

# LOCAL-301 NEWS

## UFE-AFL-CIO

Vol. 8, No. 20 The Voice of G.E. Workers, Local 301 May 12, 1961.

### CAPITAL DISTRICT UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES TO RISE

According to the New York State Department of Labor, Division of Employment, total unemployment has continued to rise. The estimated number of jobless workers totalled 19,600 in February as compared to 18,400 in January.

The report issued by the State department claimed that 7.5% of the work force was out of work. This was contrasted with 6.8% unemployment in February of 1960, a year ago.

This report covers Albany, Schenectady, Troy and Saratoga Counties. The Union has protested the grouping of several cities in this report because it does not give a true picture of unemployment as it affects Schenectady proper, particularly since Albany is included, where the State itself provides a considerable number of jobs, and also the fact that building construction in Albany has practically led the whole State.

The above facts modify the actual unemployment status of Schenectady. This is important in light of the distressed area legislation providing certain Federal funds for assistance to improve job opportunities. According to Congressman Stratton; the Secretary of Commerce, the person who will administer this new bill, has the authority to designate certain areas because of special conditions, which could single out Schenectady as being eligible for assistance.

### #273 VBM OPERATORS' CASE SETTLED

Vertical Boring Mill Operators in Bldg. 273 complained recently regarding the pricing method used by the Company in determining payment for the removal of extra stock on high pressure inner shells.

The Company claimed that the tables used in computing payment for excess stock were based on any material to be removed over one-half inch ( $\frac{1}{2}$ "). The operators' contention was that the tables were based on stock removal in excess of one quarter inch ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ") instead of one-half inch ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ").

During the discussion with supervision, it became apparent to the operators that this case was not going to be resolved without entering a formal protest. The Shop Steward was contacted and he initiated a written grievance, protesting the pricing method used.

At the first level meeting, supervision again refused to agree with the Union's position. The case was then moved to the 2nd level. The Union representatives presented their arguments to the Company's Union Relations representative.

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### THOUSANDS SIGN FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

State Industrial Commissioner M.P. Catherwood has reported that 68,946 unemployed New York State residents filed claims for Temporary Extended Compensation (TEC) in the first three weeks of the new State-Federal program.

The TEC program, which began registering applicants in New York State on April 10, provides up to 13 additional weeks of benefits for persons who have used up their regular unemployment insurance rights since June 30, 1960, or do so before April, 1962.

### NOTICE

#### MEMBERSHIP-STEWARDS MEETING

Monday, May 15, 1961

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

Regular Order of Business  
Report of Committees

After hearing them, the case was referred back to the first level. Several other meetings were held at which time the Union representatives presented additional facts to substantiate their claims.

The Company finally agreed that the prices which they had established were in error and that they would be increased accordingly.

Possession of a thorough knowledge of the job in question by the Union representatives was the major factor in winning this case.

The representatives who presented the Union arguments were: Board Members Alois and Podell and Shop Steward Kaiser.

### THIRD ANNUAL VACATION GIVEAWAY

The Activities Committee requested and received from Local 301 Executive Board, permission to conduct the Third Annual "Vacation Giveaway Program".

Three prizes will be awarded this year:

1. Trip to Bermuda or \$500 in cash
2. Two weeks vacation for family or \$250 in cash
3. One week's vacation for family or \$150 in cash

Tickets will be available from your Shop Steward around the middle of next week. Your donation of fifty cents (50¢) will entitle you to three (3) tickets.

The drawing for the prizes will be conducted at the regular membership meeting on June 19, 1961.

The holders of the winning tickets do not have to be present to be eligible for the prizes.

The deadline for ticket returns will be June 16, 1961.

The proceeds derived from this affair will be used to purchase additional equipment for our auditorium.

This project has been a popular one in the past two years.

The Activities Committee wishes to thank all those who have supported this program in the past and are soliciting your cooperation in making this year's affair a successful one.

### Large Motor & Generator

This is the second in a series of articles which will be printed in our weekly bulletin, regarding the employment situation in the various departments within the main plant of Schenectady General Electric.

Mr. Van De Car, Manager of Employee Relations in the Large Motor & Generator Department, said in a conversation with Charles Scott, Asst. Business Agent, that his department has since January 1, 1961, rehired thirty-seven (37) employees. He also mentioned that approximately twenty (20) more would be re-employed within the next three weeks, making a total of 57 workers recalled. The trend from then on would be towards a slight general increase in employment.

It appears, judging from this information, that the Large Motor & Generator Department generally will maintain employment stability for at least the remainder of this year. However, there are some minor exceptions, such as in the Large Turbine Stator Frame Section, where the work load has diminished somewhat. Union representatives have contacted management suggesting that they bring in some work in this section which would help to stabilize employment in this area.

### Gas Turbine Employment Uncertain

According to reports from the Gas Turbine management, a reduction in forces of approximately 65 employees from the direct labor group will be necessary immediately.

The Employment Office has shut off any reengagements of laid-off employees until placements are made for those affected by layoffs. All departments have been notified of the available people in the hope that openings can be created to absorb the Gas Turbine employees who will be affected.

The department management says that while they are optimistic about further sales of gas turbines, the actual order rate at this time does not justify the present labor load.

The Union has requested a list of those to be affected in order that seniority and placement rights will be adhered to.

### REMINDER

The deadline for Scholarship applications is May 26th, 1961. To date, applications have been slow in coming in...we urge those who wish to submit an application, to do so immediately.