

Proposed Amendments to NYS Constitution Up to Voters Nov. 3

On next Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 1953, the registered voters will decide 9 proposed amendments to the New York State Constitution.

Usually the voters are not familiar with these proposals and become confused when they face them in the voting booth. Therefore, in order that you may understand in a general way what purpose and effect the proposed amendments have, we are listing the following abstracts of each amendment:

Abstract of Proposed Amendment Number One

1. To authorize the temporary assignment, upon an order of the majority of the Justices of the appellate division of the supreme court in the judicial department to which the assignment is made, of a county judge of the counties of Bronx, Kings, Queens or Richmond, or a judge of the court of general sessions of the county of New York, or a justice of the city court of the city of New York, to hold a trial or special term of the supreme court in any county within the city of New York.

2. To authorize the temporary assignment, upon a similar order, of a justice of the court of special sessions of the city of New York, to hold a trial or special term of any county court within the city of New York or of the court of general sessions of the county of New York.

3. To authorize the temporary assignment, upon a similar order, of a justice of the court of special sessions of the city of New York or a justice of the municipal court of the city of New York, to hold a trial or special term of the city court of the city of New York.

No such temporary assignment of any judge or justice shall affect his existing office, create a vacancy therein, or change his compensation. No temporary assignment of any justice for service outside his judicial department shall be made unless a majority of the justices of the appellate division in his department consent thereto.

Certain obsolete provisions would also be eliminated from the constitution by this amendment.

Abstract of Proposed Amendment Number Two

The purpose and effect of this proposed amendment is to increase the monetary civil jurisdiction of the county courts outside the city of New York from \$3,000 to \$6,000.

Abstract of Proposed Amendment Number Three

The purposes and effects of this proposed amendment are:
1. To provide for the election of the governor and the lieutenant-governor jointly, by the casting by each voter of a single vote applicable to both offices. Presently a separate vote is cast for each of these offices.

2. To provide that there shall be no election of a comptroller or an attorney-general except at the time of electing a governor, vacancies in such offices to be filled as provided by the legislature.

Abstract of Proposed Amendment Number Four

The purpose and effect of this proposed amendment is to provide that the legislature may authorize any county, city, town or village or any county or town on behalf of an improvement district to contract indebtedness to provide a supply of water, in excess of its own needs, for sale to any other public corporation or improvement district; authorize two or more public corporations and improvement districts to provide a common water supply; and authorize any such corporation, or any county or town on behalf of an improvement district, to contract joint indebtedness for such purpose or to contract indebtedness for specific proportions of the cost. Indebtedness so contracted shall be for a county, city, town or village purpose respectively, and excluded in ascertaining the power of such municipal corporation to contract indebtedness as otherwise limited by present constitutional provisions.

Abstract of Proposed Amendment Number Five

The purpose and effect of this proposed amendment is to authorize the legislature to fix the salary of the governor at not more than \$50,000. The salary of the governor is presently fixed by constitutional provision at \$25,000.

Abstract of Proposed Amendment Number Six

The purpose and effect of this proposed amendment is to authorize the legislature to fix the salary of the lieutenant-governor at not more than \$20,000. The salary of the lieutenant-governor is presently fixed by constitutional provision at \$10,000.

Abstract of Proposed Amendment Number Seven

The purposes and effects of this proposed amendment are:
1. To exclude budget notes from the constitutional debt limit of counties, cities, towns, villages and school districts. Budget notes will continue to be payable within the constitutional tax limit where applicable.

2. To permit voters of a school district to increase the district's tax limit (by one quarter of one per centum) not more than once a year instead of not more than once in five years. The present maximum tax limit of two per centum is unchanged.

3. To rephrase Article VIII, Section 10-a, to make it clear that the section does not establish a contract between bondholders and municipalities regarding the application of revenues derived from a public improvement, and to eliminate the references therein to towns because the constitutional tax limit does not apply to towns.

Other proposed changes are principally for purposes of clarification.

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Denied Benefits

A Punch Press Operator in Bldg. 17 was recently penalized by not being credited with one week of unemployment, because she had not reported to the Employment Office immediately upon receiving her notice of lack of work.

Like many employees, this girl was not familiar with the rules governing Unemployment Insurance benefits and because her foreman had not issued a lack of work notice, which she was entitled to, instructing her to report to the N. Y. State Employment Office, she failed to register.

Upon returning to work a week later, the foreman covering up his default issued her the notice, which was due the week before. She went to the Employment Office that day after work, trying to get credit for time out. They informed her that they could not accept her statement; that the rules required her to register while she was unemployed.

