Top of the Labor News...

WASHINGTON (AP)—The AFL-CIO plans strong support in the next session of Congress for a bill to strengthen the Social Security System. The measure, H.R. 5305, introduced by Rep. John H. Williamston, also provides for hospitalization benefits for retirees as well as for wage earners.

WASHINGTON (AP)—For the 19th straight month the cost of living is up, the Index is now over 130.5 as of January, in comparison with a point above July and 22 points higher than August 1954.

CRONGS, N. (AP)—In the efforts of organized labor to protect the health of workers, a new study by the American Medical Association, released today, shows that the number of industrial deaths has declined significantly in recent years. The study, which includes an analysis of the causes of industrial fatalities, found that the death rate per 10,000 workers has dropped from 18.7 in 1950 to 12.8 in 1955.

NEW YORK (AP)—AFL-CIO Labor-Government Services Division is going all out to strengthen labor-Government relations to meet the needs of America’s workers.

IN BRIEF

Dear Mr. Sorensen:

Your letter of October 15, 1957, which dealt with the recent stoppage in the Bellingham, Wash. Grief, and General Crater, and which affected the workers in that city, stated that the workers were entitled to vacation pay. The Company took the position that the workers were not entitled to vacation pay and that if they remained on the job, they could be paid at the prevailing wage rate. The workers did not return to work and the strike continued.

There is no conflict in the part of the Union’s representation that this case and property properly were settled on the terms of the grievance procedure. There is no conflict as to the facts, the justifying both legally and morally, of the action taken by the Union in connection with the grievance.

The trouble with the Company’s position is that it did not have the facts, there being no evidence of any agreement on vacation pay or of any similar agreement. The facts are as follows:

WASHINGTON (AP)—John C. Culp, the lead steward at the Bellingham AFL-CIO, has informed the一万 workers have raised their rates of pay, resulting in a new high. The rates of pay range from $1.75 to $2.50 per hour, with the average rate at $2.25.

BIDG. 81 Test Case Settled

One of the test cases that the U.S. Department of Labor has settled is the case of the BIDG. 81 Test Case. The case involves the right of the workers to organize and to strike, and the Company has agreed to settle the case.

AFL-CIO

Notices to Retirees Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 1957

UNION AUDITORIUM

121-B E. Blvd.

G. E. Representatives Flanked by Lawyers at Unemployment Hearings

At hearings on unemployment insurance in New York, Monday, October 14, 1957, and Tuesday, October 15, 1957, and continued in Schenectady on Monday, October 21, 1957, G. E. tried to defeat the claims of former employees for unemployment insurance benefits. G. E. sought to prove benefits by showing that the employees had been discharged for misconduct and not for reasons of unemployment. The company took the position that the workers were not entitled to unemployment benefits and that if they remained on the job, they could be paid at the prevailing wage rate. The workers did not remain on the job and the strike continued.

Mr. Anderson, Business Agent of Local 301 testified in behalf of the Union. He contended that the union's claims were not justifiably based and that the company's position was erroneous. He also made clear that the union's position was supported by the evidence.

The attorney for the company, Mr. Robinson, had the opportunity to argue its position. He contended that the company's position was supported by the evidence and that the union's claims were not valid.

As the lawyers have yet to file briefs it is not expected that the final decision will be reached before some time in December.
G.E. Violates Union Supplemental Agreement

Mr. D. L. Sorensen, Manager
United Reliance
General Electric Company
Schenectady, New York

Dear Mr. Sorensen,

We have notified the local management on many occasions that the Union has been dissatisfied with the application of our Local Supplemental Agreement affecting decreasing of forces and transfers due to lack of work.

Refusal of the part of management representatives to abide by our agreement has been numerous and in many of these instances of violation, G.E. management representatives were reluctant to fully recognize our agreement and its application even after the Union representatives presented the facts in the case.

Our Bargaining Unit has been in a turmoil for nearly two years as the result of members of our Union being transferred from one job to another due to lack of work which was initially caused by the movement of departments and jobs from Schenectady to the South and elsewhere. There have been approximately 5,000 employees affected by transfers between departments in the past 22 months, and that record does not include transfers within a department. The results of these transfers mean reduction in earnings and change of shift for a large percentage of the employees affected.

