

## IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301,  
REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY  
GE WORKERS

Published by the Editorial Committee  
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## Dapper Dans, Sesqui Belles

Frank Etzel, Louis Lezzi, Bill Mastriani, Esther Altieri, and Chet Boroski have voluntarily formed a committee to organize Dapper Dan and Sesqui Belle chapters in the plants. Any others interested in joining them are cordially welcome to do so for the coming Sesqui-centennial Celebration which will take place in August.

Toppers, derbies, mustaches, sideburns, beards and string bow ties will be the formal dress for the Dapper Dans while the ladies will don bonnets, etc. to fit the occasion.

Every Monday and Thursday in July will be Official Dress-up Day. Let's get off to a flying start and join in the fun.

## Building Trades Form Committee

As a result of a recent meeting of the Building Trades a committee of six has been formed to deal with any current problems which might arise in that group. They are: Stockheim, Masterson, Biscallon, Zydes, DiCaterino, Mitchell and Griffith.

## Mastriani, Cognetta Attend Legislative Conference

Views highly favorable to enactment of a \$1.25 Federal minimum wage and a farc non-punitive labor reform bill, were voiced by many members of New York State's Congressional delegation in Washington last week.

The occasion was an off-the-record dinner held by the N. Y. State AFL-CIO for the Congressmen. Twenty-five of the state's 43 Representatives, the administrative assistant of one U. S. Senator and leaders of the state body and a dozen major local central bodies attended.

President Harold C. Hanover welcomed the Congressmen and outlined the three areas of exchange of views, minimum wages, the labor bill and aid to economically depressed areas.

"We believe that a face-to-face meeting with you may help materially to develop a mutual understanding and, we hope, support of those views which hold uppermost the greater good of the greater number of our fellow citizens and ourselves," he said.

Noting that since jurisdiction of Union Business Agents ended when members left the shop and returned to their home communities, Louis Hollander, State AFL-CIO C.O.P.E. Chairman, told the Legislators that "we look to you to be the business agents of the people with the government here in Washington."

The labor leaders present, he said, were representing not only the members but the home town butcher, grocer, banker, insurance man and real estate man in areas where runaway businesses "take thousands of jobs away and

affect the economic well-being not only of our people but everybody in the communities where this happens."

"Democratic unions are the basis of democracy," he said. "There can be no political democracy. You have the power to protect that democracy in the labor movement just as you have the power to protect industry. If you do that you will protect the community and the jobs of the workers as well."

commenting on the pending labor bill, Legislative Chairman, Raymond R. Corbett said that "in New York we have a labor bill that will not cripple labor" and expressed the view that Sen. John L. McClellan "would do better to seek enforcement of the U. S. Constitution's Bill of Rights back home in Arkansas instead of being so anxious about his dangerous so-called Labor Bill of Rights."

Attending the meeting was William Mastriani, Legislative Chairman and James Cognetta, President of the CIO Council.

## Fight On Inflation

Some people are getting a bit tired of the stuck-whistle repetition of the nonsense about President Eisenhower's fight on inflation.

The President is illiterate on matters of economics. He preaches against inflation whatever someone will write down on paper for him to stumble over. There are some who doubt whether he would grasp a simple economic fact if it were spelled out for him in one-syllable words.

Right now the President is pushing for an increase in interest rates on government borrowing.

It means that the bankers of this country will take a still bigger slice out of the national wealth. They are doing quite well already. 16 banks reported gains in earnings of 13.9% last week.

Doesn't it seem a bit strange that the President isn't concerned about managed prices and their effect upon inflation? Doesn't it seem strange that he doesn't consider an increase in the price of money as being inflationary?

Doesn't it seem odd that the President regards a little prosperity for the worker as inflationary, while at the same time he rejoices and takes credit for the fact that profits this year promise to break all previous records?

(Reprinted from the Labor News Digest)

# LOCAL 301 NEWS

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July 31, 1959

ALERT STEWARD (KENYON) GETS UNION MEMBER \$220 BACK PAY IN MAC DEPT.

### WHO'S TO BLAME FOR COST-OF-LIVING RISE?

On Wednesday, July 22, 1959, it was announced on the front pages of the local newspapers that 16,000 General Electric employees would begin to receive \$400,000 more a year. BIG DEAL -- well, let's take a L-O-N-G, S-I-O-W look at this momentous sum of money.

THIS AMOUNTS TO an average of only \$25.00 a year.

STEAM TURBINE ANNOUNCED a shutdown for inventory on a work day. That is 8 hours pay lost at General Electric's own average of \$2.60 an hour - \$20.40 out of one week's paycheck. That huge \$25.00 a year increase has now shrunk to \$4.20.

16,000 employees sharing \$400,000 sounds good, but it only amounts to .012 cents per hour, .48 cents average a week. Many employees have lost much more than .48 cents an hour through downgrades alone; so that .48 cents a week helps, just a little.

A \$400,000 annual increase to the Schenectady payroll sounds good, but let's take a look:

To show just a portion of GE's lay-off, in the May 22nd, 1959 issue of the G.E. Schenectady News, the company announced that between March 31st and April 30th alone, 350 less employees were employed. Using GE's own figures of \$2.60 an hour, 40 hours per week, 52 weeks a year, \$1,892,800 annually was lost from the Schenectady payroll - how come no headlines??

WHO WAS BLAMED for the raise in cost-of-living in the article? Steelworkers are on strike, G.E. employees haven't had a wage increase since 1958; Auto workers haven't had a raise lately; so who's to blame? The papers never lay the blame for increases in cost-of-living where it belongs - higher prices caused by the greed for higher profits. There will be no blame laid out now for a cost-of-living increase until the newspapers' favorite whipping boy, Labor, gets another wage increase.

HAVE YOU SIGNED FOR:  
LOCAL 301's  
DAPPER DANS OR SESQUI-BELLES?  
CONTACT YOUR STEWARD OR BOARD MEMBER NOW.

The alertness of the Union and its representatives was recently demonstrated in the MAC Dept. Approximately two years ago a man was hired as a Millwright's Helper. The contract states that jobs of this rate will get automatic one step increases one month apart until the top rate is reached. In this case, the Company gave this man his monthly increases as per contract up to the final step. At this point, they gave no further increases.

Steward Kenyon, under Board Member Wagar, upon questioning this Union member found out that he had been waiting for the final step for over a year. Steward Kenyon immediately contacted Board Member Wagar who in turn made a verbal complaint to the MAC Rate Dept. After a few days investigation, the Company, realizing that they had violated the contract, paid this man the back money in the amount of \$220.00 which was owed to him. This is another fine example of good union representation in the shop.

SESQUI - DRESS UP DAYS  
WILL BE EVERY DAY  
FROM NOW UNTIL AUG. 29TH

SO WEAR YOUR TOP HAT,  
DERBY, BONNET, AND WHAT HAVE YOU!

THE STEELWORKERS WILL WIN !!

Contrary to the article in the GE News dated July 24, 1959, entitled, "The strike no one can win", the United Steelworkers WILL WIN OUT....

The entire force of the AFL-CIO combined with other independent unions throughout the United States have dedicated themselves to the cause of the Steelworkers. They are united 100%. It is up to us, as individual members, to support them in every possible way we can.

Remember, we may be asking for their support in 1960.

In reference to the GE article which states that "the industry is losing \$3 million a day, not including lost sales" we'd like to point out that "you never lose anything you haven't made".