GE $15 MILLION IMPROVEMENT PLAN
TO BE TAKEN WITH CAUTION

General Electric's announcement that $15 million will be spent on plant improvements was digested by Local 311 with interest and caution.

There was nothing in the announcement to indicate that the investment would help employment and the union's experience is that in recent years new machinery has been a reason for greater automation and more layoffs.

And the company's announcement was accompanied by the disheartening news that more buildings will shortly be torn down. This will help the GE tax bill but it won't help employment and it may result in higher taxes for the home owner.

The announcement came on the heels of a union analysis of the employment picture and GE's attitudes since the strike vote last year.

Continued from front page--

And any number knows that maintenance of buildings is vital if future increased expenditures are to be avoided.

Taxes, according to school authorities, are scheduled to go up this year due to an increase in teacher's salaries. Feasel apparently would deny the teachers these increases.

Obviously these claims by Feasel that the taxes are false unless he intends to ruin the school system which is one of the best in the State.

Novak makes no claims of cutting taxes but he does advocate economy which provides Schenectady children with a good background.

And for Labor's candidate, Lemke, is a vote for continued good education.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS

The next regular Executive Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 13, 1959, at 7:30 p.m. at Union Headquarters.

JANDEAU TALKS TO SHANBO
ON EMPLOYMENT

Leo Jandreau, business agent for Local 311, stepped up his efforts to keep the public informed on Union-Management affairs this week with a fresh discussion of employment before the Mistyume Riviera Club.

He urged that General Electric review its profit margins with an objective of becoming more competitive in the foreign market.

The talk followed a meeting of shop stewards and city and school officials held at union headquarters Tuesday night at which the film "Help Wanted" was shown.

And in the near future, Local 311 will launch a series of public meetings designed to let the public know what the union is doing on a day-to-day basis and what its plans are for the future.

Jandreau disclosed the number of large steam turbines scheduled to be built during the next two years and what this means in terms of the number employed.

And GE was losing turbine orders in the foreign market because the company's profit margins were about 4%. He said if the company had dropped its profit margin to 2% it would have made $4 million.

He noted that local plant employment had dropped 20,000 in four years and the trend was continuing at about 50 persons a day.

The business agent pointed out that the unemployment trend was not the result of GE's decentralization plan.

SCHENECTADY PLANT MOVES

Congressman Sam Stratton, who opposed the union's eight-point employment security program, is opposing a bill in Congress to study the movement of plants out of established areas.

He also has recommended that a study be made of the economic hardship caused by the plant moves. His resolution would create a special committee of the House of Representatives to investigate plant moves and has been backed by GE in its decentralization program.

Jandreau urged passage of the bill because of the serious unemployment in the 32nd congressional district, which he represents.

SHANBO AND JANDREAU
REPORT ON UNEMPLOYMENT

Local 311 president John Shanbo and Business agent Leo Jandreau journeyed to Washington, this week and submitted a report on Sunday's employment picture to the AFL-CIO unemployment conference.

The report indicated that unemployment is everywhere and that the immediate future will become more difficult to get than they are now and that there will be more layoffs at both the primary manufacturing employers, ALCO and GE.

The report was published at the same time the city's Mayor, Kenneth Shelden, submitted a quarterly report which said "signs of economic resurgence are everywhere."

And the Mayor's report came at the same time that newspapers were reporting GE will shortly move another part of its operations to Auburn, leaving 300 to 500 more unemployed.

Jandreau said Shanbo told the AFL-CIO conference that total employment in Schenectady dropped over 20,000 in four years and that the unemployment picture will get worse before it gets better.

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The business agent pointed out that the unemployment trend was not the result of GE's decentralization plan.

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In 1954 the IUE bargaining unit had 28,000 members at GE with another 20,000 in the scattered class. As of January, 1959, the totals were 10,000 and 18,000 respectively.

In 1954, GE had 600 tool and die makers in Schenectady. In January of this year, the total was 300 and a toolmaker needed 1941 service to get any job.

In 1954, GE had 3,000 female employees in Schenectady. In January of this year, the total was 950 and a woman needed 1941 service to get any job.

The report said unemployment in Schenectady began long before the current recession. It began shortly after the Korean War when GE started decentralization.

COMMITTEE FOR ROVAK OPENS CAMPAIGN

The ninth ward campaign committee for John Rovak, candidate for the city board of education, met Wednesday night and outlined plans for the May 5th election.

The ninth ward recently opened headquarters at 835 Grace Street.

Those attending the meeting were James Copotta, Larry Omen, John Silvestri, James DeCaro, Hugo Brozowski, Homer Brozowski, Anthony Tate, Anthony DeAngelis, William Knecht and A. Volavics.

The next meeting of the committee will be held Wednesday, April 15, at 7:30 p.m.

THE REGULAR MEMBERSHIP AND SHOP STeward MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1959, AT 7:30 PM IN THE UNION AUDITORIUM.

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1959, AT 7:30 PM AT UNION HEADQUARTERS.

But, the report added, the recession, coupled with the product manufactured here has resulted in an unemployment picture far worse than the rest of the nation.

And because of the type of product manufactured there is every reason to believe the situation will grow worse during the next two years.

The report said that in order for a man to hold the lowest rated job in the plant, week round attendants, he must have continuous service from 1950.

"The only voice of protest on the decentralization program has come from Local 311 and for a long time it has fallen on deaf ears in the community. There are indications however that the merchants and others directly affected by GE's payroll are beginning to recognize what is happening," the report said.