While the Company refuses to accept any responsibility for the error on the part of the foreman, the experience in this case shows the need to consult your Union shop steward on everything affecting your job.

Stewards, Win Case

Alice Crowningshield and Eva Van Hoesen, both women shop stewards in Bldg. 28-3, recently proved the Union was on the job when supervision proposed changing their work from individual piece work to a progressive line and group piece work. In one instance a job had been converted 6 months ago.

Through the efforts of these shop stewards, the job on the progressive line was changed back to individual piece work and the proposal affecting the rotor winding job was withdrawn.

WOMEN'S MEETING
Thursday, Oct. 29 7:30
Report on Convention
by Helen Quirini

Abstract of Proposed Amendment Number Eight

The purpose and effect of this proposed amendment is to provide a new constitutional limitation upon the amount to be raised by the city of New York and the counties therein for city and county purposes by tax on real estate in any fiscal year, in addition to providing for the interest on and the principal of all indebtedness, of not to exceed a combined total of two and one-half per centum of the average full valuation of taxable real estate therein. Present constitutional provisions impose a limit of one and one-half per centum upon counties generally for county purposes which the legislature may increase to two per centum, and a limit of two per centum upon cities of 125,000 inhabitants or over generally for city purposes.

Abstract of Proposed Amendment Number Nine

The purpose and effect of this proposed amendment is to revoke the existing authority of the legislature to provide for the use of part of the lands of the state constituting the forest preserve, for the construction and maintenance of reservoirs to regulate the flow of streams. Under present provision the legislature may authorize the use of not exceeding three per centum of such lands for the construction and maintenance of reservoirs for municipal water supply, for the canals of the state and to regulate the flow of streams. The constitution mandates that the state's forest preserve lands, with certain exceptions, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands.

I.U.E. Continues 'No Union' Fight

York, Pa.—Fourteen months ago the Sylvania Co. opened a new shop in York. The UE undertook organization of this shop from the very beginning. The IAM also entered the picture. When there were only a couple of dozen workers in the shop, the IAM filed a petition, which was dismissed on the basis that there was an expanding unit. Both unions continued working on this shop.

Recently the IUE stepped into the picture in its usual role of doing everything possible to prevent UE from completing the organization of the plant.

Several weeks ago, the IAM filed a petition again, and an election was consented to. The election was held Oct. 12, 1953: 107 workers were eligible to vote, 104 voted. The three unions were on the ballot — UE won 50 votes, IAM, 5, IUE, 3, No union 43. A run-off is scheduled.

This plant is expected to employ between 350 and 400 workers. It is to be a feeder plant manufacturing parts, and the work that this plant is engaged in will be coming primarily from the UE organized plant in Emporium.

Considering that the IAM was the petitioning union, and the IUE carried on its usual campaign based on red hysteria against UE, the outcome in this initial election is remarkable as it expresses the confidence that these new workers have in UE and UE's program.

As in the three elections we reported in the last Facts for Action, it should be noted that the IUE, having received only two votes not only did not have any hope of winning, but had no hope of making any substantial showing, and its sole role in this campaign was to work again in collusion with the employer to prevent these workers in this new Sylvania plant from organizing a union of their own.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA U.E. LOCAL 301

Vol. 11 — No. 43

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, October 30, 1953

U. E. Officers Meet with Mayor and City Manager to Forestall Decentralization

Manager Debunks Claim of 10,000 Worker Layoff

A. C. Stevens, Manager of Schenectady Works, in a letter to the Union on last Wednesday denied that the Company has any intention of laying off 10,000 workers as claimed by I.U.E. — Carey.

"We are aware that recently there have been circulated, as rumor or otherwise, comments not in accordance with fact, which purport to read meaning into recent Company statements. It has been reported that we intend to lay off some ten thousand people. We have no such intention."

"As we see it, there will be some lost time and temporary layoffs between now and the end of 1953. The latter may affect something in the order of 500 persons."

While the Schenectady Works Manager gives the Union the outlook until Jan. 1, 1954, the Union has taken precautions against future Company plans to transfer work from Schenectady that would cause unemployment. This story can be read in other columns of this paper.

Union to Compile Seniority List

All shop stewards must report to their Executive Board member any reduction of forces in their respective group. The Board member will relay this information to the Union office where a list is being compiled.

