

The National Conference Board Report On the Activities of the Retired Workers of America

Retired Workers of America, IUE-AFL-CIO, held their third meeting at Philadelphia, Pa., on the 24th and 25th of September, at the same time as the National IUE Convention.

We were welcomed by the convention officials, who located us in a conference room on the main floor of the convention hall, where we were interviewed by most of the officials of the various locals throughout the country.

President John S. Murphy, RWA Lynn, Mass. explained our plans and objectives which were received with great interest and enthusiasm. Many requests were made for copies of the Retired Workers of America Constitution by the delegates, who promised to start organizing all their locals.

William Snoots, District #7, General Motors and Bob Nellis, Chairman of the conference board, Westinghouse, were particularly interested and requested that we send a speaker to their various locals at their expense. The Board delegated Arthur Shull of Fort Wayne, Indiana, a Vice-President of RWA for this job.

We also gained the support of Harry Block of the Philadelphia-Camden area and are also contacting Daniel Arnold, Chairman of the RCA conference board and Eileen Dooley of Sylvania.

When we get all the locals of these companies to form RWA units we will be in a better position to fight for better Social Security and what I think is absolutely necessary, free hospitalization, Medical, Surgical and nursing home care where it is needed.

This is all included in the FORAND BILL that will be up for debate in Congress in the near future.

Jack Suarez, President of District #3, IUE, invited me to a convention of all the District #3 locals, held in Local 301 Auditorium in Oct. He requested me to give the delegates an outline of the objectives of the Retired Workers of America.

I was very well received and thanked Jack Suarez for giving me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the pensioners.

The Retired Workers of America, Local 301, IUE, held their regular monthly meeting on October 30th. The principal speaker was John Shambo, Vice-President of Local 301, IUE. He emphasized the necessity of all union members getting wholeheartedly behind the RWA in their fight for more adequate pensions so that they could live like decent human beings.

Ralph Sterling of Local 320, Syracuse, N. Y. attended our meeting on October 30th, on my invitation to study our organization. He was very much impressed by what he saw and heard. He said he would report back to his local and advise them to join the RWA.

Bennie Geersen, President of the Retired Workers of America, Local 301 said that it was very encouraging to see the interest the pensioners were taking in their organization by asking questions and debating the various issues with enthusiasm. After the meeting refreshments were served but still the friendly discussions continued.

Back the pensioners now and you pave the way for better retirement conditions for yourself later.

John S. Lindsay
Vice-President, National Conference Board
Retired Workers of America, IUE-AFL-CIO.

ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS

Benefits Exhausted

Statistics now being gathered by the Labor Department are expected to show that more than 250,000 jobless workers have exhausted their unemployment compensation benefits for the second time despite the last Congress' loans to extend state programs.

The survey is also expected to indicate that the number of unemployed exhausting their benefits is rapidly increasing.

IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 NEWS
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301,
REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY,
GE WORKERS

Published by the Editorial Committee

President.....Harry Williams
Vice President.....John Shambo
Treasurer.....Gerald O'Brien
Recording Secretary.....Larry Gabe
Asst. Recording Secretary.....Michael Rakwica
Chief Shop Steward.....Vincent DiLorenzo
Business Agent.....Leo Jandreau
121 ERIE BLVD. SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

General Electric Criticized By A Republican

Roger W. Jessup, prominent Republican businessman and former chairman of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, today accused the General Electric Company of "trying to foist open shop depression" on California through its support of the so-called "right to work" laws.

Jessup, who is serving as campaign director for the Southern California Citizens Committee Against Proposition 18, said General Electric "with its own record of union opposition," had no right to interfere in the "domestic affairs of California."

"In fact," he declared, "General Electric's record stands as a warning to California voters to kill Proposition 18."

"Factual records of the past two years show that General Electric has chopped 23,600 union members from its payrolls throughout the country.

"This robbed the communities involved of \$250,000,000 from June, 1956, through June of this year. This is the sort of 'prosperity' General Electric wants to saddle us with.

"We who are against Proposition 18 have argued long and loudly that such a punitive and restricted law would act to wreck unions and smash the high standard of living now being enjoyed in California.

