

LOCAL-301 NEWS

IUE-ATL-CIO

Vol. 8, No. 15 The Voice of G.E. Workers, Local 301 April 7, 1961.

"FOULED-UP" GRAPEVINE

Last week's "Works News" published a complaint from a worker to the effect that he was disgusted with the results of majority rule, as it affects elections of Shop Stewards.

His views were distorted and not factual....apparently he was either not a Union member or a practicing one, or he would have made his complaint at a Union meeting when others with some knowledge of the problem could have had the opportunity to discuss this question.

FACTS ON THE 13-WEEK EXTENSION ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE by Allen E. Townsend

Recently the Federal Government voted a 13-week extension of benefits to certain people who have exhausted their unemployment benefits. Last week the State made the necessary arrangements for the unemployed of N.Y.-State to avail themselves of these additional benefits. I have been in contact with the local Unemployment Office and they have given me the following information:

Anyone who has exhausted his unemployment benefits since June 26, 1960, would be eligible to get the additional benefits. This means that anyone who exhausted his benefits prior to June 26, 1960, would not be eligible to get any additional benefits.

People out on pension would only be able to collect the difference between their pension and unemployment insurance if the unemployment insurance amounted to more than their pension. In other words, there would be no payment to any pensioner who is collecting a larger amount of pension than what the unemployment insurance payment would be.

According to the Unemployment Office, eligible people can start to sign for these new benefits as of Monday, April 10, 1961.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Monday, April 10th, at 7:30 p.m.

Officers will meet at 6:00 p.m.

This employee chose to call upon the Works Manager for advice and relief....naturally he was offered sympathy. The gist of the Manager's remarks, which in our opinion made sense, was to take a more active interest in your Union. However, he failed to point out some of the factual reasons why a Shop Steward may be on the job, with less service.

1. The GE-IUE Contract, which represents a solemn agreement between the Company and the Union that a Shop Steward with 6 months or more of service shall be entitled to layoff deferment.

A. He must be elected by secret ballot by a majority of those employees he represents.

B. Those employees represented by him have the opportunity to elect another person at any time if a majority signs a petition requesting an election.

The Manager also failed to point out that the Company has rules and practices that make exceptions to seniority, which are not embodied in contracts and are applied in a very flexible manner depending upon the circumstances. Employees are returning from non-bargaining jobs, not because they are the shortest service employees in the group, but because they have longer service than employees in the bargaining group and the contract provides bumps. Seniority has been ignored in these cases. Foremen have been returned to employee status and not on a seniority basis.

Short service employees in the bargaining unit have been receiving super-seniority by the Company
(cont'd. reverse side)

INDUSTRIAL PIRACY

After repeated denials by officials of the Borg Warner Corp., they finally admitted that plans have been made to close its Norge refrigerator plant in Muskegon, Michigan, and move into a new factory built for it at Greenwood, Arkansas.

It has been disclosed that the new plant will be financed by a tax-exempt bond issue of which the company purchased a large share. The move will be made this summer.

1,400 Norge production workers, who have invested a total of 21,043 years of their lives in the company's service, will be left behind. Three-fifths of them are over 40 years of age. There are 306 between the ages of 50 and 60 and 95 who are between 60 and 65.

This distressing news comes when their Union, AIW Local 404, is trying to negotiate a settlement on pensions, severance pay and transfer rights.

The move was facilitated by a law passed last year in Arkansas which permits local communities to issue bonds for construction of plants to attract new industries. The AIW officials see in the move a familiar pattern of lower wages, and with a new work force without years of seniority, sizeable savings to company on vacations and pensions.

Many thousands of workers from New England to Minnesota can testify that industrial piracy is a real and threatening fact today.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The Scholarship Fund Drive is now under way.

Shop Stewards and Executive Board Members are circulating petitions for contributions. Local 301 has sponsored two scholarships of \$1,000.00 each during the past two years. Please help to make this drive another success.

Applications for scholarships will be available starting April 10th. All applications must be filed with the Scholarship Committee by May 27, 1961.

Applications and literature on the "American College Fund Plan" are now available at the Union Office for Local 301 members.

"FOULED-UP" GRAPEVINE (Cont'd)

on the basis that their work is different and longer service employees have been denied application of their seniority to these jobs.

The Company refuses to give laid-off G.E. workers seniority consideration in other plants where they are hiring people who have never worked for G.E. before.

So, you can see, "Mr. Disgusted", actually the only place that you get any seniority recognition is within the Union's jurisdiction. You should look in a mirror and ask yourself a few questions.... for example:

1. Was I willing to run for a Steward's job when business was better and job security was not such an important factor?

2. Should we protect an elected Union representative provided he has done a good job, or does he outlive his usefulness when layoffs take place?

3. Have I received seniority benefits up until now, or has my group been isolated from lack of work?

4. What have I done to help make the Union more effective in resolving the problems of G.E. employees?

BASEBALL FANS

If you are interested in Double-Headers, you can reserve seats now by calling Schenectady Transportation Corp., 1335 Albany St., DI 6-1228.

April 16	Kansas City
May 14	Detroit
May 21	Baltimore
May 28	Chicago
June 11	Los Angeles
July 9	Boston
July 30	Baltimore
August 6	Minnesota
September 10	Cleveland

GOLFERS WANTED

Night shift employees who are interested in Tuesday morning League, please contact E. Zelazny, EL 5-0622.

League starts April 18, 1961.