

Current Events in My Section

Docket #9228-58, filed on 11/13/58, in the Atomic Motor Section of the MAC Dept. protested that a Crane Operator was performing C1 A Crane Operator's work for C1 B rate. At the initial Step Two meeting with Board Members DeMarco, Wager, Coordinator Christman and Shop Steward Caruso negotiating for the Union, the Company after hearing all of our arguments in behalf of the C1 A rate asked for more time to check the points out that the Union had brought to their attention. Approximately three weeks later another Second Step meeting was held. At this meeting the Company made a paltry offer to pay this man the C1 A rate when he was making C1 A lifts and for the balance of the time C1 B rate. We refused this offer as we felt that this man was working a majority of his time on C1 A work. We also felt that past practice demands that he receive the C1 A rate for all the time on this job. At this point the Company requested a few more days to investigate further. A few days later the MAC Dept. called Union Headquarters and stated that they would increase the rate from C1 B to C1 A. They also agreed to pay this retroactive to the date the case was filed. This is a fine example of your Union in action protecting the interests of its workers.

Docket #9252-58 filed by Board Member Milkins, Bldg. 24, recently complained about Foreman Kastenmayer doing work normally done by Bargaining Unit people. Foreman Kastenmayer in his answer to the docket assured Board Member Milkins that this practice was wrong and wouldn't happen in the future. This in our opinion settled the case but a few days later Milkins complained that Foreman Kastenmayer was doing Bargaining Unit work again. At this point we arranged a Step Two Level meeting. At this meeting Foreman Kastenmayer's superiors assured the Union representative that they would prevent this foreman from doing Bargaining Unit work in the future.

Join Protest on Depot Closing

The Executive Board and Officers of Local 301 voted to join in the protest against the closing of the Scotia Naval Supply Depot. The Navy Department has set June 30th, 1959, as the closing date. Approximately 500 employees will be forced out of work as the result of this action.

The Federal Employees Association and the Amvets have requested that Local 301 join in the protest.

Union Members Win Compensation

A few of the cases of special interest which were handled by the union's lawyer in behalf of injured workers in the month of January are as follows:

The widow of Burt Charbonneau, and her children, were awarded compensation for the rest of her life and for her children while they are under 18 years of age due to the fact that her husband's death resulted from an accident in the plant. Charbonneau, who worked in Building 107, S R U, was injured on January 26th, 1955. After losing about 8 weeks from work he returned to his job but had a relapse on June 5th, 1958, and died on June 30th, 1958. Mrs. Charbonneau resides in Elmhurst with her three children. Payments to her and her children will be approximately \$1,500.00 per year in addition to her social security.

Joseph Barber, who worked as a boring mill operator in Building 273 was injured in 1955 when pulling on a wrench. Although he was retired on a disability pension on October 1st, 1958 for a disability which was not connected with his accident, an award was made to him for time he lost prior to his

pension but due to his injury.

In September 1957, John B. Smith who was working at the Knolls caught his hand between rollers while working as a metal processor. He lost the small finger of his left hand and part of the ring finger. An award was made to him for this injury and Smith is still protected for 18 years from the date of the accident if he should have further trouble with his hand.

Matthew Madej, a production follower in Building 269, injured his back in 1956 while lifting heavy material. A claim was filed for him by the union's lawyer although Madej was not losing time from work due to his injury. Toward the end of 1957, however, Madej had real trouble with his back and required hospitalization. Many hearings were held before a referee on the question of whether Madej's back trouble related to the accident of 1956. An award was then made to Madej for the time he lost from work. Madej has now returned to his job.

These, and many other cases, were handled by the union's lawyer in January, 1959 in behalf of injured workers.

Union Members Aid Family During Xmas

During the Christmas season the employees of the welded products section of large motor and generator division showed the true meaning of Christmas.

The Youth Division of the Schenectady Police Department contacted Board Members Cagnetta, Donato and Mastriani and told them of a family who were without proper food and clothing.

These Board Members in turn contacted their Shop Stewards who authorized these Board Members to take the necessary steps to alleviate this condition. The Board Members contacted the Youth Bureau and provided clothing for the children and food and also donated some personal gifts for the children.

This action was taken even though a number of these employees have suffered in their earnings because of the lack of work situation in the Schenectady Plant.

We think that these employees should be highly commended for this most worthy charitable action.

