsibility of the helper in operation of the 40' boring mill was such that it should have a different classification and a higher job rate.

HIGHER PAY OPENINGS WON BY HELPERS

The Union has changed what appeared to be a dead end road for millwright helpers. A group of such helpers recently requested that their pay be adjusted upwards, since they were doing the work of millwrights.

Upon handling their grievance, UE Local 301 discovered that actually there are approximately two millwrights for every helper and the company's objective is to have but one millwright for each helper in the future—eliminating any need for helper upgrading in foreseeable future.

These helpers will now have an opportunity for increased earnings as a result of the Union winning agreement that the helpers will have the opportunity to work as machinist-machinist repairmen which pays the higher millwright rate that helpers were seeking.

END WSB STALL

(Continued from Page 1)

freeze can the people go ahead with collective bargaining.

The tens of thousands of UE members who last month demonstrated against the wage freeze in front of regional offices of the Wage Stabilization Board and the Schenectady petition now in the Works will accomplish more than all the wire-pulling by IUE puppets.

The UE 301 Executive Board urges everyone to sign the petition.

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Schenectady GE Local 301 UE

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Union Takes Steps To Protect Job Security

(Continued from Page 1)

Meanwhile, women with March, 1943 service have been laid off in Industrial Control. A drastic cut-back in Magnetic Switch — from 10,000 units a week to 4,000 — has affected the jobs of 85 women and five men, men being laid off with December, 1943 service, women with March, 1943 service. This points up the importance of the union's fight to protect women workers against GE's discriminatory policies.

Although the company is set against "bumping" and is reluctant to find work for people at their former earnings, the Local is waging a stubborn, often successful, fight on behalf of the membership. Fred Sheehan, whose desk is the clearing house for layoff and transfer cases illustrated both the attitude of management and the Local's fight by citing dockets in front of him.

Long Service
Sheehan pointed to the case of W. Collins, a wire-cutting operator with 33 years service. Collins was told to take a week's layoff and report back as a degreaser at less

pay. The Local advised Collins to stay on his job and was able to get him upgraded to another job without any lost time.

Three coil winders in Bldg. 89, M. Andryczeyk, G. Camp and D. Rossi, were told there was no more work for them on days and that they would have to take third shift jobs. This was unsatisfactory to them and the union lined up nine day shift jobs for them at their former earnings.

The case of Martina Mango, an assembler in Bldg. 69, serves to illustrate supervision's some times callous attitude toward employees. Mango was told she would have to take a job which she could not accept because of a skin condition. Her ailment was contracted in the service of the company but this cut no ice with supervision. The union intervened and got her satisfactorily placed.

Sheehan emphasized that it takes a stubborn fight to get the company to yield. He said that poor management, reckless hiring, speed-up were factors in current layoffs.