The information must consist of name, check No., occupation, rate, service and address, and must be turned in as quickly as possible following the notice of lack of work. If the Board member is not available for some reason, the shop steward should get the information to the Union office.

The above facts will be used to check the departments and Employment Office to make sure the Seniority Supplement is being applied properly.

Large Motor Foremen Need Watching

Several months ago Shop Stewards P. Rosa, C. McCabe and W. Martin found several cases where Large Motor Generator supervision would not pay change of shift premium. The issue was settled in a meeting with management which agreed to pay in the instances cited. However, it was necessary to point out to management again this week that the Division had still failed to pay the people involved although the commitment was made over a month ago. Apparently this Division doesn't intend to pay; only when forced to do so as, for example the case of Brother William Hrycaj. On 8/27/53, he had to file a written grievance to collect the change of shift premium to which he was entitled; yet it was again necessary to file a written grievance a month later, 9/26/53, to collect the same premium. It is hoped that management will be able to straighten these foremen out in the matter before too many more grievances must be filed.

In opposition to any future plans of G.E. to transfer work out of Schenectady as part of the decentralization program, the officers of U.E. Local 301 met with Mayor Wemple and City Manager Morris Cohn to solicit their support against any contemplated transfer of work out of the City.

The Union officers pointed out that G.E. President Ralph Cordiner's speech to the Chamber of Commerce on October 6th left a considerable amount of uneasiness among the employees in the Schenectady Works and also among the small business people in town. While Cordiner indicated employment was high for the Schenectady Plant, he was not specific in saying how the future plans of the Company would affect employment. We do know that the Company through its decentralization plans has moved work from large plants to new plants of the Company in other areas.

The City officials agreed with the Union leaders that jobs were important to the citizens of our community and they were willing to do whatever they could in order to keep the people of our community working. They claimed that they learned a great deal as a result of the discussion between them and the Union's representatives and they would get in touch with representatives of the Company as quickly as possible. They requested the Union to send them all the information we have available on the matter of transferring of jobs.

While the City officials will request a meeting with the Company immediately, it was indicated that a joint meeting of City officials and Company and Union representatives may take place at a later date. The Union representatives pointed out that while employment is still the same as it has been, the purpose of the meeting was to stop any future plans the Company may have that would cause unnecessary unemployment in Schenectady.

NOTICE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, November 16

Nominations for Officers for 1954

Election of 25 members to an Election Committee

MILES G. MOON
Recording Secretary

Be Sure to Vote Tuesday

You will have the privilege to cast a vote for candidates for public office for 1954. Also, your vote will decide whether the nine proposed amendments to the New York State Constitution will be adopted or rejected.

Polls will be open from 6:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

U.E. Legislative Committee Reports on Amendments

The Legislative Committee of U.E. Local 301 reported to the Executive Board their recommendations after investigating the proposed constitutional amendments which will be submitted to the voters next Tuesday.

William Stewart, Chairman, and James De Masson, Secretary, who reported for the committee, pointed out that the Legislative Committee was making specific recommendations on 5 of the 9 proposed amendments. Their recommendations are as follows:

Amendment #1—vote "Yes".

This amendment will help expedite the backlog of court cases.

Amendment #2—no recommendation.

Amendment #3—vote "No". This amendment would not per-

mit voters to elect Governor and Lieutenant-Governor separately.

Amendment #4—no recommendation.

Amendment #5—vote "No". This amendment would increase the Governor's salary from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Amendment #6—vote "No". This amendment would increase the Lieutenant-Governor's salary from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Amendment #7—no recommendation.

Amendment #8—no recommendation.

Amendment #9—vote "Yes". This amendment will keep the authority to dam rivers and destroy our forests with the people rather than delegate it to regulating boards.

WE GET PAID
ELECTION DAY
THANKS TO U.E.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

Department of Labor Upsets Union Victory

U. E. Local 301 received notice today from the New York State Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board that the Dept. of Labor has made an appeal from the decision of the referee.

requesting that G.E. workers be disqualified for Unemployment Insurance benefits if they were laid off during a departmental vacation shutdown and, therefore, ineligible for vacation allowances. The decision made by the referee claimed G.E. employees should not be disqualified for insurance benefits after receiving evidence submitted by Union representatives and Company representatives at a hearing held in Schenectady last month.

The Dept. of Labor headed by Edward Corsi, the Commissioner of Labor, has no justified grounds for making such an appeal. Several years ago the same position was taken by the Dept. of Labor and was finally changed after the workers of New York State protested through letters and delegations the unfairness of this decision.

