

LOCAL 301 NEWS

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STRATTON IMPRESSED WITH PETITIONS

STATEWIDE UNEMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE

The AFL-CIO State Council will hold an Unemployment Conference in Albany on Thursday, March 9, 1961.

Delegates representing AFL-CIO Unions throughout the State will be present to give a report on the employment status in each local area.

Invitations to address this important meeting have been extended to the U.S. Secretary of Labor, Arthur J. Goldberg, and other prominent AFL-CIO officials and legislative leaders of N.Y. State.

The purpose of the conference is to stimulate support of the economic programs of Labor, the Federal Administration and the State Administration.

The conference will highlight the immediate need for full employment and economic relief for the people of our State and the nation.

Leo Jandreau, President of the Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, will submit a report to the conference. Other delegates from our area will also attend.

JOBS SAVED

Last week management informed Shop Steward Jim Stamper of Flight Test that (10) Aircraft Mechanics were scheduled to be laid off.

Aware of the impact this would create in his group, Jim immediately called a meeting of his people to discuss the situation.

The group agreed unanimously to propose rotation to the Company as a means of saving the jobs of the (10) employees.

(cont'd. reverse side)

Congressman Samuel S. Stratton acknowledged the receipt of petitions, together with a letter sent by Business Agent Leo Jandreau, concerning the lowering of retirement age to 60 with full benefits.

Approximately 5,000 Local 301 members signed petitions urging Congressman Stratton to favor legislation that would bring this about.

Stratton stated that he "fully sympathizes with the need for providing earlier retirement". He mentioned that last year an attempt was made to pass an amendment to the Social Security Act which would provide for retirement at 62; however, this proposal did not get through the Conference Committee.

He pointed out that providing earlier retirement with full benefits would of necessity entail a considerable increase in Social Security taxes.

The Congressman's letter also mentioned that President Kennedy is strongly urging the adoption of a health insurance plan for the aged. This plan will necessitate increasing Social Security taxes. The President has also recommended other amendments and improvements in the Social Security Program. If adopted, these would still further increase the Social Security tax. Stratton thought it unlikely that Congress would act in this session to adopt a Retirement Program that would still further boost the Social Security tax.

He concluded his letter by stating that he "was very much impressed with the petitions".

Congressman Stratton intends to take this matter up with the House Ways and Means Committee and he will also inform Senators Javits and Keating of the arrival of the petitions.

JOBS SAVED (Cont'd)

Discussions were held between Union and Company representatives; result...group will rotate.

Union negotiators were Shop Steward Stamper and Board Member Korszun.

The initiative and effort of the Union representatives coupled with the altruistic and unselfish attitude of the Union members in the group greatly impressed employees who were not in the Bargaining Unit. As a result (7) new members joined our Union.

Hats off to Shop Steward Jim Stamper and the members in his group who were instrumental in saving the jobs of (10) of their fellow-workers.

FACTS ON INCOME EXTENSION AID by Allen E. Townsend

Under the Income Extension Aid and Severance Pay Program recently negotiated, there is a little-known feature.

Up to now, the official Company interpretation is that people who went out on lack of work prior to the strike could not qualify for Income Extension Aid or Severance Pay. There is, however, an exception to this rule. Any person who was out of the plant for any other reason than lack of work prior to the strike and who returns seeking a job after the signing of the contract, with continuity of service, would qualify for this payment providing the Company was past him on seniority and had no suitable job available for him.

RECEIVES RETROACTIVE PAY

In Steam Turbine, fully qualified Lg. Lathe Operators were asked to go from one lathe to another. When this occurred, they would be paid PW-DW at a lower rate.

Shop Steward Murphy, 2nd shift, contacted supervision on this matter but he received no satisfaction.

A grievance was filed on the 1st level, requesting proper payment. Request refused.

The case was processed at the 2nd step. After several meetings between Union and Company representatives, it was agreed that the lower rate was inadequate and a higher rate was negotiated.

LONG SERVICE EMPLOYEES RETRAINED

Union representatives in the SAC Department have for the last two years waged a concerted effort in persuading management to offer long service employees who were on a lack of work, jobs held by people with 1948 to 1952 service.

Normal training time on most of these jobs varies from 8 to 26 weeks.

At the outset, management was somewhat reluctant to agree to such a proposal, defending their position by stating that the training period on most of these jobs was more than incidental. They also said that the training of employees on this type of work involved the expenditure of thousands of dollars. However, after several meetings, management agreed to offer long service employees these jobs on a limited basis.

When they became qualified, others with long service were allowed to come into the Department. Within the last 2 years, the turnover from short to longer service employees has been substantial on these jobs.

The occupations in question are located in the following bldgs:

Bldgs. 105 and 109, which house Wire Mill - Insulate Wire, I-16, I-17; Film Coat Wire, R-18; Draw Wire, I-16.

Bldgs. 81 and 85 - Pressure Casting and Punch Press jobs.

The relating of the above facts points out one very important matter, that as far as your Union and its representatives are concerned, seniority is the prevailing factor.

Your Union representatives are constantly on the alert to see that Union members with long service are given the opportunity to train for new skills when their old jobs are no longer available.

The Board Members in SAC are: DeGraff, Mastriani, Koral and DiCaterino. They, together with their Shop Stewards, should be given credit for a job well done.

Coordinator Bill Christman also took part in the negotiations.

Retroactive payment will be made to Lathe Operators involved.

The Union negotiators were: Shop Steward Murphy, Board Member Joe Alois and Coordinator Ralph Vitallo.