

Unemployment Insurance Rights of Laid-off Workers

With an increasing number of workers laid off from work and applying for Unemployment Insurance benefits, many of these workers will be applying for benefits for the first time since the enactment of the Hughes-Brees Law in 1951.

In many ways, the Hughes-Brees Law has adversely affected the rights of unemployed workers. In a period of full employment, workers have not felt the full impact of this law. Now that unemployment is on the increase throughout the country, workers in New York State will become increasingly aware of the obnoxious features of this law.

Every worker should know some of the basic rules under which Unemployment Insurance is administered and the qualifications which they will have to meet. Some of these rules are outlined here:

1. A worker who is laid off from work must go through the usual waiting period before he is entitled to benefits. A worker who has worked only three days in any one week (or less than three days) and has not earned in excess of \$30.00 for that week has thereby accumulated the required waiting period.

2. A worker who applies for benefits must be available for work and must prove his availability through showing reasonable efforts towards finding employment.

3. To be qualified for benefits, the worker must have worked at least 20 weeks during the year immediately preceding the date of

Women's Meeting Hear Reports

At the last meeting for women members of U.E. Local 301 held on October 29th, a report was given by Helen Quirini on the 18th convention of U.E.

The members attending raised questions affecting their jobs which were explained by S. Pita, assistant to the Business Agent.

President Jim Cognetta spoke to the meeting, explaining the employment situation and what the Union was doing about it.

Regular meetings of women members have been held as a follow-up on the last adjustment of women's rates negotiated by the Union. The women are determined to go along with the Union's program to eliminate any discriminatory rate in the Schenectady plant.

At the request of U.E. Local 201 in Lynn, Helen Quirini addressed a women's meeting in that city last Wednesday, explaining what the Schenectady women and the Local is doing on this question.

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his application and furthermore must have earned a total of at least \$300 during these 20 weeks.

4. A worker may be entitled to benefits, after he has gone through the required waiting period of one week, even if he has found employment on a part-time basis or has returned to his previous employer, providing that during the week in which he has gotten employment he is earning not more than \$30.00 and is working not more than 3 days. He will thus have accumulated four "effective days" for benefits. His rights to benefits may be cumulative, that is to say he may earn effective days towards a week's unemployment in one week which will be carried over and be completed so as to entitle him to a check during the following week or at some later date in the benefit year.

Members of the Union who run into any trouble in applying for Unemployment Insurance benefits should come up to Union Hall for advice.

Michigan Employment Moves Downward

Slowly but steadily the number of jobs in Michigan is shrinking, the state employment security commission declared Oct. 27. The 1953 peak was reached in June when automotive jobs numbered 556,000. By September they were down to 508,000. The commission predicted further drops in November and December because of model changes.

"The volume of prospective job opportunities for idle unskilled and semiskilled workers has tapered significantly."

Veterans' Rights — GI Loans

World War II veterans and veterans with active service since June 27, 1950 may qualify for VA guaranteed or insured loans to purchase, construct or improve a home; to buy a farm, farm land and equipment; to buy a business or otherwise to enable a veteran to undertake or expand a legitimate business venture if they can qualify under the following eligibility requirements:

- (1) a discharge or separation under conditions other than dishonorable.
- (2) active military service—any place in the world — at any time after June 27, 1950, and prior to the end of the present emergency, a date yet to be established by Presidential proclamation or by a concurrent resolution of the Congress.

Another Foreman In Contest

We are informed that another foreman has entered the unpopularity contest for a try at first prize and so far he is doing a pretty good job of reaching first place.

The candidate for first place is Foreman F. Luther, Bldg. 285, Shipping Department. He has adopted a six point program for his campaign:

1. Don't recognize shop steward.
2. Don't recognize agreements made by Union.
3. Threaten employees with discipline.
4. Even threats of fisticuffs if necessary.
5. Never make written replies to grievances.
6. Refuse to allow employees to go home when sick.

If Frank keeps up at his present pace, he sure will win that bouquet of scallions.

GM Doing Better on Defense Since Wilson Went to Town

Deliveries to the government on defense contracts were 31% higher the first nine months of this year than a year earlier, General Motors Corp. Pres. Harlow H. Curtice reported to stockholders.

Former Pres. C. E. Wilson left GM late in 1952 to become defense secretary in the Eisenhower cabinet though he did not take his seat there immediately after inauguration because he refused to sell his GM stockholdings.

It was during the hearings on his stockholdings, which he finally did sell because the Senate would not confirm him otherwise that he proclaimed:

"What is good for GM is good for the country, and vice versa."