The Executive Board of U.E. Local 301 has recommended that all members write letters of protest to the New York State Commissioner of Labor requesting that the Dept. of Labor withdraw their appeal so that G.E. workers will receive the benefits of the New York State Unemployment Insurance Law to which they are entitled. Write to:

Edward Corsi, Commissioner
Dept. of Labor
80 Centre St.
New York, N. Y.

Request to Sponsor Basketball Team

The Union has been requested to sponsor a basketball team in the G.E.A.A. League.

A committee was appointed to investigate the request and report back to the Executive Board at its next meeting. The committee appointed was: Joseph Alois, James De Maseo and Henry Kaminski.

Delegation to Lynn

The latest reports from U.E. representatives in Lynn say the N.L.R.B. is expected to hand down a decision on the request for an election within the next two weeks.

They requested representatives of U.E. Local 301 to speak at a meeting of the Lynn U.E. election committee last Wednesday evening in Lynn. Rudy Rissland, Recording Secretary; William Mastriani, Chief Steward and John Succocio were appointed by the Executive Board.

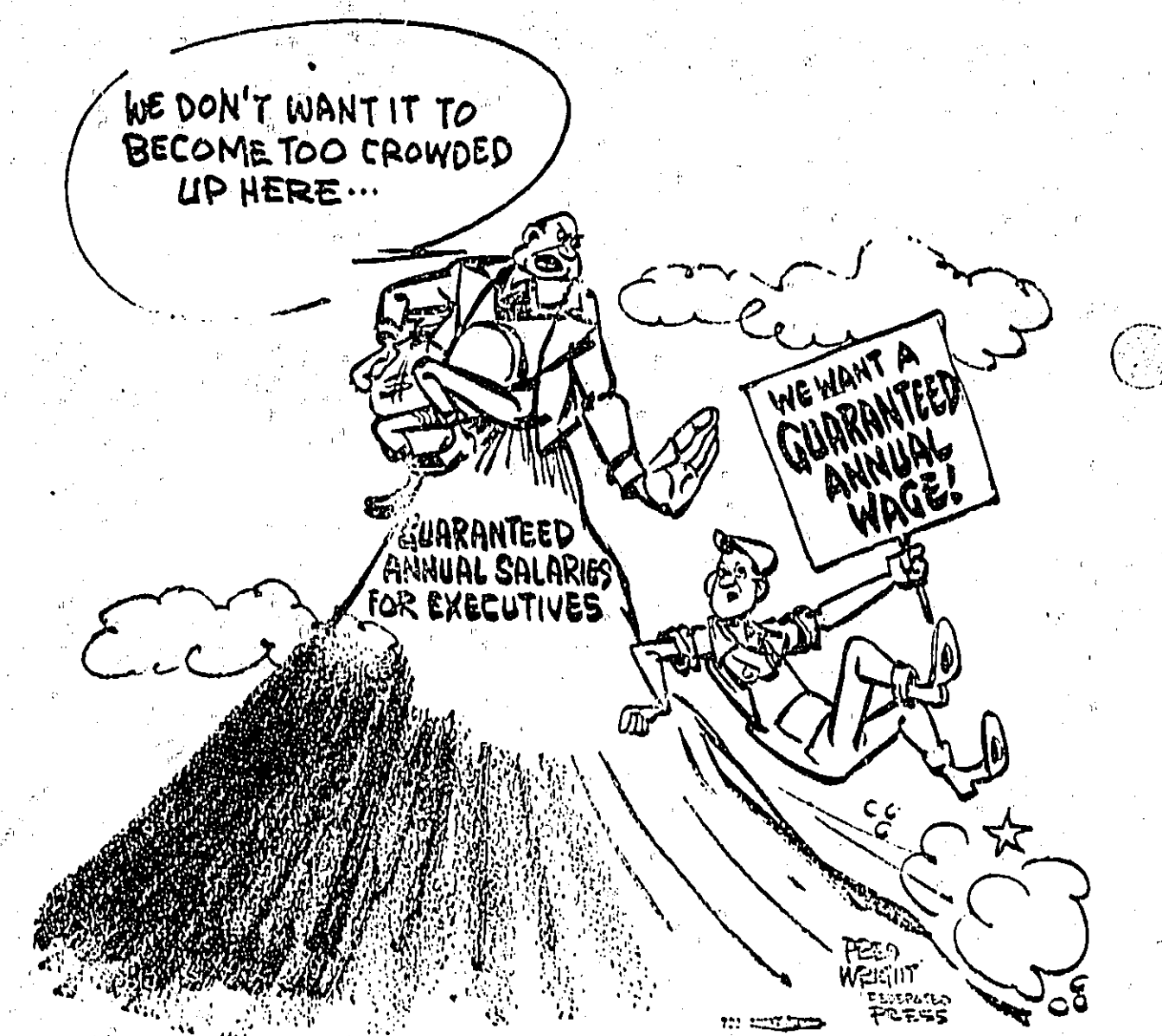
Executive Board Reviews Sectional Representation

