

LOCAL 301 NEWS

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BUSINESS AGENT SPEAKS TO STATE EDUCATORS ON AUTOMATION AND ITS MEANING TO EDUCATION

In a speech to a Staff Conference of the New York State Education Department, Leo Jandreau, Business Agent of Local 301, said:

"While we in Organized Labor welcome technological changes and see a promise of higher living standards for all, greater leisure time and untold benefits for Mankind, we cannot close our eyes to the fact that there are pitfalls as well as promises inherent in this new technology.

"There is no automatic guarantee that the potential benefit to society will be transformed into reality.

"Automation and technological changes present a challenge to our economic well-being and social conscience. While the new machines are almost human in the way they solve production problems, they still cannot create the necessary income to purchase their additional output.

"There is not much value in a new machine that lies idle for lack of sufficient purchasing power in the hands of the consumer to buy the products of this machine. We need an expanding economy with sufficient income in the hands of the consumers to purchase the increasing output of American Industry.

"While we are living at a time when we have the largest labor force at work in the history of the Nation, we also have over a 5% unemployment rate.

"We seem to bounce back from each recession", Jandreau said, "with a larger number of unemployed. After the 1949 recession, unemployment averaged 3%. After the 1954 recession, we had 4% and after the 1958 recession, we had over 5%. According to Ewan Clague, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington, we may be heading for another recession in 1963."

Jandreau pointed out that he raised these economic problems because educators are people concerned with equipping the public with the means of earning a living, thereby contributing to the growth and prosperity and well-being of our Nation. Quoting the Commissioner of the BLS, Jandreau said Clague predicts that during this decade 2 to 3 million jobs will be lost as the result of automation and technological change.

Unemployment is especially heavy among teenagers. The biggest contributors to joblessness among
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RESPONSE TO COPE DRIVE EXCELLENT

Members of Local 301 have responded very well in those departments in which the COPE Drive has been conducted.

Chairman Wager, in announcing the complete returns from two departments, namely Gas Turbine and Research, stated that in both instances all Shop Stewards on all shifts have sold one or more books.

Initial reports from other sections where the drive has already taken place indicate that every Shop Steward will sell at least one book.

This is an indication that many of our members fully realize the importance of a successful COPE Drive.

At stake this year are 38 Senate seats, all seats in the House and 35 governorships. But what really is at stake says COPE Director James McDevitt "is the kind of government we get for the next two years at least".

The success of the COPE Dollar Drive will depend upon the degree of support on the part of Union members and this will, in turn, determine whether we will have a good progressive government favorable to the working people or an anti-labor government opposed to all interest of the working people.
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COPE DRIVE (Cont'd.)

A greater portion of our COPE dollars will be used locally to help support the candidacy of outstanding individuals, such as John Shambo, candidate for State Assemblyman.

The names of all Shop Stewards selling one or more books will be placed on the Honor Roll and the announcement of their names will be made at the July Membership Meeting.

The final phase of the Drive will be concluded next week with solicitations in Steam Turbine. A complete financial report will be made at the July Membership Meeting.

Shop Stewards who desire speakers are asked to contact Chairman Wager.

DISABILITY PENSION

Every few days a pensioner who has left the plant on optional pension comes to the Union Office with questions about his pension. Upon questioning them, we find that in many cases they might possibly have qualified for a disability pension. The reason for this happening is either a reluctance to admit they are disabled or ignorance of the fact that a disability pension is better for them than an optional pension.

Anyone who is disabled and who has 15 or more years continuity of service may qualify for a disability pension. Remember there is no minimum age and, therefore, a worker could retire on disability at any age providing he meets all other requirements. Disability pension is a much better way of retiring as this type of income is not taxable. In addition, free insurance and hospitalization is provided to age 65.

The earliest optional pension can be obtained is at age 60 for men and age 55 for women. However, in this type of pension, insurance and hospitalization are paid by the pensioner to age 65. In addition, optional is taxable.

The minimum amount of pension available is figured the same. The minimum amount a pensioner would receive under either type pension would be \$3.00 per month for each year of service plus a supplementary payment of \$65.00 per month. In the case of a woman retiring at age 55, the optional pension would be figured at a lower rate.

When in need of advice, it is a good idea to contact your Union representative at Headquarters.

BUSINESS AGENT SPEAKS (Cont'd.)

those young people are the school drop-outs, the boys and girls without a high school diploma.

Men and women over 45 years of age make up a large share of the long term jobless. Once out of a job, they find it difficult to find employment.

The unskilled and semi-skilled workers together account for 2 out of every 5 of the hard core unemployed.

Jandreau stressed the need to encourage and help every young person to develop their abilities to the fullest. Going to college is one way, but not the only way. We need doctors, lawyers and physicists, but we also need intelligent young people who will be prepared to go into skilled occupations.

Jandreau summed up his remarks with eight recommendations whereby the Department of Education could play an important role in helping to alleviate the problems resulting from automation and technological change.

Speaking on the pannel with the Business Agent were: Donald Mc Conville, Director of Industrial Relations from Eastman Kodak Co., and Luther Evans, Director N.E.A. Project on Educational Implications of Automation, Washington, D. C.

DEADLINE SET FOR SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE

Chairman Frank Masterson has announced that the deadline for Local 301's Scholarship Fund Drive has been set for June 25th. Shop Stewards who have not as yet made their returns to the Union Office or the Board Member are requested to do so as soon as possible so that a complete tabulation can be made.

The Chairman suggests to members having children graduating this June, who are interested in making application for the scholarship award, to obtain their applications from either the Executive Board Member, Shop Steward or the Union Office. Scholarship applications may be sent in to the Union Office as soon as they have been completed. The final grading form from the school may be sent in at a later date.

The Committee's goal is to obtain sufficient contributions to warrant the awarding of a \$1,000 Scholarship. This can be accomplished if every member displays the same generosity that has been shown in former fund drives.