

How Much Unemployment?

Washington—What's happening in the unemployment picture?

The answer to this question depends on which Government release you pick up.

Two releases have been received by Press Associates, both with the same release date. Each release tells a different story in its lead—it takes a lot of reading to learn that while they don't actually conflict, they represent different interpretations that are important to understand.

The one which received the most play in the press was a combined release of the Commerce and Labor Departments. It is headed "Employment Situation Stable in July."

Reading a little further you see that nonagricultural employment at 54.7 million was "only slightly changed from the previous month."

The second release was issued by the Labor Department alone, and is called a supplement to the first release. Here is the lead paragraph:

"Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell announced today that the non-farm job total fell by 290,000 between June and July, 1954, to 47.9 million, according to employers' reports to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics."

Manufacturing Employment Down

From this release we learn that there was a 227,000 drop in manufacturing employment, declines in retail trade and public school employment and gains in construction, finance and service. The Department attributes the big manufacturing drop to July vacation shutdowns and scattered work stoppages.

If you read the details it's startling to learn how the two releases differ.

When the Commerce-Labor release talks about nonagricultural employment, for example, it includes the self-employed, domestics, and unpaid workers in family businesses. The separate Labor release does not include these groups.

There's another important difference, too, in the manufacturing statistics in the treatment of certain workers. The Commerce release, based on Census data, included as employed, but show separately, those persons with a job but not at work for reasons such as vacation, temporary lay-off or industrial dispute. The Labor release does not.

The proportion of civilian workers out of jobs (5.1 percent in July) was about double that of a year ago and the highest for the month in the postwar period except 1949.



Plant Meetings

(Continued from Page 1)

and the Company's arbitrary discharge of employees, and we stated further that we are very critical of the Company in their arbitrary position of forcing the Union to either take the Company's offer, offered with no right of negotiation, or be penalized on our pay until we would relinquish our right to further negotiation.

Our written position of acceptance to the Company stated that we wanted to make it clear to the Company that we intend to pursue these issues throughout the life of the contract.

The Committee met Wednesday, August 18, to consider the Company's offer and did agree on the prepared statement of acceptance.

None of the Committee were satisfied with the offer but they did feel that there were some concessions made by the Company and that there was nothing further to gain without the exerting of considerably more force and pressure than had been forthcoming from the membership.

It must be understood that the Committee is merely agreeing to recommend acceptance to the Conference Board. Likewise the Conference Board can either vote to reject or to accept the recommendation, but subject to Membership approval.

Executive Board Members are holding "in plant" meetings this week so that all IUE-CIO Local 301 members will have the opportunity to make known their decision.

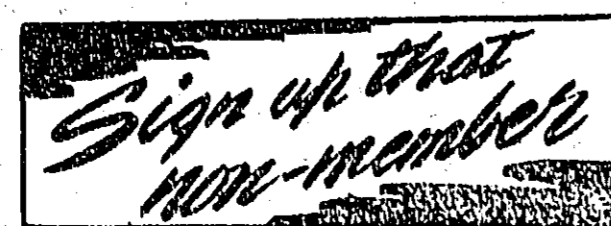
Turbine Board Members Meet With Management

Turbine Executive Board Members along with Pres. Jim Cognetta met last week with top management in #273 including General Manager Saupé.

The purpose of the meeting was to express the complete dissatisfaction of the members with working conditions in #273 today. Unless the arbitrary attitude of supervision is corrected and deliberate agitation eliminated, it can only be assumed now that this program has Mr. Saupé's endorsement.

The committee pointed out violations of Contract and agreements. Taking advantage of the absence of Local 301's bargaining rights during the 4 months of the NLRB campaign, price cuts and general chiselling have been the order of the day in #273. Work has been farmed out where a lack of work condition already exists. Foremen are asking groups to work overtime, beyond that necessitated by customer requirements, and at the same time laying off in the group. Grievances that should be settled at the foreman's level are going to the Manager's level instead, before being resolved.

Turbine members are now waiting to see if there is to be any improvement in these conditions.

