NOVAK LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN

Leon Novak, Local 301 attorney and a veteran in the affairs of the labor movement, this week launched his campaign for a post on the City Board of Education.

Novak, endorsed by Local 301 and the CIO Area Council, said labor should have representation on the Board. He said the other segments of community, such as business and the professionals, are well represented.

Local 301 is launching an all-out campaign for Novak who has been the Local's attorney for 28 years. Officers and Board members of the Local have expressed the feeling that the representation of the union's community influence is staked on the outcome of the election.

The Officers and Board members have urged every member eligible to vote in the district to go to the polls on May 6th and cast their ballot for Novak.

Novak's platform is as follows:

1. I believe, from personal observations, that education now has a splendid public school system. If elected, I will therefore work to maintain those standards, to improve them so as to make them feasible and academically necessary, and to hold down costs when cutbacks will not reduce the standards.

2. I believe, that an approach to sound education should go something like this:

   a. What kind of educational facilities do our children need?

   b. Can we afford all the things we believe we need?

   c. Is it decided what we need and can afford, then can we determine the quality of education we are prepared to offer to our community on a dollar basis?

3. I shall work toward the maximum use of existing physical facilities.

4. I shall encourage "in-service training" programs for teachers and also try to keep abreast of new knowledge at a time when advances, both in the sciences and social sciences, are so rapid.

5. A financial report shows startling figures, when they are looked at in terms of the worse recession since World War II.

   a. Employment dropped by 11.5% on the average, with a deep 28-4000 jobs.

   b. The production workers probably suffered worse, since there was probably an increase in the number of supervisory, technical, professional and "overskilled personnel."

   c. Total wages and salaries and benefits dropped by $75,000,000.

   d. This is a huge sum. Yet profits after taxes dropped by only $4,900,000.

   e. Dividends paid actually increased in 1956 over 1955.

   f. The main burden of the recession fell upon the production workers. It is likely that the number of production workers fell about 40,000 during the year.

   g. Those who were dropped lost about $20,000,000,000 in wages and benefits, while all those who remained including salaried and officers had an increase in wages and benefits of about $30,000,000.

   h. This makes the net drop of about $70,000,000.

   i. The report indicates that average wages, salaries and benefits increased by $407 a year.

   j. If we examine who got it, we find that the average production worker who remained on the job got about $500 and the average non-production worker got about $250 increase.

6. Employment in factory still going DOWN.

   a. The number of factory employees in the bargaining unit represented by Local 301 since January 1956. According to the monthly unemployment reports issued by the government to the Union there were 10,756 employed in January 2,756. The last recent report covering the month of February showed 10,300.

   b. I believe educational programs can be used to develop the best in every child. These programs should be so directed that every child is given every opportunity to develop to his maximum ability.

   c. I believe, in a highly industrialized area, labor should be represented on the Board of Education as representative of a great mass of consumers.

LOCAL 301 NEWS

MARCH 11, 1959

UNION CHARGES GE WITH CONTRACT VIOLATION

Charges of contract violation in two instances were made this week by the Union against the General Electric Company.

Jandreau said the cases are being processed through the grievance procedure and that he objects to taking them to the National Labor Relations Board, if necessary to arbitration.

A case is scheduled for hearing, the Union said, on March 30th.

Jandreau said the Union has been negotiating for several weeks the application of the contract supplement as it affects long service people.

He said the supplement provides for displacement of shorter service persons working on the same or like kinds of jobs within the bargaining unit.

The business agent said the company now refuses to displace shorter service persons from one department to another, specifically the steam turbine, even though this has been the accepted process and is part of the contract.

He said cases involving creators and 200 line workers have been processed and longer service persons in large motors and generators, etc. and gas turbines have the right, under the contract, to bump into larger steam turbines.

At a meeting with turbine management this was rejected.

In another case, the company has refused to give the union the seniority list showing workers' seniority length of service.

Jandreau said this is a contract violation because the company is required to furnish information to the union for settling disputes.

He said the EEOC has ruled that such information shall be supplied and not giving it constitutes an unfair labor practice.

The case is being processed through the grievance procedure, Jandreau said, and he expects to proceed to the EEOC and to arbitration if no solution is found.

SUPERVISORS BACK MINIMUM WAGE

The Board of Supervisors this week gave the Chamber of Commerce a slap in the face by approving a wage increase in the national minimum wage.

The Chamber's president, William T. HulBERT, and local 301's business agent, Leo Jandreau, this week endorsed verbal petitions over the merits of increasing the minimum wage.

The Board was reluctant to increase the minimum wage from $1.00 to $1.20, 90 cents to maintain the standards and living in areas such as the south where it is not affecting most wage earners and businessmen in the north.

The Chamber maintained that increasing the minimum wage from $1.00 to $1.20 would be inflationary. The union maintained raising the minimum would make the standard of living in areas such as the south while affecting most wage earners and businessmen in the north.

The union also said that raising the standards in the south would make the north more competitive if continued on other side.

Furnishing the list for a long time also notified the union it can no longer do so because of company instructions.

Jandreau said this is a contract violation because the company is charged to furnish information to the union for settling disputes.

He said the EEOC has ruled that such information shall be supplied and not giving it constitutes an unfair labor practice.

The case is being processed through the grievance procedure, Jandreau said, and he expects to proceed to the EEOC and to arbitration if no solution is found.