

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 - - - U. E. R. & M. W. A. - - - C. I. O.

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

September 29, 1949

Local 301 Will Meet Tonight at Armory

Actions in Plants Urged to Obtain Union's Demands

Bargaining meetings will be held shortly with both General Electric and Westinghouse.

The GE and Westinghouse Conference Boards of UE on Monday directed all GE and Westinghouse plants to "immediately undertake all necessary activities and actions in the plants . . . now and until the date of the next conference with the companies," and through the course of the conferences, to impress upon the companies "the firm determination of the membership to make them bargain on the union's demands."

If GE and Westinghouse refuse to budge, the national negotiating committees are authorized by the conference boards to issue a call to all locals in each company for a strike vote.

Negotiating meetings are scheduled for Oct. 12 at GE and Oct. 4 at Westinghouse. The national office is trying to arrange an earlier date for the GE meeting.

The two conference boards met together in New York, bringing about 100 delegates from GE locals and 65 from Westinghouse locals. Each conference board voted separately on the program and strike vote authorization. The vote was unanimous in each conference board.

The statement adopted also directed the national negotiating committees "to make every effort during the next meetings with the respective companies to bring the negotiations to a speedy, peaceful, and successful conclusion."

Representing 301 at the meeting were President Frank Kriss, Treasurer Marshall White, Business Agent Leo Jandreau, and Board Members William A. Stewart, Jwey Brashear, and Anthony Esposito.

Delegates from GE and Westinghouse locals of UE District 3 will meet tomorrow night at Syracuse to coordinate upstate support

(Continued on Page 2)



Membership Will Continue to Run UE, Emspak Tells Convention at Cleveland

UE will continue serving "the economic and legislative interests of our members like no other union can," Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak told the UE convention, because UE will continue "to fight for the right to maintain rank and file control."

Emspak declared the union will continue its fight for "freedom from government domination and freedom from the companies and the company stooges in our midst."

His speech, a high point of the convention, was made the final day of the sessions. Emspak spoke in support of a statement issued by the General Executive Board condemning James B. Carey and his chief followers for making an open call for wholesale secession from UE.

Carey and his three defeated candidates for office, after being repudiated on every issue by the

convention, had gone to the press with a statement urging UE members to help them set up another union in the electrical industry. The Carey group set up a 10-man continuing committee to continue, after the close of the convention, their fight against the democratic membership decisions of the convention.

The GEB statement condemned the actions of "this unwholesome group, which is controlled and directed from outside the union." It condemned them for calling on the

(Continued on Page 2)

Second Shift Session Later At Union Hall

One of the most important membership meetings in the history of Local 301 will be at 7:30 p.m. tonight (Thursday) at the state armory on Washington Avenue, for first and third shift members. It will be followed by a meeting after midnight for second shift members at 12:45 a.m. in the union hall.

When the union office learned last Thursday that the armory might be available tonight for the use of 301 the Executive Board at once voted unanimously to change the membership meeting from Tuesday to tonight.

The Board had previously directed the union office to rent the largest available hall in Schenectady for the meeting scheduled for Tuesday. The armory was busy that night, however, and so was the Erie Theater. Schenectady public schools and Union College buildings were refused to the union.

The important matters on tonight's agenda include:

Reports from Local 301 delegates to the UE Conference Board of GE locals on the joint meeting of the GE and Westinghouse Conference Boards Monday. The meeting authorized the taking of strike votes if the companies do not change their positions in the next negotiating sessions.

Reports on the national UE convention by the 301 delegates.

Reports on the state CIO convention by the 301 delegates.

Election of a treasurer to serve for the remainder of the year. Marshall White, former treasurer, was named by the Executive Board to fill the vacancy caused by the recent resignation of William Downs, pending election at the September membership meeting.

UE Resolution On Legislation

The national UE convention resolution on general labor and social legislation urged all UE locals to enlist the energies of their entire membership behind the union's legislative program.

