

# LOCAL 301 NEWS

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The Voice of G.E. Workers, Local 301

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## ANDERSON-KING SPONSOR MEDICAL CARE BILL

Labor has long recognized the fact that the majority of retired workers living on a fixed income cannot possibly meet the mounting costs of medical bills. Consequently, they have supported and urged the passage of bills which provided medical care for the aged under Social Security.

Sad to say, however, certain segments of our society have spent great sums of money in defeating such measures.

### UNION REPRESENTATIVES CITE UNSAFE CONDITIONS

Board Member Tom McCabe reports that several Union representatives in Large Steam Turbine, Bldg. 273, have recently complained to supervision regarding unsafe working conditions existing in certain areas. They were made aware of the fact that if these safety hazards are not eliminated, someone could be seriously injured.

Supervision has taken a negative attitude in this matter. Personnel in the Safety Office have been contacted and they also displayed an attitude of indifference or a reluctance to do anything to eliminate these hazards.

It seems rather preposterous and hypocritical when you notice people from the Safety Department hanging posters on walls and bulletin boards reminding workers to beware of safety hazards, yet when they are made aware of these same conditions, they just shrug their shoulders and say there's nothing we can do about it.

The Company's contention that there is a loss of man hours in production when a worker is seriously injured should in itself be an incentive for safety officials to eliminate such dangers.

The Union Office has instructed Shop Stewards to file formal grievances whenever and wherever workers are subjected to work under unsafe or hazardous conditions. These instructions not only apply to Union representatives in Steam Turbine but to all other departments in the plant as well.

Again this year, a medical care bill has been introduced in Congress. It is known as the Anderson-King Bill. It is one of the most important items on the agenda in the current session.

William Mastriani, Board Member of Local 301 and COPE Chairman of the Central Labor Council, Sch'dy. Area, makes the following observations with regard to medical care for the aged: The greater portion of 17,000,000 retired Americans, 65 years of age and over cannot, because of reduced income, pay the cost of medical care out of their own pockets. Including all individuals over 65 years of age, 60% have a total income of \$1,000.00 or less per year and 80% have annual incomes of less than \$2,000.00.

Mastriani cites some of the provisions of the Anderson-King Bill. Each worker would contribute 20¢ per week into the Social Security Plan. Hospitalization would be paid up to 90 days for illness with the patient paying up to \$90. for the first 9 days of care; nursing home care--up to 180 days; out patient care--charges of more than \$20. for care furnished by hospital would be paid where the patient is not hospitalized; home health services--up to 240 visits per year including nursing care, therapy, and part-time homemaker services.

Senators and Congressmen who are willing to support this bill find that they are not receiving any appreciable amount of mail from their constituents urging support of such legislation.

Stewards are now in the process of circulating petitions urging our Congressmen and Senators to vote for and support the Anderson-King Bill. Everyone in the Capital District Area who is eligible to vote can sign the petition.

## SURPLUS FOOD PROGRAM

Approximately 8 years ago, a committee was appointed by the Union to see if they could get federal surplus foods for the needy in this area.

It was through their efforts that the surplus food program was put into effect in the local area. In fact, this was the first up-state area to get this food. Un-counted thousands of the needy have benefited from this program.

A person does not necessarily have to be unemployed to qualify. The qualifications are governed by the number of people in the family, earned income and the total amount of savings. In fact, many individuals working in the local G.E. plant have qualified on the basis that they have large families.

An example follows:

A wage earner with 8 people in his household and making no more than \$395.00 per month and having savings of no more than \$1185.00 would qualify for surplus food for his family.

Such items as butter, lard, flour, cheese, corn meal, canned meats, dried beans, peanut butter, rice and other foods are available. We would estimate that the food allowed takes care of at least 25% of a family's food budget.

Anyone interested in qualifying should contact Union Headquarters for more information. Remember this is not charity. This food is paid for out of your tax dollar.

## LOCAL 471 COPE ENDORSES JOHN SHAMBO

The Schenectady sub-committee of the Local 471, Hotel & Restaurant Employees & Bartenders Union, COPE, has endorsed John Shambo, President of IUE Local 301, for Assemblyman in this year's election.

## NOTICE

### PENSIONERS CLUB MEETING

Thursday, February 15, 1962.

2:00 p.m.

### Special Order of Business:

Anderson-King Bill - Medical Care for The Aged

## UNION WINS JOB RATE INCREASE

Larger and more complicated work was recently assigned to a Lay-out Group in Gas Turbine. The men felt that the added skills, responsibilities and larger sizes involved should entitle them to an increase in job rate. Shop Steward Manuli contacted the supervisor of the group and stated the Union's position. The foreman wasn't at all impressed with the Union representative's arguments. His contention was that the new layout work did not merit a rate increase. Manuli filed a grievance for the 3 men requesting a job rate increase.

Two meetings were held at the 2nd level; here again the Union presented strong arguments substantiating their case. The Company remained adamant in their position. The Union representative finally requested a joint investigation and the Company representatives agreed. Representing the Union in the investigation were: Vice-Pres. Kelly, Board Member DiLorenzo and Shop Steward Manuli. They pointed out the radical changes made and the added skills. The Company was then satisfied that the job should be classified at a higher rate. They agreed to reclassify the 3 men from R-22 to R-23. They will also make retroactive pay adjustments from Jan. 1, 1962. Assistant Business Agent Vitallo also took part in the negotiations.

## AMERICAN COLLEGE FUND

Board Member Frank Masterson, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, announced that he has received a letter from the American College Fund, Inc., requesting him to advise our members, especially families who have a boy or girl in High School, to apply as soon as possible for membership and financial aid. The letter noted that many applications cannot be approved because parents have applied too late. It is very disappointing to parents and students when informed that financial aid cannot be granted.

In order to help these families with High School students, information can be furnished by writing to American College Fund, Inc., Box 126, Latham, N.Y., or a request card for information may be obtained at the Union Office.

The importance of having such a plan available for the benefits of our members is borne out by the following: Each year, of the 200,000 high school graduates who do not go to college, between 60,000 and 100,000 in the top 30% of their class cannot do so for lack of funds.