Not only good, but 31% better, since he took hold in the Pentagon.

Decentralization Hits Building Trade Groups

As a result of the Company's plans of decentralizing the building trade groups, among the first to be notified was a member in the Grounds and Buildings Department who was told he would be transferred to the Porcelain Department's payroll, effective last Monday.

In the past, building trade mechanics were often assigned to a department over long periods but continued on the central management payroll and came under a building trade supervisor. This new move cuts his former relations and places him as an employee in a new department with a new foreman.

The Union pointed out that there must be an agreement worked out covering the application of the contract as it affects these building tradesmen who are transferred to production departments on questions of reduction of force, upgrading, classification of work assignment, etc.

The U.E. Local 301 building trades committee on decentralization and the officers were scheduled to meet with management on this question as we went to press.

Doctors Agree to Loosen Tight Closed Shop

The organized doctors of Lansing, Mich., running the tightest closed shop in the state, were pressured by Gov. G. Mennen Williams (new deal Democrat) into relaxing their job monopoly a bit.

Threatening to run the basic science (medical examination for license) board himself if necessary, Williams got the board to agree to let doctors, osteopaths, and chiropractors from other states get a license in Michigan if they had passed suitable examinations elsewhere.

Hitherto the doctors had to take the board's Michigan exams and most of them mysteriously flunked out, even if they had passed brilliantly elsewhere. And doctor fees and net income kept on climbing higher year by year for lack of competition.

Starting Date for Butler Hearings Still Indefinite

A spokesman for the Butler task force of the Senate internal security subcommittee said Oct. 29 that no definite date for opening hearings on alleged Communist domination of unions has yet been set. The hearings probably will open late in November in some eastern city other than Washington.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO, & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA U.E. LOCAL 301

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Friday, November 13, 1953

MCCARTHY INTERESTED IN SPIES—WHY U.E. LOCAL 301

U.E. Local 301 has never and will not condone sabotage or spying against the interests of our country. This is not a new statement — this statement has been made to the public and to the G.E. Company and to Government officials time and time again. Moreover, the record of our Union establishes as fact that this policy has been strictly adhered to.

Our representatives and members have been instructed long ago to report any signs of sabotage or spy activity to the proper authorities immediately. There is a letter

to the F.B.I. from our Union on record to this effect. Mr. McCarthy knows this, and, when he comes into this community and subpoenas representatives of our Union to come before his committee to harass and intimidate them, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that he hopes to injure our Union. McCarthy knows that the Butler Committee is due in Schenectady at a later date to

gather evidence to use for justifying new legislation next year that will require a Union to have a license in order to function as a bargaining agent. A committee of anti-labor politicians will decide whether a license shall be granted or not.

McCarthy has pursued a program of spreading throughout our country a black silence of fear, as expressed by Supreme Court Justice Douglas. McCarthy is a close friend of Senator Butler because he was instrumental in Butler's campaign for election over Senator Tydings of Maryland in 1950. A Senate committee after investigating this election stated that tactics and practices that were exercised were destructive to fundamental American principles and denounced those tactics.

The McCarthy tactics and program have been denounced by thousands of American leaders in all walks of life including representatives of labor, church and educational institutions. McCarthy is more than an ambitious politician — he has rallied behind him a network of anti-democratic, anti-labor elements in this country; in fact all those who despise democracy and Unions are his allies. His financial backers are those anti-Union corporations that have put up the funds for his reelection and to carry out his anti-Union program.

McCarthy is not interested in the

problems of the people in this community or the country. His voting record on any bills good for the people will prove this.

He is not interested in the increasing cost of living or the unemployment facing G.E. workers in Schenectady and the workers in the country.

His program is to create fear and silence so people will not speak out to protect the working man's standard of living.

We will not make any apologies for our Union and its record. We have a long record of achievements for our membership and the community in bettering their standard of living and working conditions.

We will not jilly stand by while our representatives or our members are harassed because of their Union activity.

Guess Who Said This:

"Fear of Communism is being manipulated by a few so as to cause a wave of hysteria in this country. Fear is a great silencer and people are being kept quiet for fear of being accused of sympathy with Communism. When people become afraid to speak their beliefs or to defend the innocent, or to explore new ideas, then freedom is really in danger."

This statement was made last Monday, November 9th, by former President, Harry S. Truman.

NOTICE:

Membership Meeting

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16th

2nd Shift — 1:00 P. M.
1st & 3rd Shifts — 7:30 P. M.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS
ELECTION OF 1954 ELECTION COMMITTEE
REPORT OF COMMITTEES
REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

NAM Leader Urges Support For Butler Labor Bill Proposal

Support for the key provision of the Butler bill, which has been described as the most dangerous threat to organized labor since passage of the Taft-Hartley act, was voiced by Vice Pres. Kenneth R. Miller of the National Association of Manufacturers.

