

Contracts for Union Building To Be Let Out

Arrangements have been made with the architect who has designed Local 301's building to submit blueprints of the proposed building to general and sub-contractors for bids.

Bids are being invited from all contractors whose names are submitted to the officers. It is expected that contracts will be let out on the basis of the lowest bids as well as the financial responsibility of the contractor.

The time schedule now arranged would make it possible, barring the unforeseen, that the building can be started by October.

A meeting between the architect and the Building Committee of Local 301 has been held this week. Further meetings are being scheduled in order to complete the building as quickly as possible, so that members of Local 301 can begin to enjoy its use.

Federal Judge Signs Order Dismissing National UE Suit

A Federal District Court Judge, after hearing argument from the lawyers for IUE Local 301, signed an order on August 3, 1954 dismissing the legal suit brought by UE.

This is the second time that the UE has been told in plain language that it has been barking up the wrong tree in trying to interfere with the wishes of Schenectady workers to join with other G.E. workers in order to regain the bargaining strength which the UE had lost for them over the period of years since it has been outside the CIO.

Previously, the UE had made phony claims that the officers of Local 30 had been in contempt of a temporary injunction. A Special Master, appointed by a New York Federal Judge, after listening to Local 301 officers, issued a decision saying that the officers were not in contempt and that all of the money of Local 301 was intact and accounted for. The UE had resorted to such slimy lying about the funds of Local 301 that the Local as well as its officers and some members brought a libel suit against UE asking for \$750,000 damages from UE. This suit is now pending.

BE A UNION MEMBER

OFFICE SERVICE WORKERS TO MEET AT UNION HALL

Second Shift Office Service Workers will meet at Union Hall This Tuesday, August 17th at 1:30 P.M.

FIELD DAY Sept. 12th

Another "First" for Local 301, New Discount Plan for Members

IUE-CIO Local 301 has made arrangements with a large mail order company to offer our Union members substantial discounts as high as 40% on general merchandise.

These arrangements have been made with the Tri State Mail Order Company which has recently organized a District Office in Schenectady under the direction of Mr. Thomas Heath of Troy, N. Y.

The Local 301 office has been informed that our members will be in a position to purchase such items as jewelry, housewares, appliances, furniture, power tools, cameras and thousands of other worthwhile items too numerous to mention.

Job Rate Increased

Last April Shop Steward P. Pisano, Bldg. 77, designated Executive Board Member V. DiLorenzo to process a case for the operators on the can filling machine. They requested a rate increase based on comparison with other jobs in the shop.

Because of UE's disruption of our grievance procedure no progress was made on the case during the 17-week campaign period. With National UE disposed of, Local 301 was able to go ahead with the case and as a result of a Joint Investigation the job rate has now been increased one step to 1.69.

Applications for Membership Are Mounting Steadily

Last month 10,500 check-off cards were sent to Bldg. 41 as the first batch of new application cards were received.

Local 301 has always maintained an unusually high percentage of membership and at the rate the new applications are coming in to Union office the percentage now will be even higher. As departments have returned from vacation periods thousands have been added to the original 10,500 cards.

A small minority have refused membership in the Union because of the embarrassment of association with National UE. Now that this has been eliminated there is no justified reason for an eligible employee not signing. This presents a challenge to these people whether they are sincere or just anti-union and free riders.

The Union's check-off of dues serves notice on management that your group is well organized and how strong the Union is. Today, August 13, is the deadline for membership without having to pay the initiation—after today you will have to pay the \$2.00 initiation fee.

Sign up today—show your organized strength by having your group 100% on check-off.

This discount service is another IUE Local 301 "First" and added to the Local's other discount plans enables its members to really save some of those hard earned dollars.

Work Assignment Corrected

Shop Steward John Corless in Bldg. 16, Large Motor & Generator Department, received complaints that welders' work was being done on overtime by employees other than those of welder classifications. As a result of written grievance submitted to Foreman Lewinski, this situation has been corrected and welders will be used when necessary in the future.

IUE-CIO 301 On the Job

Bldg. 29: Mary Enright has been notified of layoff in violation of Contract, Article XI-1. Union demands this violation be corrected and the shortest service employee be laid off instead.

Bldg. 18: At supervision's request John Csejka changed shift on 7/20/54. Union demands proper payment according to agreement.

