

LOCAL 301 NEWS

NOVEMBER - 1962

Vol. 9, No. 46 The Voice of G.E. Workers, Local 301 Nov. 16, 1962.

FOUNDRY CASE RESOLVED

Last week Local 301 News printed an article concerning a case in the Foundry Department involving 1st shift Shop Steward, Ralph Luft.

To recap briefly, an argument ensued when Luft attempted to elicit information from 3rd shift Foreman Prevette regarding an incident which had occurred during the night.

Shop Steward Luft was informed by supervision that he was suspended indefinitely because of the argument he had with the foreman.

Management withdrew the penalty after a meeting with Union representatives; however, they imposed a lesser one, the loss of a day's pay. The Union negotiators took a position that even this was unjustified and unreasonable.

Last week's article stated that as we went to press, the Union was negotiating with the Company in an effort to arrive at a satisfactory settlement. This has been achieved and all penalties have been removed.

LEST WE FORGET

Sometimes Union members seem to forget the value and importance of having a well organized Union.

To illustrate our point, let us go back to the days of the old G.E. Pension Plan prior to the existence of Local 301. Workers who retired in those days were faced with a gloomy future because pension benefits were meagre and inadequate. In almost all cases they were not even given enough to provide for the necessities of life, and retirement, therefore, at 65 was out of the question.

The Schenectady G.E. workers complained about the inadequacy of the plan but no one took any interest to better their lot.

(Cont'd. Reverse Side)

LOCAL 301 MEMBERS TO NOMINATE OFFICERS

Members of Local 301 will at the regular membership meeting on Monday, November 19, 1962, nominate candidates for the twelve offices in our Local.

Nominations will be for the following officers: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Asst. Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Chief Steward, Business Agent, three Trustees, Sergeant-at-Arms and Guide.

Eligibility requirements in compliance with Article XVIII of our Local Constitution have been posted on bulletin boards throughout the G.E. Works.

There will also be nominations and election of twenty-five (25) members to the Election Committee. Five (5) to be elected from the 2nd shift and twenty (20) from the 1st and 3rd shifts. To be eligible, a member must be in good standing and not a candidate for any office in the coming election.

The duties and responsibilities of the Election Committee consist of supervising, conducting and determining the time, place and date of the election.

Adhering to past practice, every effort will be made to obtain voting machines for the balloting. Our members will have thirty (30) consecutive hours in which to cast their vote.

NOTICE

MEMBERSHIP-STEWARDS MEETING

Monday, Nov. 19, 1962
2nd shift.....1:30 p.m.
1st & 3rd.....7:30 p.m.

Nominations of Officers
Report of Delegates - Dist. #3
Regular Order of Business

Union Auditorium-121 Erie Blvd.

LEST WE FORGET (Cont'd.)

When Social Security came into being, the Company further displayed their callousness and disregard for the retired worker by taking away the full benefits to which he was entitled under the G.E. Plan.

They would pay a retiring worker the difference between the monthly benefits allotted under Social Security and what he would have received under the provisions of the G.E. Pension Plan.

For example: If a worker's Social Security benefits were to be \$40.00 per month and his benefits under the G.E. Plan \$36.00, the Company would only pay the difference or \$4.00 per month.

Some workers were receiving G.E. Pension checks amounting to CENTS. The Union Office has on display as evidence a check in the amount of 4 CENTS which was issued in 1932 to a former employee.

These conditions changed rapidly with the advent of Local 301. For the past 25 years, Local 301 has been in the forefront fighting for improvements in Pension benefits. As a result, G.E. workers have one of the best Pension Plans in the country. An employee can now retire with some measure of security and dignity in his old age. However, Local 301 feels that there is still plenty of room for improvement.

The Schenectady Plant is one of the oldest establishments in the G.E. Chain. Consequently, we have a greater number of workers retiring. Therefore, your Local's officers will continue to press for further improvements in the Pension Plan in the forthcoming contract negotiations.

IT PAYS TO BELONG

A Local 301 member, laid off several months ago, realizes the advantages of belonging to a Union.

Approximately 8 months ago, an Aircraft Mechanic working out at Flight Test was laid off. The Company did not offer him any other job.

Recently he discovered that two Aircraft Mechanics with less service had been reemployed and placed on Test jobs.

The worker immediately went to the Company's Employment Office and applied for a job. He was politely told that there was no work available for him.

He then decided to use the services of his Union. The member disclosed the facts in his case in an interview with Ass't. Bus. Agent Townsend. The facts as presented convinced Townsend that the man had a justifiable complaint.

A formal grievance was initiated in behalf of the member, charging the Company with discrimination in refusing to consider the man for a job while rehiring men with less service.

The Company still maintained their position of no suitable work available; however, the Union continued to hammer away and finally succeeded in placing the member on a Test job.

If the employee had not been a member of our Union, chances are he would still be out on the street losing hundreds of dollars a month.

The facts in this case should give us all food for thought.

LOCAL 301 MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN RELIEF & LOAN PLAN

Many of our members apparently are not aware that there is a Relief & Loan Plan operating in the plant and that they are eligible to join.

The plan has been in existence for many years. Its purpose is to render financial assistance to the participating members in time of need.

Benefits under the plan provide for the borrowing of a sum of money up to \$200.00 without interest charges. The plan also makes an outright grant of \$240.00 without any strings to a member who is in real need of financial help and has no other way of obtaining aid. The plan is administered by a Board of Directors consisting of five members of Local 301 and a like number from the salary group plus a chairman. To be eligible for membership, a worker agrees to pay the sum of \$6.00 over a period of one year. Payroll deducts 50 cents a month. The member becomes a full fledged participant when he has paid \$6.00 in the plan and is then entitled to all benefits. We feel that the benefits derived by participants of the Relief & Loan Plan are worth the money invested. Any interested member should contact a representative of the plan located in his area. Local 301 members on Board of Directors are: Luke Green, #273; Howard Plummer, #273; George Fagal, #16; Roy Cannice, #52; James Cognetta, #52.