

LOCAL-301 NEWS

UOE-AFL-CIO

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UNION IN ACTION

For the past several months, placement of former employees, some with recall rights and others who have exhausted same but are still maintaining restorable service, has been a major undertaking by the Union Office Staff.

REPORT OF ACCIDENTS IMPORTANT

Last week we urged you to be sure to report immediately every accident incurred while at work, and to promptly file a claim for benefits with the Workmen's Compensation Board. To emphasize the point, here is an example of what actually happened to a worker who failed to properly protect his interests.

The worker (let's call him John Smith) was an Assembler in Turbine. In 1957, he twisted his back while at work. Although his back pained him, Smith did not report this incident thinking that it would eventually clear up. He kept on working for about a year and a half, even though the pain in his back was becoming more and more constant. Finally, he went to a doctor who advised that he needed an operation. By that time, Smith had himself forgotten how the trouble with his back started, so he did not give the doctor a proper history.

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N O T I C E

MEMBERSHIP-STEWARDS MEETING

Monday, October 16, 1961.

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

Regular Order of Business
Reports of Committees
Election of Dist. #3 Delegates

One must take cognizance of the fact that this problem is not an easy one. For instance, many telephone contacts have to be made, prime consideration given to the individual's service and proper placement made in line with his seniority.

Approximately 100 people come to the Union Office each week...there they are interviewed. In the past two months nearly 200 people have been placed on various jobs in the plant as a result of the Union's efforts.

The following information will stress the importance of getting back on the payroll: For instance, after one has been re-employed, he will after one month receive a vacation pay. He will upon rehiring be entitled to all of the benefits provided for under the 1960-63 contract, such as Income Extension Aid, Pension Insurance and Hospitalization. Under the Hospitalization Plan, if a person becomes a participant and thereafter a week's premium is deducted from his pay check and subsequently receives a lack of work from the plant, his insurance will be in force for one year. This is very important to a laid-off worker in light of the present day hospitalization and medical costs.

The services of the Union Office do not stop there - the Business Agent and his Assistant Business Agents, together with the Union representatives in the plant, are constantly processing grievances on all levels of the procedure. In the past year, approximately 90% of the grievances processed have been resolved satisfactorily. This record we feel is an enviable one and speaks well of your Union representatives.

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REPORTING OF ACCIDENTS (Cont'd)

Smith was operated on in 1958 for a herniated disc and a spine fusion was performed. He lost about five months from work, for which he received disability benefits, and most of the surgical and hospital expense was paid by G.E. insurance.

About eight months after he had returned to work, Smith struck his back against a machine, severely aggravating the prior condition. He has now been out of work for about two years, and even though only 44 years old, has been forced to accept a disability pension. Although Smith received compensation benefits and medical care at Company expense for most of this period, the doctors now report that the aggravation from the second accident has subsided and that his back trouble is due solely to the condition for which he had been operated in 1958. Smith's compensation has stopped. He cannot get another job because of his limited employability, and his family must now struggle along on the few dollars that he receives from his pension.

If Smith had only reported the 1957 incident promptly and perfected his claim, he would not now be in this position.

Remember, if you need help or advice about compensation benefits, feel free to call the Union Hall.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS VERY EXPENSIVE

According to a report from the State Department of Welfare released in July of 1961, Unemployment Insurance benefits were paid on an average weekly rate to 246,400 persons. The report claimed that this number of recipients was 12% over the number of beneficiaries one year ago. The benefits for July of this year amounted to \$36,040,541.

There were 73,493 receiving weekly benefits of Unemployment Insurance as the result of the 13 weeks extension over the 26 weeks maximum that was formerly in effect. The beneficiaries of the 13 additional weeks were receiving income at the rate of \$10,522,713 per week in unemployment benefits.

This certainly is a considerable amount of money being pumped into the economic machine in the form of purchasing power provided for by unemployment benefits.

UNION IN ACTION (Cont'd)

Approximately fifty written grievances are processed each week on all local levels in practically every department. Oral and telephone contacts are in the neighborhood of fifty a day.

Sometimes delays do occur in processing certain grievances because of their nature and some of our members become impatient. They must realize that in certain cases many ramifications have to be eliminated. This delay sometimes gives the member the impression that nothing is being done about his case. This is not so, because each case receives individual attention and consideration. You can rest assured that your Union is exerting every effort to resolve satisfactorily each case.

NEW REVISED SCHEDULE

As we go to press, the Business Office has announced that 115 Shop Stewards and 9 Executive Board Members have already attended the Shop Stewards' orientation meetings.

The reaction of the Stewards with regard to the classes is that they have been very informative and constructive.

Next week's schedule is as follows:

<u>Tuesday, Oct. 17th --</u>	
Bd. Members Natonski & Masterson	- 7:30 p.m.
<u>Wednesday, Oct. 18th --</u>	
Bd. Member Martin	- 1:00 p.m.
<u>Thursday, Oct. 19th --</u>	
Bd. Member Durante	- 7:30 p.m.

LARGE MOTOR HAS TEMPORARY UPSWING

Large Motor & Generator Department currently is adding in excess of 50 employees due to a temporary upswing in business.

The bulk of the upswing is in the manufacture of coils in Bldg. 12. The rest is scattered through the department. Some of the upswing in Bldg. 66 is due to increased orders of M.A.C. motor frames to be fabricated. For a time the Welded Products Sub-section was getting only 3% of the M.A.C. frames which were used. Welded Products is now getting 35% of the orders. This means a 2nd shift will be added to Bldg. 66. Although these new employees have been warned not to be too optimistic over this upswing, the work load for '62 is expected to be as good as '61. It is hoped that orders in '62 will be increased sufficiently to retain on a permanent basis these employees now being hired.