

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE AFL-CIO

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TURBINE SUPERVISION PENNY-PINCHING

STEWARDS' VIGILANCE PAYS OFF

In January of 1961, the shop stewards in the Assemble and Connect Section of the Large Steam Turbine Division found out that management was violating a previous agreement concerning the assigning of assemble and connect work.

Shop Stewards Colucci, Gregory and Knowlton filed a first step grievance concerning work assignment. An unsatisfactory answer was given and the grievance was moved to the second step of the grievance procedure. At the second level, the Union representatives were able to show management where they had violated a past agreement concerning work assignment. Management has now agreed to correct this condition and at the meeting a written agreement was reached which should prevent a reoccurrence of work assignment problems for this group.

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N O T I C E

MEMBERSHIP-STEWARDS MEETING

Monday, February 20, 1961

2nd shift.....1:00 p.m.
1st & 3rd.....7:30 p.m.

Reports of Committees
Election of G.E. Conference Board
Delegates
Regular Order of Business

Union Auditorium-121 Erie Blvd.

NEW APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZATION CARDS

Shop Stewards must use new application and authorization cards when signing up new members.

This is necessary to comply with the new contract change.

New application and authorization cards are available at the Union Office.

Some of the supervision in the Steam Turbine Department are initiating new practices that can be properly described as "pimples on a mosquito leg" insofar as correcting justifiable conditions is concerned.

One of the "eager beaver" supervisors tried to give a worker a warning notice because he was eating a sandwich during working hours. The worker finished his sandwich; however he complained about the type of dinner music that was being offered by his superior, saying it did nothing for his digestive problems!

Turbine management came up with another new scheme to cut cost by adding to the many duties of the MSO's the job of "Union Shop Steward Watching". When a shop steward talks to an employee, the boss logs the time and turns it in to be paid for by the Union. This idea started in Bldg. 285, and has spread to Bldg. 273, covering the whole department. Some supervisors were so overzealous that they handed out Union lost time vouchers to members who stopped to talk to a shop steward. The Union Office protested this action to the Turbine management, calling it a "penny-wise and pound-foolish" idea and requested that the supervision stop this intimidating and coercive practice.

As we go to press, a meeting has been requested if the procedure continues.

FACTS ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE by Allen E. Townsend

One of the most misquoted parts of the Unemployment Insurance Law is in regards to whether a person can qualify for Unemployment Insurance if he retires optionally before pension age of 65.

In 1960, the Unemployment Insurance Law was changed, whereby anyone optionally retiring could not qualify for Unemployment Insurance except under certain conditions. He would have to show that he had good cause for retiring.

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STEWARDS' VIGILANCE (Cont'd)

Another case that was successfully handled was a docket concerning the rate of pay which was paid to an employee who was working on a Class B Cranefollowing job. Shop Steward Jones filed a case, and, upon receiving an unsatisfactory answer, he gave the grievance to Board Member Clark who moved it to the second level of the grievance procedure. At the second step, Steward Jones, Board Member Clark, Coordinator Vitallo and the complainant established the fact that the complainant had previously performed cranefollowing work and should not have started two steps below the job rate. As a result of this case, the complainant received retroactive pay for time already spent on the job and the top job rate.

These two cases, which we have outlined, are only some of the examples of stewards successfully maintaining working conditions and wages for the members they represent.

WHAT IS A "CORRIGERITE"?

This title came up at a plant meeting with Mr. E.A. Zaczek of the Large Motor & Generator Department who recently has been transferred from the Erie plant to Schenectady.

Mr. Zaczek, at the meeting, suggested that a Machinist-Machine Repair should do some electrician work. We explained to him that our building trades set-up had clear lines of demarkation which we did not propose to break. Zaczek then said that in the General Electric plant at Erie, Pa., which is represented by the U.E., they have a group made up of "General Service Shop Operators" who perform all building trades work except rigging and plumbing. The people in the Erie plant call the men in this group "Corriggerites". It must be assumed that since these men do all building trades work except rigging and plumbing, their duties would include work which in the Schenectady plant is done by Electricians, Crane and Elevator Repairmen, Machinist-Machine Repairmen, Carpenters, Masons, Millwrights, Painters, Roofers, Structural Steelworkers, Pipe Coverers, Tinsmiths and all jobs connected with maintenance.

Mr. Zaczek further said that there are no helpers in this set-up. Where do the future "Corriggerites" come from? We don't know either... "Corriggerites" must spring from the ground fully trained!

PETITIONS SENT TO CONGRESSMAN

IUE Local 301 has sent the first group of petitions to Congressman Samuel S. Stratton, requesting the lowering of the retirement age and at the same time retaining eligibility for full Social Security benefits.

Earlier retirement with full benefits at this time will help immeasurably the serious and ever-growing unemployment problem that we as a nation are faced with today.

The urgency of this problem is borne out by statement made by the Secretary of Labor, Arthur J. Goldberg, after making his first survey of unemployment areas. Goldberg said that he "viewed the situation as critical, worse than he had expected". Other government observers feel that the problem of unemployment today is the most urgent since the depression years of the 1930's.

These comments have been made by men in responsible positions in our government. Because of this, we feel that prompt action should be taken in the Halls of Congress to enact legislation that will provide for earlier retirement with full benefits attached.

FACTS ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (Cont'd)

An example of good cause would be a letter from the Company stating that they no longer had employment for him. In the absence of any such evidence from the Company, the only other way he could qualify for Unemployment Insurance would be by getting another job and working for three days in each of four different weeks, or by working until he has made at least \$200. This new rule changes the old law, whereby a worker was disqualified for a 42 day period before he could collect benefits.

CONGRATULATIONS STEWARD COCHRANE

Shop Steward Cochrane was on the job and, most important, he had his facts straight.

Two P.W. employees in the LM&G Dept., were sent home 3½ hours before the end of their shift due to lack of work.

Cochrane checked and found there was work available at the time.

A second step meeting resolved the issue by getting 3½ hours pay for the two union members involved.