

City Slum Clearance Prog. Creates Hardship on Many Due to Lack of Planning

The slum clearance project of the city on Broadway is a fine thing for the city but there is another side of the story which is one of disgrace for the community. When the city undertook this project, it failed to consider the fact that it meant evicting tenants, at least it made no provision for placing them. As a result these people, all Americans regardless of color, have been made homeless.

Some form of decent housing is needed for real low income groups, families who can not pay more than \$15 or \$20 monthly rent. Some definite and effective action has been taken in recent years by many communities which helped to solve this problem. An honest effort should be made by local officials to do as much for these people in Schenectady. Poor and unsanitary housing for any group of people in a community means dangerous health hazards for every person living within the community. Schenectady should become a really progressive town and not allow such conditions to exist, but should do something to correct them. The following is a letter from Troy Snipes, a member of the editing staff of the Electrical Union News to the editor which really gives us something to think about.

Dear Sir:

I have been asked by many people about the evacuation of the families on Broadway. I interviewed a few of these families. The following are verbatim "quotes" from these interviews: Mr. W. Strickler: "I was notified to move and in less than thirty days they started to tear down the house. Not being able to find another apartment, I was lucky enough to get a room with a friend."

Mrs. Phyllis Beasley: "After being refused several empty apartments, I was forced to store my furniture and get a room."

Mrs. Eva Hunter: "I paid my rent on Feb. 1, 1944, and on March 14th they started to tear down the house in which I lived. I thought I had a place to go but when I reached there some one else had moved in that day. It was 9:00 P. M. before I could get a truck to start moving. When I spoke to the man, head of the wrecking crew about not having any place to go, he replied 'there is a place in the graveyard' and continued to work. I stored my furniture in Mount Olive Baptist Church until I could get a place to store it. I am now rooming with a friend."

A survey was made in the low rent districts to secure homes for those whose homes were torn down on Broadway. About thirty landlords refused to accept colored persons in their houses some saying frankly that they would not rent to colored people and others giving different stories.

"Such discriminating acts are just what Hitler and Tojo are glad to see. They know such acts do not aid in uniting the people against them and neither does it help in building true American

Use Your Local Social Sec. Office

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"When to me" the monthly retirement payments is a question which frequently concerns older workers who are not certain about the most advantageous time to claim their benefits. The manager of the local Social Security office can help find the answer and also help in filing the claim. He also helps many a widow with problems involved in claiming benefits for herself or for her children.

If your boy or girl is planning to work part-time, they may get information on when it is necessary — or not necessary — to apply for a social security account card; how to safeguard it; and why it is important to have only one social security account number during an entire lifetime.

Although concerned only with old-age and survivors insurance, local office managers have answers to many questions on the differences between unemployment insurance and old-age and survivors insurance. They can direct unemployed workers to the proper office to apply for out-of-work benefits.

Every person in doubt about his or her right to old-age and survivors insurance benefits should visit the local field office. Sometimes young widows, aged parents, and orphans do not know they are eligible for benefits and delay in filing their claims.

Blood Plasma Need Critical, UE Aid Urged by Bazan

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their failure to give a pint of their blood which nature would quickly replace.

From May 1943 to the end of the year, Local 301 members donated 10,887 pints of blood plasma. Although that is an outstanding record in the community, we must do much better now in view of the need of the Army and Navy this year which is set at 5,300,000 pints. Schenectady's quota, according to Mr. Bazan, is 1,500 pints a week and as Local 301 is the largest organization in the community, it is evident that the full cooperation of every member is required if we are to meet our nation's need.

citizens. Abraham Lincoln once said "If negroes are like hogs treat them like hogs and if they are human, give them their freedom and settle this thing once and for all time."

"We know that these things are not controlled by individuals but by politicians and the negro has always backed the two major parties. Can it be that they don't know of this condition when it was published in the papers weeks ago. Why hasn't some action been taken? If the parties we support don't support us, who are we to go to?"

"This condition is too serious to permit of buckpassing. It calls for action."

Wage Question To Go To W. L. Board

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action provides additional support for the case of the United Steelworkers of America for a revision upwards of the Little Steel Formula.

It expresses the concern of the employees in these war plants with regard to the need for economic stabilization and the Union's proposals for a 17-cent-an-hour wage increase to correct the disparity between frozen wages and increased living costs. Based on these considerations, the officers were instructed to take our case before the National War Labor Board at the earliest opportunity.

