

**OVER 7,000 CHILDREN ATTEND XMAS PARTY--CROWDS OVERFLOW INTO STREET**

Over 7,000 children, accompanied by their parents, filled the huge IUE Auditorium on Erie Blvd. as Local 301 and Santa played host to them at the Annual Xmas. Party.

The two policemen on duty were kept busy as the crowd overflowed onto the street outside, and into the parking lot. Christmas music filled the auditorium as the children filed through to greet Santa and receive their toys and candy. Many of the happy children and parents were interviewed by Art Christopher for our weekly radio program, "Labor Looks at the News", which is presented on the air every Saturday evening on WSNY at 6:45 pm. Highlights of the Xmas. Party were featured on the radio program of Dec. 27th.

All in all, it took 2 full days for all the children to participate and receive their gifts as members of the Activities Committee worked feverishly to accommodate and please all their happy little guests.

The members of the Activities Committee are to be commended for the splendid job they did in preparing for and carrying out the many plans necessary for such a successful undertaking.

**LM&G STATEMENTS CLARIFIED**  
(cont'd. from Page 1)

report to their employees that this 1/2 of one per cent increase is more than offset by the fact that G.E. employees as of Oct. 1st, 1958, stopped paying the one per cent on the first \$4200 of their earnings into the Pension Plan and as of Jan 1st, 1959, stopped paying the one per cent on the first \$4800 of earnings into the G.E. Pension Plan as per Union Contract. In other words GE employees pay nothing on the 1st \$4800 of income into the G.E. Pension Plan. The membership can be thankful for the foresightedness of the union in negotiating this plan which formerly called for 2% to be paid for by the employee up to \$4800 a year in earnings and 5% on all earnings above \$4800. The 5% has now been cut down to 3% while the 2% is eliminated completely.

Credit for the improved features mentioned above goes to the Union Committee which negotiated the 1955 contract.

If the Company wanted to be factual, they could also have pointed out that the Social Security Program keeps many people over 65 off of the relief rolls by paying them a monthly pension.

**NEW LABOR PROGRAM ON WSNY FOLLOWS "Labor Looks at the News"**

"Washington Reports", a new weekly radio program presented by the International AFL-CIO and shown as a public service will appear each Sat. evening on WSNY at 7:00 p.m.

The new program which follows immediately after Local 301's "Labor Looks at the News" will feature a Republican and a Democratic member of Congress each week who will discuss pending legislation in Washington for 1960. In order to keep fully informed during the coming year on subjects vital to you and your family be sure to tune in WSNY (1240 on your dial) every Sat. Eve. at 6:45 for "Labor Looks at the News" and "Washington Reports".

**SAVEWAY STRIKE ENTERS 7TH WEEK**

The militant members of Dist. Union #1, Amalgamated Meat Cutters & Affiliated Crafts, at the time of this writing, are entering their 7th week of picket duty in the strike against Saveway Supermarkets.

It all started back in the latter part of Nov. when a union spokesman reported that Saveway completely ignored the union and refused to recognize it. 60 of the 72 employees with service up to 17 years were dismissed without cause. The new management then went about hiring new and cheaper help to replace the 60 employees. The union members immediately called a special meeting and voted to picket the supermarkets in protest. A picket line was set up at all locations in the area to protest the lock-out tactics of the Saveway Supermarkets.

Support by the 44 local unions of the Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO Sch'dy. Area, has strengthened their stand in their fight against the new management.

**MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR JAN. 11TH**

OFFICERS - 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD - 7:30 p.m.

both at Union Office

**LOCAL DONATES "TOYS FOR TOTS"**

Over 100 toys were donated to the Sch'dy. Children's Home by Local 301, IUE, to help brighten up their Christmas. The toys were part of the 7,000 plus items purchased by the Local for the Annual Children's Xmas Party which was held at the Union Auditorium on Dec. 19th and 20th.

**Jandreau, Shambo Testify at Senate Hearings**

(See Pages 2 & 3)

**LOCAL 301 NEWS**  
IUE AFL-CIO

Vol. 7 - No. 2 The Voice of GE Workers, Local 301, Schenectady, N. Y. January 15, 1960

**SCHENECTADY UNION-STAR**  
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SCHENECTADY, N. Y., FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1960

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Senators Open Idle Inquiry

**GOVERNMENT AID CITED AS NEED TO EASE UNEMPLOYMENT IN CITY**



Senators Given Suggestions For Solving Jobless Problem

By BARBARA HAYDEN and JAMES H. LEGHETT  
Bathed in the glare of lights and facing a capacity audience of spectators, three senators and presidential unemployment czar...

