

**GE \$15 MILLION IMPROVEMENT PLAN
VIEWED WITH CAUTION**

General Electric's announcement that \$15 million will be spent on plant improvements was digested by Local 301 with interest and caution.

There was nothing in the announcement which said the investment would help employment and the union's experience is that in recent years new machinery has meant greater automation and more layoffs.

And the company's announcement was accompanied by the disheartening news that more buildings will shortly be torn down. This will help the GE tax bill but it won't help employment and it may result in higher taxes for the home owner. The announcement came on the heels of a union analysis of the employment picture and GE's attitudes since the strike vote last year.

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And any member knows that maintenance of buildings is vital if future increased expenditures are to be avoided.

Taxes, according to school authorities, are scheduled to go up this year due to an increase in teacher's salaries. Pacelli apparently would deny the teachers these increases.

Obviously these claims by Pacelli that he will cut the taxes are false unless he intends to ruin the school system which is one of the best in the State.

Novak makes no claims of cutting taxes but he does advocate economy with a constant eye on the taxpayers ability to pay. And he advocates a search for other sources of taxes to take some of the load off the property owners.

Novak also points out that a good school system is one of the first things any new industry will look for before deciding to locate in a community.

Schenectady's school system is one of its most attractive industry getters, besides being a system which provides Schenectady children with a good background.

A vote for Labor's candidate, Leon Novak, is a vote for continued good education.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS

The next regular Executive Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 13, 1959, at 7:30 p.m. at Union Headquarters.

**JANDREAU TALKS TO KIWANIS
ON UNEMPLOYMENT**

Leo Jandreau, business agent for Local 301, stepped up his efforts to keep the public informed on Union-Management affairs this week with a frank discussion of employment before the Niskayuna Kiwanis Club.

He urged that General Electric review its profit margin with an objective of becoming more competitive in the foreign market.

The talk followed a meeting of shop stewards and city and school officials held at union headquarters Tuesday night at which the film "Help Wanted" was shown.

And in the near future, Local 301 will launch a series of public meetings designed to let the public know what the union is doing on a day-to-day basis and what its plans are for the future.

Jandreau disclosed the number of large steam turbines scheduled to be built during the next two years and what this meant in terms of the number employed.

He said GE was losing turbine orders in the foreign market because the company's profit margin was about 42 per cent. He said if the company had dropped its profit margin to 25 per cent, it still would have made \$4 million.

He noted that local plant employment had dropped 20,000 in four years and the trend was continuing at about 50 persons a day.

The business agent pointed out that the unemployment trend was not the result of the recession but the result of GE's decentralization plan.

**STRATTON URGES BILL TO PROBE
PLANT MOVES**

Congress Sam Stratton, who supported the union's eight point employment security program, has introduced a bill in Congress to investigate the movement of plants out of established areas.

He has also recommended that a study be made of the economic hardship created by these moves. His resolution would create a select committee of the house of representatives to investigate plant moves such as have been made by GE in its decentralization program. Stratton urged passage of the bill because of the serious unemployment in the 32nd congressional district, which he represents.

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE - AFL-CIO

**SHAMBO AND JANDREAU
REPORT ON UNEMPLOYMENT**

APRIL 10, 1959

COMMITTEE FOR NOVAK OPENS CAMPAIGN

Local 301 president John Shambo and Business agent Leo Jandreau journeyed to Washington, this week and submitted a report on Sch'dy's employment picture to the AFL-CIO unemployment conference.

The report indicated there is every reason to believe that jobs in the immediate future will become more difficult to get than they are now and that there will be more layoffs at both the primary manufacturing employers, ALCO and GE.

The report was published at the same time the city's Mayor, Kenneth Sheldon, submitted a quarterly report which said "signs of economic resurgence are everywhere."

And the Mayor's report came at the same time that newspapers were reporting ALCO will shortly move another part of its operations to Auburn, leaving 300 to 500 more unemployed.

Jandreau and Shambo told the AFL-CIO conference that total employment in Schenectady dropped over 20,000 in four years and that the unemployment picture will get worse before it gets better.

The two labor leaders pointed to these contrasts in Schenectady employment:

In 1954 the IUE bargaining unit had 20,000 members at GE with another 20,000 in the salaried class. As of January, 1959, the totals were 10,000 and 12,000 respectively.

In 1954, GE had 800 tool and Die makers in Schenectady. In January of this year, the total was 320 and a toolmaker needed 1941 service to work at his trade.

In 1954, GE had 3,000 female employees in Schenectady. In January the figure was 425 and a woman needed 1941 service to get any job.

The report said unemployment in Schenectady began long before the current recession. It began shortly after the Korean War when GE started decentralization.

The ninth ward campaign committee for Leon Novak, candidate for the city board of education, met Wednesday night and outlined plans for the May 5th election.

The ninth ward recently opened headquarters at 855 Crane Street.

Those attending the meeting were James Cognetta, Larry Gebro, John Sistarnik, James DeGeorgio, Hugo Brzozowski, Walter Borkowski, Anthony Tama, Anthony DeAngelus, William Mastriani and A. Bakiewicz.

The next meeting of the committee will be held Wednesday, April 15, at 7:00 p.m.

THE REGULAR MEMBERSHIP AND SHOP STEWARDS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1959, AT 7:30 PM IN THE UNION AUDITORIUM.

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1958, AT 7:30 PM AT UNION HEADQUARTERS.

But, the report added, the recession, coupled with decentralization has resulted in an unemployment picture far worse than the rest of the nation.

And because of the type of product manufactured there is every reason to believe the situation will grow worse during the next two years.

The report said that in order for a man to hold the lowest rated job in the plant, wash room attendant, he must have continuous service from 1950.

"The only voice of protest on the decentralization program has come from Local 301 and for a long time it has fallen on deaf ears in the community. There are indications however, that the merchants and others directly affected by GE's payroll are beginning to recognize what is happening," the report said.