

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE AFL-CIO

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LOCAL 301 MEMBERS TO RECEIVE WAGE INCREASE

Beginning April 2, 1962, members of Local 301 will receive a three percent increase in wages in conformity with the GE-IUE Contract which was negotiated in 1960.

Schenectady General Electric workers will receive wage increases amounting from 6 cents to 10½ cents per hour.

The Common Labor rate will increase from \$2.08 to \$2.14 per hour. The Toolmaker's rate will go from \$3.43 to \$3.53½ per hour.

The increase for incentive workers will be added to the AER of the job.

Options were provided in the contract for plants to select either a 4% raise on April 2, 1962, or a 3% raise plus an extra week of vacation and extra paid holiday. The members of Local 301 chose the latter provision of additional vacation and holiday.

In approximately 4½ years from 9/15/57 to 4/2/62, day work rates have increased 40½ cents per hour for Common Labor; Toolmakers have received increases amounting to 67½ cents per hour.

Percentage adjustments were also made on the AER of incentive workers during this period.

Next week's issue of the Local 301 News will carry the new rates which will go into effect on April 2, 1962. It is suggested that every Union member retain a copy of the coming issue for future reference.

LOCAL TO LAUNCH SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE

On Monday, March 19, 1962, the membership of Local 301 approved the following recommendation of the Executive Board: To conduct the 1962 Scholarship Fund Drive. April 9th has been selected as the launching date.

This will be the fourth year that such a drive has been conducted.

Frank Masterson, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, gave a detailed report at Monday's membership meeting regarding the standings of the three students who have received financial benefits from our Scholarship Fund.

Paul Graziade, who is presently attending the University of Colorado, has made the Dean's List. His father is employed as a Splicer in Bldg. 68.

John Whitehouse, who is a student at Holy Cross College, recently received an ROTC Scholarship which will pay John's full tuition for the remainder of his stay at Holy Cross. A recent report indicates his grades to be above average. John's father is a machine operator in Bldg. 16.

Robert Willock, last year's winner, is attending VPI, Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Robert has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, and is seriously considering the offer. His father is a Shipper in Bldg. 29.

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RED CROSS PLEADS FOR MORE CONTRIBUTIONS

At the annual meeting on March 14, 1962, of the Board of Directors of the G.E. Community Service Fund, with representatives of the Schenectady County Chapter of the American Red Cross, in connection with the current Red Cross Fund Drive, the following facts were pointed out:

The average donation per capita from the members of the Community Service Fund to the Red Cross is approximately \$4.00. (Approximate members - 16,000; 1962 donation \$63,000) By comparison, a large percentage of the professional groups, doctors, dentists, lawyers, etc., fall far short of this average, with some

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The report was impressive in that it pointed out the high caliber and the potentialities of the students selected by the Scholarship Committee.

The contributions our members make to this worthy project could very well be an investment in America's future by providing financial assistance to qualified boys or girls who may some day become leaders in their chosen fields of endeavor. In keeping with this thought, we ask our members to be as generous this year as they have in the past.

STRATTON SUPPORTS
KING-ANDERSON BILL

President John Shambo and Business Agent Leo Jandreau have received letters from Congressman Samuel Stratton acknowledging with thanks the receipt of petitions including over 5,500 signatures supporting the King-Anderson Bill.

This Bill if passed would provide medical care for the aged through Social Security.

Congressman Stratton stated in his letter that he is very much in favor of this legislation and is pushing hard to get it passed during this session of Congress.

The Bill is presently bottled up in the House Ways and Means Committee. Concerted effort is being exerted on the part of many legislators to bring the Bill on the floor of the House of Representatives for action.

donating nothing and others as little as \$1.00 to \$2.00.

According to the records, the Chapter has returned donation checks to some members of these professions, stating that due to the size of their donations, they probably need the money more than the Red Cross.

In some cases, the Bureau of Internal Revenue in checking Income Tax Returns of some members of this particular group, who claim donations to the Chapter in the amount of three figures, find that instead of a three-figure contribution, the donation was either nothing or in one figure. (This is the type of person opposing medical care to the aged.)

FITCHBURG LOCAL ON STRIKE

President John Shambo has received a letter from President Norman J. Santerre notifying us that 602 members of Local 286, IUE-AFL-CIO, are out on strike.

This Local is the Bargaining Unit for employees of the General Electric Company in Fitchburg, Mass.

The strike has been in effect since February 27, 1962. Reason for the walkout was the unsatisfactory settlement of six grievances which cleared the third level of the grievance procedure.