Refusal of the General Electric and the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company to agree to the retroactive date of January 1, 1944, for a cost of living adjustment, despite the granting by the War Labor Board of a similar retroactive date in the pending Little Steel case, was considered by the delegates as part of a concerted effort by certain sections of industry to depress the workers' standards of living and combat any attempt by the people of the country to achieve economic stabilization.

Reports of organized activity by local unions indicate that while we would not be provoked into any action inimical to the war effort, we would continue to insist on an effective stabilization program.

To obtain these ends, the delegates resolved to "intensify the campaign to mobilize all the people in each community where General Electric and Westinghouse workers are employed in support of a program to publicize the need for economic stabilization and the union's cost of living demand, and to secure the assistance and cooperation of local, state and national government officials, agencies and legislatures to achieve these ends."

Delegates present represented General Electric and Westinghouse local unions in 46 manufacturing plants throughout the country.

Local 301 Active On Many Civic and Government Bodies

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the city. Contrary to the feelings expressed by some during recent weeks that this was a sign of weakness or "sellout" to other elements in the community, this is evidence of the strength and vitality of a progressive union. Unless this were so, the opinions and cooperation of the organization would not be sought or considered in the formulation of policies.

Although the handling of problems and grievances in the shops has been and always will be the number one job which your union will perform with all of its strength and vigor, the union will continue to fight for the rights of its members in community life as well, just as long as conditions warrant such action and the membership wishes it.

BUY WAR BONDS

Wash. Delegate Makes Report

As a representative of Local 301 and a member of the wage adjustment committee, Peter Sorenson spent two days in Washington interviewing congressmen and telling them what Local 301 wanted in the way of legislation. Following is his report.

"The conference was called by the fighting sixty, a group of congressmen headed by Representative Scanlon of Pittsburgh, Pa. Also various Consumers' groups attended.

"The conference opened Wed., April 19th, at 10:30 with Representative Thomas D. Scanlon of Pittsburgh as chairman, who explained the reason for calling this conference. Rep. Wright Patman of Texas explained what would have happened to the war costs of the government if price controls had not been maintained. Other congressmen spoke in support of the War Price Control Act.

Various representatives of the consumers groups present spoke for continuing price control and all particularly stressed the unfairness of freezing wages (Little Steel Formula) and not effectively holding down food, clothing, and rents.

Many telegrams and letters were received by the committee endorsing the program. One in particular was from the head of the V.F.W. executive committee which passed a resolution complimenting Rep. Scanlon and his committee and offering complete support to their program.

"I called on Representative Kearney in the Capitol. He promised to call on Representative Scanlon if possible but in any event he would support the program. I also called on Representative Hancock from Syracuse who absolutely did not appear to support anything.

"I would suggest that Local 301 send best wishes to Representative Scanlon and his committee. Also explain that Representative Kearney has promised to support his program. In turn I would suggest that either a copy of above or a similar communication be sent to Rep. Kearney thanking him for his promised support adding that not only 301 but the steelworkers, transport workers, teachers, police, fraternal and veterans organizations are vitally interested in his action."

"This is a sample of the type of work that a really active union member can do. We know that Representative Kearney has not been supporting Labor's program up to this time in spite of his campaign promises. If we can convince him of the need to vote right on labor bills, this union will be doing a big job. It takes work and enthusiasm to do it, but so long as we have people like Mr. Sorenson to take the initiative, we know it will be done."

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IMPORTANT MEETING EVERY MONDAY NIGHT

Attend these meetings and help win the 17c and price stabilization. The meetings are interesting — Your help is needed to make this program a real success.

TIME: 7:30—PLACE: CIO HALL.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA—LOCAL 301 CIO

Vol. I

SCHENECTADY, N. Y. — MAY 26, 1944

No. 22

Lathrop Directs Wage Stab. Comm.



MILO LATHROP

Milo Lathrop, Director of Public Affairs of UE District 3, of which Local 301 is the largest local, is in Schenectady each Monday evening, aiding the Local 301's Wage Stabilization program. Mr. Lathrop, who has had years of experience in direct capacities in the labor movement, is working with Chairman Peter Sorenson, and the committee in successfully carrying out this important program.

Meeting Held at YMCA

Monday night at the Y-M-C-A the Wage Stabilization Committee of local 301 held its first public meeting in its program to enlist the active participation of the entire community behind its efforts to bring about a satisfactory wage adjustment and price control.

