GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY'S plans to
keep GE workers divided got badly upset on
April 12. 6,000 workers in the Lynn IUE-CIO
voted almost unanimously to work out a pro-
gram of joint action with UE.

The overwhelming majority of workers in GE
are in UE and IUE. Joint action means that once
again a solid front of GE workers will fight ef-
effectively to improve wages and working condi-
tions in their plants.

GE's strategy is to divide its workers. There
will be all kinds of tricks pulled. The answer is for
all GE workers through their collective bargain-
ing representatives to take immediate steps to-
ward joint action and the formulation of joint
demands.

UE says: LET'S GO!
GE IS BREAKING ALL PROFIT records in its history. 46 million dollars in the first three months of 1953. Profits are exorbitant but the wage structure is low. The top rate for the most skilled workers in GE plants is from $2.32 to $1.89 an hour, an average of $2.20 an hour.

Keep down the top skilled rate; push down the low women rates — GE can't lose. The whole rate structure is pushed down by keeping the ceiling down and lowering the floor of the rate structure. The 'GE rate structure is a straight-jacket on all workers. You fight for a wage increase but in fact you are wriggling in the company's straight-jacket.

Two years ago the U. S. Wage Stabilization Panel recognized that top skilled rates were too low. They recommended an increase. Employers like GE knifed the proposal.

WORTHY OF THEIR HIRE

Skilled workers are key to efficient production. Their skill in designing, building and maintaining tools, machines and equipment took years to acquire. These were years of low wages as apprentices. Plus many more years of service to reach Class A skills.

A skilled worker's top rate averages $2.20 in GE plants, or $4,400 a year. This is $400 below the Miller Budget for "reasonable living" for a family of four. Top skilled workers in GE cannot make enough for some of life's comforts to which their years of work entitle them.

GE has made a miserly offer of 1.79%. GE workers need a substantial raise. Let part of the 1.79% be used to alleviate present inequities. Skilled workers could get an additional 10 cents an hour which would help some.

Instead GE is full of tricks. Its vaunted Community Survey finds the lowest wage in an area and applies it to all plants. GE is full of profits.

UE says: GE CAN PAY.

Be on the lookout for a leaflet from your local union on this bargaining demand.

Issued by

UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO AND MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA (UE)
Eleven East 51 Street
New York 22, N. Y.
Mr. Earl J. Riley, Business Agent
IUE-GEO Local 201
15 North Emerson Street
Lynn, Mass.

Dear Sir and Brother:

As you know, the IUE-GE Conference Board on April 17 rejected the mandate of the IUE Local 201 membership to work out joint action with UE in negotiations with General Electric.

Despite this rebuff to the largest IUE Local bargaining with GE, we note that your Executive Board on April 22 appointed a ways and means committee to study the unity question.

We sincerely hope that this means that you intend to fight for the decision of the membership "to consult and arrive at agreement with all unions in GE for concerted action, locally as well as nationally." There can be no doubt that united we can get better results for our members.

In view of the status of negotiations and the refusal of your Conference Board to heed the will of your membership, we feel it urgent that committees of IUE Local 201 and UE Local 201 meet without delay for the purpose of bringing about joint action. Regardless of the April 17 decision of your Conference Board, we must strive for a meeting of our two Boards since this is in the best interest of GE workers both locally and nationally.

As I communicated to you earlier, UE Local 201 is more than ready to meet. I submit that the first step toward united action is to pull up our chairs and start talking.

Sincerely yours,

George P. Walsh
President

CPW/OEA
Copy to Wm. O. Enany, Pres.

As this leaflet goes to press, the IUE-GE Conference Board under Carey pressure has turned down both the UE's appeal for joint action and the vote for such action by the IUE Lynn Local 201.

UE is continuing its fight for joint action. Above is a letter sent by UE Local 201 to IUE Local 201.
It Gets Tougher

Yes, the job of the union in settling grievances gets tougher every day—and it's no accident.

UE Local 301's job in making the foremen, supervision and the works managers live up to its contract with the workers is getting tougher because of the growing General Electric company practice of turning its back on collective bargaining.

The same attitude which expresses itself in a "take it or lump it" offer of "peanuts" in national negotiations, shows up in attempts of foremen to refuse to distribute overtime equally, to upgrade according to seniority or to give a piece work job its proper rate.

It's no wonder that a foreman will be encouraged to try and dictate terms to a shop steward, when Cordiner, Reed and Houlihane are trying to do the same thing to our national negotiating committee.

That's why the job of forcing GE to bargain collectively is more important even than winning a badly-needed wage increase. On UE's ability to make the company negotiate in the democratic, American way rests our ability to keep union wages and union conditions.

On UE's ability to force GE to bargain collectively rests our ability to settle grievances in the shops and to protect the contract we have fought to win.

On UE's ability to force the company to bargain collectively rests our ability to keep what Schenectady GE workers have fought for in the past 20 years—in the shops, on the picket lines in 1946 and around the bargaining table.

GE wants to go back to the old open shop days here and throughout the country. That's why it's moving jobs to new plants in non-unionised areas where wages are traditionally low.

That's why it fights to maintain the unfair geographical differentials which keep rates down in the South and which threaten the entire rate structure in northern industrial centers like Schenectady.

UE's fight to protect what we've got and get what we need can be won if every Schenectady GE worker clothes in. It's our fight!
Acute Shortage Of Tool and Die Makers Cited
Morris Delegate Sending Ape Boys to College

While the big business newspapers cry about the shortage of skilled workmen, they hide the most important cause of this shortage - the failure of companies like GE to pay craftsmen the wages which they are entitled to.

Here in Schenectady, GE pays its top skilled employees, the toolmakers only $2.33 an hour. Craftsmen in other trades get even lower rates.

This pay scale doesn't even begin to compensate the highly skilled workers for their years of training and for their tremendous value to the company.

It's no wonder that industry has a tough time getting skilled personnel. Thousands of workers figure that it just doesn't pay to make the financial sacrifices required to develop high skills.

GE has been fighting to win fair rates for skilled workers. Over the years, considerable progress has been made, but now GE refuses even to bargain on the question of higher rates for skilled workers.

This refusal to bargain is based on the knowledge that as long as skilled workers can be kept down, a ceiling is clamped on the earnings of all workers.

That's why UE's fight to raise the craft rates is a fight on behalf of every worker in the Schenectady GE works.

Only by fighting together for higher craft rates can these rates be won.

Only by a united struggle by GE employees everywhere can the oppressive ceiling be lifted from the whole wage structures!

Flash!
A special meeting of all Schenectady GE toolmakers has been set for Tuesday evening, May 2 at UE Local 301 Hall. The meeting will get under way at 7:30 p.m.

Issued by UE Local 301, Schenectady, representing 20,000 GE employees

6:45 - 6:50 - WTRY - 980 Kc
Tune In! UE on the Air - Every Morning