Bldg. 16: Group of Milling Operators in Shop Steward Bikowicz's group protest the attempted change in method of payment for time spent breaking in new employees. Union demands payment be made according to past practice.

Bldg. 273: Group under Shop Steward Conaway protest the IR issued to an operator while working under instructions of Methods Man. Union demands record be cleared and the charge on the IR against the operator be removed.

Bldg. 273: During the process of an attempt to institute a new method on the G&L Boring Mill 2 Methods Men and the foreman are on the job. Group under Shop Steward Conaway feels that one Methods Man is sufficient and demands management correct this unreasonable condition.

NOTICE TO ALL BOARD MEMBERS AND SHOP STEWARDS

ALL APPLICATION CARDS MUST BE TURNED IN AT THE UNION OFFICE TODAY IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE DEADLINE FOR NO INITIATION FEE BY AUGUST 13.

ALL CARDS RECEIVED STARTING NEXT WEEK MUST PAY THE \$2.00 INITIATION FEE.

IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 NEWS
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301,
REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY
GE WORKERS

Published by the Editorial Committee
President.....James J. Cognetta
Vice President.....Joseph Alois
Treasurer.....Joseph Whitbeck
Recording Secretary.....Miles Haon
Ass't Recording Secretary.....Rudy Risland
Chief Shop Steward.....William Mastriani
Business Agent.....Leo Jandrova
301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY 5, N. Y.

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE CIO

Vol. 1 — No. 23

The Voice of GE Workers, Local 301, Schenectady, N. Y.

August 20, 1954

GE OFFERS NEW LETTER AUG. 3 ON JOB TRANSFERS

The National Negotiations Committee received a letter dated August 3, outlining the plans of the G.E. Company on decentralization. Likewise, they agreed with the IUE National Committee that the letter could be subject to modifications and changes.

This is the first time during the present negotiations that the Company has shown much genuine concern with the jobs of G.E. workers in the old and large plants of GE.

The contrast of attitude can easily be understood by comparing a statement made by a high official of G.E. in April 1954 with the letter of August 3rd.

April 1954—"As a matter of fact, 55 percent of our people are in only 7 plant cities where we employ 10,000 to 40,000 people, Schenectady, Lynn, Evendale, Erie, Pittsfield, Syracuse and Ft. Wayne).

"So far as decentralization of people, we have merely scratched the surface. We have started operations in 24 new cities and 11 of these have a population below 10,000. We expect to hear of more G.E. plants like Edmore,

(Continued on Page 4)

Placement Committee to Handle Layoffs

Because of the unusually large numbers of layoffs at present, one of the results of GE's "decentralization" policy, the Executive Board has again set up the Placement Committee to handle these cases.

This committee to specialize on layoff cases assures the Union of the most effective method to enforce plant-wide seniority according to our Contract. By having all cases go through this one committee, they will be able to maintain continuity on cases and establish accurate data so that members will receive proper placement when laid off.

The Executive Board has selected Joseph Whitbeck, Joseph Alois and William Christman to handle this important assignment.

