

Dedicated to Working People Everywhere

Tim Mills, Chair Education Committee

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PRATT & WHITNEY MACHINISTS GAIN THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT

Over five thousand members of IAM District 91 voted overwhelmingly to accept a new three-year agreement, ending their 11-day strike against Pratt & Whitney. The Machinists walked out at midnight, December 3, when their old contract expired. Talks had broken down over key issues such as job security and pension benefits.

According to the IAM web site, the new three-year deal includes gains in job security, wage increases, a one thousand-dollar ratification bonus, as well as improvements in retirement and the employee savings plan.

"We had a very solid strike, especially when you consider it was our first in 16 years," said IAM spokesperson John Harrity.

"Our most significant step forward was in job security. Before the walkout, the company would not commit to it. Thanks to our troops on the picket line, we now have it," he added.

Trying to preserve jobs is not new to the Union at Pratt & Whitney. Harrity explained that even before the recent court battles when the IAM successfully blocked the trans-

fer of work and the subsequent 11-day strike, the Machinists were threatened with plant closure in the early '90's, when the company said they would move the work out of Connecticut, down to Georgia, unless workers took concessions. Later in the decade, when Harrity was participating in an organizing drive at P&W's facilities in Georgia, he learned from workers there that managers told them that their work would be moved out of Georgia back to Connecticut!!

"A classic case of whipsawing. That's why the Union Summit held last year is so important. It's the future of our Movement," said Brother Harrity.

Harrity was referring to the conference attended by UAW Local 592 and most of the unions operating at United Technologies companies. Unions at UTC include the UAW, IAM, Teamsters, Operating Engineers, and Sheet Metal Workers.

Harrity concluded by saying that the new P&W agreement was at the printers and that copies would be available soon to our Local Union.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Jeff Bronson

Almost 70 years ago, in the midst of the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke these words at his first inaugural address:

"This is pre-eminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper.

*So first of all let me assert my firm belief that **the only thing we have to fear is fear itself** - nameless, unreasoning unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. "*

As I walk through the plants and talk to members, the most discussed topics are layoffs and job security. I attended a meeting on January 23, where Hamilton-Sundstrand President Ron McKenna reported on the current state of the business and the forecast for the coming year. Our workload is down significantly, but Hamilton-Sundstrand met its financial expectations so no "restructuring" is planned at this time. Their best estimates are that the business will not fully recover until the end of 2003 or early 2004. What that means for us is that (unless there is an unforeseen event) the company will not be closing plants or moving work to different locations, in an effort to cut costs, such as we saw in 1999-2000. It also means that the layoffs we have already experienced and those to come later in the year, could last longer than we had originally anticipated.

We are working diligently to get people recalled into areas that are working overtime and have pressured the company to eliminate most sub-contracting. I see our members seeking out non-traditional work opportunities, taking on new job duties and volunteering for the inverse layoffs. All of these things will help our great Union to "endure, revive and prosper."

At the January membership meeting, twenty two (22) changes to the Local Union

Bylaws were proposed and referred to the Bylaws Committee for recommendation and vote next month. Most of them are to bring the bylaws into compliance with changes in UAW International Union polices and changing "Sundstrand" to "Hamilton-Sundstrand." Those proposed changes will be posted on the Union bulletin boards. Your Chief Steward and department steward should also have a copy for you to review.

A motion also passed to change the makeup of the Chief Stewards' districts. With the closing of Plant 10, it was necessary to restructure Districts 2 and 3 to better balance the number of members represented within each district. As a result, District 3 now contains the Customer Service organization and all Testmen outside of Plant 1. When making the recommendation, the Executive Board felt that this will give ample time to those considering running for Chief Steward to make their decision based on the newly established boundaries.

As most of you already know, we now have Union offices in both plants 1 and 6. I want to establish some specific times when I will be available at those offices each week for you to drop by and talk about ideas, questions or concerns you might have. Beginning the week of February 25, I will be available at in-plant Union offices at the following times:

Mondays

Plant 1: 7:00-9:00 A.M.

3:00-5:00 P.M. (Except the 4th Monday)

Tuesdays

Plant 6: 10:00-11:30 A.M.

2:30-5:00 P.M. (Except the 4th Tuesday)

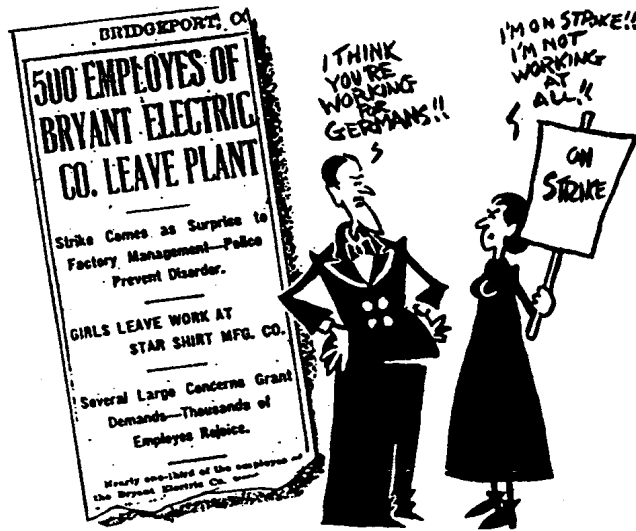
I am also always available through my pager - 983-0865, or there is voice mail at the UAW office, 962-0600. I encourage each of you to call me or drop by with any questions you may have.

