



Local 301 Christmas Party a Success

The Local 301 Children's Christmas Party held on December 21st and 22nd, 1957, was very successful. The system this year was much improved over previous years since all the parents and children were allowed in the auditorium and did not have to stand outside in the cold weather.

Approximately 11,000 parents and children attended the party. There were 7,500 gifts and 3,700 lbs. of Christmas Candy given away. The left over candy was distributed equally between St. Clare's Hospital, Ellis Hospital and Sunnyview Hospital in time for Christmas.

Union Lawyer Asked to Speak by Workmen's Compensation Board

The Chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board, Miss Angela R. Parisi, has invited Local 301 Lawyer, Leon Novak, to address, as a member of a panel, representatives from sixteen upstate Counties at an Institute sponsored by the Board. The convention, which will deal with the Workmen's Compensation Law, will take place in Albany on January 22 and 23.

In the letter inviting Mr. Novak to participate, the Chairman, Miss Parisi stated:

"Your participation will bring to those attending the meeting the benefit of your years of experience and familiarity with the Law and how it operates.

I hasten to convey my personal appreciation to you for your acceptance of our invitation, and to tell you how much I look forward to seeing you at the Institute next month."

Seniority Violation

The Union office has recently referred a case to the N. Y. level of the grievance procedure which involves the refusal of local management to allow a longer service employee to bump a shorter service employee where no breaking in time is involved. The complainant who has 6/13/43 service and has been working on a 30-hr. cleaning job has been informed by the Company that her last day of work is 1/3/58.

According to management, there are 4 shorter service girls in Bldg. 273, on 20-hr. cleaning:

- #1—6/16/43
- #2—6/24/43
- #3—6/24/43
- #4—7/5/43

We have also been informed that in Bldg. 273, there are two more girls with 7/8/43 and 7/13/43 service. As we go to press, none of these employees have been given a lack of work notice, and the Union feels that this is a violation of the contract under Article XI, Sect. 1.

Management has been informed that the complainant in the case was unfortunate enough to be out ill for 9 months, returning to work in September of 1957. She had run over the allowance on sick benefits and has accumulated many debts as a result of being sick. She also hasn't the necessary 20 weeks of coverage for Unemployment Insurance and as she is self-supporting, it will mean a serious financial crisis for her. To this a representative of management replied that it was not his fault and G.E. has a business to run and that he would not place her in Bldg. 273. If by violating the contract and treating long service employees as shabbily as possible is running a business, this Company representative is a huge success.

Do Unions Get Too Much?

By ALFRED BAKER LEWIS
Executive Director, National Businessmen's Council

The ability of big money, operating through control of the one-party press and the other mass media of communication, like television and radio, to mislead public opinion, is extremely dangerous. If almost anyone outside the ranks of organized labor were asked what is the cause of inflation, they would be likely to blame it on the demands of organized labor because of the propaganda and statements to this effect which are constantly publicized in most newspapers.

But the facts are different.

According to the figures published in a Special Supplement on the New York Stock Exchange put out by the Herald Tribune in 1957, the companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange paid \$8,340,000,000 in dividends in 1956. This figure is not tremendous. But we must remember that not all companies have their stocks listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Also, well-managed companies usually plow back into increased capital assets a good part of their net profits rather than declaring them as dividends. Bearing these facts in mind, the dividend figure is impressive.

But the trend is even more impressive. Cash dividends paid by the so-called big board companies increased over a 10-year period by 156%, going up from \$3,250,000,000 in 1947 to the \$8,340,000,000 figure already given for 1956. (The figures are not precisely comparable, because the companies involved were not exactly the same, but the distortion is not great.)

This 156% increase for the owners of industry compared with an increase of only 77% in the gross national product in that time. Thus the owners of industry gained twice as much proportionately as did the rest of the community, in addition to a great increase in the value of their stock holdings.

Clearly it was not wages that were increasing too fast. The profits of the big companies were increasing far faster than wages, or than the total output of goods and services.

The fact is that the big companies, for it is the bigger ones that are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, have been able to increase the prices and their profits faster than the increase in the wages that they paid, and yet have been able to make far too many people believe that the increase in prices was due to the allegedly exorbitant demands of organized labor.

The crass selfishness of the representatives of big business is well illustrated by another article in that same Special Supplement on the Stock Exchange. Despite the far greater increase in dividends than in the proportion of the national product going to other groups in our economy, the New York Stock Exchange managers felt that the owners of industry should be given special tax relief. An article on the front page of the Special Supplement referred to, headed "Tax Laws Hit As Burden On Investors", attacked the personal income tax on dividends and the capital gains tax. The article stated:—"The New York Stock Exchange has taken a critical look at existing tax laws in order to measure their effect on the investment climate and on the nation's capacity for growth. These laws, especially those concerned with dividend taxation and capital gains, 'imposed some awesome burdens on the investing public', according to Keith Funston, President of the Exchange."