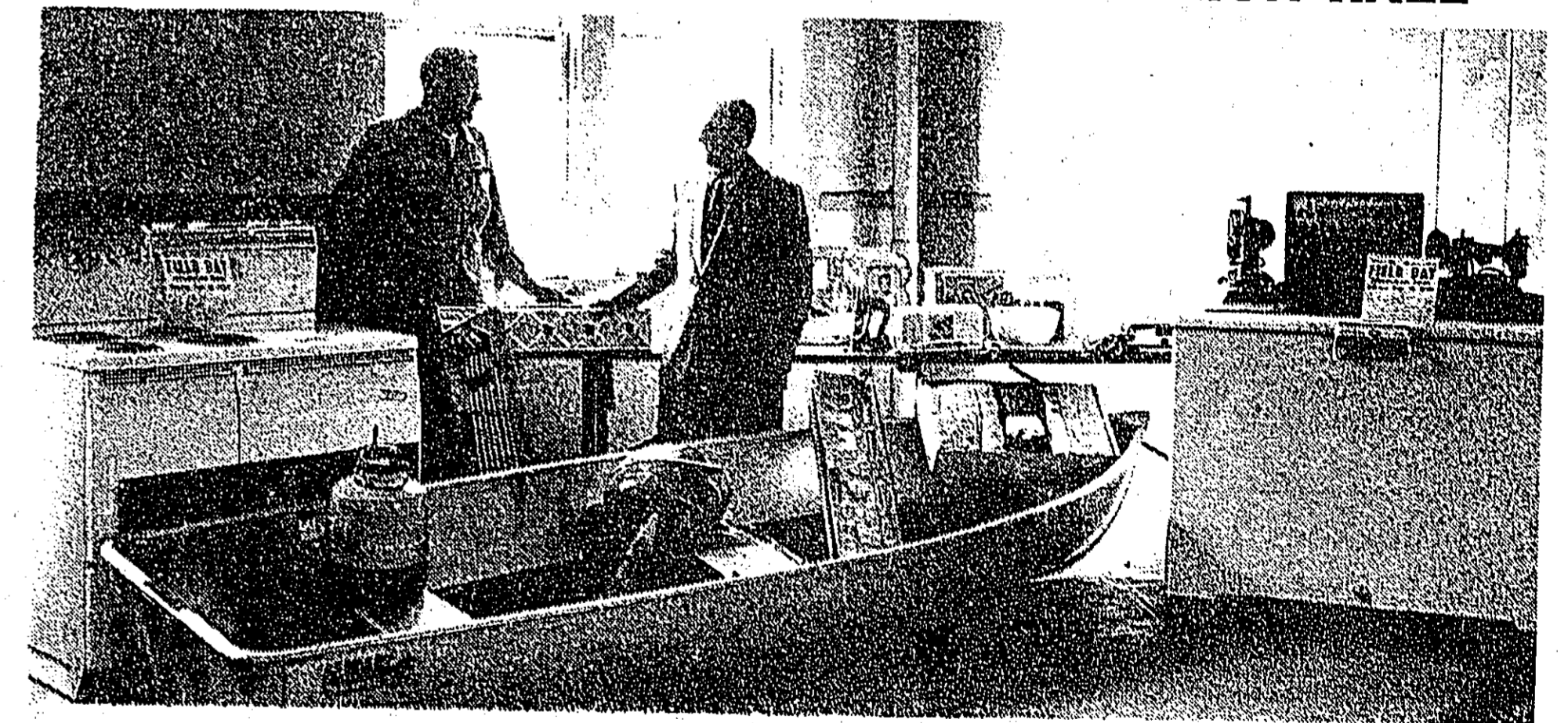
Volunteers Needed for Field Day September 12

The Activities Committee has asked for volunteers to help make a success of the day's program Sunday, Sept. 12.

With enough help all the workers and the Committee will be able to enjoy the day's fun.

Any member wishing to help will please call the Union office.

FIELD DAY PRIZES ON DISPLAY AT UNION HALL



Charles Scott, Chairman of Activities Committee, and President James J. Cognetta are shown examining the Registered "Walter Hagen" complete set of golf clubs valued at \$172.00.

Pictured above are some of the Field Day Prizes already received and on display at the Union Hall. Members at last Monday's meeting had the opportunity to examine the items and indicated widespread approval.

Charles Scott as Chairman reported to the meeting that the Activities Committee is making every effort to make this year's Field Day on September 12th an outstanding event in Local 301 his-

Bloomfield G.E. Workers Leave U.E. — Vote to Unite in IUE-CIO!

Following the pattern set by Schenectady, N. Y., and Newark, N. J., G.E. workers at Bloomfield, N. J., voted in an NLRB election on August 5, to leave the dying UE and join the ranks of IUE-CIO!

Thus UE has lost the second largest Local it had left in the G.E. Chain. Only Local 506 at Erie, Pa., was larger and proceedings are already under way at Erie to set up an NLRB election so that G.E. workers there may have the opportunity to join the ranks of the vast majority of G.E. electrical workers in IUE-CIO.

UE's loss at Bloomfield, combined with Schenectady, Newark and numerous smaller Locals, now reduces UE's total representation in G.E. plants to 15,000 or less. Less than the membership of IUE-CIO Local 301 alone. Outside of Erie the only Locals UE has left are small service and supply shops, all under 1,000 people.

The majority of the committee has worked on previous Field Days and through their experience have been able to foresee and correct trouble spots that have occurred in the past.