Protest Bloomfield Closing

The Officers and Executive Board of Local 301 voted unanimously to protest to the General Electric top brass the closing of the G.E. plant in Bloomfield, N. J., and moving the jobs to Tyler, Texas.

Employees with service up to 45 years will be forced out of work as a result of this move. The Executive Board voted to request the members of the IUE Local 301 to write individual protests to Mr. Ralph Cordiner, Chairman of the Board of Directors of G.E., pointing out that the closing down of the Bloomfield plant after 50 years of operation was unfair to these long service employees and to the community.

G.E. has announced the closing of a River Works Foundry in Lynn, Mass., which will displace several hundred employees. G.E. said they could buy castings cheaper elsewhere.

Sherry Thanks Local 301 For Christmas Gifts . . .

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drawn a picture of a bicycle. A prettily colored little girl was riding it. A notation said: Your group gave the children two bikes in 1952.

One note like this from a little girl in the Children's Home makes all the time and effort and money expended on Christmas festivities more than worth while.

Clip and send to:

Mr. Ralph Cordiner
Chairman of the Board
General Electric Co.
570 Lexington Ave.
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Cordiner:

We have read the "Bloomfield Story" as told by Local 552, International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, AFL-CIO, which represents your Bloomfield, N. J. workers. We believe that your abandonment of this plant is unfair to the Community and your long-service employees.

As a consumer of General Electric products, I protest this policy of running away to lower wage areas and urge you to retain the Bloomfield plant.

Sincerely,

Name _____

Address _____

Seniority Here Protects Jobs Better . . .

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the membership wide open to any kind of unfair layoffs the company deems practicable.

But at Local 301, the rigid seniority sections of the contract prohibit unfair layoffs and bumping and the close attention of what the contract calls for by the leadership makes sure the company adheres to every agreement.

Forand Bill Support Is Stepped Up . . .

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ly enough to pay general living costs without being able to pay for the exorbitant cost of hospitalization, surgical and medical care and general disabilities which older people are subject to."

He said the American Medical Association is supporting the bill despite opposition from big industry.

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE - AFL-CIO

February 27, 1959

THE SECOND FOREIGN FIRM WINS TURBINE CONTRACT FROM GENERAL ELECTRIC AREA STUNNED BY NEWS AS UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASES

Foreign competition took another deep bite into the economic well being of Schenectady this week when it was learned that a Swiss firm had under bid GE by \$5.5 million for two large steam turbines for Los Angeles.

It was the second time in two weeks the area was stunned by such news, the first when the Tennessee Valley Authority made a similar award to the British firm of Parsons and Company.

Ge has protested the contracts on the basis of national security. Local 301 and the union nationally have petitioned for hearings to the OCDM on the basis of security and employment and all political and civic leaders have voiced their concern over what could mean economic disaster for this area.

But TVA set the pattern and if the foreign orders continue, all hope will be removed for the anticipated increase in employment within the next few months and into 1960.

Concerning the Swiss award, it is significant to note that recently International Electric Company, a division of GE, set up a \$5.9 million subsidiary Company in Geneva, Switzerland, which now serves as headquarters for GE operations in Europe.

This, of course, would be in line GE's policy of making every department a decentralized and independently competitive unit, even to the point of putting some of its most profitable departments out of business.

For instance, we can't help noting that when GE begins to reason why the orders were lost the company immediately ignores the fact that decentralization has made each department a separate business.

But since each department has become a separate business, it seems to us that GE cannot figure its cost on the individual department basis and its profits on a nationwide basis.

Figuring the costs of a large steam turbine must be done where the turbines are built and this obviously is the way in which GE is doing it. The same holds true of taxes. They must be figured by New York standards.

The company says the labor costs to produce the turbines is much higher here than in foreign nations. But the fact remains that the profit for the turbines is also very high. The actual nationwide profit is brought down by the smaller profit margin in other areas which are unrelated to profits here, according to the decentralization plan.

In other words, if the company is going to use labor costs from this area as an example, it should follow through with an analysis of the profits from this area and not include appliances of every other small item GE manufactures where competition is stiffer.

And the fact still remains, if the GE figures are correct, even on this second order GE still would have lost the order even if production workers had worked on the turbine for nothing.

Other trends in foreign business; Elgin making watches in Switzerland; Navy buying steel in Japan; Bendix and Zenith in Australia; Smith, Kline and French building \$2 million drug firm in England; Timken Roller Company constructs \$10 million bearing plant in France.