WOMEN WORKERS' HISTORY

Chapter 57: SUMMER STRIKE WAVE, 1915

In 1915, war blazed in Europe. Munitions factories boomed in the United States. Women entered the weapons industry by the thousands. Women were needed, employers said, because the operations "involve(d) delicate work, requiring deftness and, dexterity in the use of fingers." But the lower wages received, by women for long hours worked had much to do with employer interest in their female hires.

Among the biggest munitions centers was Bridgeport, Conn. where only a handful of male workers were organized. That didn't prevent thousands of munitions workers from walking off their jobs at Remington Arms and Lake Torpedo Boat, then busy filling orders for war-torn Europe. Like a summer heat wave, the strikes swept on, next shutting down machine shops, then rubber, textile and garment plants.



Many of the strikers were women production workers, who courageously struck for better conditions despite their lack of union protection. Among the women deciding to take a stand were 500 assemblers employed by the Bryant Electric division of Westinghouse. The company was shocked when the women walked off — and even more dismayed when the remaining two-thirds of the workforce opted to join the strike.

Newspapers sowed rumors, warning that "scores of orders" in Bridgeport factories were being cancelled, and insinuating that the strikes were the work of "German agents" bent on disrupting the city's war production. But strikers held firm. Many employers gave in. Bryant Electric and other workers won reduction of working hours from 10 to eight a day; others got the work week reduced from 60 hours to 54 and 50 hours at 60 hours pay. (Bryant Electric and other Bridgeport factory workers would not enjoy union protection until UE and the CIO came on the scene some 25 years later.)

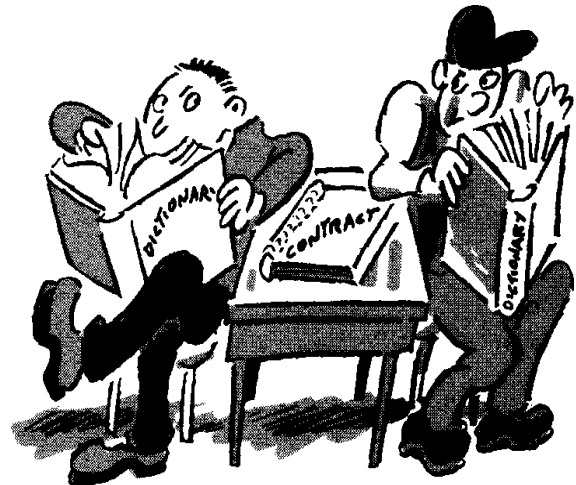
BARGAINING COMMITTEE REPORT

PEOPLE NOT HEADCOUNT - As of February 15, we have 41 members on Inverse Voluntary Layoff. Four have been reduced from their permanent classification and/or department. There are still three assemblers famed into Rockford Electronics thus preventing layoffs in that classification.

ARBITRATIONS - We reached a settlement on a disciplinary grievance at the arbitration hearing on January 15. An employee who had been discharged and relocated out of state accepted a monetary payment to terminate employment. The grievance regarding the Company refusing to downpost a Class A Assembler posting may also be settled soon. We have proposed that the next posting available in Assembly be initially downposted to a "B" and that a permanent arbitrator be selected to decide cases where the Company argues that it is impractical to downpost before someone is hired to fill that spot.

ELECTRICIAN CHANGES - The Company submitted a letter to the Union exercising its right under Article 14, Section 14.3 of the Labor Agreement to change classifications during the contract. They have eliminated the Class A, B, C and Learner brackets of the Electrician and replaced it with Journeyman and Apprentice. Journeymen will receive a rate equal to the top of the Class "A" bracket.

BENEFIT DOCUMENTS - We are working to get the benefit documents updated and signed off. It is a timely process that is long overdue. Some have not been updated and signed off since 1989. The Health Insurance document is very close to agreement, waiting only for a Letter of Understanding regarding reasonable and customary charges. The 401K document needs language incorporating the matching contribution and then it will be ready. The Pension Plan is being reviewed by benefits representatives.



Q: WHO'S REALLY RUNNIN' THE CAPITOL? A: THE CAPITALISTS

Editorial

The belly-up Enron Corporation's close ties to George Bush, George W. Bush, and approximately 250 members of Congress, should leave little doubt that the Federal Government has become a clearinghouse for the upper class. The situation was aptly characterized by North Carolina Senator Fritz Hollings, when he frankly admitted that we have a "cash and carry government" at a February 5th Senate Commerce Committee meeting. Committee members then voted to subpoena former Enron CEO Kenneth Lay.

Enron funded George W. Bush in 1994 when he defeated incumbent Ann Richards for governor of Texas. Bush claimed that Enron backed Richards, yet his campaign received twice the amount that she received. Enron did what many corporations do in electoral politics; they hedged their bets. (Incidentally, a UAW Local 592 study of the old Sundstrand Good Government Program revealed that Sundstrand often did the same thing when they put money in the coffers of Democrats and Republicans!!)

