

LOCAL 301 NEWS

UUE-AFI-CIO

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The Voice of G.E. Workers, Local 301

October 6, 1961

REORIENTATION CLASSES WELL ATTENDED

Last Monday afternoon marked the beginning of classes for Local 301 Board Members and Shop Stewards.

Classes to date have been well attended. The average time for each session has been approximately 2 to 2½ hours.

Keen interest was displayed concerning such topics as Work Implementation and Job Evaluation. In discussing these topics, the officers brought out many salient factors pertaining to the subjects in order to acquaint the union representatives with the general setup of the two programs.

A great many questions asked related to shop problems. The officers are advising the Board Members and Shop Stewards on how to resolve them. However, it was pointed out to those in attendance that where several grievances arise that affect an entire department, the Union Office will schedule meetings between the officers of Local 301 and department management in an effort to resolve whatever problems exist.

Next week the following schedule will be observed:

Wednesday, Oct. 11th --

Ed. Member DiCaterino - 8:00 a.m.

Ed. Member Cогnetta - 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 12th --

Ed. Member Stockheim - 7:30 p.m.

Ed. Member Kaminski - 7:30 p.m.

NECESSARY STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS

For many years we have published from time to time articles telling you what to do if you have an accident while at work. However, we are again receiving reports that workers have been hurt and have failed to take the necessary simple steps to protect their rights. As a result, they lost out when they finally did come before the Workmen's Compensation Board.

The Workmen's Compensation Law was written to protect the worker, but only if he takes the steps necessary to protect himself. If you have an accident while employed, the law requires that you notify your supervisor immediately, and in any event not later than thirty days. You must also file a claim for compensation benefits with the Workmen's Compensation Board in Albany within two years from the date of the accident. Many workers who are injured believe that if they reported the accident to their boss or described it to the doctor who is treating, they are fully protected. That is not true. You should file your claim with the Compensation Board even if you are not losing time. In that way, you are protected for 18 years if anything unexpected develops later.

(Cont'd. Reverse Side)

NOTICE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Monday, October 9th, 7:30 p.m.

Officers will meet at 6 p.m.

Union Headquarters - 121 Erie Blvd.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FAIL TO COVER ABSOLUTE NECESSITIES

In a six state survey, figures disclosed that benefits paid to the head of a family of four fail to cover such absolute necessities as food, shelter, clothing, utilities and medical care.

The survey also showed that the average weekly benefits for heads of four-person households amounted to a maximum of 78% and a minimum of 56% of the average weekly amount spent for non-deferrable costs, such as food, housing and medical care.

NECESSARY STEPS (Cont'd)

The law also provides benefits for occupational diseases. This is a little more difficult to pinpoint since such conditions come on gradually after years of exposure. Usually a worker will not know he has an occupational disease until it is discovered accidentally by his doctor while examining for some other condition. If you think you have a disease caused by your work, notify your supervisor at once and also file your claim with the Compensation Board.

Remember that the insurance company which insures General Electric has trained specialists whose job it is to save the company money at your expense. Going up against these men is like going into the ring against a trained boxer. While the Union, for financial reasons, was forced to give up its legal services, we recommend strongly that you consult a lawyer if you have a compensation claim. If you do not have your own attorney, you can call the Union Hall and we will give you the name of one or more attorneys whom we believe are experts in handling such claims.

TESTIMONIAL DINNER FOR PETERSON

Friends of Andy Peterson, former president of Local 301, will attend a testimonial dinner in his honor on Saturday, Oct. 7th, in the IUE Auditorium.

Andy retired from the Motor-Generator Department with over 42 years of service.

The Arrangements Committee is composed of Board Members Cagnetta, Donato and Mastriani.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY ASKS STEEL FIRMS TO HOLD LINE ON PRICES

President Kennedy sent a letter to steel firms urging them to hold the line on steel prices so as not to set off an inflationary spiral subsequent to the wage increase which went into effect on October 1st.

Major firms have replied to the President's letter. Their view is that the Kennedy proposal represents "price-fixing" and that it "constitutes dangerous impairment of our free economy".

The probability is that for the present there will be no general increase in steel prices; however, there will be the so-called "selective" hikes in price.

In the meantime, David J. McDonald won the acclaim and commendation of the White House when he pledged that his Union, next year, will try to negotiate a new contract with Steel that will be non-inflationary and based upon the public interest in price stability.

HOLIDAY CHANGE NOT IN CARDS THIS YEAR

The Union had requested that the Company consider substituting Election Day this year with the day following Thanksgiving in order to provide a 4-day weekend.

The Company notified the Union this week that after considering our request, they were obliged to turn it down because the Election Law requires that a voter have 4 consecutive hours at his disposal during which time the election polls are open, for the purpose of voting. This year the polls will close at 6:00 p.m., and this would require the Company to pay up to two hours during the work schedule on Election Day.

The Company did point out, however, that next year during the Gubernatorial and Congressional Election, the polls will remain open until 9:00 p.m., and holidays scheduled in the contract may be substituted for other week days providing long weekends.

CO-WORKERS FETE SHOP STEWARD

Last Friday, co-workers and shop stewards under Board Member Wager attended a party held for Shop Steward Chester Fodbielski of Bldg. 40. He left for active duty with Air National Guard Unit.

Chester's friends presented him with a purse in recognition of his outstanding performance as a Shop Steward for the last ten years.

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Jim Muir, an Inspector in the Turbine Dept., makes the following observation:

Today we hear a lot about the "modern thought and new idea" in business.

The old employees, in other words, The Old Guard, with lots of "know how", are now outmoded.

Some had to retire, because others thought they had grown stagnant on the job and were slowing down the wheels of progress, so to speak. But, stagnant or not, the Old Guard with the "know how" would have kept the wheels of progress and industry moving along with a minimum of expense and effort, while the newcomers were stumbling over one another in confusion and despair.

Sometimes, "know how" is confused with stagnation, by those who think nothing is being accomplished by those with "know how" and good practical effort; unless there are a lot of thumb twiddlers with white shirts along, to give the operation their so-called highbrowed approval and O.K.

Theoretical knowledge is good - sound practical knowledge is better. Combine both and you have an unbeatable combination. Experience as the old proverb says, "is the greatest teacher."