More volunteer workers for the day are needed so that all will have an opportunity to enjoy the day's program of stage events, games, Little League ball game and refreshments. Any member willing to help out the committee is asked

to call the Union office.

Brother Scott pointed out that this year's Children's Christmas Parties depend on the success of the Field Day. The profits from the Field Day are used to finance these parties.

Sign up that non-member!

IUE-CIO 301 On the Job

Bldg. 273: Fred Smith has requested that layout table be moved to a safe location. Union demands this request that has been ignored be acted on at once.

Bldg. 273: G. Rose was temporarily assigned to a job of different classification for which he never received proper breaking in. Union demands average earnings for time spent on this job.

Bldg. 273: W. Kniffen asked and received permission to leave work early on day prior to holiday. Supervision now refuses to make payment. Union demands payment as agreed.

Bldg. 273: L. Gattie and A. De Matteo submitted requests for transfers to 2nd shift according to Contract. Two men with less service have subsequently been placed on this job. Union demands management correct this violation.

Bldg. 273: There are several Noz. Part jobs to mill taper on which prices have been cut excessively after change in method. Group under Shop Steward Peterson demands correction of prices according to Contract, Article VI-4-(b).

Bldg. 273: S. Barbaresi is doing Class "A" Special work while only classified "A". Union demands upgrade in classification and proper rate increase.

Alplaus: Group is protesting supervision's attempt to prevent layoff of short service employee, Class "A" Toolmaker, by making him a leader. Union demands management correct this condition.

Bldg. 273: J. Dennebaum, Bldg. 285 Assembler, \$1,905 A.E.R., was forced to accept transfer to Bldg. 273 at \$1,785 A.E.R. as result of lack of work. Union demands he be given proper bump.

Bldg. 273: Groups under Foremen Hay and Disbrow protest Foreman L. Whitmyer performing their work on Saturday. Union demands management correct this situation.

Bldg. 84: Tractor Train Operators in Shop Steward W. Kuschel's group protest bypassing of the

group leader on layoff. Group demands layoff according to seniority.

Bldg. 273: Job on Annual Coils has been reduced in rate from 1,965 to 1,905 in violation of Contract, Article VI-1 and 2. Changes made on job actually warrant an increase. Union demands this violation be corrected by management.

Group's Loss of Earnings Corrected



Last week Turbine Division decided to do some experimenting with an automatic feeder on the enameling machine. As a result production was slowed up and the group on the job suffered a loss of earnings.

Faced with supervision's refusal to make proper adjustment, Shop Steward George Kingsley filed a written grievance. As a result, supervision agreed to pay average earnings.

Pledge Support

Indianapolis, Ind. — The AFL Carpenters, meeting here, have pledged financial, economic and moral support of the strike of AFL Lumber and Sawmill Workers in the Northwest. Along with the CIO Woodworkers some 100,000 lumber workers are striking. Carpenters General Treasurer Frank Chapman said that a \$9 million strike fund will support the workers.

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Blind Workers Take Pay Cut, End 5-Month Strike

Pittsburgh—A 5-month strike by blind broom makers ended here July 27 when the strikers accepted a pay cut and speedup plan proposed by the Pennsylvania Assn. for the blind.

The strikers, who insisted they wanted work, not charity, dramatized their lengthy strike with a 4-day sitdown in the association's cafeteria. Their walkout began March 2 when the association cut rates from \$1.13 to 78c for each dozen brooms produced. The blind workers agreed to the lower pay scale after receiving a guarantee that added production would give them the same takehome pay.

Works News Omits Union's Part in Halt of Shutdown

Schenectady management had a pat on the back for itself and a bouquet for Niagara Mohawk Power Co. in its August 6th issue of the Works News.

They neglected to state, however, that the "commendable action" on their parts was only as a result of the advice of Local 301.

It seems that a complete work shutdown was scheduled at CAP and the Race Track as a result of gas leakage in the cables servicing the two areas.

Just to keep the record straight—at 10:00 A.M. that morning Bldg. 41 reported to the Local's business office that the shutdown was scheduled. The Union's position was that the shutdown was unnecessary and that if the qualified people were contacted, the loss of time and money to G.E. workers could be averted.

As a result of this advice from the Union, there was no shutdown.

