

LOCAL-301 NEWS

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SEASONS GREETINGS

REPORT OF G.E. CONFERENCE BOARD

A great deal of interest was shown by Local 301 members in the report made by the Local 301 G.E. Conference Board Delegates on the 1963 contract proposals. Delegates presented their report at the December Membership Meeting.

Many questions were asked by "301" members and considerable discussion took place on the various contract issues. Conference Board Delegates reported that the problems facing the G.E. workers in 1963 were not much different than those which they faced in 1960.

ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT APPROVED

John Saccocio, Chairman of the Election Committee which conducted the election of officers of Local 301, made his report to the December membership meetings, covering the 2nd shift and the 1st and 3rd shift. The report was unanimously adopted by both meetings.

The Election Committee was discharged with a vote of thanks for doing an outstanding job.

President John Shambo congratulated the members of Local 301 for the interest shown by them in the election of officers. Approximately 70% of the members of Local 301 turned out during the 30 hours to cast their votes.

THE 1963 CONTRACT SURVEY

The Union Office has completed the tabulation of the 4,000 Questionnaires that were distributed among the members of IUE Local 301 for the purpose of giving expression to possible contract proposals which they thought were important.

The Questionnaire provided for 21 different items affecting the
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In the older plants, the Pension Plan is the most popular issue. A request for a lower pension age and higher benefits, improved hospitalization and medical benefits also are among the top issues in the older plants.

Employment and income security become an issue affecting all the plants according to the expressions of the Conference Board Delegates. The closing down of the G.E. plants in Anniston, Alabama, and Worcester, Mass., along with the continual displacement of employees and jobs raise questions, such as a shorter work week, more leisure time by liberalizing the vacation plan and more paid holidays.

The Income Extension Aid Plan offered by the Company in 1960, has been tried and tested and does not provide the laid-off worker with a fair amount of protection as compared to other unemployment plans which have been negotiated with other Companies.

A considerable amount of time was consumed in a discussion of the present Arbitration Clause in the Contract. It seems that the General Electric Company is refusing to arbitrate many requests for arbitration by Local Unions.

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THE 1963 CONTRACT SURVEY (Cont'd.)

contract issues...members were asked to mark them numerically giving, in their opinion, their relative importance.

The one item that ranked the highest as the No. 1 Issue was: "Lower Pension Age with Full Benefits". The No. 2 Issue was: "Higher Pension Benefits".

The next item in line of importance was: "The Shorter Work Week".

Contract issues which were given about the same consideration of importance were: "Improved Medical and Hospital Plan", which included higher sick pay, "Liberalization of Vacation Allowances", "Cost of Living Escalator", "Union Shop" and "Elimination of Farm-outs".

"More Paid Holidays", "Wage Increase" and "Elimination of Loss of Service after 3-Year Layoff" were issues that were also among those at the top of the list according to the results of the Survey.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK IN FOUNDRY

The employees in the Foundry Dept. recently received the first of several letters which will be issued explaining the problems facing the Department as a result of a slow-down in business.

They point out in the letter that the sales forecast for next year indicates a possible drop off of 15% to 20% in the work-load, giving several reasons for it, such as Large Steam Turbine Dept., their biggest customer, will not require as many castings next year.

Another factor which they complained about were the wages paid Foundry workers. Also mentioned was the fact that this year was a good one because they had received additional work from the Everett Foundry which has been closed.

They failed to tell the employees the real facts concerning the closing of the Everett Foundry. Union officials and the community were told by the Company that the work done in Everett would be transferred to Schenectady. While there were 400 people working in the Everett Foundry at that time, this figure, however, has not been reflected in the Schenectady Foundry employment. This is due in large measure to the fact that work previously done in Everett is being farmed out to other foundries and is not coming into Schenectady.

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G.E. CONFERENCE BOARD (Cont'd.)

Many of these cases have been referred to the Courts in an effort to get a Court Order to arbitrate.

With all the problems facing the 1963 Contract Negotiations, it is the hope that the Union and the Company will be able to work out a satisfactory and peaceful settlement.

The Local 301 News will not be published next week because Xmas. falls on Tuesday, this year. This does not allow the Editorial Staff sufficient time to gather material which must be prepared during the middle of the week for publication on Friday.

The Officers of Local 301 extend Season's Greetings to all the members of our Union.

ELECTION WINNER CONVINCED ONE VOTE COUNTS

Don't try to tell Robert Satter of Newington, Conn., that one vote doesn't count..HE KNOWS BETTER!

Running for the State Legislature, Satter survived the Sept. 27 primary by, you guessed it, EXACTLY ONE VOTE, 609-608. As if that weren't enough, six weeks later in the general election Nov. 6th, he went through another cliff-hanger, AGAIN WINNING BY A SINGLE VOTE, 4164-4163.

They are not content in farming out work to U.S. concerns, but are purchasing castings from Canadian foundries. In spite of the Company pledge to curtail farm-outs to an absolute minimum, a great deal of it still goes on. More effort and concentration in this particular phase of operations could go a long way in solving some of the problems. It's the same old story, domestic and foreign competition is keen and cutting into our business; therefore in order to compete, we must first of all cut the wages of our workers. We feel that there are many other ways to combat competition without digging into the pockets of workers by cutting their wages.

One begins to wonder whether this sort of letter writing is a forerunner of thousands of others that will be flooding the U.S. mails in the coming months in an effort to gain a psychological advantage in the 1963 Contract negotiations.