"This program for jobs and security can be achieved," the convention declared. "We know there is no easy solution, no simple formula like changing the labels on the party in power in exchange for political favors. It can only be won by restoring the fight to the hands of the working people and the farmers of the country who will demand that promise be transformed into reality."

The UE program adopted includes:

Repeal of Taft-Hartley and restoration of the Wagner Act.

Shifting the tax burden to those best able to pay it. Increasing the federal income tax exemptions to \$4,000 for a family of four.

Federal minimum wage should be increased to a dollar an hour and cover all workers, on 35 hour week basis.

Complete overhauling of social security system to provide minimum benefits of \$125 a month, with \$60 for dependents, and coverage to all persons 60 or over. Adequate disability insurance.

Improved workmen's compensation. Public health program.

Support for farmers to sustain farm income.

Building of two-million low-cost housing units yearly for 10 years. Increase federal funds for education.

Unemployed to Meet

There will be a meeting for unemployed GE workers at the union hall at 7:30 p.m. Monday.

Help Singer Strikers

Executive Board members this week started distributing to shop stewards donation books for the UE Singer strikers. The chief prize is an automobile. The union has 1,000 of the books to sell in the shops.

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SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

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CONGRESSMAN DRIPP By WOMEN



"GET UP! I DON'T WANT THE UNION TO ACCUSE ME OF SPEED-UP!"

Might Ask Fitzpatrick About Those Petitions

Hold your hats, everybody! James Thomas Fitzpatrick, the brilliant young man from East Pittsburgh, Pa., who would like you to believe that he is the 301 rank and file, came back to town Sunday night.

The membership can now expect a new flood of slanders to help GE resist their demands.

By the way, what happened to those Carey anti-UE petitions which Fitzpatrick's stooges told the newspapers here had been signed by 10,000 members of 301? They never showed up at 301 hall, and they never showed in Cleveland.

Contract Negotiations

(Continued from Page 1)

of the bargaining program. They will report on the way the locals have carried out the action program adopted at a similar joint meeting Aug. 25 at Syracuse.

Representing 301 will be Business Agent Leo Jandreau, the district president; and Board members John Brauneisen, Dewey Brauneisen, William Mastriani, Helen Quirini and William Stewart.

Members Will Continue To Run UE, Emspak Says

(Continued from Page 1)

CIO "to set up still another union to raid UE, to help the employers hold down and depress the wages and working conditions of the UE membership." The convention adopted the GEB's statement.

Emspak declared that the chief question at issue is whether "company union elements, aided by the employers, aided by reactionary elements in government, aided by the reactionary press, are going to be able to create a labor movement in this country controlled by the government and dominated by the companies."

Easy To Be 'Respectable'

The yardstick by which UE achievements must be measured, he said, "is not whether Charlie Wilson of General Electric likes us; it is not whether Thomas Rankin or Wood approve of us and call us 'respectable'."

The yardstick of whether the union is serving the members, he pointed out, is whether they are getting jobs and whether their wages and working conditions are improving,—and they are."

"It is very easy," Emspak warned, "the easiest thing in the world, to achieve the kind of respectability that this gang of disrupters (Carey, etc.) is talking about. All you have to do is crawl on your belly to the boss. That is all."

"All you have to do to achieve that respectability is to crawl on your belly to any lousy politician who offers you a trip to Washington."

Authorize Strike Vote

Overflow night and day shift meetings of GE workers at Fitchburg, Mass., voted unanimously recently to authorize the taking of a strike vote at GE plants.

A Day Early

EU News appears today (Thursday) this week instead of tomorrow because most union members will be out of the plant tomorrow during inventory.

Unemployed Increase

There were 3,688 jobless workers registered with the Schenectady Unemployment Insurance office Sept. 16, compared with 3,434 as of Sept. 9.

The next issue of the national UE News, Monday, Oct. 3, will contain the full report of official actions of the national UE convention.