Milo Lathrop, public affairs director of District 3 of the UE outlined the program to the group which included appointment of a delegation to call upon Mayor Mills Ten Eyck to ask him to issue a proclamation to the effect that every wage earner in the city should support the program which Local 301 feels is needed for the good of the working people is encouraging. His letter is as follows:

Mr. Samuel Falcone, Chairman Legislative Committee, Local 301, UERMWA Schenectady, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Falcone: Thank you for your recent letter together with its enclosures of radio speech given by Mr. Anderson and the comparison cost list of foodstuffs as compiled by members of your Price Control Committee.

When you were in the office several days ago we did, as you state, discuss many current legislative issues, and at that time I gave you my views.

My stand on the subsidy program is already of public record in that I voted last November to support the President's anti-inflation program (which was later defeated in the House), believing as I did that since

Membership Meeting Blasts Red Baiting Of Labor Movement By Outside Interests, Re-Affirms Full Freedom of Members

Members of Local 301, at the membership meeting May 16th, passed a resolution condemning "any individual or group who deliberately cause disruptions and disunity within the labor movement, by usage of red herrings, or other means, or advocating discriminations because of age, sex, nationality, race, creed, political beliefs or affiliation to lawful organizations."

The resolution also stated that "the company hires all its employees strictly on the basis to do a job. They have a right to join a union of their own free will, guaranteed by law. It is our responsibility to accept them in our union and grant them the fullest protection, and especially from any form of discrimination within the Union or on the job."

This resolution was made necessary by rumors and propaganda spread throughout the union and in

the city of Schenectady, and the executive board unanimously felt that it was necessary to issue a statement of policy of the union in order to clarify any confusion that may have resulted from these rumors.

Also in the resolution, the constitution of Local 301 was quoted and reads as follows: "We, the Electrical Radio and Machine Workers, realize that the struggle to better our working and living conditions is in vain unless we are united to protect ourselves collectively against the forces of employers."

"Realizing that the old craft form of trade union organization is unable to defend effectively the interests and improve the conditions of the wage earners, WE, THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO AND MACHINE WORKERS form an organization which unites all workers in our

industry on an industrial basis, and rank and file control, regardless of craft, age, sex, nationality, race, creed or political beliefs, or affiliations to any lawful organization, and pursue at all times a policy of aggressive struggle to improve our conditions."

"We pledge ourselves to labor unitedly for the principles herein set forth, to perpetuate our union and work concertedly with other labor organizations to bring about a higher standard of living of the workers."

It was brought out in discussion preceding the passage of this resolution that the present wave of calling union leaders Communists was no new gag. It was done several years ago by employers who called the people who founded this union Communist in an effort to discourage people from joining and that today interests who are afraid of the CIO Political Action program or have some other motive, are resorting to these same tactics in order to confuse or hide the real issue.

New Election Date

Another important recommendation which was passed was a constitutional change which moves the date for annual elections of officers to the month of December with nominations to be made in November, the exact dates and procedures to be set up by the executive board. The purpose of this move is so that elections will not conflict with contract negotiations.

Fin. Sec'y Office Abolished

The office of Financial Secretary was also abolished by the vote of the membership approving the recommendations of the Constitutional Committee and the Executive Board. This action was endorsed by Financial Secretary Fay Marvin who stated that his experience in the capacity of Financial Secretary has proven beyond doubt that due to the present check-off system and improvements in office procedure which have been introduced during his term, a full time job is non-existent. The necessary supervisory details formerly handled by Mr. Marvin have been transferred to the office of the Business Agent.

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SYPHILIS CONTROL TO BE LECTURE TOPIC JUNE 5TH

Mrs. Helen Kisby, representative of the State Committee on Tuberculosis and Public Health, through the cooperation of the Schenectady County Committee and Local 301, will present a lecture and movies at union hall Monday, June 5th, at 8:00 p. m., on the topic "Control of Syphilis and Social Diseases." This meeting is for women only and all women members of the local or wives of union members are invited to attend.

The officers of the local feel that this is a very important matter at the present time and that intelligent discussion of the subject under the leadership of a qualified authority would do much to winning the war. This is in line with the opinion expressed many times by the heads of our armed forces that the prevention of social diseases was one of the most important defense measures.

Mrs. Kisby is a graduate of Barnard College and has also done graduate work at NYU and Columbia. She has had wide experience in various social services in and around New York City which is of great value in her present work.

ATTENTION! ALL SALARIED WORKERS! CLERKS - PLANNERS - PRODUCTION MEN

Mass Meeting Tonight

C. I. O. HALL — 7:30 P. M.

SPEAKERS

OFFICERS FROM LYNN AND PITTSFIELD

SALARIED WORKER'S U. E. LOCALS

ALL SALARIED WORKERS WELCOME!

ORIGINAL TORN

