

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE-AFL-CIO

Vol. 8, No. 42 The Voice of G.E. Workers, Local 301 Oct. 20, 1961.

DISTRICT #3 DELEGATES ELECTED

At the regular October membership meeting, which was held last Monday, October 16th, the following IUE Local 301 members were elected to the District #3 Council to represent Local 301: The 2nd shift meeting elected Larry Gebo, who works in the Turbine Department, Bldg. 273. The 1st and 3rd shifts' meeting elected John Shambo, President of #301, who works in Bldg. 60; John Wager, Executive Board Member, who is employed in Bldg. 50, and William Mastriani, Executive Board Member, who works in Bldg. 66.

LM&G AIDS FOREIGN COMPETITORS

If you are ever walking through Bldg. 66, stop at the Tool Crib and ask to look at the new machine supervision purchased to sharpen saws.

You will find that this machine was made in Germany, but the thing that will really make you angry will be the fact that the two motors on this machine were also made in Germany. The logical question would be why didn't supervision buy an American-made machine but, more important, why isn't it driven by a G.E. motor?

We have heard LM&G supervision complain about the stiff foreign competition and how many motors and generators we have lost to foreign competitors. They also complain that foreign competition has forced American firms to cut prices and thus make domestic competition very tough. Isn't LM&G doing the very thing they are complaining about? True, this is a small machine, but you should know that this isn't the first nor the biggest foreign-made machine that LM&G has purchased.

This action places serious doubts in the minds of G.E. employees who are being asked to make many changes to help keep Schenectady G.E. competitive.

3RD SHIFT HOLIDAY CHANGE

The Union has once again, upon request of 3rd shift employees, negotiated a change in the Election Day holiday. They will observe Mon. Nov. 6th, as their holiday and will work Tues., Nov. 7th, as their regular work day. This would make Tues., Nov. 7th, a straight time day.

The District #3 Council meets quarterly with delegates from all IUE-AFL-CIO Locals in upstate New York.

The responsibilities of the District Council are mainly to render assistance to matters such as organizing the unorganized workers within the jurisdiction of the IUE and assist Locals on particular problems as well as help to execute the program of the National Union.

According to the second quarterly report, 46 Locals are represented in District #3.

The next District meeting will take place in Buffalo, N.Y., on October 26, 27 and 28.

LONG SERVICE WOMEN BEING UPGRADED

After considerable effort on the part of Union representatives, long service women employees are now being given an opportunity for upgrades.

In 1953, prior to the initial moving out of some departments from Schenectady, women employees numbered approximately 3100. Their numbers decreased with the relocation of other departments...as a result, today there are approximately 500.

Those with the longest service were offered jobs in Office Cleaning, some working on a short week basis depending upon their seniority.

There were at the time, shorter service women on such factory jobs as Hand Taping, Assemble Coils and Wedges and Connecting. The Union argued that those with longer service who were placed on lower rated jobs should be given the opportunity
(cont'd, reverse side)

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Industrial Hernias

This is the third in our series of articles about Workmen's Compensation cases. Today we shall discuss hernias since that is one of the most common forms of injury occurring among industrial workers.

Industrial hernias are either accidental or occupational. An accidental hernia is usually the result of a sudden severe strain such as from lifting some very heavy object. In most cases, there is immediate pain in the groin, usually accompanied by nausea and a bulging within 24 to 48 hours. A worker in such a situation should have a medical examination immediately, and if he is ruptured, report the accident to his supervisor promptly. He should file his claim with the Compensation Board as soon as possible, even if he is not losing time and does not wish to be operated on at this time.

Occupational hernias generally develop after long periods of heavy work, such as continuous lifting, straining, pulling, etc. A worker may not realize that he is ruptured until he starts having pain and discomfort, or is advised of the hernia by a physician after a physical examination. Even then many workers do not recognize the relationship between the injury and the nature of the work they have been doing.

The insurance company which insures G.E. generally fights claims by employees for industrial hernias. A worker who discovers that he is ruptured should have immediate legal advice, preferably from an attorney who specializes in Workmen's Compensation cases. Prompt contact with an attorney may make all the difference in the world as to whether the claim is allowed or dismissed. Remember that an established claim is good for at least 18 years and protects you in the event of a later complication or a recurrence at a later date.

Don't be afraid to call the Union Hall if you have any questions about your compensation case.

PENSIONERS' CLUB MEETING

The Local 301 Pensioners' Club will hold their first meeting for the season on Thursday, Oct. 26th, at 2:00 p.m., in the IUE Auditorium.

Due to the resignation of Benny Geersen, former president, election will be held for that office. There will also be an election of a secretary to replace Jack Lindsay, deceased.

LONG SERVICE WOMEN (Cont'd)

to learn these jobs. The Company took the position that the jobs were entirely unrelated to the work previously performed by the longer service women. However, after continued persistence on the part of Union representatives, the Company has agreed to train long service women, who are in Office Service, in such jobs as Assemble Coils and Wedges located in the SAC and MAC Departments.

Large Motor & Generator are currently filling four openings on Hand Taping with long service women who are presently working on unrelated jobs.

The only other department that is still reluctant to follow the same procedure is Power Tube, Bldg. 269.

The Union will continue to prevail upon management in Tube to give long service women employees on lower rated jobs the opportunity for upgrade.

SCHEDULE FOR STEWARDS' CLASSES

Next week's schedule for Shop Stewards' classes is as follows:

Thursday, Oct. 26th --
Bd. Member Palazeke - 7:30 p.m.

LM&G ADDS SERVICE HELP

The increase of production in the Welded Products Sub-section created a need for additional service help. In #52, a Cranefollower Helper was needed to turn over the large Turbine Stator Frames and Exhaust Hoods. For a time a Follower would leave the crane he regularly followed to assist another Follower who had to make a large, difficult lift. This resulted in a lack of service in the area the Follower had left. This situation created friction among the employees who were forced to wait for lifts.

Steward Zecca, with the aid of Board Member Cagnetta, filed a case which they won, resulting in the addition of Cranefollower Helper in #52. In #60, the 2nd shift was also suffering a loss of crane service. The Company took the position that the service was adequate. Board Member Martin filed a case for additional crane service. Finally the Company agreed to add another crane operator and follower to the 2nd shift. It is important that services are maintained which were established when tables and prices were set; for, if the services are allowed to lessen, it will reflect in the earnings of the workers involved.