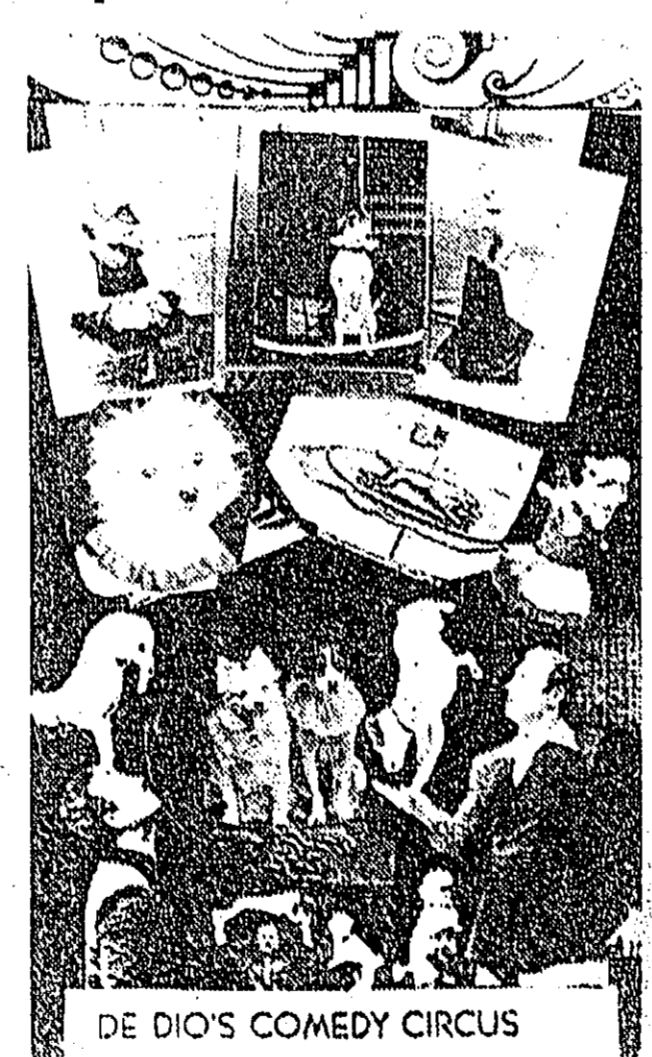


Gilman, Colo.—In an NLRB representation election some 300 workers at the Empire Zinc plant of the New Jersey Company have voted 233 to 65 to join the United Steelworkers. The Independent Mine, Mill and Smelter union formerly represented the workers.

Akron, Ohio—Talks with management are continuing but no breaks are seen in the strike of 23,000 CIO Rubber Workers against eight Firestone plants and the walkout of 23,000 URW members against Goodyear. Full resources of the URW are behind the strikers.

Washington—The White House said that when James Ernest Wilkins, Assistant Secretary of Labor, attended a cabinet meeting it was the first time a Negro has attended as a department representative. Secretary of Labor Mitchell was out of town.

Comedy Circus Engaged for Field Day September 12



The Activities Committee has announced that De Dio's Comedy Circus will be one of the stage attractions at this year's Field Day.

This act has plenty of action including animal acts and juggling. Judging by their record, this should be a top notch performance. The act has played the RKO Circuit, Ringling & Barnum Bailey Circus and many Fairs throughout the country.

Other acts to be featured will be announced later.

