Union Members Win Compensation

A few of the cases of special interest to the Union which were handed over to the workers' bureau in behalf of injured workers in the month of January are as follows:

The case of the late Mr. Charlesworth and his children, was one of the most successful in the Union's history. The family had been working on the farm for over 20 years and due to the fact that his husband's death resulted from an accident in the field, the Union, through its agent, who worked in Building 127, 17th St., U. S., lands over $7,000 in claims for medical and hospital expenses. The family was also given a monthly allowance of $25.00 per month in addition to the medical expenses.

Joseph Barber, who worked as a laborer in the field, was injured in 1928 when he was struck by an automobile. Although he was released on disability pension on October 14, 1939, his disability was not connected with his work. However, he was awarded $500 by the court in January 1939 in behalf of his family.

The Unions have always been successful in obtaining compensation for Union members who have been injured on the job. The Union has been able to obtain compensation for the family of the late Mr. Charlesworth and has also been able to obtain compensation for Joseph Barber.

Foreign competition took another deep bite into the economic well-being of the Tennessee Valley Authority this week when it was learned that a large U.S. firm had bid under bid by GE for a $50 million for large steam turbines for Los Angeles.

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The specter of unemployment looms large in the minds of Union members and the word is now out that the Tennessee Valley Authority has decided to use foreign competition to cut costs. This is a great blow to the Union members who have been working on the TVA projects for many years.

We hope that the TVA will reconsider its decision and give preference to Union members. The Union has always been successful in obtaining compensation for Union members who have been injured on the job. The Union has been able to obtain compensation for the family of the late Mr. Charlesworth and has also been able to obtain compensation for Joseph Barber.

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But since each department has become a separate business, it seems to us that TVA cannot figure its costs on the individual department's basis and its profits on a nationwide basis.

Figuring the costs of a large steam turbine must be done where the turbines are built and this obviously is the way in which GE is doing it. The same holds true of taxes. They must be figured by New York standards.

The company says the labor costs to produce the turbines is much higher here than in foreign countries. But the fact remains that the profit for the turbines is also very high. The actual nationwide profit is reduced by smaller profit margin in domestic markets which is unrelated to profit here, according to the decentralization plan.

In other words, if the company is going to use labor costs from this area as an example, it should follow through with an analysis of the profit from this area and not include all the profits from every other small item of manufacturing where competition is stiff.

And the fact still remains, if the TVA starts now to use labor costs in Germany, even on this second order GE still would have lost the order even if production workers had worked on the turbines for nothing.

Other firms in foreign business are making similar demands in Switzerland; Navy buying in Japan; Bell in Australia; Smith, Eline and French in the U.S. and others are making similar demands in the U.S. This is a threat that has become much more realistic.