

LOCAL-301 NEWS

IUE-AFL-CIO

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The Voice of G.E. Workers, Local 301

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COURSES SCHEDULED ON RADIATION HAZARDS

A three day course on the hazards of radiation will be conducted in the IUE Local 301 office building at 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 7, 8 and 9.

Leo Goodman, Secretary of the AFL-CIO Atomic Energy Technological Committee, has been engaged to conduct the classes. He is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with 20 years of experience.

Leo Jandreau, President of the Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Schenectady Area, has invited representatives of all affiliated labor unions, who have, or may have in the future, jobs involving radiation problems. An invitation has been extended to others who may be interested in this matter.

In his letter, Jandreau made the following observations: "At one time it was believed that exposure to radiation affected only those who were directly engaged in processing materials and products for atomic uses. However, we have discovered in certain plants affiliated to our Council that products and parts which have been exposed to radiation and have been sent back to these plants for repairs are causing a safety hazard to those employees who are employed on such work."

Jandreau also stated that hearings are in process in Washington, whereby the AFL-CIO is pressing for more protective legislation in this field. It is interesting to note at this point that the National Chamber of Commerce is opposed to relieving the States of their authority to handle this even though it has been proven that the States have not properly handled those disabilities caused by radiation.

It is hoped that everyone who is presently confronted with this problem of radiation or who may be, in the future, will take advantage of this opportunity to acquaint himself with this ever-growing problem so that he may be better qualified to represent the interests of the workers if it becomes necessary.

CHAIRMAN-TOOLMAKERS COMMITTEE ISSUES REPORT

Executive Board Member, Joseph Korszun, Chairman of the Toolmakers Committee, reports that the members of his committee have met with top management for the past few months in an effort to resolve problems affecting Toolmakers in the plant.

Some time ago the Committee was made aware the toolroom work in Gas and Steam Turbine was being farmed out to outside vendors while work in other toolrooms in the plant was down to its lowest ebb. As a result of this situation, many Toolmakers were faced with a short work week or a reduction of forces.

Negotiations with the Company in this matter have produced favorable results. Farmouts to outside vendors have been reduced to a bare minimum. The work is now being done by our own Bargaining Unit, employees working in toolrooms within the plant facilities.

Another problem which came under discussion with the Company was the situation in Bldg. 285 toolroom. Management has installed a new turret lathe and has proposed to introduce seven new production machines to be operated by Toolroom Machine Operators (TRMO's). These machines will replace 20 to 22 existing machines.

Management informed the Committee members that this is a long range plan, one which would take 2 or more years to effectuate. There is no indication of any Toolmaker cutback at this time, however.

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Toolroom work, assigned to the Machine Repair Group in Bldg. 273, was also discussed. The Company agreed to correct this problem by channeling work to the proper groups.

Chairman Korszun states that there are other problems under discussion and that the Union officers and the Toolmakers Committee are currently meeting with management in an effort to resolve them in the best interest of our members.

AREA UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASED

According to a news release, dated Friday, Feb. 16, 1962, M.P. Catherwood, Industrial Commissioner of the N.Y. State Dept. of Labor, Division of Employment, noted that employment in N.Y. State rose to 7,435,000 in December equalling the high for 1961. However, he also observed that unemployment was estimated at 445,000 or 5.6% of the State's Labor Force in December. This was due to seasonal job declines in farming, construction, in apparel and other non-durable goods manufacturing industries.

In the Albany-Schenectady-Troy Area, 12,600 workers were unemployed (4.7% of the labor force) as compared with 11,900 (4.5% of the Labor Force) in November.

GUNN ATTENDS FULL CITIZENSHIP CONF.

Dave Gunn, Asst. Rec. Secy. of Local 301 and Legislative Chairman of Dist. #3, recently attended the IUE Full Citizenship Conference held in Washington, D.C.

He reports that a variety of subjects were discussed. The list of speakers included several Senators and Congressmen. Sec. of Labor Arthur Goldberg and Director of the Housing Agency, Robert Weaver also spoke to the Conference delegates. The majority of the speakers conveyed practically the same message in certain parts of their speeches. They noted that we today are living in rapidly changing times that Unions must also change to meet the challenge. A strong recommendation that Unions take a more active part in politics was made. This is vital and necessary, they said, if Unions want to maintain and preserve the gains they have made in the past and to pass legislation that will benefit workers in the future. Working people, the speakers cited, need fair Labor Laws better Social Security, higher unemployment compensation, full employment at good wages, tax relief for the working man and pensioners.

The delegates to the G.E. Conference Board representing Local 301 attended a meeting held at the IUE National Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on February 15 and 16. They reported that the National Union has embarked on a campaign to organize at least 25,000 new members by the end of 1962. Several unorganized and new G.E. plants are among those earmarked for the campaign.

Considerable discussion took place on plans and program for the 1963 contract negotiations. It was generally agreed that we should start now to consider issues for contract demands and make sure that the GE-IUE members understand the issues, as well as the people in the G.E. communities.

Some Locals reported that they were having difficulties with their respective managements in negotiating supplement agreements covering the application of seniority on layoffs and bumps. Local 301 delegates reported that we had negotiated the supplement covering our Local.

During the reports from the Locals it was pointed out that G.E. was closing plants in Worcester, Mass, East Boston, Mass., and one in Cleveland, Ohio. In all instances, the work formerly done in these old locations was being transferred to other communities.

The reports on the organizational status in terms of percentage of Union members in each G.E. Local showed Local 301 among the top with 93% of our Bargaining Unit organized.

John Callahan was reelected, without opposition, as Chairman of the Conference Board for a two-year term.

STEWARDS URGED TO RETURN ANDERSON-KING PETITIONS

While many petitions supporting medical care for the aged have already been received in the Union Office, there are, however, some Shop Stewards who have as yet made no returns to the Board Members. It is very important that this be done immediately.

Committee meetings on medical care for the aged are currently being held in Washington. We must have these petitions in the hands of our Senators and Congressman as soon as possible in order to advise them of our feelings with regard to the Anderson-King Bill. Anyone in the Capital District who is eligible to vote can sign the petition.