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE CIO

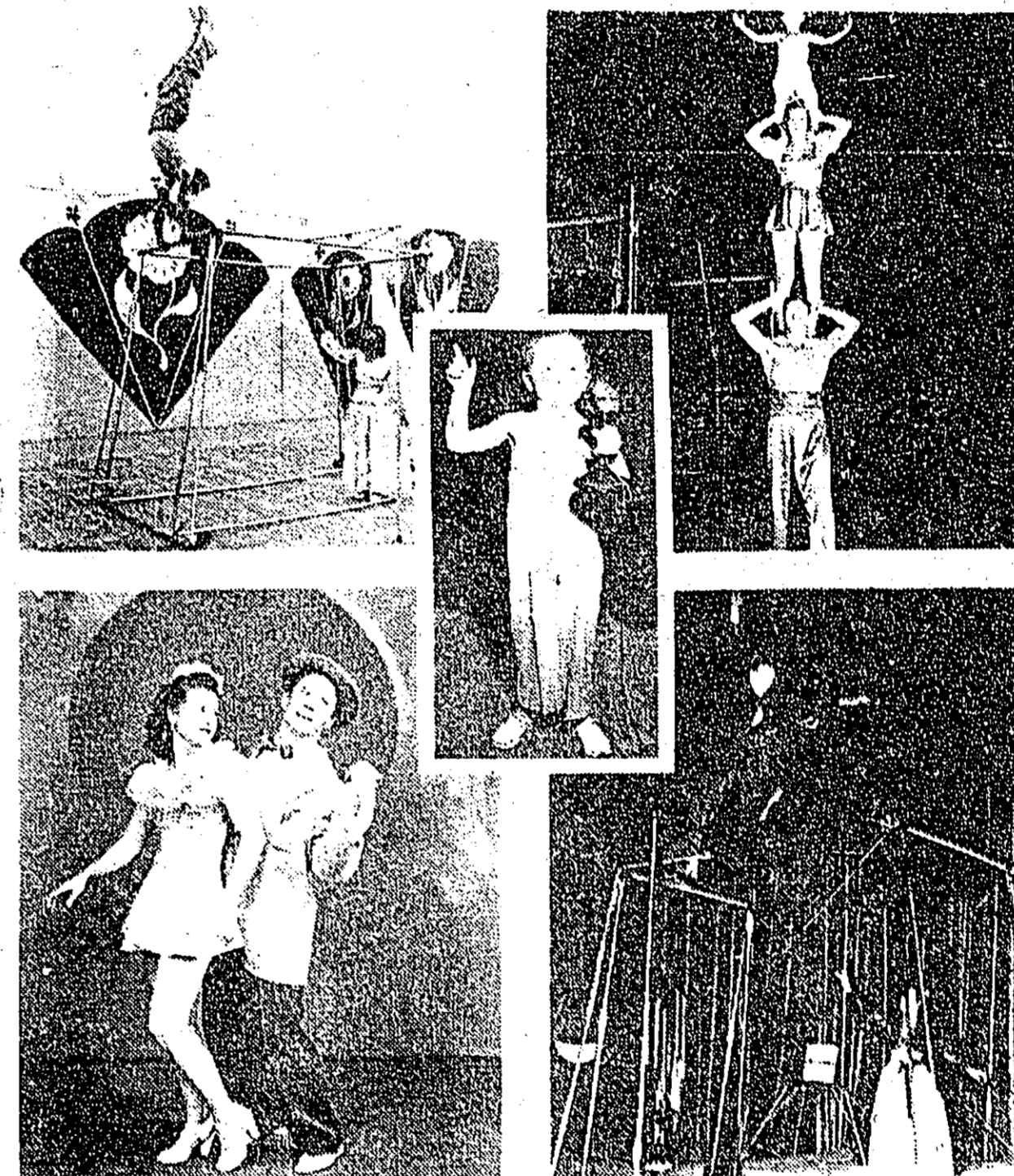
Vol. 1 — No. 25

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

September 3, 1954

Membership Votes To Accept Recommendations

The Heerdinks



Pictured above is another top entertainment treat engaged by the Activities Committee for the Field Day, Sept. 12.

The Heerdinks present one of the funniest comedy bar acts seen in the East. Skillfully executed and attractively costumed, it is packed with hundreds of laughs.

Their record in show business includes an appearance on the Ed Sullivan TV show. Don't miss this one!

Lawyers' Convention in Boston Attended by Local 301 Attorney

Leon Novak, Local 301 lawyer, is attending a convention of 1500 lawyers meeting in Boston this week to discuss the problems of injured workers in compensation cases. Lawyers who specialize in representing injured workers will discuss not only the legal questions which face the injured worker in getting adequate benefits for his injury but will also listen to distinguished doctors, specialists and surgeons on the medical aspects of compensation cases.

When questioned about the role lawyers play in understanding medical matters, Mr. Novak stated,

(Continued on Page 4)

The membership of IUE-CIO, Local 301 voted last week to accept the recommendations of the National Negotiations Committee. The meetings were held in the plant by departments and groups. The Executive Board Members, who were

Building Trade Groups Protest Jurisdiction

The Building Trade Groups have been complaining about department maintenance people doing work that is normally Building Trade work.

The issue has been raised with management many times in the past and individual cases have been corrected. However, because of the lack of rules to establish a dividing line, Department Supervisors have from time to time allowed work to be done that belonged to tradesmen.