**Rabbi Accuses GE and Alco Of 'Demoralizing' Sch'dy**

**AREA REDEVELOPMENT BILL TO BE PUSHED BY STRATTON**

Senate Committee Hearing Here Seen Stimulating Action



**SCHENECTADY NEWS**

**THE TIMES UNION**

Rabbi Bernards Among About 30 Hitting Firms at Jobless Hearing

**Thirty Testify As Senators Study Area Job Outlook**

**Senators Hear GE Employment History**

Stevens Reports Schenectady GE 'One Of Most Diversified Plants' of Its Size



# Shambo Tells "GE Story" To Senate Committee

John Shambo, President of Local 301 of the IUE, representing 9,500 employees at the GE Plant in Schenectady, testified before the McCarthy Special Senate Committee on Unemployment Problems last week to tell the story of unemployment at GE and to recommend corrective legislation to deal with this acute problem.

His statement was as follows:

Approximately 6 years ago, 40,000 men and women were employed at the Schenectady Plant of the General Electric Company.

This employment was divided equally between the hourly and salary workers. The hourly rated unit has decreased from 20,000 to 9,600, whereby the salaried group has decreased from 20,000 to approximately 12,400, making a total reduction in employment in the Schenectady G.E. Plant to approximately 18,000 men and women.

While these figures reveal those who have been laid off, they do not represent the thousands of employees who are yet on the payroll but who have been transferred from their original jobs to another type of work whereby their maximum skills are not presently being utilized and in many cases their earnings have been reduced. Among those who have either been laid off or transferred to lower classifications are workers with high skills, which represent long training to acquire the experience necessary to do precision and its equivalent work, such as:

- |                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Tool & Die Makers      | Steel Workers |
| Machinists             | Tinsmiths     |
| Machine Tool Operators | Assemblers    |
| Electricians           | Welders       |
| Carpenters             | Inspectors    |

Practically every occupation that is found in the skilled and semi-skilled categories has been affected by lack of work.

About 9 years ago there were approximately 3,000 women employed on factory jobs in the Schenectady G.E. Plant . . . today there are about 500 left. They actually need 17 years of service to hold the average factory job. These women were employed on diversified occupations that required a variety of skills, ranging from simple assemblies to highly skilled and complex wiring and electrical testing operations.

### NEW PRODUCTS CENTER

The Schenectady G.E. Plant which was the Home Office of General Electric, with its research and engineering laboratories located here, was recognized as the development center for new products which resulted in the manufacture of a multi-product plant in Schenectady.

We produced such things as:

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Radio                        | Refrigeration          |
| Industrial Control Equipment | Turbines               |
| Porcelain Products           | Large Motor Generators |
| Aeronautical Equipment       | Induction Motors       |
| Industrial Heating           | Chemical Products      |
| Electric Cable               | Electronic Devices     |

Today, the Schenectady Plant produces mainly heavy apparatus and is composed of 4 major departments.

With me today are a couple of people who have been displaced and who are typical examples of the type of skills available, which are not utilized. I would like to introduce them for the record along with a few questions that will confirm their status and working ability.

Edith Phillips and Benjamin Taflewitz

### EVERYTHING IS HERE

There are ample facilities other than manpower available in Schenectady. In the General Electric Plant there are empty buildings and idle machines. Moreover, the community offers the basic requirements that are advantageous for manufacturing:

1. Good Transportation Facilities
2. Diversified Labor Supply
3. Good Plant Sites
4. Available Buildings
5. Ample Water Supply
6. Good Cultural Environment

I THINK A VERY IMPORTANT POINT that this Committee

## IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301,  
REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY  
GE WORKERS

Published by the Editorial Committee

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Editor — Art Christopher

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on Unemployment Problems should consider is that a considerable amount of government money was invested in training and considerable government people whom we are talking about money was invested in buildings, machines and equipment, particularly during the war years. It seems that where government contracts are let out, a duplication of this investment is not in the interest of economy or good business. Government contracts have been awarded to companies who have expanded in new areas and it was necessary to spend money in training new personnel. In directing defense work into this area, the Government could accomplish a three-fold purpose:

1. By relieving a critical unemployment problem
2. Saving vast sums of money earmarked for construction of new plants and equipment elsewhere
3. By eliminating the need of investing vast sums of money to train personnel by utilizing the existing skills and talents available here.

### I. U. E. Handles Publicity

Arrangements for all Radio, Newspaper, and TV coverage were made by Art Christopher, Public Relations Director of Local 301, for the Senate Committee. Senators Hartke and Clark conducted the hearings. Rep. Stratton, Senators Keating and Javits also participated.

## STEWARDSHIP MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday — Jan. 18th

# Text of Jandreau's Statement at Hearing

Detailed statements on the unemployment situation in Schenectady and the Mohawk Valley were entered into the official record of the special Senate committee on unemployment yesterday afternoon by Leo Jandreau, president of the AFL-CIO Schenectady Area Central Labor Council and business agent of IUE Local, 301.