Local Considers Sponsoring Hockey Team

IUE Local 301 has been requested to sponsor a hockey team which will participate in a State League for the 1954-1955 season.

The Executive Board has set up a sub-committee to investigate the request. The committee is composed of: William Kelly, Bldg. 273; Henry Kaminski, Bldg. 76; Joseph Alois, Bldg. 273; and William Mastriani, Bldg. 73A. The committee will meet with the representatives of the U. S. Hockey Association in the RPI Field House in Troy next Sunday to discuss details.

If the Executive Board approves the request, it will be referred to the membership for their approval before proceeding.

**FIELD DAY
Sept. 12th**

Delay in Filing Compensation Claim Costly to Injured Workers

An injured worker who fails to file a claim for compensation benefits within the time period fixed by law, loses all rights to such benefits.

In previous articles written in this newspaper by the lawyer for Local 301, this has been pointed out time and time again.

Now, what does the law say about giving notice of an injury and about the time within which to file a claim?

The Workmen's Compensation Law states that an injured worker must notify his employer within 30 days of the injury that he has been injured, and then must file his claim within 2 years of the injury. If the injury did not come as a result of an accident but rather as a result of an "occupational disease", then notice must be given to the employer within 90 days after the worker has become disabled but the claim must still be filed within 2 years.

It can be seen from these rules that a worker can easily be confused and as a result lose his rights to compensation.

In order to avoid such a loss, workers should remember to give notice promptly as to any injury they may have sustained. In addition, they should file a claim promptly so as not to be defeated by the 2-year rule.

As an example of the difficulties a worker can run into where he

does not protect his rights properly, consider what happened in the following case. A worker, for a period of about 25 years up to 1947, was exposed to metal dust and fumes. In 1948, he took a leave of absence because he was in a "run-down condition" and returned to work in 1948. Upon his return to work he was given a lighter job as a badge checker. He worked as a badge checker until August 1951, but had to take a disability pension because his condition was getting worse. A little over 2 years later he learned from a doctor that his real trouble was with his lungs and that his trouble had come from fumes and metal dust; but by this time more than 2 years had passed since he stopped working. This worker, who is in a serious condition and who will need a lot of medical care stood a good chance of losing all his rights to compensation benefits. It does not matter in such cases that he had no knowledge of what his condition was and so could not have filed a claim. The law is very callous and cruel on this point and, until the law is changed, it does not help the worker.

The Union's lawyer is representing the worker now and everything is being done to get him compensation. It would have been a lot easier if the worker had come to his Union as soon as he had to stop working, because then a claim could have been filed for him.

Delegates to IUE-CIO Convention

Delegates to the National Union convention, which will be held in Miami, Florida, September 27 through October 1, were elected at the August Membership Meeting.

The following delegates were elected:

James J. Cognetta, Bldg. 52
William Mastriani, Bldg. 73A
William Kelly, Bldg. 273
Ethel Furman, Bldg. 28
Frank J. D'Amico, Bldg. 40
Mario Bagnato, Bldg. 52
Joseph Alois, Bldg. 273,
2nd shift
Julia Mitchell, Bldg. 40,
2nd shift
Larry Gebo, Bldg. 273, 3rd shift
Leo Jandreau, Union Office

This is the sixth annual convention of the IUE-CIO—it is being held in the Deep South in the hope of giving inspiration to the southern workers on the need for forming and joining unions and to provide new impetus for further organizational and economic progress throughout our industry in the South where many employers in the electrical industry are now locating.

More G.E. Double Talk at Erie

GE's announcement of plans to move Motor Generator jobs to Erie as a part of an "expansion program" was good news to G.E. workers there — until they discovered that the results of the "expansion program" was to be less jobs!

The Company announced that as a result of the move it may "possibly" give the Erie Works a total employment by mid 1957 of 9,200 people.

This is 250 less jobs than exist in the Erie Works right now!

This is 2460 less jobs than existed five months ago!

This is 3800 less jobs than existed at the Erie Works when the plant was at its "normal" post-war employment level!

Of course, we've had our dose of double talk in Schenectady where there was to be 1000 "new" jobs — but 4000 have already been lost. And so the story goes in Schenectady, Erie, Lynn, Fort Wayne, etc. G.E. is "expanding" with the results that thousands will be left jobless.