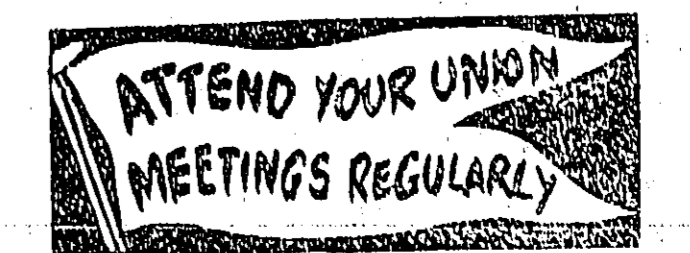
Local management has instructed department heads not to exceed what they call regular practices; in other words, not to exceed what they have been doing for years.

This instruction to departments is not satisfactory because department heads will claim that whatever is being done at present has been the practice.

The issue of job jurisdiction becomes more sharp when work slows down, and everyone is interested in obtaining as much work as possible. We find some foremen going out of their department to select work that is not similar to the work usually done by the group. In some cases these jobs are definitely Building Trade work.

Likewise, department heads are farming out some maintenance work to outside contractors that could logically be done by local Building Tradesmen.

The union has requested a meeting with the management in the hope of working out a satisfactory solution to this problem.



responsible for conducting the vote, reported that while the members in most instances approved the recommendation to accept, there was considerable dissatisfaction expressed with regard to the Company's refusal to meet the needs of the GE workers and their contract demands.

One of the most important issues that was not satisfactorily resolved was the displacement of jobs due to the Company's de-centralization program. This issue revolves around a question in Schenectady as to whether several thousand men and women will lose their jobs in the next year or two. The Company's plans for moving the Industrial Control Department out of Schenectady still holds, as it does for the Industrial Heating Department.

Moreover, the Company has not given satisfactory assurance that those displaced people will be absorbed by bringing new work into Schenectady to take the place of the work being transferred out. However, the Union has notified the Company that this matter was still active on our agenda, and we would continue to oppose the trans-

(Continued on Page 4)

NOTICE
SHOP STEWARDS
MEMBERSHIP
JOINT
MEETING
Monday, Sept. 20, 1954
2nd Shift
1:30 P.M.
1st and 3rd Shifts
7:30 P.M.
IUE-CIO HALL
301 LIBERTY STREET
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK
• Reports of Committees
• Regular Order of Business

Executive Board Member's Signature Required On Future Grievances

During the N.L.R.B. Campaign of four months, the Local Union was obliged to discontinue the regular procedure of handling grievances because recognition was withdrawn by the Company during that period. Members of the Union were obliged to take up their grievances under the individual designation method, whereby Shop Stewards and individuals were proceeding in a hodge-podge way, doing the best they could in getting the complaints straightened out.

Turbine Department Heads Provoke Trouble

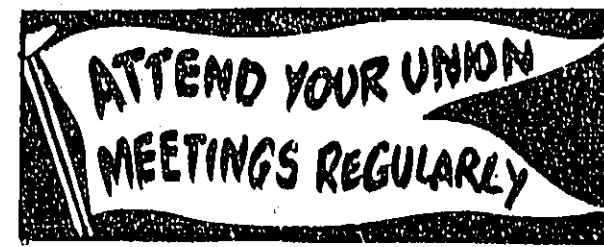
The Turbine Department Heads are trying hard to keep their record of having more labor trouble than any other department in the plant. As we go to press, a hassle is in progress in the Bucket Milling Department, whereby the Supervision is insisting that an employee make what is considered an unsafe lift. The piece on the job involved weighs 61 pounds. The nature of the lift because of the necessity of reaching makes it most precarious.

In order to avoid labor trouble one man was helping another until Management in Bldg. 41 could be convinced of Turbine supervision's unreasonableness. Supervision was not satisfied, however, and insisted the job be done with one man. The result was that the operator has now strained his back and cannot work on the job at all. Yet supervision still insists the job be done with one man! How unreasonable can they get?

All of these steps must be executed and each one has a purpose designed to help settle the complaint satisfactorily.

The fourth step is very important because a justified complaint in one group, if not settled, automatically becomes an issue affecting other union members in the department, and eventually if not settled, affects every union member in the plant. Therefore, the Executive Board Member in your section who is responsible for all union members in a given location must become a party to any grievance going beyond the foreman's level, if it is to be expected to have the fullest support of all Union members. Many Stewards have been short-circuiting the Executive Board Member and have been sending these grievances directly to Union Headquarters. If the grievance becomes a serious issue in these instances, the membership in the department is ignorant of and isolated from the facts in the case.