Work Stoppages At Davenport GE

Tension has been mounting in the UE members' fight against speedup at the General Electric Davenport Works, Ontario, Can. Work stoppages occurred recently in all departments over the company's reprisal suspension of Chief Shop Steward Alex McGarvey for insisting on investigating a grievance.

Management had announced a rule by which the chief steward was refused admittance to a department to check on a grievance. He was suspended when he pressed for his right to talk with the workers involved.

The work stoppages brought a threat of a lock-out from GE. This threat was met by a union declaration that "the workers will decide when and whether GE plants go down and it won't be on a single shop basis."

Management has been following an obvious plan at Davenport of gradually refusing to deal with the union on grievances connected with rate adjustments, and in putting across every possible kind of speed-up scheme.

This same practice is being followed at other Canadian GE plants. Earlier in September Norm Choate, president of Local 515 at Royce Ave. Works of GE, was given seven days' notice under circumstances similar to the McGarvey case. Prompt action by the members won reversal of this order.

For more than two and a half months UE has been trying to negotiate a master contract covering all GE plants in Canada organized by the union. GE has obviously stalled the negotiations and has carried on various anti-union activities.

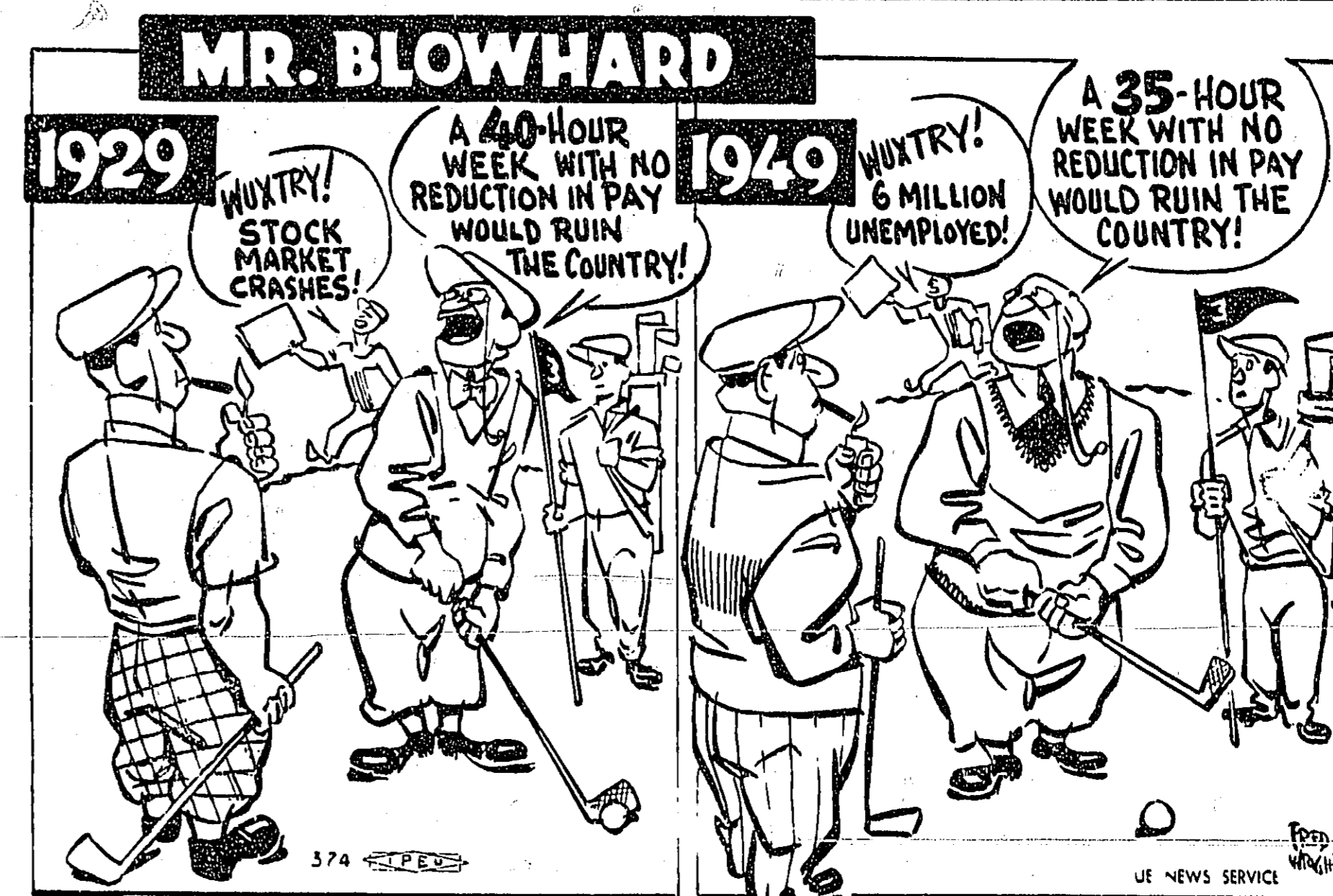
Jobless Group to Meet With Heck and Campbell

