

LOCAL 301 NEWS

THE AFL-CIO

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LOCAL 301 SUPPORTS CANCER DRIVE

The Executive Council of the AFL-CIO has pledged to raise the sum of \$1,000,000 from their affiliated unions and their members at the rate of 10 cents per member. This money will be turned over to the Eleanor Roosevelt Cancer Foundation at the coming convention in December.

Every union member affiliated with the AFL-CIO throughout the country will be asked during the month of November to contribute 10 cents for this worthy cause.

There will also be a mass campaign during this month to educate union members about Cancer and Cancer detection methods.

Medical experts estimate that 2½ million Americans presently in the Labor Movement will die needlessly. These workers, they point out, could be cured by prompt detection and adequate treatment of the disease.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Cancer Foundation has been established to further the fight against the most dreaded disease facing mankind today.

As a result of constant medical and scientific research made possible by voluntary contributions in past years, man, today, has a greater awareness of this terrible disease. Medical experts are of the opinion that they are on the threshold of discovering a cure for cancer. This optimistic view is all the more reason why union members and Americans alike must continue to provide the necessary funds to accomplish this goal.

Every cent contributed to this Drive will be turned over to the Foundation. All administrative and other costs involved in the collection of this fund will be absorbed by the AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions.

A generation ago, Infantile Paralysis was man's nemesis. Labor contributed generously and the disease has been brought under control after many years. Today, it's Cancer and again Labor has risen to the occasion in supporting drives to raise funds for its eradication.

Local 301 Shop Stewards will be asking you for your donation. Please do not turn them down. Let's make this Drive 100% participation.

NOTICE

MEMBERSHIP-STEWARDS MEETING

Monday, November 20, 1961.

2nd shift.....1:30 p.m.
1st & 3rd.....7:30 p.m.

- Election of Election Committee
- Report of Constitution Committee
- Report of Delegates State Convention
- Report of Delegates Dist. #3
- Regular Order of Business

INFORMATION ON PENSION

by Allen E. Townsend

It has come to the attention of the Union that some of our members do not belong to the Pension Plan.

The reason given in most cases is that they cannot afford to belong. This is an incorrect and mistaken idea. The Pension Plan as it is now does not require any payment from the employee on the first \$4800 of earnings. On earnings over \$4800, the required payment is 3%. For example, the worker making \$6000 would only have to pay 3% of \$1200 or the small amount of \$36.00 per year to be a full fledged member of the Pension Plan.

Our advice to the person who is not in the plan is to join at once. Remember, one of these days you will be of retirement age and this G.E. Pension plus Social Security could be the difference between being able to pay your bills and being on relief. The Union Office is always ready to give advice on pension matters.

A WARNING

Be Careful About Signing Papers in an Accident Case

The following incident does not involve a workmen's compensation case, but we think it points up an important lesson for all workers. Even in compensation cases, workers have signed statements which they learned later did not reflect the true or complete story, and then had a hard time at the hearings explaining away such statements. And, like our pensioner in the story below, workers have signed releases without fully realizing what they were doing. Since we sometimes can learn from the mistakes of others, we give you the story below as a warning of what not to do if you get involved in an accident claim.

About four months ago, a pensioner, whom we will call Brown, slipped on the stairs in the house where he is a tenant. He was taken to a hospital where X-rays showed that he had broken his right leg. An operation was performed and a steel pin put in his thigh bone. Brown's medical and hospital bills ran more than \$1,500.00, and he may need further surgery. Furthermore, Brown may be crippled for the rest of his life.

Brown's landlord notified the insurance company covering the property immediately after the accident. An investigator came to see Brown several times soon after he was out of the hospital. Each time the investigator prepared a detailed statement concerning the accident and Brown signed it. When the investigator had gotten everything he wanted, he told Brown that the insurance company was not responsible for the accident. However, out of the goodness of his heart, the investigator offered to give Brown \$50.00 if he would sign a release. Brown signed the release and took the check.

It was not until several days later that Brown realized that he may have acted too hastily. He then contacted an attorney who investigated the matter. However, by that time it was too late and the lawyer advised him that there was nothing he could do.

We can all take a lesson from this case. If you are involved in any sort of an accident, whether it is an automobile collision, a sidewalk fall, or a compensation claim, think twice before signing any statements or other papers for insurance investigators. Even though a statement may sound perfectly innocent to you, it may contain legal implications which can hurt you later on. (cont'd. in next column)

UNION MEMBER RECEIVES UPGRADE

A former Machine Repairman Class "B" in Steam Turbine, who was downgraded to a lower rated job due to a lack of work returns to Machine Repair.

Several years ago, when layoffs were heavy, this man was affected with a lack of work and was placed on a File and Burr job, R-13. He remained there until a short time ago.

Recently, he approached his M.S.O. and asked to go back to Machine Repair. His answer was that he did not have the required qualifications to return to Machine Repair.

The Shop Steward immediately filed a formal grievance. At the 2nd level meeting, the Union negotiators pointed out that this man had been a Machine Repairman for 16 years therefore, their argument that the man was not qualified to return to his former job had no basis.

The Company said that they would re-check the facts. Two days later the Union was informed that the man would be returned to the Machine Repair job, Class "B".

This means that he received a 6 step upgrade resulting in a 58 cents hourly increase. Multiplying this figure by 40 hours adds up to a weekly pay differential of \$23.00.

If the Union had not processed a grievance for this union member, he would never have received the upgrade.

This is another case which points out the value of your Union.

The following Union representatives were involved in the case: Board Member White, Shop Steward Meader and Assistant Business Agent Vitallo.

A WARNING (Cont'd.)

Your best bet is to consult an attorney as soon as possible. In most cases, he may be able to help you recover the true value of your claim, and usually this will be more than you can get by yourself. If the lawyer advises you that you do not have a claim, you will at least know where you stand, and usually the advice will not have cost you anything.

If you need such advice and do not have your own lawyer, call the Union Hall, or contact your local Bar Association.