The article went on to advocate relief from income taxes on dividends and a reduction in the rate and holding period governing capital gains taxes. "The re-shaping of the tax laws is necessary to provide incentives for investing. . . . The effect of the capital gains tax is to check the impulse to venture and to gain. . . . As a solution, the Exchange says the most constructive and permanent step that could be taken is the elimination of the capital gains tax."

Reading this article, one would think that big business was really suffering. Yet the owners of big business gained in dividends twice as fast as the increase in our total output. Furthermore, under the Eisenhower Administration, the owners of industry did get very special tax treatment. For they gained abolition of the excess profits tax, and special income tax credit for dividend receivers. What more can they want?

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (PAI)—A lot of things have been happening here but among the least publicized has been a training institute to develop better union officers.

The program was organized by Local 698, Amalgamated Clothing Workers. Said one of the 25 officers and members attending: "With this campaign against unions going on now, we've got to know more about our union than ever before."

LOCAL 301 NEWS

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Subcontracting and Laying Off Is Company Policy

In a six page "Operating Instruction Letter" sent to Supervision in the Large Steam Turbine Dept., the Department Management outlined in detail the instructions and procedures pertaining to the farming out of work to outside contractors.

The letter was dated 1/16/58 and stated as its purpose the following — Because of production requirements and lack of capacity on certain types of equipment, it was deemed advisable to subcontract work which had been planned for manufacture within this Dept.

This letter, instructing and encouraging work to be shipped outside of GE was issued in the face of continuing daily lay-offs of workers, and in the face of 5000 factory workers having been laid off in the past three years.

The "Operating Instruction Letter" to the supervisors pointed out that the out of town contractors should be requested to come to the Turbine Dept. to review the work in process and submit quotations. The letter even grants permission for a subcontractor to turn around and subcontract the order he receives to a secondary subcontractor. The selection of the work to be subcontracted will be made by the Shop Superintendent, the General Foreman, or the Manager in charge of an area in the shop. The cost of such outside contracting will be left to the Methods, Planning and Time Standards Dept. The Purchasing Dept. will establish the accepted price, which will be used to negotiate with a subcontractor.

UNION GETS A WINK

Exactly five lines of the six page printed document are devoted to Union Relations. We quote: "Agreement with the Employee Relations Section provides that they are to be notified when negotiations for subcontracting are being carried on with outside sources. The Purchasing component will notify the Employee Relations Section of such action on Form "B", entitled "Production to be Farmed Out". Negotiations, however, will proceed unless the Purchasing component is requested to delay or discontinue."

This is a typical example of General Electric's responsibility and attitude to the GE workers, and to the economic welfare of our community. This is a typical example of the Code of Ethics followed by Big Business. Wherever the lowest cost manufacture, regardless of wage levels or decent working conditions, that is the criteria for producing the product. Further, whatever the consuming public will pay, that is the criteria for setting prices. The goal is for new record profits, regardless of whom it hurts. The community has been lulled to sleep with GE slogans and a constant barrage of publications. The Radio and TV have been constantly pouring GE propaganda into the homes of every family in our community. All of this is designed to represent GE as the Guardian Angel that hovers over the Community night and day, for the sole purpose of protecting, and providing for, the health and welfare of the Community and its citizens.

The purpose of the GE Public Relations Campaign is to provide so much pro-GE material, that the average citizen will not find time to observe, or give much thought to, the new Decentralized GE and its negative effects on the community. Just stop and think over some of the public statements made by GE officials over the past three years, and what these statements indicated, and then consider their private actions.

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NOTICE Executive Board Meeting

Monday, Jan. 27, 1958
7:30 P.M.

UNION HEADQUARTERS
121 Erie Blvd.

Coordinators Approved for 1958

At the January membership meetings which were attended by approximately 1,000 members of Local 301, the recommendation of the Executive Board to continue the Coordinators was adopted by overwhelming votes at both the afternoon and evening meetings.

The Coordinators were first established by the Executive Board in July of 1956. The need for Coordinators was brought about as the result of decentralization, whereby the management level of the grievance procedure had dissolved from a central location to the numerous departments. Coordinators were placed in the Large Steam Turbine, which employs nearly 5,000 members, and in the Motor Departments, which employ approximately 3,000 members. Experience in the two locations has proved that a closer liaison has been established between Board Members dealing with a single department management which has resulted in a more satisfactory expediting of grievances.

The present Coordinators are Ralph Vitale in the Steam Turbine Department and Bill Christman in the Small & Medium Motor Generator Departments.

IT PAYS TO
BELONG TO THE
UNION

NOTICE Membership and Stewards Meeting

Monday, Feb. 3, 1958

2nd Shift—1:00 p.m.
1st and 3rd Shifts—7:30 p.m.

AGENDA
Reports of Committees
Regular Order of Business

UNION AUDITORIUM
121 Erie Blvd.