The Union set up a special Placement Committee to handle complaints of improper job offers at a considerable expense to the Union. Our committee has presented cases to management for disposition. Lately we have been having difficulties getting answers on these cases even when these types of grievances have a time limitation of one week before the employee involved must lose time.

The lack of authority on the part of a single management representative to force the 17 department managers to accept the application of our contract correctly is making things worse—this causes delays, holdovers and expensive administrative cost.

Unilateral decisions are made by management representatives in the application of our agreement, which are definite violations, without any consultation with the Union.

The following types of violation have resulted, with cases filed to confirm our charges:

1. Refused to release employee from a department to apply his service on more comparable work which is employing shorter service employees.

2. Refused to grant more than incidental training to employees who have more than six months more service than the employee being displaced. (Inter-dept. transfers)

3. Refused to allow longer service employees to replace shorter service employees on lower rated jobs because of sex.

4. Unilaterally deciding that employees with 1931 service will only be considered on our step higher than common basis or below when employees with shorter service are being eliminated on higher rated jobs.

5. Refused to give information on service dates affecting a promotion grievance on layoff.

5. Discontinuation of the four-day week for the last 30 years, whereas the Union submitted to the people before the 30-year period is exhausted.

6. The six other amendments submitted to the voters are briefly as follows:

AMENDMENT No. 1—(Education Program)

A "Yes" vote would permit the State Legislature to authorize the bond issue to supplement annual state revenues available for the improvement and maintenance program of the State University.

A "No" vote would prohibit this program to projects that could be financed by annually appropriated funds of the state.

AMENDMENT No. 2—(Housing Corporation)

A "Yes" vote will permit limited-profit housing corporations borrowing money from the state for the purpose of middle-income housing, to repay the loans by uniform annual payments covering the principal and interest. (These corporations are regulated by state law as to rental, profit, dividends and disposal of their property.)

Activities Committee Plan Christmas Party

The Activities Committee of Local 361 has set the date for the children's Christmas Party. Our party will be held on Saturday, December 21, 1941, at the Hotel YMCA, 6:30 p.m.

Compensation Benefits Possible Without Accident Injury

It is very common for workers to believe that only when they have had an accident while at work can they receive medical treatment paid for by an employer or another. On the last day of the year 1941, a large number of workers, however, incurred injuries which were recognized to result from the nature of the work performed and in such cases compensation must be paid even in the absence of an accident.

This is important for a worker to know. Often a worker finds himself being treated with an illness or disease which he suspects came from his work. His doctor may not know what work the illness is coming from and he therefore cannot assign the responsibility to the job. Since claims must be filed within a limited time, any such worker who finds himself in this situation has a right to file a claim for compensation immediately, even if he cannot locate the employer from whom he received the injury.

As a word of caution it must be said that, short of an accident, not every illness or disease stems from an occupation. Occasionally, for example, a person who consumes tobacco probably the reason that he gets this disease from his working conditions. The cause here may be that cancer compensation can be claimed by a person who has tuberculosis only if the disease occurs "out of the course of employment." In other words any from the line which is part of the job and which can give a person tuberculosis. Today, for the most part, the only workers who can get compensation for disability from tuberculosis are employees who come into contact with other tuberculosis patients, such as for example persons in a hospital.

Another occupational disease is of course, equally to refer to an exposure and are not actually a matter of an occupational illness. A worker who has never had the disease on his job, for example, cannot file a claim. An accident is not necessarily involved in such a case, or this is an example the worker who has been in contact with the disease patients for many years. He may develop a skin condition which is in the same case. The same may be true with the worker whose lungs or bronchial tube may be affected by dust or fumes, or the worker who paints continued exposure on his job. It is a part of the job to work and paint and the paint or paint to be exposed to the paint as part of the job. In this case, the accident is not automatically involved.

The important thing to remember is that while an illness may not have resulted from your work, if it does claim itself with your doctor, if the doctor feels that the disease comes from the work, the date is due to report the claim for compensation.

A Product of Progress

In the Large Scale and Government Department, a good number of General Electric's programs as important to the Union's "Most Important Program." (Continued on Page 4)

Foundry Conference Held At Elmira

A Foundry Conference was held at Elmira, N. Y., last Saturday. Represented at the meeting were delegates from Schenectady, Lyons and Elmira Foundries.

A discussion as notes showed that Elmira was the most productive of the three, while Schenectady was the most successful in the same material in the foundry. The notes showed that Elmira was the most successful in the same material in the foundry.