

A REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY 14 YEARS OF PROGRESS IN [DECATUR] GE

UE Local 924, which has represented Decatur GE workers for 14 years, believes it is important that our friends and neighbors of Adams County area be informed as to the issues in the election to be held this Wednesday.

Many people who do not work at GE, and perhaps some of the newer employees, do not realize that better wages, vacations, paid holidays, pensions, health insurance and better working conditions just aren't handed out free gratis by the company.

We know these gains have been made through the unity of GE workers throughout America; a little at a time year after year. Before UE there was no job security, and when GE workers passed beyond middle age many were fired. Wages of 25 cents an hour were common.

Here in Decatur before UE organization in 1941, we worked for 45 to 90 cents an hour. Compare that with the present rates we have won through national negotiations and local grievances of \$1.48 to \$2.80 per hour.

This means more money the GE workers have to spend in this community. This program means a better life for our membership and their families. Also better customers for the farmer and businessman, better schools, churches, roads and many other improvements that will help make our community a better place to live.

THIS IS THE UE RECORD

Men and Women, some living and some dead, some working for GE today, some not, won through their united efforts and sacrifices in UE, the WAGES AND BENEFITS GE WORKERS HAVE TODAY. HERE IS THE RECORD:

1936 UE wins NLRB election, thus beginning the organization of the huge GE chain.

1937 5-cent selective wage increase.

1938 First national union contract with GE. Won national grievance procedure. One week vacation after one year, two weeks after 10. Stopped 10 percent wage cut that salaried workers and foreman has to take.

1939 First step toward establishing seniority protection. Pro rata vacations for laid-off employees. Improved grievance procedure.

1940 Established two-week vacations after five years. First protection of piece work rates.

1941 DECATUR GE WORKERS VOTED FOR UE IN AN NLRB ELECTION. They shared in the UE national settlement which brought 10-cent general wage increase. THIS WAS THE FIRST GENERAL WAGE INCREASE IN GE HISTORY. Time and one half for Saturday and double for Sunday.

1942 5½-cent general wage increase. Grievance procedure improved.

1943 Guaranteed protection of piece work prices.

1944 Established step rates and automatic progression schedule, resulting up to 4½-cent increases. Pro-rata vacations from one to two weeks for employees with from one to five years service. Call-in and reporting pay improved.

1945 Established length of service as governing factor in layoffs and rehiring, eliminating family status, physical fitness, sex and ability as factors. Increased women's rates from 3 to 16 cents an hour. UE thus set the pace for winning equal pay for women.

1946 UE had stuck to its World War II no-strike pledge but had to strike to win 18½-cent general increase to meet the war time cost of living increase. Improved pension plan.

1947 11½-cent general increase and six paid holidays. 3 weeks vacation after 20 years service. UE became the first American industrial union to win pay for holidays not worked.

1948 9 to 16-cent general wage increase, pension improvements. Premium pay for Saturday and Sunday on continuous operations.

1949 UE refused to pay further per-capita to CIO and thus became dis-affiliated. UE refused to relinquish its member's rights to the top bosses of CIO. UE refused to become an errand boy for any political party and refused to weaken its fight for better wages and working conditions.

1950 Decatur workers, along with thousands of other GE workers, rejected the IUE, set up by the CIO with the aid of General Electric. Decatur GE workers for the second time voted in an NLRB election voted for UE and won a 10-cent increase, \$125 minimum pensions, Health Insurance and 7th paid holiday.

1952 In March a 4½ to 8-cent increase. 7½ to 13-cent wage increase. Improved health insurance and 3 weeks vacation after 15 years.

1953 5¾-cent average increase and an additional increase of up to 8-cents for skilled workers. Termination pay for workers in closed plants.

1954 5-cent average increase. Holidays falling on Saturday to be paid. A guarantee of full vacation payments to qualified employees based on total length of continuous service regardless of the fact that the employee may be laid off, terminated, sick or absent for other reason during the vacation year.

THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE COMES FIRST

Yes, this is the record of UE. It was not easily won. There had to be sacrifices, hard work and a strike in 1946. But with our fellow UE members throughout the land we have forged ahead. Here in Decatur we live up to the slogan of our brothers and sisters everywhere that, "THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE COMES FIRST."

There are some corporation officials and some phony labor leaders who disagree with such a slogan. They will cover up their own greedy self-interests with name calling and Red-Baiting attacks against UE that would put even Senator McCarthy to shame.

We, the UE members of Decatur GE, who are your friends and neighbors do not need the disruption of outsiders . . . We resent the screaming of "communism" against our Union and its members in Adams County. In 1950, IUE made these same charges. We rejected them by voting 2 to 1 for UE. We think the red-baiting is just a sham to cover up their own record of ever worsening conditions in Ft. Wayne.

We have confidence that the workers of Decatur GE will support UE this Wednesday as they did in 1950 and 1941. We also have confidence that the residents of Adams County community will continue their fine support of our aims to continue the improvement of wages and working conditions at Decatur GE.

YES, BECAUSE OF THE RECORD AND PROGRAM OF OUR UNION WE WILL

VOTE UE LOCAL 924

UE United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers Of America
Local 924 Decatur, Indiana