

# LOCAL 301 NEWS

UNION - AFFILIATED

Vol. 8, No. 45 The Voice of G.E. Workers, Local 301 Nov. 10, 1961.

## CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The Constitution Committee will make recommendations for changes in the Local 301 Constitution at the Membership Meetings on Monday, November 20, 1961. Therefore, in accordance with Article XXVI, Section D, the following will be their recommendations and proposed changes:

### ARTICLE XV, SECTION C

(Present)  
(2nd paragraph) "A candidate for Executive Board Member must be a Shop Steward with a total experience as a Steward of at least one year."

(Proposed)  
(Change)  
(2nd paragraph) "A candidate for Executive Board Member must be a Shop Steward elect with a total experience as a Steward of at least one year."

This recommendation is made for the purpose of clarity. The Shop Stewards' election takes place prior to the election of the Executive Board. Therefore, to qualify as a candidate for the Executive Board elections, the member must be elected or reelected a Shop Steward during the current election for Shop Stewards.

### ARTICLE XV, SECTION E

(Present) "They shall meet at least once every two weeks or on call by the President."

(Proposed)  
(Change) "There shall be one regular Executive Board meeting a month, to be held on the 2nd Monday of each month. Other Executive Board meetings may be called by the President or a majority of the Executive Board Members."

This change was recommended by the Executive Board in light of the experiences of having two Board meetings on a compulsory basis each month. Many times the amount of business that came before the Executive Board did not justify the inconvenience nor the expense. The recommendation for change provides for a regular meeting the Monday prior to the regular Membership Meeting. It also provides for additional meetings if the circumstances warrant such meetings.

### ARTICLE XV, SECTION C

One constitutional change was referred to the Constitution Committee by a member of Local 301, to the effect that a present Executive Board Member should be qualified to run for reelection even though he was defeated as a Shop Steward in his particular group.

The Constitution Committee recommends non-concurrence with this proposal. The committee says that a person not elected in his own group as Steward should not be eligible to be a candidate for the Executive Board.

## SCAFFOLD BUILDERS GROUP INCREASED

A formal grievance filed on behalf of Scaffold Builders in Bldg. 273 results in increase in forces.

A few months ago, an incident occurred in the Large Machine Section in Steam Turbine where supervision directed inexperienced workers to erect wooden scaffolds. The Union representatives entered a strong protest noting that the use of inexperienced workers in erecting such scaffolds created a safety hazard. The reasons why they were being used were because the Scaffold Builders group was undermanned. The Union recommended that this group be augmented to take care of the increase in the work load.

The Company took a negative position. Several meetings were held at the 2nd level of the grievance procedure. In the interim, while these meetings were being held, Union representatives were able to gather sufficient information to substantiate the claims in their grievance. Finally, after hearing the Union's evidence, the Company agreed to add more Scaffold Builders to the group.

This is another good example of how the investigative work of Union representatives resulted in a satisfactory settlement. The following representatives took part in the investigation and presentation of the case: Board Members Alois, Stockheim; Shop Stewards Morey, Polsum, Weaver and Assistant Business Agent Vitallo.

### N O T I C E

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 13th, 7:30 p.m.

Officers will meet at 6 p.m.

Union Headquarters - 121 Erie Blvd.

#### MORE ABOUT WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

##### The Importance of a Full Medical History

Some of the most serious difficulties encountered by workers injured on the job have resulted from the failure to give the doctors and hospital a full description of the accident and of all the parts of the body which were hurt. Many cases have been lost because the lack of a proper history prevented the doctors from connecting a later development to the original accident. Here is a typical example.

A worker slipped off the edge of a platform striking his lower back against a nearby machine. At the same time, his head was caused to snap back sharply giving him a typical "whiplash" injury to the neck. Although his neck gave him some discomfort, his greatest pains were in the lower back, so he did not mention the neck condition to the doctors who treated him or at the hospital where he was confined for several weeks. About eight months later, after continued treatment, the lower back cleared up completely. By this time, however, the neck condition had become worse, and he now had pains radiating into the shoulder and right arm. When he finally did seek medical assistance for this condition, he was told that he had a possible herniated cervical disc and would probably need an operation. However, the doctors refused to relate the condition to the accident since he had not complained of it earlier, and the Company has denied responsibility for any claim relating to the neck.

This is only one of many similar cases which have come to our attention. Perhaps it is only human nature for a man to concentrate all his thinking on the condition which is giving him the most difficulty at the moment, and to disregard what he considers minor pains or aches in the hope that they soon will clear up by themselves. However nature does not always operate that way. If this worker had consulted an attorney, experienced in handling Workmen's Compensation cases, soon after the accident, the result could have been different. Most likely, the attorney would have questioned him in detail about all his injuries and would have warned him to be sure to report all of them to the attending physicians. A complete history in the record at an early date would have established his claim for the neck condition beyond question. Remember, your Union can help you to get proper advice and assistance if you get hurt on the job, but only if you ask for it before it is too late.