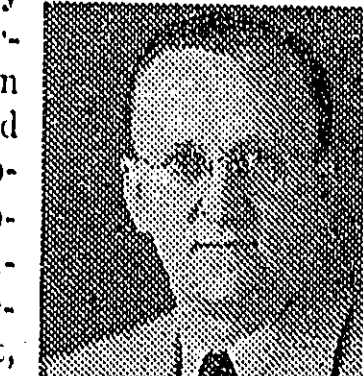
Delivering the keynote address at the opening session of the NAM's 25th institute of industrial relations, Miller indicated the full weight of the association would be put behind the Butler provision, just as its wealth and influence

U. E. Member Elected to Council

John E. Clulik, member of U.E. Local 301, scored a major victory in the City of Amsterdam when he defeated his Republican opponent, Albert McKnight, of the Common Council, in the November 3rd election.

John Clulik's victory gives the Democratic Party majority control of the Council for the first time in 20 years.

John is a former shop steward in Bldg. 69 and 285. He is presently employed in the A.O.&S. Department, Bldg. 60, as an Assembler.



were used to enact T-H in 1947. Miller recommended creation of an agency similar to the Subversive Activities Control Board for the "task of eliminating Communist domination over unions." The bill introduced by Sen. John M. Butler (R, Md.), a close associate of Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R, Wis.), would require unions to register with the SACB and empower the board to outlaw unions that do not meet its approval.

Miller also called for toughening up of some Taft-Hartley provisions and complained that the law was in "greater danger of being weakened today than at any time since its adoption six years ago."

The NAM official said the T-H section on responsibilities of states should be more clearly defined; the "free speech" provision under which employers can spout anti-union propaganda should be strengthened; and the "loopholes" permitting "improper use of secondary boycotts (should) be closed."

He renewed the NAM's attack on the union shop and "other forms of compulsory unionism" and defended retention of the T-H 80-day injunction provision.

Miller praised the "new freedom" enjoyed by businessmen and advised them to prepare their employees for the "second industrial revolution," the era of push-button factories which will require greatly reduced work forces.

"Employees who have not been prepared for what the business magazines have dubbed 'automation' will resist restraining and fight against any change, especially if they have false notions about security and do not see the new developments as an enlargement of their way of life," Miller said. Presumably, unions fighting mass firings in the "automation" era would be hauled up before the Subversive Activities Control Board.

INJURIES TO BACK MOST COMMON FORM OF PLANT ACCIDENT

Processing on Back Injuries Explained by Union Lawyer

There is often a great deal of misunderstanding on the part of workers as to what compensation an injured worker may be entitled to from his employer when the injury from an accident is to a worker's back.

The Workmen's Compensation Law affords some very definite remedies. Unfortunately, there has been so much publicity given to cases where persons have been given large verdicts running into many thousands of dollars because of their injuries in a negligence case, that many persons confuse a negligence case and expect a compensation case and expect a "verdict" in cases where they have been injured in the plant. They are not the same thing. For injuries to the back occurring in a plant, the law does not provide for cash payments. On the other hand, the provisions which are made in the law for such cases, whatever their limitations, offer some valuable protection to an injured worker. The roll of the lawyer in such cases is to see that the worker obtains the maximum protection.

The most important aspect of the right which a worker has in a compensation case, where he has injured his back, is to medical treatment at the expense of his employer. Although this right does not put cash into an injured worker's pocket, it is not to be underestimated. Unlike most other types of injuries (like to a finger, a foot or hand) an injury to a back can be a source of trouble for a long time. This may mean that treatment may have to continue for months, and in the more severe types of cases, for years. The cost for such treatment can literally run into thousands of dollars. The average worker could not afford to pay for such treatment out of his own pocket. As long as competent doctors agree that treatment will help, the injured worker is entitled to receive such treatment from a doctor of his own choice, at the Company's expense. The cost of medical treatment, of course, also includes hospital and surgical care.

The other benefit which a worker receives is the right to receive payments for lost time or reduced earnings. Usually, a worker who has injured his back is forced to stay away from work for a period of time. He receives compensation at a maximum rate of \$32.00 for this lost time. When he is able to return to work, however, he is still in need of medical treatment. If the worker is forced to stay away from work occasionally, he is entitled to receive compensa-

tion for the occasional days. For each of these days he will receive either 1/5 of \$32.00 or 1/6 of \$32.00, depending upon whether he was a five-day or six-day worker at the time the accident took place. When losing such time occasionally, a worker should be careful to notify his doctor about his need to stay away from work because unless the doctor backs up the fact in a medical report that the lost time resulted from the injury, the worker may not be re-imbursed for these occasional lost days.