"We now find that General Electric's own record of union abuses and financial hammering of the working man buttresses our strongest statements against Proposition 18," he contended.

"Those 23,600 men and women had the 'right to work' for General Electric. But they did not have the right to protect their jobs with the degree of security our state now provides.

"So now they have no jobs. So now the businessmen of their various communities have \$125,000,000 a year less spendable income for sales.

"General Electric would have you accept these depressing conditions in place of those which have placed us literally on top of the world in per capita income and labor-management relations," he declared.

Top of the Labor News . . .

IN WASHINGTON, D. C., a dentist, not knowing that his new patient was an AFL-CIO official, commented that Walter Reuther "is probably one of the best things that's ever happened to our profession." The astonished union man pushed the drill out of his mouth and demanded an explanation. "It's been going on for a long time," explained the dentist, "so many big business executives and big-shot Republicans gnash their teeth every time they hear Reuther's name mentioned they practically wear their teeth down to a stubble. That helps create full employment among dentists."

IN PHILADELPHIA, PA., one employer separated himself from the rest of the herd of anti-union bosses opposing a shorter workweek. Kermit Fischer, president of the large manufacturing firm of Fischer & Porter, predicted flatly that the four-day week "will be here sooner than most people think, perhaps in five years." Furthermore, says Fischer—as a boss—in 10 years the U. S. may have a three-day week and in 15 years a two-day week; and in 50 years a five-hour week. Will this mean at first a cut in pay? To the contrary, says Fischer, "More pay. And the workers of the future will become more and more observers. They will sit in a closed office with a control instrument in front of them." In effect, said Fischer, in the next generation practically all production workers will become office workers, or at least sitting at desks.

WASHINGTON (PAI)—A study "Labor, Big Business and Inflation," published by the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department, shows that excessive profits and monopolistic price boosts rather than increased wages have been responsible for inflation. It supports the conclusion that workers have "been the victims of inflation and not the cause of it."

WASHINGTON (PAI)—The AFL-CIO Ethical Practices Committee is the winner of the 1958 Social Justice Award of the Religious and Labor Foundation.

WASHINGTON (PAI)—The AFL-CIO and the U. S. Treasury Department are jointly producing a half-hour Savings Bonds motion picture, "24 Hours in Tyrantland." All production costs of the film, to be shown during the 1959 drive, have been defrayed by the AFL-CIO.

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE AFL-CIO

Vol. 4 — No. 43

The Voice of GE Workers, Local 301, Schenectady, N. Y.

December 12, 1958

Season's greetings



Over 50 Per Cent Of Membership Vote In Election For Officers

5298 members of IUE-AFL-CIO Local 301, turned out to cast their vote during the 30 continuous hours of voting, while the polls were open from noon Thursday, December 4th, until 6:00 p.m., Friday, December 5th, for the election of Union Officers for the years of 1959 and 1960.

When the votes were tallied, the Shambo-Kelly-Jandreau Slate was victorious over the Warren-O'Brien Slate with a margin of 4 to 1, with Jandreau and Schaffer receiving top vote on the Unity Slate. While there were 3 candidates for President, John Shambo won over his opponents by an overwhelming majority. There were 3 candidates for Vice-President; however, William Kelly won over his opponents by a tremendous majority. The contest for Chief Shop Steward was among 4 candidates, with Joseph Mangino winning by a very substantial majority over the other 3 contestants. For the office of Sergeant-at-Arms, there were 5 candidates; however, Anders (Humphrey) Christensen won by a very large margin.

The second day of the election brought out nearly as many #301 voters as the first day, which was unusual based on past elections.

The Officers who were elected for 1959 and 1960 are:

President	John Shambo	Bldg. 16
Vice-President	William Kelly	Bldg. 273
Recording Secretary	Roy Schaffer	Bldg. 24
Asst. Rec. Secretary	David Gunn	Bldg. 273
Treasurer	Pat Donato	Bldg. 52
Chief Steward	Joseph Mangino	Bldg. 49
Business Agent	Leo Jandreau	Bldg. 285
Trustee	Charles Brothers	Bldg. 18
Trustee	George De Cresce	Bldg. 85
Trustee	John De Graff	Bldg. 285
Sergeant-at-Arms	Anders Christensen	Bldg. 37
Guide	Frank Masterson	

The new Officers will be sworn in for their respective offices at the January membership meeting.

