

LOCAL 301 NEWS

VOICE - AFL - CIO

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MC CARTHY-KING BILL PROPOSES PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS IN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

The temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act expired on April 1st, denying hundreds of thousands of unemployed workers, who still have no jobs, the right to extended benefits.

Last March, President Kennedy urged Congress to enact the labor-backed McCarthy-King Bill which proposes permanent improvements rather than temporary measures in extended unemployment benefits.

The Bill presently is pigeon-holed in the House Ways and Means Committee and according to reports, action on it has been put off until January of next year, because of a crowded schedule.

Taking cognizant of this situation, President Kennedy in April sent a letter to the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate urging the extension of the temporary unemployment benefits to cover the large numbers of long-term unemployed.

Labor Secretary Goldberg declared that the extension of the temporary program would aid 1.1 million workers who are expected to exhaust their State benefits during the next year.

Congress has not as yet acted upon this proposal; meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of unemployed workers and their families are forced to undergo daily hardships.

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NOTICE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Monday, June 11th, 7:30 p.m.

Officers will meet at 6 p.m.

Union Headquarters-121 Erie Blvd.

COPE CAMPAIGN GETS UNDER WAY

Last Monday, June 4th, marked the beginning of Local 301's "COPE" Drive. As was reported in last week's Local 301 News, the COPE Committee launched their drive in the following departments: Research Lab., Engineering Lab., and Insulated Materials. Members in other departments will be solicited in succeeding weeks.

Our members will be asked to contribute one dollar (\$1.00) for the primary purpose of helping to elect candidates that will advocate, endorse and vote for pro-labor legislation. Your COPE dollars, in other words, will help pay for campaign literature, TV and radio time, billboard and newspaper advertising and other campaign expenses.

Time and effort will be expended to familiarize and acquaint members of Organized Labor concerning impending legislation affecting them, to disclose the voting record of all legislators and, last but not least, to conduct a vigorous registration campaign.

The importance of this last objective can be realized from a statement made by AFL-CIO President, George Meany. He asserted that, "registration is the most important activity of the trade union movement at this time".

The reason for placing full emphasis on registration can be found in the following statistics: working people make up 37% of the population who are eligible to vote; however, in 1960, they comprised only 26% of those who exercised their right to vote, while, on the other hand, executive and professional people, making up only 18% of the voting population, represented 26% of those who voted. Simple arithmetic discloses that the latter group comprising 19% less people than the former group of eligible voters were able to make their votes count at the polls on an equal basis.

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Organized Labor is keenly aware of the plight of the unemployed workers and wants to do whatever is necessary to alleviate this situation. It is, therefore, incumbent upon all of us to write to our Senators and Congressmen and urge them to bring about immediate action in support of the Kennedy Administration's proposal for extension of the temporary program until April 1963.

DECISION ON "MEDICARE" IMMINENT

The House Ways and Means Committee will begin holding executive sessions on the King-Anderson Bill (HR-4222) Thursday, June 7th.

This means the important Committee decision on health care through Social Security and Railroad Retirement Act will be made probably within a week or ten days from this date.

The American Medical Association (A.M.A.) and the Commercial Insurance Companies have launched a massive mailing campaign against this Bill. The results of their efforts disclose a flood of mail which presently is running preponderantly against the proposal.

For the past several months, members of Congress have received mail substantially supporting "Medicare"; however, the last minute effect of the current intensive campaign of the opposition cannot be discounted.

It is of the utmost importance, in the light of what is transpiring, that our members immediately write, even if they have previously done so, to their respective Congressmen, urging them to do everything possible to secure enactment of the King-Anderson Bill.

The degree to which the Labor Movement will respond can well be the determining factor.

You can be sure that anti-labor forces will be most generous in their contributions to help elect candidates who will do their bidding. Hence, it is vitally important for every worker to support the COPE Drive.

By so doing, we will be able to keep candidates who will fight for the cause of Labor, both in preserving the economic and social gains already enacted through legislation and to press for greater reforms in these two areas.

Contributors will be identified by their display of "COPE" buttons. A receipt will also be given to them.

DEPT. OF LABOR REPORTS ON AREA WORK FORCE

The New York State Department of Labor, Division of Employment, reports that unemployment in April in the Albany Labor Market Area, which includes Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga Springs and Troy, was estimated to be at 11,800. This figure indicates a drop of 4,500 from last April.

The unemployment rate in April this year was 4.5% of the civilian work force as compared with 6.2% a year ago. However, in comparing the total civilian work force of the two periods, namely April 1961 with 263.9 thousand and April 1962 of 261.9 thousand, reveals that 2,000 workers are no longer in this area's Labor Market. They have been forced to leave and seek employment elsewhere which means that the economy in our area has been affected as a result of the loss of the additional purchasing power.

By way of contrast, a brighter picture can be painted regarding the work force in the Local 301 Bargaining Unit. The Unit has risen from 8,141 in May 1961 to 8,763 in May 1962, an increase of 622 workers.

EARLY OPTIONAL PENSION FOR WOMEN
by Allen E. Townsend

Recent contracts with the G.E. have given women the right to work to age 65 before having to retire. However, the old provision where they could retire optionally at age 55 was retained. A woman retiring optionally at age 55 with 15 years credited service would qualify for a minimum pension figured as follows:

She would be guaranteed a minimum pension of \$125 per month reduced by 1/3 of 1% for each month by which retirement precedes age 60 and a further reduction of 1/3 of 1% for each month of such service less than 25 years. Therefore, a woman retiring at age 55 with 15 years credited service would get a minimum pension of \$50 per month. Using the same formula, a woman with 25 years credited service retiring at age 55 would get a minimum pension of \$100 per month. This, of course, could be higher depending on the earning rate of the woman involved. Information on pension problems is always available at Union Headquarters.