The Bush-Cheney presidential campaign got two million dollars from Enron. Candidate Bush regularly toured the nation in Enron corporate jets. When the Gore campaign called for a recount in the 2000 election, the GOP sent Enron attorney (George Bush Sr.'s former Secretary of State) James Baker to Florida.

Baker and Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher left George Sr.'s administration in 1992 and went right to work as consultants for Enron. Enron received highly profitable contracts for rebuilding power plants in Kuwait that were destroyed during the Gulf War.

Other Bushites who have been on the Enron dole include trade representative Robert Zoeller, who served

on the Enron Advisory Board, economic advisor Lawrence Lindsey, as an Enron consultant, and Secretary of the Army Thomas White, as vice-chair of Enron Energy Services.

Enron contributed 5.8 million dollars to political campaigns during the last 12 years – 73% to the GOP and 27% to Democrats. Enron's former CEO Kenneth Lay (affectionately known as "Kenny Boy"), is such a good friend of the Bush family that he had literally slept



in the Lincoln Bedroom during George Sr.'s administration.

How much say-so did Kenneth Lay and Enron have in the formation of the current administration's energy policy? The answer lies with Mr. Lay and Vice President Cheney.

Thus far, only the little guys have lost, like the workers at Enron subsidiary – Portland General Electric (PGE). These workers and their union, IBEW 125, filed suit against Enron on behalf of about 1000 PGE employees who had their 401-K accounts wiped out.

EAP Corner

Having Financial Worries?

If you can answer yes to one or more of these questions you maybe showing signs of debt stress.

- Are you near your credit limit?
- Do you use one card to pay on another?
- Do you use your credit card for items you could pay for in cash?
- Are you only able to make the minimum payments on your credit cards?

Compulsive shopping is one way people get into debt. Buying things that aren't necessary, but thinking that it's necessary at the time.

These are some tips that may help.

- Keep track of your bills, write it out so you can see it. Seeing is believing, this will give you a visual aid on how much you're spending.
- Don't buy an item on impulse, think about it first, and wait at least a day.
- Look for support groups like Debtors Anonymous.
- Seek help through a behavioral health professional.
- Ask about a credit counselor: example - Cook County Consolidation a not-for-profit credit counseling service, they do most of their business over the phone at 1-800-865-HELP.

For more information contact your local Employee Assistance Program Representative - Earle Rowe at: 972-0418 (pager), 966-8059 (work phone), or email - eg.rowe@hs.utc.com



**"Zero % interest until April....
Go ahead. What have you got to lose?"**

Next Steps in Tackling Bioterrorism

From *America @ Work*

In the aftermath of the spread of deadly anthrax spores through the U.S. mail, unions are ensuring workers' concerns are addressed as the nation responds to bioterrorism.

Unions such as the Letter Carriers and Postal Workers lobbied Congress for legislation that ensures protections and training for workers who are the "first responders" after an incident - fire, police and medical personnel - and those involved in recovery efforts and to see that such workers help plan the responses to bioterrorism threats. The bill is pending in Congress.

Meanwhile, the Laborers won a U.S. Department of Labor grant to develop a new training program on safe removal of biological hazards. "Our members have been leading the way in hazardous waste removal for many years, and we look forward to using our expertise in this field to help workers and our country to feel safe and secure," says LIUNA President Terence M. O'Sullivan.

APWU [American Postal Workers' Union] sponsored a two-day conference in January that brought together experts from government, labor and academia to examine responses to bioterrorist threats.

Postal employee unions also lobbied Congress for \$500 million to pay for the costs of equipment to irradiate mail and provide other protections after anthrax-laced letters were blamed for killing five people, including two postal workers. APWU President William Burrus is asking Congress to fund a study on the long-term effects of antibiotics on healthy postal workers who took the treatments as a preventative measure.

"Beware the leader who bangs the drums of war in order to whip the citizenry into a patriotic fervor, for patriotism is indeed a double-edged sword. It both emboldens the blood just as it narrows the mind.

"And when the drums of war have reached a fever pitch and the blood boils with hate and the mind has closed, the leader will have no need in seizing the rights of the citizenry. Rather, the citizenry, infused with fear and blinded by patriotism, will offer up all their rights unto the leader and gladly so.

"How do I know? For this is what I have done. And I am Caesar."

Julius Caesar



New mayors across the country took office in January. Some of them made history:

- Shirley Franklin was elected mayor of Atlanta, the city's first woman mayor and the only black woman serving as chief executive of a major city.
- Cleveland, Ohio elected its first woman mayor Jane Campbell.
- According to the National League of Cities nine women are serving as mayors of the 50 largest cities.
- Austin, Texas elected its first Latino mayor Gus Garcia. Detroit elected Kwame Kilpatrick who is black and 31 years old – the youngest mayor in Detroit's history.

We have made great progress, but the struggle goes on.

Bettye Collins, Chair

UAW Local 592 Civil Rights Committee



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