NOTICE COMBINED Membership & Stewards Meeting

Monday, Dec. 15, 1958

1st and 3rd Shifts—7:30 p.m.
2nd Shift—1:00 p.m.

Union Auditorium
121 Erie Blvd.

AGENDA

Report of Committees
Regular Order of Business

2540 Removals During 1958

The year 1958 has been a very unhappy one for many G. E. employees. For example, in our Bargaining Unit alone, 2,540 people have been laid off since January 1st, 1958.

In addition to the layoffs, we have had over 6,000 people transferred from one job to another since the first of the year. Among the people moving from one job to another, there are many cases where the earnings were lower temporarily or permanently. There were many other cases where it required a change in shift. All of these changes in status are a hardship on the employee affected and his family even though he or she has been given their seniority consideration under the contract. The Union has worked very hard to get the best opportunity under the circumstances for the employee to maintain his earnings on a con-

(Continued on page 2)

Children's Christmas Party

The Children's Christmas Party for members of Local 301 is scheduled for Saturday, December 20, and Sunday, December 21, between the hours of 11:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m.

Shop Stewards have tickets for the party in two colors: white tickets for the Saturday party and blue for the party on Sunday. Tickets will be available only to those members who have signed these forms, indicating the first name of the child and his or her age.

Shop Stewards Election Dec. 17 and 18

The annual Shop Stewards elections will take place in the plant during lunch period on Wednesday, December 17th, and Thursday, December 18th.

John Saccocio, Chairman and Miles Moon, Secretary, announced that the Election Committee will be prepared to conduct the steward elections on all shifts during these two days.

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ISSUE MISSING

Work Schedule For Holidays In Turbine

As we go to press, a committee of Union and Turbine management is working out the details of the working schedule for the Christmas and New Years work weeks.

The Union polled the membership on the question of taking off the Friday following both holidays without impairing eligibility for payment on both of the holidays. The Turbine Department voted over 90% in favor of taking off both Fridays. The Turbine Department is in a better position than other departments to regulate their production schedule because of the long cycle of two years required to produce a machine after the order is received.

One of the problems arising as the result of the Friday shutdown claimed by the management is the question of payment of wages which occurs on Friday. The payroll cannot be made up for a Wednesday pay day; however, it was agreed that those people who were in need of their check could have it on Friday by contacting their foreman.

Management has advised the Union that the salaried employees will work. The production schedule in the Steam Turbine Department for 1959 is low and the fore-

Removals During 1958 . . .

(Continued from Page 1)
parable job in line with his service and experience.

If the Company would consider the Union's proposal to direct some of their Government contracts into Schenectady it would certainly relieve the sad situation here until the Turbine and Motor business picks up.

cast is that a reduction of forces will be required during the new year. The hourly rated employees, members of IUE Local 301, in making the proposal for the two days off during the holidays had in mind that the foregoing of 16 hours per employee multiplied by over 4,600 employees in the bargaining unit in Steam Turbine would make a small contribution towards providing some work for those scheduled to be laid off.

The Turbine Department intends to take advantage of the shutdown by having the department spray painted during the employees absence.

Meetings with department heads are taking place Wednesday and Thursday in order to make similar arrangements. Some department managements, however, have given prior notice that their production schedule will not allow for a complete shutdown on the Fridays following the holidays.

NEW YORK CITY—Evidence that employers still use Christmas bonuses as a weapon against unions and lower-paid workers was implicit in a report released by the authoritative National Industrial Conference Board. The NICB study, covering 110 companies, came up with a score of interesting facts, including the following: Only 52 of the 110 companies (47%) permitted union members to receive the Christmas bonus and in eight of these 52 the union had succeeded in negotiating the bonus. Twenty-seven fixed-dollar plans were studied. Only one of these paid a bonus as high as \$200 and in this company only male employees received it. Women employees were discriminated against with \$100. Another kind of discrimination turned up in the one company that paid as high as \$150. With this firm only employees earning over \$250 a month, including executives and managers, rated the \$150 for Christmas. Those earning \$250 or less were handed just 60% of a month's salary.