Next week, an explanation will be given as to what happens when the injury to the back is only temporary and where it is permanent.

Request U.E. Endorse P.P.R.

The Schenectady County League of Women Voters has requested U.E. Local 301 to endorse Permanent Personal Registration again. They also request that our members be urged to write personal letters to our State legislative representatives in Albany, urging them to support it.

We understand Governor Dewey has appointed a commission to draw up a bill for presentation to the 1954 session of the Legislature. The request will be presented to the membership for approval.



Airport: Thomas Stillman is classified as an Airplane Mechanic Class "C". He feels the work he has been doing justifies an upgrade to Class "B".

Bldg. 16: The group in the copper gang is complaining that while some of the group are being notified of layoffs, others are being asked to work overtime.

Bldg. 40: The oven and cleaning group are complaining of a loss of earnings due to a new departure in issuing work vouchers. They want compensation for their loss and restoration of the former method using tally sheets.

Bldg. 49: R. Thomas, a 2nd shift operator, was forced to take a lower rated job for one week because supervision put a 1st shift operator on his job while on 5 days notice of layoff. He requests adjustment of his loss of earnings.

Bldg. 49: Arnold Loftus, a Machinist TG Dev. Class "C", was told by his foreman he would get an increase in rate. Supervision now refuses to abide by their commitment.

Bldg. 49: This group of Polishers are complaining because the groups that furnish them work have been reduced with no reduction in their group causing lost time.



Large Motor-Generator Cutback

The Union representatives in the Large Motor-Generator Department were notified that it would be necessary to lay off approximately 50 employees due to reduction in work. They said that while 100 short service people

would be notified, about half was expected to go.

This notification came within two weeks after a previous report was made by the department supervision that there was sufficient work for 1954 without the need for reducing any of the force.

Thousands of grievances are handled by UE Local 301 each year at all levels from the steward up to final appeal in New York City. To keep members posted, we shall each week list some of the grievances that have not been settled at the steward-foreman level and have been referred to the executive board-management level.

Bldg. 81: Stanley Resue, although classified as an Accumulator, has been doing the work of a Stockkeeper Class "B". He requests proper reclassification and retroactive adjustment in his rate.

Bldg. 269: This group working on the 2C39 test are subjected to excessive eye strain on their work since they have to take 100% readings. They feel the work should be divided between the two shifts.

Bldg. 269: Due to a change in method, Louis Gentile is unable to maintain his earnings on the copper and nickel plating job. He requests adjustment in prices according to Contract.

Bldg. 273: Walter Relyeu requests a full time helper on the 7"

G&L Hor. Mill due to the size and nature of the work being done.

Bldg. 273: An area set aside for assembly is being used for storage causing a loss of earnings for the group of pieceworkers in Foreman F. Boss' section. They want their earnings and this situation corrected.

Bldg. 273: Foreman F. Kettler is completely disregarding safety in his efforts to speed up the job. This group wants this attitude corrected.

Bldg. 273: The operators on all three shifts on the Horizontal Boring Mills request a helper at all times to eliminate the safety hazard otherwise created.

Bldg. 273: F. Baumback, a Class "C" Machinist, does not feel he has been given proper consideration for upgrading based on his work and experience. He requests grade to Class "B".

Bldg. 273: Supervision is attempting to introduce a new system for control of alteration notices and IR's. This group of piece workers in Shop Steward McCull's group therefore lose more time than the fixed allowances for obtaining vouchers and drawings. They want prices adjusted accordingly or the old system restored.

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ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS



New York—State chairman Vito Marcantonio of the American Labor party resigned, saying it "has ceased any longer to be the effective instrument for independent political action."

Salem, Oreg.—A CIO International Woodworkers survey shows that worker productivity rose 25% in the last 10 years while their living standards fell 20%. Profits rose 160% in the same period.

Detroit—State officials estimate that 1 out of every 50 workers holds more than one job. Those who admit it say they need two jobs to get by under present living costs.

Raleigh, N. C.—"It's time to raise hell," editor Jonathan Daniels of the Raleigh News & Observer told the new CIO Industrial Union Council of North Carolina.

New York—Corporation profits, after paying taxes and all other expenses, were 20.2% higher in the third quarter this year than in the same period last year, the Wall Street Journal reported Nov. 3.