In the future, therefore, the Union Office will return any grievance referred by a Shop Steward, unless the signature of the Executive Board Member appears on it.

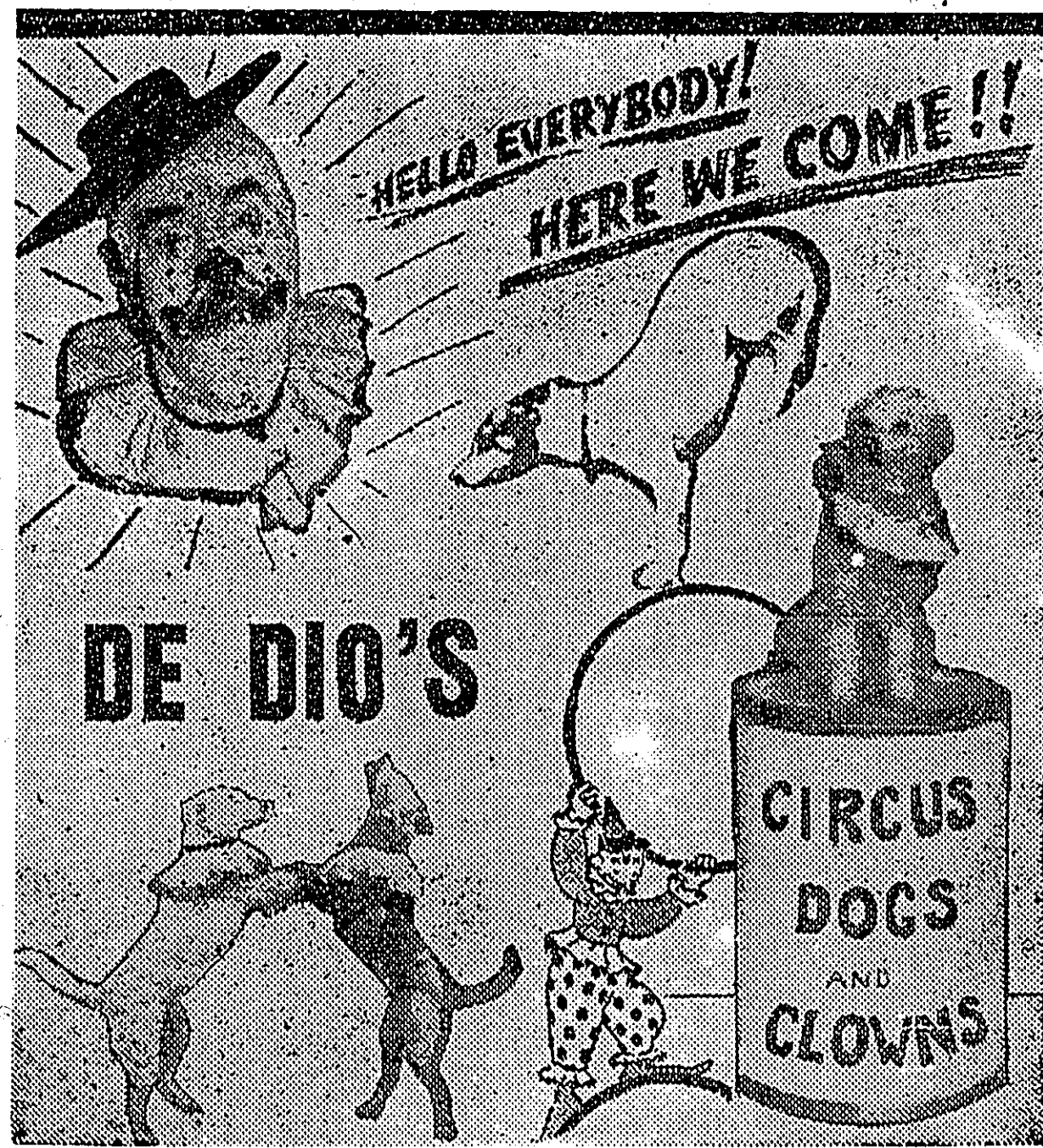


Play Ball!



The probable starting hurlers for the Field Day's Little League All Star game are shown above. Art DeSarbo is on the left from the Patrucci's, Bellevue League and "Bucky" Kasowski from IUE-CIO, Local 301, Northside League. In the sectional playoffs, Bellevue defeated Northside 3-2 in extra innings making for keen competitions in this return match. Game time Sept. 12 — 1:00 P.M.!