GENEVA, Switzerland (PAI)—Rudolph Faupl, IAM international representative, has been elected United States worker representative on the governing body of the ILO. He succeeds Gorge P. Delaney, who resigned from ILO to become director of Organization for the Operating Engineers.



"Absolutely no raise! You men must think I'm Santa Claus!"
—By Broudhecker

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Current Events In My Section

by Allen E. Townsend

Docket #9023-58 filed by Board Member Kaminski complained that the Company by removing a leader from the skid making group had created a situation that affected the P. W. earnings of this group. As proof of this, the skid making group's earnings started to drop at this time. In some weeks the earnings showed as much as 27c per hour less for each worker in this cooperative P. W. group. After several meetings in the department with the foreman and two Step 2 meetings in Bldg. 41, the Company made a proposal which was acceptable to all concerned. This involved a good many dollars retroactive payment to this group to make up for the losses suffered by them. The P. R. Table was also amended to take care of this situation in the future. This is a fine example of the Union on the job protecting its members from wage cuts.

Docket #8778-58 requested that the operator be paid average earnings on a Browne & Sharpe Grind-

er for loss of earnings on the job due to the machine needing repairs. In this case the operator wanted to shut the machine down for repairs and go home but the foreman told the operator that he needed the work and couldn't shut the machine down. After this happened, the foreman would only pay waiting time. At a Step 2 meeting with Coordinator Christman and Board Member De Graff negotiating for the Union, the Company, after hearing the facts on this case, agreed to pay this worker average earnings for the time involved.

The latest service dates on women on office cleaning are as follows:

40 hrs. plant	4-29-42
40 hrs. cafeteria	5-18-42
30 hrs. cafeteria	7- 2-42
30 hrs. plant	1-15-43
25 hrs. plant	2- 8-43
20 hrs. plant	3-22-43

These dates represent the shortest service women in the plant on office cleaning as of 12/3/58.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A National Geographic Society audience was reassured by one of the nation's top experts that neither machines nor automation will ever replace men. Maj. Gen. B. A. Schriever asserted that "Despite all our pushbutton technology, it's still the man that counts and not the button. Man has the equivalent of 10 billion electron tubes in his brain—a capacity infinitely greater than that of our largest electronic computer. Besides man is the lightest and cheapest instrument we have."

AS I SEE IT

by CHARLES SCOTT

Two Christmas Faces Of General Electric

The first face is the beaming jolly face of "Old Saint Nick" urging all consumers to be sure and make their loved ones happy at this holiday time, and the best way to make your loved ones happy is with a product made by G. E., who has a "Better Living Plan" for their employees.

The other face is the one presented to employees—this face we won't describe because of libel laws. Its latest action taken this month was to refuse to rehire a female employee for a two week period. This would have been on a job where she was needed and on a job for which she was fully qualified. This seems unreasonable and it is. The reason why she was not hired was simply a matter of money. If this female employee were rehired and released again, it would qualify her for the supplementary pension payment. As she is at the optional pension age, she could if rehired receive an additional \$45.00 a month until Social Secu-

rity age. By not rehiring her, the Company which "does right voluntarily" will not have to pay this amount. Who wants to be the one to wish this female employee—"Merry Christmas"?

Employees Willing—Is G.E.

The bargaining unit employees by an overwhelming majority voted to sacrifice the day's pay after Christmas and New Years so that the layoff situation during the holiday period could be alleviated. We are currently in negotiations with the different divisions in the plant to see if the Company will accept this sacrifice of wages on their employees' part or not.

It will be interesting for the community to keep a close check on the developments of these negotiations to see whether General Electric will comply with their employees' request. We sincerely feel that these man hours lost can be easily used to maintain employees on the job and to attempt to stem the flood of layoffs that are now occurring.