Worlmen’s Compensation
Protecting Your Rights To Benefits

The following is the first of a series of articles on workers’ benefits written by the Union’s lawyer, Leon Book.

WHAT YOU MUST DO WHEN YOU ARE BELEIVED IN THE PLANT

A big ship with thousands of workers, there are hazards to be avoided all the time. Many accidents happen every day in the plant. Some of these accidents are minor, but a few are serious. It is important to report all your work injuries promptly-

Let’s suppose the following man, who was employed by Local 307, became ill. A worker was working in the shipyard. He caught his hand on a truck and fell, wounding his elbow as he landed. It is not an infrequent enough to notice, but it could happen at any time. The Committee on Workmen’s Compensation begins to act as he can, and the quicker the better.

Try to get your employer to renew his right to benefits after this, too, and to enquire. If the committee, and if you will. The worker could not disprove the benefits of his workmen’s compensation bill and his right to benefits was established. The worker didn’t prove his case, but in fact the committee’s report was more favorable to his case. He was enquired after and his claim was accepted. But even at the same time he was not in full employment, the benefits were no doubt provided by the employer.

The Workmen’s Compensation Law requires that sick workers give notice of their sickness within 30 days after the accident. The worker is then entitled to receive a portion of his salary, but the amount that he is entitled to is relatively small.
Workmen's Compensation

Protecting Your Rights to Benefits

How You May Report an Accident

In my article in the last issue of the Electrical Union News I pointed out that accidents should be reported as soon as possible to the foremen in order to protect an injured worker's rights to compensation benefits. A number of workers have asked me whether their rights are actually protected if they do not report the accident promptly.

The law provides that any worker who is injured on the job must notify the employer of the accident within 30 days. If the accident results in death or permanent disablement, the notification must be made as soon as possible after the accident occurs.

Occupational Diseases

There are some diseases which come from the kind of work that a worker does. These are called occupational diseases. For example, a man may be working with coal dust or silica and find that he is suffering from a lung disease. If the doctor agrees that the disease was caused by the work, the worker is entitled to medical treatment paid for by the Company. He is also entitled to compensation for his lost time as long as he is disabled.

There are many types of diseases which fall under this rule. Among these are hernia (hernias), chronic infections, lung cancer, silicosis and tuberculosis.

It is just as important to report an occupational disease as soon as you become aware of it. It is to report an accident.

WHETHER YOU ARE SUFFERING FROM AN OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE, IF YOU ARE A UNION MEMBER, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REPORT ANY OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE TO THE UNION LEGAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WITHOUT ANY CHARGE TO YOU. THIS IS A SERVICE TO WHICH YOU ARE ENTITLED FREE OF CHARGE FOR SEVERAL YEARS. YOU CAN CONTACT THE UNION LEGAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FREE OF CHARGE.

Truck Drivers Claim Discrimination

The truck drivers, members of U. E. Local 101, have been petitioning for a satisfactory answer to their grievance that was filed officially with the union on January 26, 1955. The case is currently assigned for discussion by the N. Y. regional office of the grievance procedure.

The grievance specifically affects the removal of the truck drivers, who were given job as of April 1, 1955. The union filed a formal complaint stating that the removal of the drivers was not supported by any evidence of violation of any rule or procedure established for the operation of the company.

The company's position is that the drivers were terminated due to a change in the company's policy regarding the use of its trucks.

The union has appealed the decision to the regional office.

Blood Donors

A request has been made by U. E. Local 101, White Plains, N. Y., for blood donations. A drive will be held at the union hall on Saturday, October 31, 1955, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

You Will Need a Raise

With the present provisions of the United States Production Act, it appears that the government is not willing to provide the necessary financial assistance to our union members to enable them to meet their financial needs.

The Price Stabilization Program is a benefit to the American people. A number of people say that prices were too high in the past.

PRICES TO GO HIGHER—Although "prices" are rising steadily, Union members' benefits have been increased at a time when prices went down. For example, the union is providing benefits to members of the union who are on strike.

Wages to go higher—Industries are already making a shift in their policies. The union is working to see that workers are paid comparable wages.

Compensation Cases

There are 100 compensation cases on the docket for the compensation committee. The committee is working hard to resolve these cases as quickly as possible.

Activities Committee

The Activities Committee is working hard to solve these cases. The committee has met with the union leadership to discuss the issues.

Donation to St. Clare's

The Union has requested that a donation be made to St. Clare's Hospital. The Union has agreed to make a donation of $100.00 to the hospital.