This is the bread and butter issue that the Company in negotiations continues to coldly ignore and refuses to accept any Union suggestions to attempt to avert this wholesale schedule towards unemployment.



District No. 3 Circulates Petition To Gov. Dewey

The District Council which is composed of the Unions affiliated to the IUE in Upstate New York is circulating petitions for signatures of eligible voters, requesting liberalization of the N. Y. State Unemployment Insurance Law.

With layoffs taking place, the unemployment benefits become an important issue facing every worker. The petition calls for weekly benefits of \$45.00 plus \$5.00 per week for each dependent up to a maximum of four. Likewise, the petition calls for extending the period of benefits from 26 to 39 weeks. It also calls for liberalization of the rules so that thousands of unemployed workers are not disqualified from receiving insurance.

We are requesting every member to sign these petitions which will be sent to the Governor as quickly as they are returned to the Union office.

Down and Out

Washington—"Out of sight, out of mind," is what Sen. Wayne Morse (Ind. Ore.) says is the attitude of the Administration toward jobless workers who have exhausted their unemployment compensation claims.

This happened to 475,000 workers in March, April and May. When the number of claims reported are down, this is a big reason. They're out.

301's Work Survey Nears Completion

Shop Stewards who have not yet done so are asked to turn in to the Union office — or their Executive Board member — the questionnaires on the unemployment situation in their respective groups.

During the 4 month period of disruption by National UE the Union did not receive information on layoffs, rotating schedules and transfers to lower rated jobs.

IUE Local 301, therefore, initiated this plant-wide survey on employment to gain a more accurate picture of this serious situation, rather than accept the incomplete reports given by the Company to the public press.

All Shop Stewards are asked to have their questionnaires filled out and turned in no later than Friday, August 27, so that the Local may make a true analysis of unemployment in the Schenectady plant and take constructive action in the matter.

No Bug

Dayton, Ohio—Sammy Wright has offered proof positive that it just doesn't pay to be a non-union printer.

He was attending a bingo-type game at a drive-in theatre here for a jackpot of \$1975. "Whahoo," yelled Sammy and he ran up to the stage to collect the winning money. Instead, he landed in jail. It seems that as fast as the numbers were called Sammy and three companions printed them on a small, hand print set.

Union Elects Delegates to State CIO Convention

Twenty delegates were elected to represent IUE Local 301 at the State CIO Convention which will be held in Albany on September 9, 10 and 11. The Local is entitled to that number as a full delegation according to the State CIO Constitution.

The State CIO, which represents all CIO Unions within New York State, deals mainly with State legislation, such as Workmen's Compensation, Unemployment Insurance, etc.

Delegates elected to the State CIO Convention are the following:

Thomas McGrath, Bldg. 52; Frank D'Amico, Bldg. 40; Larry Gebo, Bldg. 273, 3rd shift; William Kelly, Bldg. 273; James J. Cognetta, Bldg. 52; Harry Williams, Bldg. 16; Alice Crowningshield, Bldg. 28; William Mastriani, Bldg. 73A; John Saccocio, Bldg. 66; William Christman, Bldg. 18; Ethel Smith, Bldg. 28; Mary Bartlette, Bldg. 24.

Miles G. Moon, Bldg. 40; Mario Bagnato, Bldg. 52; Phillip Cognetta, Bldg. 52; Joseph Alois, Bldg. 273, 2nd shift; James Brown, Bldg. 273, 2nd shift; William Garrison, Bldg. 73, 2nd shift; Julia Mitchell, Bldg. 40, 2nd shift; Leo Jandreau, Union Office.

Knolls Attempts to Evade Seniority

Supervision at the Knolls Research Laboratory apparently do not realize that they are a part of the Bargaining Unit represented by the Union and subject to provisions of the Local Supplement covering Plant-wide Seniority.

Instead they are attempting to establish a new policy for that Department, by setting up imaginary requirements beyond those of jobs in the Main Plant. When employees on lack of work are sent there for placement, they are not allowed to look at the job but are merely told in an interview that they can't qualify.

This has been the experience of Assemblers laid off in Bldg. 46 even though their jobs in the plant have included the requirements of Developmental and Experimental work. Cases are already in process with management to see that these members are properly placed and that the seniority provisions of the Contract are applied.