

LOCAL 301 NEWS

UFE - AFL - CIO

Vol. 8, No. 11 The Voice of G.E. Workers, Local 301 March 10, 1961.

PREFERENCE TO LYNN FOUNDRY ON EMPLOYMENT OF NEW MOULDERS

BEING A UNION MEMBER PAYS OFF--IN CASH

Through the efforts of Shop Steward Edwin Grzelecki and Board Member Angelo Durante, a Large Motor & Generator employee had his complaint against the Company successfully concluded.

The employee, because of an incorrect seniority date, was improperly bumped. He was placed on a lower rated job and was suffering a loss in earnings.

Steward Grzelecki, after discussing the problem with Board Member Durante, filed a grievance. Upon investigation of the case, the Company discovered it had bumped the employee in error and paid him the money lost. The amount paid to the employee was \$205.21.

The successful settlement of the above case proves again the value of belonging to the Union and being represented by one of Local 301's alert and well-informed Shop Stewards and Executive Board Members.

STATE JOBLESS HIGHEST SINCE 1949

A report released by New York State Labor Commissioner Martin P. Catherwood disclosed this startling piece of information regarding unemployment in New York State.

In mid-January, unemployment in this State reached the highest level since the recession of 1949. 557,231 or 7.3 percent of the State's labor force.

Catherwood said, "the January report was based on a new formula through which the Federal Govt. is seeking to achieve a uniformity in the State jobless reporting systems. Using the old formula which counted the partially employed and those waiting to start collecting jobless pay, New York's jobless would actually be 660,000.

Following the announcement by General Electric to the effect that the Foundry Operations in Everett, Mass., would close and part of the work would be done in Schenectady, the Officers of Local 301 requested that local management, before hiring additional Moulders who have not worked for G.E. before, give preference to those Moulders who were displaced in the Everett Plant due to the shutdown.

The Officers of Local 301 pointed out that the Company had a moral responsibility to those displaced craftsmen in Lynn, and, moreover, it would involve less cost than breaking in new employees who were not familiar with the G.E. Foundry procedures.

The Foundry work in Schenectady has been increasing in the past few months...Moulders who have been downgraded or laid off have been called back to their jobs.

There have been very few Apprentices on the Training Course during the past few years; therefore, the number of qualified Moulders in Schenectady is somewhat limited.

A considerable number of Local 301 members who were laid off for lack of work have found employment in the Pittsfield and Lynn plants.

CHANGE OF SHIFT WON

Recently Turbine management in the Erection Department decided to move (10) Erectors to the 3rd shift. (5) employees would be shifted from 1st to 3rd and a like amount from the 2nd shift.

The employees involved requested a change of shift payment. Management in Erection, however, refused this request.

A docket was processed protesting non-payment of shift change. At a 2nd level meeting between the Company and Union representatives, the Union argued that there was no reduction of forces immediately prior to this move, and, therefore, (cont'd. reverse side)

UNION CASE: CASH SETTLEMENT

Recently in the MAC Dept., a machine operator was bumped by a longer service man.

In order to properly break in the new man, the former operator was held on the job for three weeks. During this time, he was paid for instructing the new operator. The Company paid him for this time at what they had decided was his average earning rate, \$2.87 per hour. This rate was arrived at by taking his latest available earnings rate which was a combination D.W. and P.W. At the time he was bumped, this operator was averaging \$3.14 per hour for his productive P.W. time.

A case was filed requesting the higher rate for this man. In the meantime, the complainant went out of the plant on lack of work. At a second step meeting, the Company negotiator listened to arguments presented by Coordinator Vitallo and Board Member DeMarco. Based on these arguments, he requested more time to check the facts given him by the Union Negotiating Committee. A few days later the Company representative called Union Headquarters and agreed to pay this man the higher rate of \$3.14. A check was sent to this man for approximately \$30.00. In addition to this, as an added benefit, his severance pay, when he receives it, will be approximately \$140.00 more than he would have been paid under the original rate offered by the Company.

LONG SERVICE WORKERS WIN VICTORY

Management in Bldg. 40-1 is installing new equipment and standards on a portion of the cleaning and dipping stators job.

The part affected is the Dip and Bake Operation...no changes are contemplated for the present on the cleaning portion.

The Union requested a meeting with Company officials to discuss the status of the workers involved. Several meetings were held, with the result that an agreement was reached whereby the workers will continue to do the piece work cleaning operation and whenever they work on the Dip and Bake process, which is on development, they will receive a special day work rate which is (2) steps over and above the normal day work rate.

The Union felt that the workers were entitled to this special rate because of the knowledge and background of the job which they had.

CHANGE OF SHIFT WON

(Cont'd.)

Company made the changes solely for their own convenience. Because of this, Union felt that there was justification for a request of shift change payment.

The Company finally agreed because of the circumstances in this case, to pay the (10) employees a change of shift.

Union negotiators were: Shop Stewards De Giovine and Waugh, Board Members White and Hacko and Coordinator Vitallo.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Monday, March 13th, at 7:30 p.m.

Officers will meet at 6:00 p.m.

PAYMENT WON

The Packing Group in Bldg. 16 initiated a docket requesting payment for waiting while Testmen and other factory employees were working on two Stator Sections that had failed Hi-Pot.

Management's position was that it was not their policy to pay for such waiting inasmuch as it has been factored in the tonnage price.

The discussion centered around what percentage of the time that was lost by waiting for the job was figured in the price. Management finally decided that restoration of payment would be made. The group received \$20.00 in P.W. vouchers.

Union negotiators who took part in the discussion were: President John Shambo, Board Member Angelo Durante and Shop Steward Louis Riano.

The two Union members who are involved have worked for many years on cleaning and dipping stators.

One member has 30 years of service and the other has 20 years.

A real good job was accomplished by our Union representatives...in this case, Board Members John Wager and Carl De Marco, Local 301 Trustee George De Cresce and Shop Steward O'Brien, who incidentally is one of the workers involved in the grievance.

ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS