

LOCAL 301 NEWS

THE - AFL - CIO

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SHORTER WORK WEEK HAS TAKEN TIME

Organized Labor's proposal for a shorter work week is hardly new. The Labor Movement has pressed through collective bargaining and in the legislative fields for a reduction of work hours for over 60 years.

The work week in 1900 was generally 60 hours and it was not until the National Recovery Act Program in 1933-35 that the work week was set at 40 hours.

Nearly 30 years have passed with no further general reduction of the work week. Although 40 hours have remained the typical work week, shorter work weeks are in effect to a much greater extent than is generally realized. A reasonable estimate of the non-agricultural wage and salary workers working on a regular scheduled work week of 35 or 37½ hours would be approximately eight million. The reduction of hours covering this group has been achieved mostly through collective bargaining.

The spread of paid vacations and holidays since the late 1930's makes an over-all contribution in reducing the work week. In hours per year a full 2 weeks vacation and 7 paid holidays come to 136 hours. Divided over the 52 weeks of the year, this is equivalent to about 2½ hours a week, or a 37½ hours work week.

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NOTICE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Monday, Aug. 13th, 7:30 p.m.

Officers will meet at 6 p.m.

Union Headquarters
121 Erie Blvd.

L.M.&G. WORK PICTURE

The work load in L.M.&G. will probably remain at the current level through the third quarter. The last quarter the work load will lessen.

Normal attrition, deaths, illness and retirement will probably take care of the slight decrease in the number of employees needed in the last quarter. This means that no extensive layoff due to the decreasing of the work load is contemplated.

The number of Bargaining Unit employees in L.M.&G. as of January 1st, 1962, was 1,405. As of June 30, 1962, the number was 1,452. These are payroll figures and mean that actually there are more hourly employees in L.M.&G. since those employees who were out ill or were on vacation were not included in these figures.

ALERT SHOP STEWARD PREVENTS POSSIBLE TRAGEDY

Jim Reedy, Shop Steward in Bldg. 60, Large Motor and Generator, prevented a possible tragedy this week by his alertness.

A new type of electric welding machine had been hooked up with a 440 volt cable running across the steel floor in Bldg. 52. Reedy, upon noticing this arrangement, "tagged" the machine because of safety reasons.

The supervisor in charge of this particular machine demanded that Reedy remove the tag, making the usual threats. Reedy maintained his position and the supervisor left to get the engineer in charge of this machine. The engineer, who in the morning had agreed with Reedy that it was unsafe to run the 440 line without adequate protection for the cable, now was caught in the old production squeeze and started to hedge on his former position. After enough production "heat" was put on the engineer, the cable then became safe!

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SHORTER WORK WEEK (Cont'd.)

Efforts to reduce the work hours have traditionally faced strong criticism and opposition from Industry each time a proposal has been made.

George Meany, President of the AFL-CIO, says that a reduction of the work week is the only way to solve the unemployment crisis. He does not agree with Pres. Kennedy and his advisors.

Because of the lag in job opportunities to absorb more of the unemployed, and the continual displacement of workers which results from technological changes, plus the increasing numbers of new people entering the labor force from schools, job security and employment opportunity become more important questions every day. They will be key issues in negotiations for contracts that expire in the future.

MSO'S TAKE NOTE!

by J. Muir

Courtesy is one of the hallmarks of good discipline. There is no inconsistency between firmness and politeness.

The firm man is usually in control of himself. He knows what he is doing, and so does it with good manners.

The churlish boss is often rude because he is uncertain of himself, and attempts to cover his own incapacity, or inability with tough talk.

To sum it up, being a gentleman does not make you effeminate. It adds something to your character it does not detract. You become one of great stature, and you mature to full growth in the full sense of development in your relations with your fellow men. You command the full respect of your fellows, which if you try to achieve in any other way, will always be to you a "will-o'-the-wisp".

So give your fellow man a slap on the back once in a while, it is the key to a gold mine and great wealth in human relations; whereas a constant slap on the mouth from you will make you a pauper in the field of respect.

SEC. OF LABOR REPORTS

Secretary of Labor Arthur J. Goldberg announced recently that during the fiscal year ending July 30, 1962, a total of \$2,777,590,894 (cont'd. next column)

ALERT SHOP STEWARD (Cont'd.)

Reedy still maintained that the exposed cable was unsafe and at this point the supervisor and the engineer asked Supt. Barber to look at the cable in question. Barber agreed that the cable should have more protection and ordered a wooden trough be built until the machine could be wired up another way.

Shop Steward Reedy is to be commended upon his observance of safety precautions even though the lower echelon of supervision still have the attitude of production first -- safety second, unless something else comes into the picture and then safety must be moved further back.

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 301 RETURNING FROM ARMED FORCES

Some Local 301 members who were obliged as Reservists to leave for a stretch of duty with the Armed Forces will be coming back to their jobs during the month of August, when they are released from duty.

According to the record, a maximum of 40 were employed in our Bargaining Unit. Some may decide not to return to G.E.; however, they have the right to return to their former occupations without loss of continuity of service and assume their former status.

The Officers, Executive Board and members of IUE Local 301 want to welcome back these members and extend to them any help they may be able to offer in order to get all those involved relocated on their jobs.

We also wish to express our appreciation for the sacrifice and inconvenience that may have affected many individuals during the period they were in the Service.

in unemployment insurance benefits was paid to 5,988,137 beneficiaries under the regular State programs.

An additional \$134,063,979 was paid to 263,918 unemployed Federal workers and ex-servicemen under the Federal unemployment compensation programs in the fiscal year 1962.

Secretary Goldberg also said that under the entire Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation program--April 1961 to June 1962--benefits of \$769,124,620 were paid to 2,763,198 unemployed workers who had exhausted their benefit rights under regular State programs.