New GE Offer Would Give Increases of from 5c to 16c

Field Day Volunteers Needed

Volunteers help to smooth the way for workers on the assembly line. GE's Field Day office at its Pittsfield, Mass., facility has been busy with preparations for the event. The volunteers, who are employees, help with tasks such as setting up tables and chairs, preparing refreshments, and ensuring the smooth operation of the event. The volunteers play a crucial role in making the Field Day event a success, and their contributions are greatly appreciated.
Urge All Stewards To Submit Lists in Organizing Campaign

GE Offer

Win 285 Rehiring For Decorated Vet

LEAFLETS STRESS PAY Hike Needed To Avoid Depression

Scranton UE Leader Tells GE Strike Story on 301 Program

Two in NAACP Forum

The LEAGUES, Pleated on the Sidelines, Plan to Return to the Offensive

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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'What's Good for the Workers Is Good For the Country' – UE Tells Congress

In recent testimony before a congressional committee, President Albert Fitzgerald and Washington Representative For Niren outlined the UE position on the current situation in the labor movement.

Pointing out that there are more now than 20 anti-labor bills before Congress, the UE spokesmen clearly stated their belief that the attempt to destroy free American trade unions would, if successful, cause a major depression in this country.

Fitzgerald charged that all proposals to cripple the labor movement, such as the Obidtawt-Ford Load, and the accompanying congromial witch hunts, are designed to liquid the plunging support of "protection against sabotage" and "investigating subversive activities" to the center of control of big business and big corporation stooges in the government.

The plan of the anti-labor press is given away in one of the proposals up before Congress, the Lane Bill Resolution in the House of Representatives. That resolution states:

"That officers are hereby empowered to discharge forthwith any employee, union steward or otherwise, who on reasonable grounds is suspected of sabotage, slowdown of production, repeated and concerted absenteeism, or other subversive activities. He shall be so declared unfaithful for any person or persons to—

(a) a maximum scale of hourly or daily production per man, group or assembly line;

(b) to come work stops;

(c) to arrest and strike because of the discharge of an employee suspected of subversive activities."

In short, the resolution would collapse and condemn as "subversive" all union activity. While that is an extreme case, there can be no doubt that the eventual aim of the National Association of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce of Commerce and of Washington, is just this—total destruction of organized labor.

UE has been fighting back against this attack, and against Taft-Hartleyism. We believe that if we have been condemned and assailed. It is important that every Local UN member and our entire position as stated by Fitzgerald and Niren. In this connection, here are two extracts from the testimony of the 2 UE leaders:

MR. FITZGERALD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question. If everything is so wrong with the Taft-Hartley Law, why is it that your Union has one of the best records of any union in the country, as far as any labor dispute since the law has been in effect. I understand you have not had a major strike in eight years. Is that not correct?

MR. NIXON: If you exclude the very significant strike we had in the fire. Butcher Corp. of about 30,000 people, that is not true. As Mr. Fitzgerald said, we do not deny we are a good and responsible union, but we cannot claim that to the Taft-Hartley Act.

MR. FITZGERALD: You must be honest about the phases of collective bargaining, which was evidently satisfactory. You were able to bargain and you were able to stay in business.

MR. FITZGERALD: That is not a true statement, Mr. Congressman. We would have done much better and we would have been in a position to secure more benefits from the employees in our industry if it had not been for the Taft-Hartley Act.

Let me give you an example of what effect the Taft-Hartley Act has had in the relationship between the General Electric Co. and its employees.

In the last year before the enactment of the Act, the employees of the company were able to obtain a wage agreement by meeting in the field. Each year after 1947 since the enactment of the Act, the offers of settlement on the part of the company have gradually gone down to the point where only a few weeks ago the company made a miserable offer of 1 1/2 percent. And all during these years the company's profits have gone higher and higher and higher. And if that is not a practical example of what is happening in this country under the Taft-Hartley Act, I don't know what is, . . .
UE says: STOP GE VIOLENCE

GE WORKERS' EFFORTS to defend their wages and working conditions got a straight answer from GE: VIOLENCE!

In Syracuse, N. Y., 7,000 GE production workers under IUE-CIO contract struck against GE's attempt to break down seniority safeguards and to utilize area differentials to keep down wages. For seven weeks the GE workers have maintained their picket lines in the face of a huge GE campaign of expensive propaganda, ads and pressures.

As a last resort GE organized a strike-breaking move through the picket lines, using a vast array of cops and deputy-sheriffs. The result was violence. GE inspired, GE provoked.

JOINT ACTION THE ANSWER

GE is out to do a job on its workers. The one effective answer by the GE workers is joint action for their protection. This is what UE has been urging. This is what the IUE Lyn local has voted for. This is the road which is being arbitrarily blocked by the IUE national leadership.

Working together, GE workers would be in a better position to defend their wages and working conditions. In Syracuse, UE has offered full and qualified support to the IUE workers on the picket lines. No strings attached. TO DATE, HOWEVER, THE SAME PEOPLE WHO BLOCKED THE IUELYN VOTE ARE BLOCKING WORKING TOGETHER IN SYRACUSE.

THE plain fact is, WE MUST ACT JOINTLY OR GE WILL TRY TO HANG US SEPARATELY.

Can You Make Out On 40 Hours?

A lot of Schenectady GE workers are working a good deal of overtime and have been for many weeks.

With all of these extra hours, most of us are just managing to meet our grocery bills, pay the rent or taxes and keep up with the kids as they outgrow their clothing.

For many of us, a cutback to 40 hours a week would mean a major economic crisis, and there are signs throughout the GE chain that such a cutback may be in the making.

It's no secret that the end of the Korean war is likely to mean a reduction in military orders which constitute such a large part of our work.

The fact is that right now there is plenty of margin for reduction in the company's huge profits—$500,000,000 in the last 15 months.

But there is NO ROOM for a reduction in the workers' incomes. Such a reduction would inevitably mean an economic depression which would make 1929 and 1930 look like boom years.

There is only one path to economic prosperity for the American people—production of more consumer products, and increasing of the purchasing power of the workers so that they can buy the goods they produce.

In this light that the UE demand for a substantial wage increase for GE workers becomes vital, a question of economic survival for everyone of us.

GE workers are entitled to a wage rate high enough to make a decent living for 40-hour work, not for 48 or 54 hours a week.

We have waged a long fight for the 40-hour week, but in many ways with the overtime, it has slipped away from us. UE's demand for a substantial wage increase is in effect a demand for a return to the 40-hour week and a return to a setup under which one job is enough to support a family in decent.

A substantial wage increase for GE workers is our only insurance against a depression.

Issued by UE Local 101, Schenectady, representing 20,000 GE employees

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