The Executive Board of Local 301 will take up the question of a contribution to Local 286 Strike Fund at its next meeting.

FACTS ON DISABILITY PENSION

Due to the importance of our members securing the proper information regarding Disability Pensions, we feel that it is advisable at this time to once again acquaint them with the following facts:

Many workers who are already out, or are going out, on Disability Pension from the G.E. Co. are not aware that they also might qualify for disability pension under Social Security.

The latest Social Security Law states that a person totally disabled as defined under the Social Security Law can collect full Social Security at any age the disability occurs. However, anyone applying would have to wait six months after applying before they could qualify for any disability payments. I would advise any worker going out on Disability Pension to check at once with Social Security Office to see if they can qualify. If a person on Disability Pension from G.E. qualified to receive Disability Pension from Social Security, his supplementary payments and minimum pension from G.E. would not be reduced in any way until he was 65 years old. In other words, he could collect both pensions in full up to this time. At 65, he would lose the supplementary payment from G.E. and his pension would revert back to what it would normally be but not less than \$2.40 per month for each year of credited service. This will go up to a minimum of \$2.50 per month for each year of credited service acquired after April 2, 1962. (Further information concerning this subject may be obtained by contacting the Union Office.)

NEWS FLASH

Jandreau's Machine gives 10% salary raise for Union Hall People. Jandreau will at the same time try to raise Union Dues of Members in the Shop. All this at a time when Union Members have been and are in the process of being downgraded.

This will mean that Jandreau and his assistants will draw hefty salary increases up to \$23 per week. The attempt at increasing the dues, if successful, will force the members to pay \$5 monthly. Why doesn't Jandreau cut expenses in his over-staffed office?

The membership of the Local has dwindled from a peak 30,000 to a low 7,500 and Jandreau has more Assistants than ever.

All this while Union Representation has decreased in the shop almost to a negative value.

PROBLEM REMAINS

HOT BOOTH WELDERS GRIEVANCE UNRESOLVED

Several months have gone by since this grievance was filed and to date nothing of value to the hot booth welders has come about.

The G.E. Turbine Department has cut standard prices of the welders. There has been no change in method. The only change is in the method of figuring the pay for the welder.

Under this new system the welder has no control of the price he receives for his welding. Repeated checks have shown that no two price setters would arrive at the same price for the same defect. The method used in the past enabled the welder to measure the defect and thus know the price for his work.

THE NEW METHOD ALLOWS THE COMPANY TO CONTROL THE PRICE. Also the welder has no way of checking the price to see if it is right. The wages received by the welders since this new method was instituted has proved that the G.E.Co. is using the new method to reduce the earning powers of the hot booth welders.

HOT BOOTH WELDERS WORKING CONDITIONS

Hot booth welders have reached PEAK production possible under the prevailing harsh working conditions. The attempt by G.E. Supervisors to use the "Iron" hand and sheer coercion to DRIVE the welders to greater heights of production will fail and cannot cover up the Company CUTTING STANDARD PRICES.

Welders constantly breathe SUPER-HEATED AIR working on jobs heated to 500 degrees. Our health interest can't be for the short run (like your profits), we have to last over the period of our working life. Why is it that welders constantly refuse HOT BOOTH WORK? Because this area is a SWEATSHOP.

WE SAY CONTINUE TO PAY US FOR OUR WORK AND SWEAT- BUT PAY US AT THE STANDARD RATE - NOT AT SOME PHONEY RATE. Live up to the Union - Company contract.

SMACKS OF COMPANY UNIONISM

The apparent inability of local Union officials to resolve this problem at the local level is no surprise to most of us. All of us have experienced this frustration in our own area. However, when we want to express our disapproval of this new rate, we are being held back by the top brass down at the union office. Why hasn't this grievance been sent to the third step level in New York? Any grievance that has been around as long as this one has been cussed and discussed and all available information brought out.

The General Electric Turbine Department's program to increase productivity at the expense of the workers should alert all Turbine workers before it is too late. The Company is splitting union members and isolating them into small groups. Then the G.E. moves in on the small groups, one at a time. The result is speedup, downgrading, loss of working conditions, combination of jobs, elimination of jobs and more hardships for the worker.

The automation of the workers has been ignored by Local 301 officials, even though Union membership has toppled. What shackles our present Union Officials? Our Union members should share in this increased productivity by being fairly paid for their incentive work - through the reevaluation of jobs; considering added skills, responsibilities etc. Throughout the Turbine Shop, employees are harrassed and threatened to greater efforts on the job, forced to become "jack of all trades". REPUDIATE THE COMPANY UNION TREND