

# LOCAL 301 NEWS

## IUE AFL-CIO

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### DENIAL OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS APPEALED

#### GE-IUE REPRESENTATIVES MEET IN WASHINGTON

A meeting of representatives of the major G.E.-IUE Locals was held at the National Office in Washington, D.C., this past Wed., February 8th, to discuss current problems arising from the new contract provisions and also to consider other local organizational matters.

Benjamin Sigal, General Counsel for the National IUE, gave his legal interpretations on several aspects of the application of the new provisions in the contract affecting the Extension Aid Program.

Conditions of uniform application in each Local were considered for the purpose of developing recommendations to the G.E. Conference Board.

Attending the meeting were: John Callahan, Chairman of the Conference Board; Frank Fiorillo, Secretary; Benjamin Sigal, General Counsel, and Dave Lasser, Research Director.

Representatives from Pittsfield, Mass.; Louisville, Kentucky; Tell City, Indiana; Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and Schenectady, N.Y., were present.

A snow storm that practically closed down Washington made it impossible for representatives from Lynn, Mass.; Syracuse, N.Y.; Cleveland, Ohio, and Anniston, Alabama, to be present, according to John Callahan, Chairman of the Conference Board.

John Shambo and Leo Jandreau represented IUE Local 301.

#### MEMBERSHIP-STEWARDS MEETING

February 20, 1961

2nd shift..... 1:00 p.m.  
1st & 3rd..... 7:30 p.m.  
Election of G.E. Conference Board  
Delegates

Approximately 80 employees of the Schenectady General Electric Company have been represented at an unemployment insurance hearing by attorney Harvey Diamond, who has been retained by Local 301 in their behalf.

These employees had been given a lack of work slip effective the week of October 2, 1960, and were scheduled to return to work on October 10, 1960. They filed their claims for Unemployment Insurance benefits for this period but were denied them by the local unemployment division on the grounds they were disqualified as of October 6, 1960, the day the strike started. We contend that had not the strike started on October 6, 1960, there would have been no work available for these employees until October 10, 1960, and, therefore, their claims for the week involved should be sustained.

When the claims were denied, Harvey Diamond filed an appeal and used two contentions...one was that the employees involved should be given credit for the entire week, and, secondly, that should the first contention be denied, the 7th of October, and not the 6th, should be the day the suspension should start. The referee denied the first, basing his decision on a case which was decided in 1951, by the Appeals Board, but sustained the second contention.

We have filed an appeal with the Appeals Board on the denial of our first contention, as we contend that the 1951 decision was wrong to begin with. The Industrial Commissioner has filed an appeal on the referee's granting the employees the date of October 7, 1960, instead of October 6, 1960.

The reason we filed the second contention is that using the date of October 7th, instead of the 6th, may grant some employees who were establishing their waiting period week, the full week's credit for a waiting period and if a claimant already had his waiting period established, he could be entitled to 1/4 benefits for the week involved.  
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DENIAL OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS  
(Cont'd)

Because the Industrial Commissioner has filed an appeal on the second contention, any benefits to which the claimants could be entitled to will probably be held up awaiting the outcome of the appeals.

You will be further advised when we receive the decision of the Appeals Board.

REPORT ON CIVIL RIGHTS MEETING

A meeting was held in Wash., D.C., on February 6th and 7th, to discuss civil rights and the action that the IUE should take to aid in the solution of these problems. David Gunn, who is the Chairman of the Legislative Committee of Dist. #3, attended this meeting.

Mildred Moore from Syracuse, N.Y., who is Civil Rights Chairman for District #3, also attended the conference.

The Platform drawn up for the IUE Civil Rights Program is as follows:

1. Insure the absence of all discrimination or prejudice in the operation of local unions.
2. Persuade employers to adopt non-discriminatory policies in hiring, layoffs, seniority, promotions, etc.
3. Incorporate non-discriminatory clauses in all IUE contracts.
4. Establish active civil rights committees in every IUE Local and District.
5. Cooperate fully with other civil rights and anti-discriminatory organizations of democratic character.

At the legislative portion of the conference, Democratic Senator Hubert Humphrey, from Minnesota, addressed the delegates on the Distressed Areas Bill...in his opinion this bill should have been passed three years ago and he said that he felt it would be passed in this session of Congress. He further predicted that the bill which will provide health care for the aged, with the Social Security program providing the financing, would be passed by early summer. Senator Humphrey also took a strong stand for the \$1.25 minimum wage, and feels that \$50.00 a week is still sub-standard for the American worker.

Senator Humphrey's attitude was refreshing to the delegates because

ANOTHER FIRST -----  
ADDITIONAL PAID HOLIDAY

For the first time, Local 301 members will not lose 20% of their wages because of being forced to observe a holiday without pay.

In previous years we were obliged to observe either Washington's or Lincoln's birthdays in February, with a resulting 20% loss in pay for the week. Through the new contract, signed in October of 1960, each Local negotiates the day to be observed and paid for. Because Lincoln's Birthday falls on Sunday, February 12th, and will be observed on Monday, February 13th, we felt that our members would rather have a long weekend than to celebrate Washington's Birthday which falls on a Wednesday, February 22nd.

Because of the additional paid holiday, each employee will receive an increase in yearly wages. For example, \$16.64 for R-10 Utilityman, and \$27.44 for an R-25 Toolmaker. A night worker's increase would be 10% higher.

BOARD MEETING POSTPONED

Because of the observance of Lincoln's Birthday on Monday, Feb. 13th, the regularly scheduled Executive Board meeting will not be held. The next scheduled Board meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 27th.

Should any emergency arise, a special Executive Board meeting will be called and the Board Members individually notified.

UNEMPLOYMENT STILL ON INCREASE

The N.Y. State Dept. of Labor estimated that the unemployed in the Albany-Schenectady-Troy area is now 19,000 as of Dec. 1960. We believe that the 19,000 estimate is very conservative as there is no accurate way of determining how many people have exhausted their Unemp. Ins., and those not covered by Unemp. Ins. plus high school graduates who have not been able to obtain a job due to the serious lack of work situation.

the bills he mentioned have long been a goal of Organized Labor. We feel that although action in these fields has been long overdue, Senator Humphrey, by being Assistant Majority Leader in the Senate, will do his utmost to further legislation that will provide the working man with protection by law of matters regarding his health and general welfare.