

NOVAK LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN
OUTLINES PLATFORM

GE FINANCIAL REPORT SHOW
STARTLING FIGURES

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE - AFL - CIO

MARCH 11, 1959

UNION CHARGES GE WITH CONTRACT
VIOLATION

Charges of contract violation in two instances were made this week by Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent, against the General Electric Company.

Jandreau said the cases are being processed through the grievance procedure and that he expects to take them to the National Labor Relations Board and, if necessary to arbitration.

One case is scheduled for New York level talks on March 30th. Jandreau said the union has been negotiating for several weeks the application of the contract supplement as it affects long service people.

He said the supplement provides for displacement of shorter service persons working on the same or like kinds of jobs within the bargaining unit.

The business agent said the company now refuses to displace shorter service persons from one department to another, specifically large steam turbine, even though this has been the accepted process and is part of the contract.

He said cases involving erectors and assemblers have been processed and longer service persons in large motor and generator, MAC and gas turbine have the right, under the contract, to bump into large steam turbine.

At a meeting with turbine management this was rejected.

In another case, the company has refused to give the union the master seniority list showing workers' occupation and length of service.

Without this list, Jandreau said, the contract cannot be properly applied and this obviously is what the company wants.

He said "this is apparently a plant wide move because, after turbine refused to supply the list, another department which has been

SUPERVISORS BACK MINIMUM WAGE

The Board of Supervisors this week gave the Chamber of Commerce a slap in the face by approving an increase in the national minimum wage.

The Chamber's president, William T. Hubbard, and Local 301's business agent, Leo Jandreau last week exchanged verbal broadswords over the merits of increasing the minimum wage.

The Chamber was against it and of course, Local 301 along with the entire labor movement, is for it.

The Board of Supervisors acted on the proposition after supervisor Joe Mangino introduced the resolution and Local 301 president John Shambo recommended its adoption. Mangino, while being a supervisor is also chief shop steward in Local 301.

The Chamber maintained that increasing the minimum wage from \$1.00 to \$1.25 would be inflationary. The union maintained raising the minimum would hike the standard of living in areas such as the south while not affecting most wage earners and businessmen in the north.

The union also said that raising the standards in the south would make the north more competitive

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furnishing the list for a long time also notified the union it can no longer do so because of company instructions."

Jandreau said this is a contract violation because the company is obliged to furnish information to the union for settling disputes.

He said the NLRB has ruled that such information shall be supplied and not giving it constitutes an unfair labor practice.

The case is being processed through the grievance procedure, Jandreau said, and he expects to proceed to the NLRB and to arbitration if no solution is found.

The financial report of GE show some startling figures, when they are looked at in terms of the worse recession since World War II.

Employment dropped by 11.5% on the average, with a drop of 32,400 jobs. The production workers probably suffered worse, since there was probably an increase in the number of supervisory, technical, professional and "overhead" personnel.

Total wages and salaries and benefits dropped by \$75,000,000. This is a huge sum. Yet profits after taxes dropped by only \$4,900,000.

Dividends paid actually increased in 1958 over 1957.

The main burden of the recession fell upon the production workers. It is likely that the number of production workers fell about 40,000 during the year. Those who were dropped lost about \$200,000,000 in wages and benefits, while all those who remained including salaried and officers had an increase in wages and benefits of about \$130,000,000. This makes the net drop of about \$ 75,000,000.

The GE report indicates that average wages, salaried and benefits increased by \$487 a year. But if we examine who got it, we find that the average production worker who remained on the job got about \$300 and the average non-production worker got about a \$650 increase.

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORY STILL GOING
DOWN

The number of factory employees in the bargaining unit represented by IUE Local 301, has decreased 3076 since January 1958. According to the monthly unemployment reports issued by GE management to the Union there were 13,756 employed in January 1958. The most recent report covering the month of February showed 10,680.

5. I believe educational programs can be suited to develop the best in every child. These programs should be so directed that every child be given every opportunity to develop to his maximum ability.

6. I believe that, in a highly industrialized area, labor also should have representation on the Board of Education as representative of a great mass of consumers.

Leon Novak, Local 301 attorney and a veteran in the affairs of the labor movement, this week launched his campaign for a post on the City Board of Education.

Novak, endorsed by Local 301 and the CIO Area Council, said labor should have representation on the Board along with other segments of community, such as business and the professions.

Local 301 is launching an all out campaign for Novak who has been the Local's attorney for 12 years. Officers and Board members of the Local have expressed the feeling that the reputation of the union's community influence is staked on the outcome of the election.

The Officers and Board members have urged every member eligible to vote in the district to go to the polls on May 5th and cast their ballot for Novak.

Novak's platform is as follows:

1. I believe, from personal observations, that Schenectady now has a splendid public school system. If elected, I will therefore work to maintain those standards, to improve them where economically feasible and academically necessary, and to cut back costs when cut backs will not reduce the standards desired.
2. I believe, that an approach to sound education should go something like this:
 - A. What kind of educational facilities do our children need?
 - B. Can we afford all the things we believe we need?After it is decided what we need and can afford, then we can determine the quality of education we are prepared to offer to our community on a dollar for dollar basis.
3. I shall work toward the maximum use of existing physical facilities.
4. I shall encourage "in-service training" programs for teachers to help them to keep abreast of new knowledge at a time when advances, both in the sciences and social sciences, are so rapid.