Canton, Ohio—The United Steelworkers have reached a contract agreement covering 250 Timken Roller Bearing Workers at St. Thomas, Ont. The past grants pay increases ranging from 3½ to 25 cents hourly.



IUE-CIO 301 On the Job

Bldg. 28: Rose Santora has been laid off for lack of work. She has approximately 11 years of service and has not been offered a suitable job.

Bldg. 28: John Carey, an inspector Class A, has returned to work after an illness. He has not been offered a suitable job. He has 13 years of service.

Bldg. 46: Chester Stanek has approximately 12 years of service. He has been out of work several months due to ill health. The employment office has refused to place him.

Bldg. 60: Group under Steward Milkins demand recall of a tool setter previously laid off since there is now work for this classification.

Bldg. 60: D. Albanese requests payment for waiting time on 8/9 which was lost before he was told to report to Foreman Willocks by Foreman Kehrer.

Bldg. 64: P. Ferro has been laid off her job because of lack of work. She has approximately 9 years of service and has not been offered a suitable job.

Bldg. 68: Group under Steward Di Nicola protest inadequate wash room space and time allotted. Union demands management correct foreman's attempt at intimidation in this matter.

Bldg. 77: The group working under foreman Maddoloni are requesting the company to supply them with proper safety equipment to protect their health.

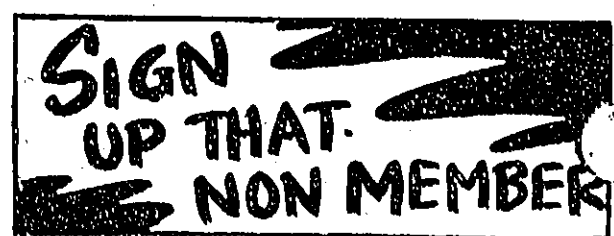
Bldg. 89: Jean Gajewski has been laid off for lack of work. She has approximately 11 years of service. She has not been offered a suitable job.

Bldg. 105: The Group working under Foreman Bielecki are complaining because of lack of Crane Service. The present crane operator is assigned to Bldg. 105 and Bldg. 85 platform.

Bldg. 269: Locomotive job #051-4258 was time studied and new price set which is inadequate. Shop Steward Siudy's group demand time study according to Contract.

Bldg. 273: Group under Steward Keenan protest unfair work assignment in relation to other shifts. Low rated jobs are marked "rush" and then by-passed on other shifts. Union demands management correct this situation.

Bldg. 273: F. Longe and J. Ryan, both with 11 years' service, have received notice of lack of work and have only been offered lower rated jobs. Union demands comparable offer.



IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301, REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY GE WORKERS

Published by the Editorial Committee
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Value of Field Day Prizes for September 12 Totals Over \$2,500.00

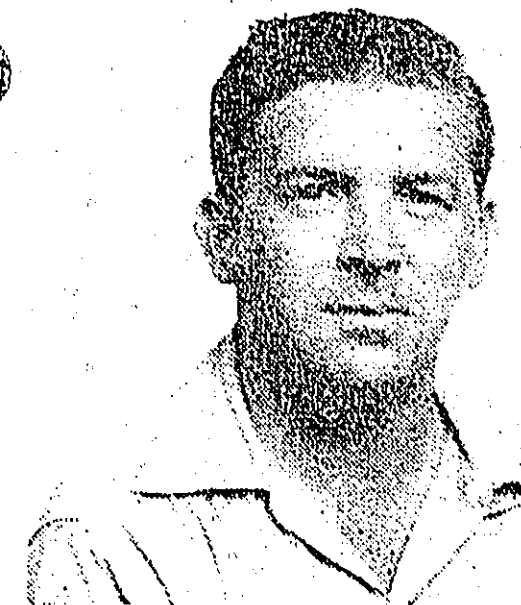
Listed below are the prizes to be awarded at Local 301's Field Day on Sunday, Sept. 12, at Republican Park, Rotterdam Rd.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 11 cu. ft. Freezer | Vacuum Cleaner |
| G.E. Electric Range | Reclining Chair |
| 11 foot Aluminum Boat | Set of Dishes |
| Outboard Motor | 9-pc. Revere Ware Set |
| Automatic Shotgun and Hunting Outfit | Electric Blanket |
| Revere Movie Projector | Set of Aluminum Ware |
| Set of Golf Clubs | Home Utility Set |
| Portable Sewing Machine | 100 Gallons of Gasoline |
| \$100.00 Clothes Certificate for Woman | Vanity Set |
| \$100.00 Clothes Certificate for Man | Bowling Ball and Bag |
| Power Lawn Mower | Clock Radio |
| Set of Silver | Sandwich Grill |
| Mixmaster | Steam Iron |
| | Membership in AAA (Auto Club) |

