

# LOCAL 301 NEWS

## IUE-AFL-CIO

Vol. 9, No. 28 The Voice of G.E. Workers, Local 301 July 13, 1962.

### G.E. SHUNS MORAL OBLIGATION

Many former G.E. employees who were laid off for lack of work and have been out past the contractual recall requirements find themselves being pushed aside in favor of people who never worked for G.E. While the Union realizes that the contract is not being violated in this respect, we do feel that G.E. has a moral obligation to these people who after years of service were laid off through no fault of their own.

Our Union is continually interviewing people who fall in this category and trying to persuade G.E. to hire them rather than people who never were employed by the Company. We have had representatives of local management say "We have no contract obligation and we are going to take this opportunity to bring in some new blood!"

The Union feels that this is a "cold-blooded" and callous approach and is certainly not in line with the Company's so-called and often stated policy that "We do right voluntarily".

As far as Local 301 is concerned, this action by management sets the stage for a much needed change in our contract in 1963. The recall provision of our contract is obsolete and also the provision that anyone who is out over three years loses all service must be changed. It is the Union's position that anyone who worked for G.E. should be recalled before new employees are hired and that they should not lose previous service no matter how long they are out.

The sentiments of the members of our Union indicate that they are willing to fight if necessary to obtain these changes in our National Contract in 1963. We notified the IUE-GE Conference Board meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, last week that this was of utmost importance in Schenectady.

We want to remind our members in the shop that if G.E. hires a new person for a job higher than Common Labor, you should contact your Shop Steward so that a case can be processed to upgrade lower rated people with longer service.

In all fairness, it should be pointed out that through the efforts of your Union, we have been able to

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### LOCAL COPE DRIVE ENDS SUCCESSFULLY

Last Monday marked the conclusion of Local 301's COPE campaign.

John Wager, Chairman of the 1962 COPE Drive, announced that the support given to this year's campaign was greater than in previous years. He said that there are a few Shop Stewards who have not as yet made complete returns and suggests that they do so immediately through their respective Board Members.

Chairman Wager stated that over 200 Shop Stewards sold one or more COPE books. Their names will be placed on the honor roll which will be located in our Union Auditorium.

Our COPE dollars, together with contributions from thousands of other workers affiliated with the AFL-CIO, are to be used to help defray campaign expenses of liberal candidates running for State and Federal offices this Fall.

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### NOTICE

#### MEMBERSHIP-STEWARDS MEETING

Monday, July 16, 1962  
2nd shift.....1:30 p.m.  
1st & 3rd.....7:30 p.m.

Regular Order of Business  
Reports of Committees  
Union Auditorium --- 121 Erie Blvd.

## COPE DRIVE (Cont'd.)

They will be the men whom Labor feels will advocate and support pro-Labor legislation ensuring greater job security, a higher living standard, better housing and working conditions, more adequate pensions...in other words, vote for measures that will bring about better economic and social reforms for all Americans.

Chairman Wager wants to take this opportunity to thank all members who gave their dollars to the COPE Drive.

## HOW BIG DOES A MELON HAVE TO GROW BEFORE IT'S SLICED?

General Electric's favorite statement in their Works News is that "We do right voluntarily". Using this as a statement of fact or intent, when will the Company voluntarily increase the amount of pensions to employees?

We are not suggesting that the Company increase the "upper echelon" pensions, for we believe that the "upper echelon" will be "voluntarily" taken care of.

The assets in the Pension Fund as of Dec. 1961, were one billion, one hundred fifty-one million, six hundred thousand dollars. We as employees and participants in the plan are happy that the fund is "healthy", but how large does it have to be before a livable pension is paid?

There are other interesting facts about the Pension Plan and Fund; in 1960, the Company contributed 65 million dollars and in 1961, 27 million, four hundred thousand. In 1960, the employees' contributions were 10 million, eight hundred thousand and in 1961, 13 million, two hundred thousand. While the Company decreased their contributions by 37 million, six hundred thousand, the employees increased their contributions by 2 million, four hundred thousand.

The income from investments and contributions from the employees and the Company in 1961 totaled 86 million, eight hundred thousand dollars. The pensions paid out totaled 32 million, five hundred thousand. This means the pension payments could have been doubled and still had 31 million, eight hundred thousand dollars to put into the reserve fund.

We feel that the Company should if it has any intention of "doing right voluntarily" take a long look at the obligations due their employees from a very "healthy" pension fund. (cont'd. next column)

## G.E. SHUNS MORAL OBLIGATION (Cont'd.)

get many people back to work who were out past recall and restoration of service, but it appears more and more that G.E. has decided to take advantage of an obsolete provision of the contract and shun their moral obligation.

## SCHOLASTIC RATINGS TO BE SENT TO UNION OFFICE

Frank Masterson, Chairman of Local 301 Scholarship Committee, wants to inform all applicants for our \$1,000 Scholarship Award that their final scholastic ratings must be sent immediately to the Union Office. Applications cannot be considered without the ratings.

Masterson announced that the Committee will in the very near future select two area Educators who will act as Judges. The award will be made on the basis of scholastic standing and proof of need.

The Educators will rate applicants according to their scholastic standing. Our Committee will then determine the winner by taking into consideration the need and recommendation of the two Judges.

Last year the Committee selected as Judges Mr. Robert Murray, Supt. of the Schenectady Public School System, and Mr. Horace Hager, Asst. Supt. of the Amsterdam School System. According to past practice, Mr. Murray will be asked to act as a Judge in this year's award. The services of another Educator from an area school will also be sought.

The Chairman stated that there are a good number of scholarship petitions still in the hands of some Board Members and Shop Stewards and urgently requests that they turn all of them in as soon as possible.

## RETARDED CHILDREN, INC. THANKS UNION

George W. Graham, M.D., Honorary Chairman of the Association for Help of Retarded Children, Inc., sent a letter of appreciation to the Union Office for our donation and the 25% reduction on the rental of our Auditorium.

If there are those either in the Union or the Company who object to the huge sum in the Pension Fund being called a "melon", I suggest that it not be allowed to grow any larger and that the monies from employee, company contributions and the amount earned by investments be paid to pensioners.