GE Refuses to Raise Low Piece Work Rates; Committee to Discuss Next Step This Week

The special committee of representatives of workers on low-paid piece work jobs will meet this week at the union hall to consider the company's attitude in refusing to raise the AERFs of these jobs.

While making minor concessions on piece work day rates, A. C. Heine, assistant to the general superintendent, and the company did not recognize the production workers' hourly-time minimums or applying to piece workers. He asserted that the plant minimums for experienced hourly production workers were 99 cents, but that the piece workers' jobs were different.

The union committee charged that the AERF of 99 cents and 80 cents in effect discriminated against the women in these jobs by failing to apply the 15 percent incentive factor in favor of these piece workers. Heine claimed the lower-paid piece work jobs did not bear the same relation to unskilled jobs as in the more skilled branches.

It is the union's contention that the company has in fact recognized a hourly basis of 99 cents for the lowest-paid production job, Heine said that for an AERF of 80 cents, the company considered (there was a "take-over" hourly rate of 80 cents, but would actually subtract 10 cents from the employees' pay to 73 cents for the investigated jobs, which would mean a "break-even" rate of 73 cents instead of the present 73 cents for piece work day work. He also said the company was "retrograding" the piece work ratings from 73 cents to 71 cents for the investigated jobs, which would mean a "break-even" rate of 71 cents instead of the present 73 cents for piece work day work.

Heine said that when a committee of workers showed the situation the workers' jobs were "inadequate." It was the union's contention that these jobs were inadequate for a certain job, it was desirable to add more to them.

The union was represented by Anthony T. Kelly, business agent; J. B. Morgan, Edward Hovey; George B. Allgood; Bert Jackman, Kilgore, Biggs; James Ely; Martin Douglas; Edward Kelly; John Doherty, Biggs; R. J. Doherty, Biggs; and Edward Kelly, Biggs. The union office was held by residents Andrew Peterson and Victor Peterson.

National CIO Radio Program

The union will be on the air with a series of broadcasts from 7 to 11 on every Sunday over the NBC network.

Radio programs are being planned with listener and representative elements of housing, wages and prices.

Trustees for 1947

James Kelly

Edward T. Kelly

Alfred Delehanty

Brothers Doherty and Kelly were elected trustees of Local 383 and Brother Tashiki will be installed for the first time in January.

Union Wins Raises For 7 Steelworkers

Raising of cents such workers were won for seven steelworkers through a recent grievance action, bringing them to the Glasslower Steelworker job rate of $1.78. The increase was represented by the representative of the Local 383 and Hollis & F. B. Lott, president of 18 members. The case had been closed for months and the employees had been paid 10 cents an hour less because they were assigned only to walking work. The union insisted on their right to be paid for their qualification. Similar grievances cases are being pressed by the union for nine other causes.

If These Are Low Profits Then What Is Prosperity?

GE's operating profits are up from $108,000,000 in 1943 to $128,000,000 today — but company advertising and sales force statements convince employers of low profit.

Georgian reports, any workers' wages are dropping, but GE says workers' wages are up higher than the costs of living.

What is the explanation of all these contradictory statements?

In line with this remarkable way GE propagates anti-union figures is its frequent and consistent complaint about the cost of living, which is the most important factor in the determination of wages, and the public in the current discussion of wages and living costs.

That was a very pretty chart the Works News had, and many workers probably get the impression that GE was actually lowering wages. The GE's statement on profit for a short period depends on all sorts of factors that are hard to check: such as inventory, charges, amortization, figures, the hold-up by the company during the fight against the NPA, the refusal under the emergency back-labor law, etc. But even the company's own figures show that it is making 5 per cent as much profit as in 1943, and in 1940 the company made more than 10 per cent on total investment. Even half of that is a very handsome return, by any businessmen's standards.

It is the company's own admission:

Says GE—average wages have gone up 50 cents.

That means that total wage increases, including increases in the hours for the investigations, average 50 cents. That is a very good return on a company that says GE—rest of living has gone up only 46.7 percent. A return to the same standard wage that was in effect.

The actual increase is well over 50 cents. The average rise in living costs is over 40 cents, and according to the union figures show what they pay their workers. GE's profits last year were 32 percent above the average profit of the country, and higher in the industries of the country.

The greatest faller of all is the cost of living. The average cost of living for employees is over 50 cents, but that many stockholders. GE is steadily revalued by the stock and the high-paid representatives of the GE management.

Childen's Xmas Party

At Union Hall, Dec. 22

A Christmas party for children will be given at the Union hall, 383 Liberty St., from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22. The party continues a tradition started by President Andrew Peterson and Victor Peterson among the workers.

Local 301 On Air

Don't forget the weekly union radio program, the Local 301 broadcast every Monday at 7:15 p.m. over WENT.

What a Job, and No Overtime Pay! Election Committee Works Long Hours

The Local 383 Election Committee at its all-night job of setting up and counting ballots at 301 Hall is the usual union election of executive officers. They took a few activities off the hands and were for coffee and sandwiches and to answer telephone calls from the wives. William Forrest headed the committee which was elected at a 301 Membership meeting Nov. 17. The group represented the interests of all candidates on both sides and were from all parts of the plant. See Page 3 for the committee's unrecorded statement on the orderly, democratic way in which the election was conducted.

Executive Board Chosen for 1947

Following the adjournment of the election, the members of the Executive Board met and elected the following officers: J. C. Henry, president; J. P. Gough, vice-president; J. C. Knapp, secretary.

Local 383 activities during the war have been directed by John Downer, present president, and the members of the Executive Board.
Executive Board Chosen for 1947
(Continued from Page 5)

No Immediate Relief Seen for GE Lay-Offs

The news in the electrical industry remained bleak as workers were still laid-off at the Humble plant in the fourth week of the strike when SUE News went to press last week. According to reports, the National Smelting and Light Corporation indicated that they would not guarantee the plant's gas supply at an end of the year.

The news on electricity was not much better as the Western Power and Light Company has a new plan to increase the rate of service. However, the company has been forced to keep the rates at a minimum level due to the high demand for electricity.

Why Not Adopt Min Secretary of Labor?

President Charles E. Wilson of General Electric is chairman of the new Civil Rights Committee appointed by President Truman to fight intolerance and recommend laws to strengthen civil liberties. But his interest in civil rights began some time ago, when he was chief lawyer for the General Electric Company.

The committee's first duty, he said, is to establish a system of civil rights education, including a program of educational films. This program will be made available to all segments of society.

New Committeemen Sworn Into Office

A total of 21 men and women recently took their oath of office as shop stewards of Local 381 at the plant in addition to their regular 40 hours week work.

Local 301 Election Orderly, Democratic Committee Declares

The entire election committee signed the following statement to the membership of Local 381 at the general election Dec. 5, 1947:

"The election committee wishes to thank the members of Local 381 for their active participation in making the election a fair expression of union interests and sentiments."

"On account of the recent high cost of living and the possibility of the strike continuing, we wish to express our appreciation of the efforts made by the members of the committee to keep the elections orderly and fair."

Ordinary Election

"The election was orderly throughout. It is an asset of the union community."