

LOCAL 301 NEWS

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LOCAL 301 HOST TO JAPANESE UNION REPRESENTATIVES

Last week eight labor representatives of the National Federation of Electric Power Workers' Unions of Japan discussed Union programs and problems with Local 301 officials.

The Japanese delegation was brought here through the U.S. Dept. of Labor. They were scheduled to visit several of the larger electrical manufacturing plants in the U.S.A. during their one month's visit in our country.

After spending several hours with officials of Local 301, they were escorted through the G.E. plant by representatives of the management.

It is the hope of the Labor Movement in the United States to cooperate and help the unions in foreign countries to become strong enough to raise the standard of living through collective bargaining, not only because the working people in those nations are entitled to a share of the progress made by industry in those countries, but more important, until their standard of living is raised, foreign competition is a threat to the American worker.

NOTICE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Monday, May 22nd, at 7:30 p.m.

Officers will meet at 6 p.m.

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY--3RD SHIFTERS

3rd shift employees in the plant will observe Monday, May 29, 1961, as their Memorial Day Holiday. Qualifying days will be Friday, May 26, and Tuesday, May 30.

The Union requested this change because of a desire expressed by the majority of the 3rd shift employees.

LOCAL 301'S VACATION GIVEAWAY

The tickets for the Vacation Giveaway Program are now being distributed to the Executive Board Members.

All members wishing to participate in this popular giveaway event should contact their respective Shop Stewards for their tickets.

The Activities Committee through repeated requests have named the same three big prizes as last year, which are as follows:

- 1st Prize - Cruise to Bermuda or \$500.00
- 2nd Prize - Two weeks vacation for family or \$250.00
- 3rd Prize - One week's vacation for family or \$150.00

Deadline: June 16, 1961, for the turn-in of tickets sold

Drawing: June 19th Membership Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Anyone may purchase the "Giveaway" tickets which will sell 3 for 50¢.

SURVEY BY LOCAL 301 TO HELP DOWNGRADED EMPLOYEES

The Local 301 Union Office has instituted a new system of filing and recording the names and previous occupations of those employees who are on lower rated jobs.

The Board Members are now in the process of distributing "Job Information Survey" forms to all Shop Stewards. These forms will be filled out only by those employees who are now working on a lower rated job.

Space has been allotted for listing the employee's name, service date and higher rated occupations on which the employee has previously worked.

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STEAM RE-HIRES CRANE CREWS

Two crane crews re-hired in Steam Turbine as result of oral discussions held between Union and Company representatives.

Due to a recent general increase in production activity in several sections of Steam Turbine, Union representatives feel that certain services should be restored. Crane service, for instance, was, in the opinion of the Union representatives, inadequate. In the discussions held with Company representatives, it was pointed out that several crane crews were working overtime for several weeks in an effort to keep pace with the amount of lifts required. This setup apparently was making no headway in alleviating the situation. It was further pointed out that enough overtime has been worked by the crane crews to warrant the re-hiring of additional help.

The Company took the above information under advisement and informed the Union negotiators that an investigation of the facts would be made. Their findings and disposition of the case would be given to the Union representatives.

Subsequently, the Company notified the Union that they had weighed the facts and as a result, two additional crane crews would be hired.

The following Union negotiators are to be commended for exercising good judgement in the solution of this problem: Shop Stewards Reczko, and Weaver, Board Member Martucci and Coordinator Vitallo.

JOBLESSNESS REMAINS CRITICAL PROBLEM

According to the AFL-CIO report as of May 1961, the number of unemployed in our country was 4,962,000, just under the post-war April figure of 1958.

The unemployment rate was 6.8% of the work force at the end of last month. The work force is estimated at 65,734,000, which includes approximately 1½ million working on part time schedules.

The long term unemployment continued to rise...workers without jobs for 15 weeks or longer rose by 266,000 to a total of 2,128,000. About 900,000 workers have been without jobs for 26 weeks or longer.

AFL-CIO economists say we are not making much inroad in the hard core unemployment problem. They predict that unemployment will rise

SURVEY BY LOCAL 301 (Cont'd)

This information will be compiled and indexed by the Union Office for the purpose of identification of an employee within a certain classification. It will also enable the Union to determine which employee, based on seniority, is entitled to the higher rated job where he can utilize his highest skills.

This innovation will result in more work for the Union Office staff; however, it is felt that the end results will be worth the added effort.

It is very important that the information sheets be filled out and returned to the Union Office immediately. This will enable the Union to properly process placements which are taking place at the present time.

NEW MEMBERS JOIN LOCAL

Even in the face of layoffs, pensions and other factors causing the attrition rate of decrease of members of Local 301, Union Shop Stewards and Board Members have signed up 72 new members during the first quarter of this year.

Local 301 has enjoyed being among the Locals in the G.E. Chain who have at least a 90% membership. The percentage as of May 1st, 1961, was 92% for Local 301.

EMPLOYMENT PICTURE

Foundry

Asst. Business Agent Allen E. Townsend has been in contact with Mr. Stern of Foundry Union Relations who has given him the following information:

The employment picture for 1961 is bright. On Jan. 1, 1961, the total employment in the Foundry was 465 and as of now, it is 489. Mr. Stern said that employment will increase by a total of 90 in 1961. He also stated that he was optimistic on the outlook for 1962.

to 5½ million when school is ended for the year unless the economy improves significantly.

Arthur Goldberg, the Secretary of Labor, reported that 500 million was paid out in unemployment benefits in March of 1961.