PROGRESS MADE IN HANDLING PLACEMENT LAYOFF PROBLEMS

Placement, downgrades, prices, and layoffs continued to plague the union last week but much progress was reported in handling the multitude of problems.

Ralph Vitalo, union coordinator, reported 15 successful placements in building C21, after urging complaints these people had been placed on lower paid jobs by the company.

He said there is at least another 15 persons whose complaints were now being processed and that the placements are taking place within the department from one job to another.

He added that placements are taking place as rapidly as possible but that the problem-load increases faster than can be handled.

Vitalo expanded on some of the problems facing the union throughout SH & S and Steam Turbine department.

He cited these examples:

The wife of a union member has been in poor health, and she had to have a rest in Florida. The union member has 8 years service. When it was time for his wife to return, he said the company told him he and his wife had to take the car and be back to work within 2 weeks or he would lose his job.

The company refused to give him his vacation, and he could back the company to take the vacation. They said he could have two days off without pay to make the trip to Florida, and the company said he could have the two-weeks off with pay, but he could not do that because his group of jobs was going to be shut down.

The union argued that the whole deal should be shut down and not a portion of it. The company finally agreed to give the man his vacation with pay.

Another problem was the apprentice program in the erection group. Vitalo said that due to the lack of work, apprentices were being laid off but that they were not getting any pay. The company had not taken the steps to make this situation work.

Union officials and supervision met on the problem and as a result 15 of the 22 apprentices were taken off the jobs.

Vitalo said that the union's efforts were successful but added that there is still much room for improvement and that the negotiating was costly in late time for the union.

WAGEN WITH 29 YEARS SERVICE LIAO OFF

It can happen here as well as to Bethlehem. In fact it has happened here since the introduction of decentralization.

Here's one recent typical example as reported by A. Downes, assistant business agent.

Key LeVay has been a General Electric employee for 29 years. He started in February, 1931.

Today he is without a job because her department is no longer in Schenectady.

She has certain physical limitations but she could easily handle the job she had before the Aeronautical Department left the city.

She was laid off in the middle of last year and has been without a job since--despite her 29 years service.

Downes said the union had made several proposals, such as setting aside one building for light work, but there have been no result so far.

MEMBERSHIP VOTES TO WAIVE BUILDING FUND

The membership of Local 311 voted Monday to cooperate with a strike in the construction industry in the Geneva area.

The temporary waiver was recommended by the Constitution committee until the union's income is increased by the reduction of membership or increased dues income.

AREA COUNCIL TO ELECT OFFICIALS

Schenectady Area CIO Industrial Council will elect officers Mar. 29 at a meeting in Schenectady Hotel, Cinnamon St. Nomination were submitted last week. They were:

President: J. Comenitz, Local 311; treasurer: J. Schillert; CIO director: J. Honig, Local 311; vice-president: V. Martin, Local 210; secretary: S. Holland; treasurer: H. Reinhart, Local 301; records secretary: S. Rappaport, 200 Sherman Ave., Local 114,里面的"

For trustees: E. Lucas, Local 311; M. Pudlo, Local 210; H. Chrisman, Local 301; H. Schillert, Local 311; J. Comenitz, Local 301; T. Burke, Local 301; H. Reinhart, Local 114; K. King, Textile.

TFV stated when it advertised for bids that it would give the contract to an American firm if the bid did not exceed the lowest foreign bid by 25 per cent. This price advantage given U. S. firms was in addition to the import duty, which would have to be paid by the foreign manufacturer.

Therefore the price advantage enjoyed by the American firms was more than $4 million in just these two areas. And the foreign firm had the added costs of trans-ocean shipping and marine insurance.

The TVA report disputed the argument that wages played a large part in the American firms' inability to compete with foreign companies. It pointed out that differences in labor costs would be in the neighborhood of $1.5 million, or less than half the price advantage provided for the domestic manufacturer.

In fact, the report said, it appears that the import duty alone is adequate to protect U. S. turbine generator manufacturers against differences in labor costs.

It seems obvious that the Westinghouse either grossly underestimated the cost in labor or ignored the facts expected to pressure TVA in awarding the contract on the superficial basis of national security.

The bids submitted by the two giant American corporations were so low as to be infinitesimal in terms of millions compared to the lowest price. The Westinghouse bid was the lowest evaluated bid. The evaluated TVA and Westinghouse bids were nearly fifty per cent higher than the Parsons bid.

The evaluated Parsons bid was more than $4 million lower than the evaluated bid of GE and Westinghouse. The evaluated GE and Westinghouse bids were nearly fifty per cent higher than the Parsons bid.

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