A meeting of unemployed members of Local 301 voted recently to send a delegation to Assembly Speaker Oswald D. Heck and State Senator Thomas F. Campbell to ask what they plan to do about increasing and broadening unemployment insurance. The delegation will also ask them to support a public works program to provide more jobs.

A delegation also will call on members of the City Council to demand establishment of public works programs in the city.

Pensioners' Meeting

The UE-301 Pension Organization will meet at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, at the union hall.



UE Demands CIO Return to Original Policies

Departure of the top CIO leadership from the original CIO purposes of organizing the unorganized and working for the economic interests of its members was criticized in a resolution adopted by the national UE convention.

Certain CIO leaders "have sought to transform CIO from an instrumentality and servant of the unions and their membership to a dictatorship over unions and members alike," the convention declared.

"These efforts came to a head some two years ago when this same group used the CIO Executive Board to decree that the CIO should henceforth subordinate itself to the political interests of the Democratic Party leadership..."

Attitude of CIO Leaders

"This group has made it clear that it is not concerned with whether or not any CIO union takes action to advance the economic interests of its membership. But it does demand absolute and complete conformity on all matters of politics as a condition for remaining in the CIO."

In the discussion of the resolution, James J. Matles, UE director of organization, said, "UE is not leaving CIO. UE is fighting CIO corruption."

Matles declared that "the 600,000 men and women of the UE are anxious to use their physical and financial resources to help CIO organize the 34 million unorganized workers."

The resolution pointed out that UE has been raided by the CIO Auto Workers, the CIO Commu-

Reason for Shortage Of Canadian Delegates

All UE locals in Canada, with one exception, voted not to send delegates to the international UE convention at Cleveland rather than submit to having the United States government pick their delegates for them.

In the past year or so Canadian delegates to international union conventions of UE, Mine-Mill, Auto, Steel, Rubber and Packinghouse unions have been stopped at the border on orders of the American government.

"This practice of allowing the U. S. A. government to determine who shall or shall not represent Canadian workers in their union affairs is wholly denying Canadians their Democratic rights," the Canadian UE News pointed out. "It is open interference in union matters by a foreign government." The only Canadian local which was represented at Cleveland was the GE Petersboro Works, which sent four members of the Carey faction.

C. S. Jackson, president of UE District 5 (Canada) declared:

"No UE delegates from Canada would be permitted to get across the border unless they were on record as supporting Mr. Carey and his disrupters in opposition to the present leadership of UE. That is the price of admission to the U.S.A.—a commitment in advance to work against the unity of their own organization."

For a full report of official actions of the national UE convention see the national UE News which will appear next Monday.