The retail value of these prizes totals over \$2,500. You need not be present to win. There will be an additional gate prize of \$125.00 for children under 12 years.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW AT 3 FOR 50 CENTS FROM YOUR SHOP STEWARD.

Job Rate Increased Seniority Enforced



Mary Enright, Bldg. 29, was laid off for lack of work although she had more service than others in the group.

Shop Steward S. Pasquariello filed a written grievance protesting this violation of Contract. The case was taken to Bldg. 41 and management has corrected this violation so that Sister Enright remained on her job, Finish Mica Parts.

Shop Steward F. Plominski was a part of the Union team that negotiated with management for a one step increase in job rate for Charles Hatlee of Bldg. 81.

Brother Hatlee, classified as Test Checker 1.86 J.R. was assigned new duties involving inspection of panels. Management has now agreed to increase this job rate to 1.925 with retroactive adjustment to 5/3/54.

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.

Unemployed German Receives Higher Benefits Than U. S. Jobless

Cost-of-Living Continues to Rise

Washington—The cost-of-living continued its slow but steady rise as the Department of Labor reports that the Consumer Price Index in American cities was 0.1 per cent higher in July than June.

The biggest increase was in the area which hits the workingman the hardest, food prices. These increased 0.7 per cent. Indexes for housing, medical care, personal care, and reading and recreation also rose slightly during the month. These increases were offset, in part, by a 1.7 per cent decrease in transportation and a drop of 0.2 per cent in apparel prices.

The new increase continues a small but steady climb of 0.1 per cent each month for the last three months. It marks a definite reversal of a trend announced by President Eisenhower last October that the cost of living was flattening out. The higher cost of living brings a one-cent an hour increase to one million auto workers, railroad workers and millions of other workers whose union contracts included escalator clauses.

In Detroit, CIO President Walter Reuther, whose Auto Workers were among those with escalator clauses in their contracts, blasted the cost-of-living rise: "This merely enables these workers to keep up with mounting living costs. No amount of slick slogans or pious political platitudes can effectively camouflage the tragic results of the Republican Administration aiding big business at the expense of the great majority of the American people."

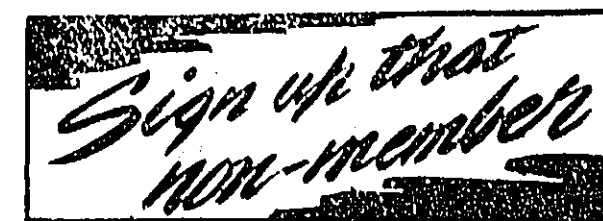
Cleveland—The average unemployed worker in Western Germany receives proportionally higher unemployment benefits than the jobless worker in the United States, two West Germany government officials observed in a visit to Cleveland.

In West Germany, they said, if a worker is discharged after one year on the job he can draw up to 70 per cent of 116 marks a week for 26 weeks. This is \$30 in American currency but worth almost \$60 in comparative purchasing power. The plan is jointly financed by the worker and employer.

In contrast, an Ohio worker with two dependents who loses a job received \$30 a week for 2½ weeks, and unemployment benefits in Ohio are among the highest in the nation.

The two German visitors were Walter Bruechters, Dusseldorf, personnel manager of the State Employment Service, North Rhine, Westphalia, which includes the Ruhr, and Karl Gengler, a member of the Bonn parliament.

They are on a tour around the U. S. sponsored by the Office of International Affairs of the U. S. Department of Labor.



P.W. Price Increased

When supervision in Bldg. 29 changed from 4LDP Mica to 4BP Mica on the 131-B sheet job, they set a price of 18.75 per C-sheets.

Shop Steward A. Brunetti filed a written grievance for the group protesting this inadequate price. The case was processed through to management at Bldg. 41 where a new price of 23.00 per C sheets was negotiated.