New York—"Truth is being subtly and silently dethroned by prominent public figures from the position it has occupied hitherto in our American tradition," said the general council of the Presbyterian Church of the U. S. Nov. 2.

Washington—The U. S. women's bureau estimates that in 1952 3,000,000 women belonged to unions.

New York—Western Union has killed 26,990 jobs and closed 2761 offices in the last 10 years, an American Communications Association study shows.

Denver—The Oil Workers International Union says "in spite of record production by amazingly efficient methods, in spite of good prices and high profits, the oil industry is curtailing its operations and laying off many employees."

Spokane, Wash.—Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp. laid off 300 workers in its rolling mill Oct. 30 due to overproduction.

New York—General Motors Corporation leads the profit parade, as before, the company report indicated. Net profits were 17% higher the first 9 months of 1953 than the same period of 1952.

Election Committee Conducts Election

The members present at the membership meeting on Monday, November 16, will elect 25 to act as an Election Committee.

The Election Committee will supervise the local elections; they will determine in accordance with the Local's Constitution the eligibility of the nominees and the members voting. They will also set the time and place of the voting as well as arrange for voting machines if possible.

Only members in good standing at the time of the November membership meeting will be allowed to vote. Each presidential candidate may appoint 3 watchers. The candidates may examine the voting machines and voting booths immediately prior to the opening of the election. They may be present during the tally.

The Election Committee must make a written report to the membership at the January meeting.

ASK YOUR SHOP STEWARD ABOUT U.E. LOCAL 301 COMPENSATION SERVICE

IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE WITH UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CONTACT THE UNION OFFICE

If You're in Doubt, The Proof is Here

We have received some reports that the usual few are questioning the record of the tally on the vote taken to increase the Union dues.

The Trustees of U.E. Local 301 who counted the vote announced the results which were published in the Oct. 22 issue of our Union paper. The results were: 6795 in favor and 4789 opposed, making a total of 11,584 votes cast on the question.

The petitions are being held at Union Headquarters and will be subject to review by any member who wishes to check his signature or other signatures or recount the votes.

Constitution Committee Will Make Report

The U.E. Local 301 Constitution Committee will make a report recommending changes in the U.E. Local 301 Constitution next Monday at the November membership meeting.

The Local's Constitution can be amended only at one of four specific membership meetings which are held during the months of February, May, August or November.

The Constitution Committee has the recommendation for the dues increase on which there will be a report. This issue was placed before the membership in the shop last month, whereby a majority of the members voted in favor of the increase.



CONGRATULATIONS, BASCOMBE... WE CAN NOW COMMENCE WITH THE LAYOFFS!

Third Quarter Corporate Profits 20% Higher Than Year Ago

Corporation profits after taxes in the third quarter of this year were 20.2% higher than in the same period of 1952, the Wall Street Journal reported Nov. 3.

The newspaper's survey of 425 companies in 24 industries showed their total net profits were \$1.46 billion for the third quarter. The 20% profit gain compared with a gain of 24% in the second quarter and a 10% increase in the first quarter over the similar 1952 periods.

Biggest profit jump was scored by 23 iron and steel companies, a record-breaking 100.8% increase. The industry pushed its net profits up from \$72.9 million in the '52 third quarter to \$146.4 million in the '53 quarter. The steel companies were in operation for only two months of last year's third quarter because of the nationwide steel strike. Reflected in their huge profits this year are two rounds of price boosts. One went into effect immediately after the strike and the other was ordered in June 1953.

Only four industries showed declines in profits from a year ago. Textile profits went down 9.7%, office equipment declined 6.3%, floor covering and coal companies' profits dipped less than 1%.

Biggest total profits by any group were registered as usual by the oil industry, whose take soared 19.1% from \$335.9 million a year ago to \$400.2 million in July-September of 1953.

Other profit gains from the '52 to '53 third quarters included: aircraft, up 13.7%; autos and equipment, 23.3%; chain stores, 37.1%; drug manufacturers, 13.1%; electrical equipment, 8.1%; finance companies, 19.9%; mining and metals, 58.7%; radio and television, 17.7%; railway equipment, 24.7%; tools and machinery, 16.7%.

Bldg. 269 Steward Wins Case

J. Bracken, shop steward in Bldg. 269, representing the members under Foreman Buksa, won a case of upgrading to a proper classification for an Inspector on the 2nd shift last week.

Bracken pointed out to the foreman that the work which was done by the 2nd shift Inspector was equal to that being done on days. The day Inspector was paid a higher rate. The foreman agreed and the case was settled.

ASK YOUR STEWARD ABOUT U.E. LOCAL 301 OPTICAL PLAN