I come before you today, glad of the opportunity to tell you the "Schenectady Story," and hopeful that after hearing our testimony, your committee will decide that immediate and drastic measures must be taken to alleviate the very serious situation existing here.

No doubt you have heard of Schenectady before; as the home of G.E. and Alco Products it has become known throughout our country as the "City that Lights and Hauls the World." Perhaps you have heard of it as a city with one of the highest percentages of home owners, people with roots in their community. More recently you may have heard of us as the home of one of the finest public school systems in the United States, with a very high level and quality of education, preparing its young citizens for their responsibilities in the world and nation.

### MAD EXODUS

Today, I want to tell you about the Schenectady whose high standards have been threatened, whose population is shrinking, because of the mass layoffs and the exodus of its people.

Our industrial resources and achievements rank with the best in the land. Many products presently being produced throughout the United States and even in other countries of the world, were originally conceived and developed in our City. While the population of Schenectady County is approximately 150,000, it is important to note that people living within a 35 mile radius of Schenectady, in the Counties of Albany, Saratoga, Montgomery, Fulton, Schoharie and Hamilton, with a total of some 600,000, many of whom also found their employment in Schenectady. Indeed it is estimated that we have a working force in these counties of some 250,000—a quarter million.

In the five year period, from 1954 to 1959, when employment nationwide increased from 61.2 million to 65.5 million (7%), our employment in Schenectady DECREASED by almost 50%, or 22-67%. The three major industries in Schenectady, the General Electric Company, Alco Products and Minnesota Mining and Mfg. Co., presently employ approximately 23,520. In 1954, these same companies

employed in the neighborhood of 46,192.

### GOVERNMENT TRAINED

Not only are vast numbers of our highly skilled and qualified men and women unemployed, but many of those fortunate enough to still be working have been downgraded to jobs that not only involve cuts in earnings, but also fail to utilize the maximum knowledge, experience and skills of these workers. In passing, I would like to point out that the Government paid for the training of many of these highly qualified people, during the war. The Government also paid for a share of the machinery and buildings. Specific and concrete information on these matters will be presented by other labor representatives.

A further example of unemployment in the Schenectady Area is the following report received from the Building Trades Unions in our community.

Local #62 of the Painter's Union reports that 33% of its membership is out of work at the present time. This past Summer was also their worst season in years with always some unemployment prevailing.

Local #146 of the Carpenter's Union reports 20% of its membership unemployed with another 20-30% working outside of the Area.

The Laborer's Local #127 has 60% of its membership out of work while the Bricklayer's have 70% not working and reports that during the Summer Season it had 25% of its membership idle.

The Plumbers and Pipefitters report that 30% of its membership is now idle and that at no time during the Summer was their entire membership employed. The Electrician's Local #166 also has 10% of its membership out of work at the present time.

Another serious problem facing the Building Trades today is that many are not eligible to draw Unemployment Compensation because they lack the number of work-weeks needed to qualify. Many of them have less than the 20 weeks needed to collect unemployment benefits.

### FIGURES NOT ACCURATE

I do not feel that the employment statistics released by the N. Y. State Dept. of Labor represent the actual employment status

of this community. First, the report fails to take into account those people who have exhausted their benefits; secondly, it does not include the young people coming into the labor market, looking for work; and thirdly, it does not take into account all those people who are working part time, and finally, it gives no accounting of the many people who are employed, but at drastically reduced wages, accepting jobs at the minimum standards.

It is not right for the N. Y. State Dept. of Labor to group Albany, Troy and Schenectady together when it reports on the employment picture. Albany has the advantage of having a large percentage of its residents employed on State jobs, offering a considerable stability in their work level. Troy has a more diversified production, providing greater job opportunity.

The Schenectady County Welfare Dept. reports the public assistance cost increased from \$56,896 in September of 1954 to \$136,321 in September of 1959.

The Social Security Office reports 15,587 people on the pension rolls in Schenectady County.

The Real Estate Board reports 1132 houses for sale in the County on its multiple listing. These figures do not include several hundred more that have been placed on the market for sale, either with one broker or by the owner direct. While I could not get an accurate figure of the number of small businesses that have closed in this five year period, I can, however, tell you that there are more empty stores on the main street of our city today than there has ever been during the past five years.

I believe it is necessary to help this community replan its economic future. We have relied upon two vast, giant employers, Alco Products, Inc., formerly known as American Locomotive Company, and General Electric Company. The transition from this reliance upon these companies and the new industrial redevelopment that is needed is a painful one, because it will take years before a satisfactory goal can be accomplished. Many people in our community have been patient-

(Continued on Page 4)