The Executive Board appointed a committee to review the sectional representation of shop stewards and report their findings to the Board. The Constitution requires each Board member to review his section during the month of October and see to it that an adequate number of stewards are available to properly represent the membership.

Every Board member has received forms on which he must record the number of members working for each foreman in order that the Executive Board may determine the number of stewards that are needed.

After the final report is approved by the Executive Board, it will be given to the Election Committee. This Election Committee will be elected at the November membership meeting and will conduct the election of shop stewards in accordance with the Board's decision on representation.

The committee that was appointed to carry on the above work is: William Templeton and Sidney Friedlander.



Doesn't Take Much To Keep Busy

It's obvious to the members in State Frame Assembly that Turbine Division doesn't intend to allow any lack of work situation for their foremen. That was one of their opinions, among others, when they were notified last week that Foreman T. Wheeler was now in complete charge of four men on the Morton drills. No one at this date has been able to determine if this was considered a promotion or that four men were all Foreman Wheeler could handle.

Badges May Go

There is some talk about discontinuing the employees' badges except on those jobs requiring Government security relations. An announcement was made recently in Lynn that they would be discontinued there also.

The badges were discontinued after World War II and brought back again in 1949.

**ASK YOUR SHOP
STEWARDS ABOUT
U.E. LOCAL 301
COMPENSATION SERVICE**



Thousands of grievances are handled by U.E. Local 301 each year at all levels from the steward up to final appeal in New York City. To keep members posted, we shall each week list some of the grievances that have not been settled at the steward-foreman level and have been referred to the executive board-management level.

Bldg. 18: The employees working under Foreman Jones request the proper overtime payment for hours worked prior to regular starting time.

Bldg. 269: C. Schwenn who is employed as a Toolmaker under Foreman Parkay is complaining about undesirable working conditions caused by a leader.

Bldg. 60: The group under Foreman Bergen are complaining about inadequate allowances in their prices for work that is required to be done.

Bldg. 81: Frank Conte is an Accumulator who is complaining about doing work not in his classification.

Bldg. 40: The group working for Foreman Mellon request a porter. At present they are using Crane-men to do porters' work.

Bldg. 81: The "C" Class Packers are requesting that allowances for crane lifts be added to their prices.

Bldg. 60: The Material Handlers are protesting working on a paint line. They say there is plenty of work under Foreman Regnier.

Bldg. 17: Lubarda and Falvo, Toolmakers with long service, are requesting transfers to days.

Bldg. 18: P. Gaur is protesting his transfer to 3rd shift. He claims there is plenty of work on days.

Bldg. 18: J. Treanor requests proper classification of the work he is required to do.

CAKAT: The employees under Foreman Hopeck are requesting proper classification in line with the work they are required to do.

Knolls: E. Reynolds is classified as a Laboratory Worker. She claims her duties and job requirements entitle her to a higher classification.

Bldg. 60: The group under Foreman Bergen are complaining about the method used to determine a price for extra work.

Bldg. 273: H. Darrow is an Assembler Erector working under Foreman Saddlelire. He is requesting a proper classification.

Bldg. 273: D. Breuster is an Assembler Erector working under Foreman Saddlelire. He is requesting a proper classification.

Bldg. 16: The group working under Foreman Lewinski are complaining about a violation of an agreement reached on application of limiting rate.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE
WORKERS OF AMERICA (U.E.)
Local 301

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ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS



New York—C.I.O. Pres. Walter P. Reuther advised delegates to the National Maritime Union's ninth biennial convention to "keep your eyes on Washington because the big steal is getting underway there."

Sacramento, Calif.—No cheers are going up from labor over California's new governor, Goodwin Knight, who has taken over from Earl Warren, now chief justice of the U. S.

Pittsburgh—There is no indication here of any contract reopening move in the coal industry. The usual bargaining hasn't begun and nobody seems to know when it will.

