

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE-ATL-CIO

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G.E. CONFERENCE BOARD MEETING

The third quarterly meeting of the IUE-GE Conference Board was held on August 23rd and 24th, in Washington, D.C.

Very good discussions took place on arbitration cases and insurance, but of most importance was the discussion on the 1963 negotiations. The present contract runs until Sept. 29, 1963, and is subject to modification or termination at that time. This means that negotiations will begin in less than one year.

Delegates from each local union attending the Conference Board meeting were asked to report on demands that were of most importance in their respective Locals and those which the members were most willing to support. This discussion proved to be very helpful and enlightening.

The delegates from Local 301 reported that Income and Job Security are again the top issues.

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FACTS SHOW UNION DOING GOOD JOB

The "ghost writers" of anonymous leaflets, distributed at night or left in the wash rooms when nobody is looking, are still busy condemning, lying and distorting the facts about Local 301 and its representatives.

One interesting fact about the propaganda of these "headless horsemen" is that their leaflets have the color of U.E. handiwork! Their approach used to get people worked up is not new...they know the average person is opposed to changes, so their theme song is: Beware of Changes - Beware of Re-evaluation - Beware of Implementation - Beware of Wage Cuts!

Well, the fact is that there have been changes in methods, prices, job rates, job content and numerous others ever since we have had a

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MEMBERS VOTE ON HOLIDAY SWITCH

The contract provides that a local union and a local management may agree to substitute a different holiday in place of those listed in the contract.

Election Day, which falls on Tuesday, November 6th, is one of the paid holidays listed in the contract. Thanksgiving Day, which will be celebrated on Thursday, November 22nd, is also a paid holiday.

The question involves whether a majority of the members in Local 301 desire to substitute the day following Thanksgiving, Nov. 23rd, in place of Election Day. If so, by working on Election Day, we could have Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 22, and Friday, Nov. 23, as paid holidays, making a long 4-day week end.

Each Board Member has been provided with petitions so that members can vote, indicating their position on this question. The petition provides two columns for members to vote for or against the change.

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SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE CHANGED

The Executive Board has voted to postpone the September Membership Meeting from Monday, Sept. 17, 1962, to Monday, Sept. 24, 1962, one week later than the usual date.

The reason for the postponement is due to the fact that several of the officers will be attending the National IUE Constitutional Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. The National Convention is scheduled from Monday, the 17th, through Friday, the 21st. The Officers' and Executive Board Meetings for September will not be changed...they will be held on Monday, Sept. 10th, as scheduled.

SO REMEMBER, THE USUAL DATE OF THE SEPT. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS WILL BE POSTPONED FROM THE 3RD MONDAY TO THE 4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH FOR SEPT. ONLY. (Time will stay the same 2nd shift-1:30 pm; 1st & 3rd-7:30 pm.)

G.E. CONFERENCE BOARD (Cont'd.)

It was pointed out that because of the long service in our Schenectady plant, our members want 4 weeks' vacation for 20 years, improved pensions and a Retraining Program.

The question of losing Recall rights after two years was brought up by Local 301 and also the loss of previous service if out over three years. This proposal brought very serious discussion and it was the consensus of opinion of the delegates present that this must be changed in the next contract.

The Pension Plan was also discussed at great length. The delegates felt that while the Pension Fund had assets of \$1,151,000,000, as of Dec. 31, 1961, the pensions provided are not adequate to maintain a decent standard of living. The sentiment is also strong for lowering the pension age.

A long discussion took place on Insurance and Hospitalization. The needs for improving the present plan were clearly outlined and supported by the delegates.

It was interesting to note that the sentiments expressed by Local 301 were pretty much the same as those expressed in the other older plants.

M.D.A. GANG SAY WAGES CUT

In the leaflet which was circulated in the Steam Turbine Dept. by the M.D.A., they claim the Officers of Local 301 have allowed a price cutting campaign for incentive workers in this department.

The UE-M.D.A. gang will continue to involve themselves, distorting the facts, in preparation for the election of Union Officers for 1963-64.

This same small element in our Union sold a large section of our membership a "bill of goods" in 1956, electing a slate of incompetent opportunists, whereby during the two years, 1957-58, Local 301 experienced and spent its time with internal fights among the leadership at the expense of the members.

Many of our members who do not attend meetings and are not informed of the facts, are in such a gullible position that they may be influenced by reading the UE-M.D.A. filthy propaganda. Now, if there has been price cutting in Steam Turbine, that reduces the wages, the record certainly proves this to be a lie because:--

The average earnings for all incentive workers in Steam Turbine on Jan. 1st, 1962, was \$4.51 per hour. The average earnings for the same group on June 1st, 1962, was \$4.71 per hour, or an increase in six months of 20 cents an hour.

HOLIDAY SWITCH (Cont'd.)

The polls will be open on Tuesday, Election Day, Nov. 6th, from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., because of State and Congressional offices involved, which will give ample opportunity for everyone to vote before or after a work shift.

We must have the petitions back as quickly as possible in order to give the officers of the Union plenty of time to work out the necessary arrangements with G.E. management if the majority of Local 301 members want the holiday change.

UNION DOING GOOD JOB (Cont'd.)

Union, and even before we were organized. In fact, if it were not for these changes, we probably would not have a job.

The important fact is...can we face up to necessary changes and continue to maintain our standard of living. This is the real test of Union leadership.

Let's look at the important measuring factors that honestly prove whether our Union is doing a fairly good job.

EMPLOYMENT - Has increased from August 1961 to August 1962 by 617.

WAGES - Since August 1st, 1961 to August 1st, 1962: Day Workers' Wages Increased 3% and Piece Workers' Wage Average Increased 9%.

SENIORITY - Due to the application of our Seniority Supplement, the average service is 18 years and the average age is 47 years. Due to the continual vigilance on the part of Local 301 representatives, 820 hourly rated employees who had been downgraded were returned to their former jobs or higher rated jobs. During this same period, 572 long service employees were upgraded to higher rated job openings.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE - During the 1st six months of 1962, the Union Office handled 1590 management level cases.

The above are facts...not bags of smoke that the M.D.A. Boys would have you buy!