STEEL UNION CONTRACT GAINS SPELLED OUT

Local 151 News
January 15, 1940

An enthusiastic crowd of over 600 friends, including many leading citizens from civic, religious and labor groups, turned out last Saturday evening to pay tribute to Leo Janodreau who was cited for his "dedication and service to the working men and women in Schenectady and in the community as a whole" over the past quarter of a century.

Despite the hazardous driving conditions, every seat in the huge IUE Auditorium was filled and the testimonial dinner, which will long be remembered, got under way about 100 p.m.

Mayor Balcom Ellis cited Janodreau as an outstanding citizen and he has contributed much to the well being of the community and bestowed upon him the honorable title of "Patron." Rep. Samuel S. Stratton lauded Leo for his "dedicated service to the labor movement and to the community and named him as probably the outstanding business agent in the Country for 1960."

John Callahan noted that Leo started his career in the labor movement when union organizers were looked upon as outcasts in the community and when it took a lot of guts to stand up to one's convictions. He also praised Leo for his perseverance and courage and great leadership ability in his struggle to raise the standard of living for all working men and women in the community and elsewhere in the Nation.

Jack Suarez described Leo as a "powerful labor leader for the workers in Schenectady and the State and the Nation."

Father Lamanas said that Janodreau was almost like a god to the union members with whom he has become associated.

Al Hartnett, Secretary-Treasurer of the International Union, was the principal speaker and praised Leo for the courage and fine leadership he showed over the past quarter of a century, when leaders like him were hard to obtain. He also gave a big share of the credit to Leo for his (Leo's) work for the Greater Schenectady, the community, the State, the Country and the Nation.

HIGHLIGHTS OF LEO'S CAREER

Leo Janodreau, a native of Schenectady, attended Mount Tabor High School. His first job was as a junior accountant at G.G. In 1930 he transferred to the factory where he learned his trade as a technician. He then helped organize Local 301 and thus began a colorful career in the labor movement, where he devoted his energy and skills to improving the working conditions of the working men and women in the community. In 1934, he was elected Recording Secretary of the Local and in 1935 became President.

On Dec. 15th of that same year, an IUE election was held in the plant and the local became the bargaining agent for a majority of the employees. A large crowd was present.

VENDUS' ACTIVITIES CONTINUE

Betsy Dozois, a representative of the N.Y. State AFL-CIO, chaired a meeting of the Women's Activities Committee at IUE Hall, last Wed., evening, January 20th, 1960.

All female members and wives of union members were invited and close to 30 women attended.

The Women's Activities Dept. (WAD) is a part of COPE's regular organization. It was authorized by the 1960 Constitutional Convention which directed COPE to continue to strengthen its program for integrating the family into the political action programs of our organization. WAD operates on a national, state, county, city and congressional district level.

Any woman interested in taking part in this worthwhile cause can contact Art Christensen at the Union Office or call 883-4571.