Vancouver, B. C.—The proposed AFL-CIO no-raiding pact was approved by a close vote at the International Woodworkers convention here.

New York—Moves to impose political tests on lawyers and bar associations were condemned here by speakers at a national conference called by the National Lawyers Guild and attended by 250 delegates.

Washington—AFL Pres. George Meany told the special 50th anniversary convention of the International Hod Carriers Building & Common Laborers Union (AFL) that intensified political action is the only way to get the unionbusting Taft-Hartley act provisions off the statute books.

Washington—Stanley J. Ruttenberg, CIO director of education, warned President Eisenhower that any attempt to put across a manufacturers' sales tax on a wide base will be interpreted by organized labor "as an attempt to shift the tax burden from the wealthy and high income individuals to the bulk of the American consumers."

Washington—James P. Mitchell, new secretary of labor, "is a management man rather than a labor man," commented AFL Pres. Geo. Meany on Eisenhower's choice of a successor to Martin Durkin, resigned.

Washington—President Eisenhower Oct. 14 signed an order permitting firing of federal employees who assert their constitutional rights under investigation.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

Unemployment Claims Increase for Sixth Straight Week

Figures released by the Labor Department Bureau of Employment Security reveal that initial claims for unemployment compensation increased steadily during the six straight weeks preceding October 10.

The total of new claims filed the week ended Oct. 10 was 212,100, an increase of 21,300 over the previous week.

The bureau said the increase in the number of claims was widespread, coming from 39 states.

At the same time the number of weeks of unemployment claimed showed sharp increases over a 3-week period, indicating that the length of unemployment in individual cases was increasing. An increased number of weeks of unemployment claims was reported from 32 states.

The number of new claims for unemployment compensation filed during the week ended Oct. 10 was nearly 40% above the number filed a year ago, the bureau said.

"As in the past several weeks," the bureau said, "layoffs in a variety of industries due to lack of orders and seasonal influences contributed to the initial claims made. A total of 10 states reported layoffs in the apparel industry. Further layoffs in the auto industry occurred in four states. Other industries experiencing layoffs in more than one state were construction, electrical equipment, coal, primary metals and ordinance."

G-E Company Pinches Pennies While Permanently Disabled Worker Suffers

Worker Threatened with \$79.50 Lawsuit Which GE Refuses to Pay

On January 30, 1951, Dominick Friello, a welder in Building 273, 27 years of age and married, fell from a scaffold and severely injured his back, neck, a shoulder and a leg. After

losing a little more than an entire year from work, Friello had to undergo a serious operation to his back after which he was able to return to work, but with the definite assurance that his back could never be the same. In fact, the Referee in his compensation case made a legal finding that he was permanently disabled.

In order to give Friello some relief from a bad back, his doctor instructed him to sleep on an "orthopedic" mattress.

At this point, the Company, after paying Friello \$1,753.60 for more than a year's lost time and after paying, in addition, for the operation, the hospital bill and the doctor's bill, refused to pay \$79.50

for the special spring which must go with an orthopedic mattress.

After almost three years of court hearings, the union's lawyer, seeking to avoid any further litigation with its consequent loss of further time for Friello, who would have to spend more time in court, not to speak of the valuable time which the union's lawyer would have to give up for so small an expenditure, wrote to the Company asking it to pay for the spring as well as the mattress. The Company refused by letter, admitting that doctors have felt that mattresses were of benefit in this type of case, but threatening that if a mattress "is now going to be interpreted as including a spring," the Company had reached the point where it would have to review its policy. What policy would have to be reviewed by the Company was not made exactly clear, except perhaps, to litigate every requirement which an injured worker might have.

Since the merchant who had sold the mattress and spring to Friello was now threatening to sue Friello and to garnish his wages, the union's lawyer wrote to ask the dealer whether the spring was necessary. The reply to this was that an "orthopedic mattress used with any other type of spring than made to match" the mattress, "defeats the special purpose that the mattress is made for". A copy of this letter was sent to the Company, after an exchange of weeks of correspondence over this small expenditure. The reply of the Company, however, was that they would pay for a mattress, but not for the spring. Friello, in the meantime, fears that his wages, which he is courageously earning despite his condition, may be cut by 10% every week to pay for a spring which he would have been very happy to do without if he had not been injured while at work.

When questioned about the possible outcome of this situation, the union's lawyer stated that there would be several months of further litigation over the spring and that the manufacturer would have to be brought in as a witness unless the Company changes its position and agrees to pay for the spring.

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