COURSES SCHEDULED ON RADIATION HAZARDS

A three day course on the hazards of radiation will be conducted in the IUE Local 301 office building at 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 7, 8 and 9.

Leo Goodman, Secretary of the AFL-CIO Atomic Energy Technological Committee, has been engaged to conduct the classes. He is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with 20 years of experience.

Leo Jandreau, President of the Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Schenectady Area, has invited representatives of all affiliated labor unions, who have, or may have in the future, jobs involving radiation problems. An invitation has been extended to others who may be interested in this matter.

In his letter, Jandreau made the following observations: "At one time it was believed that exposure to radiation affected only those who were directly engaged in processing materials and products for atomic uses. However, we have discovered in certain plants affiliated to our Council that products and parts which have been exposed to radiation and have been sent back to these plants for repairs are causing a safety hazard to those employees who are employed on such work."

Jandreau also stated that hearings are in process in Washington, whereby the AFL-CIO is pressing for more protective legislation in this field. It is interesting to note at this point that the National Chamber of Commerce is opposed to relieving the States of their authority to handle this even though it has been proven that the States have not properly handled those disabilities caused by radiation.

It is hoped that everyone who is presently confronted with this problem of radiation or who may be, in the future, will take advantage of this opportunity to acquaint himself with this ever-growing problem so that he may be better qualified to represent the interests of the workers if it becomes necessary.

(Cont'd, on reverse side)
TOOLMAKERS COMMITTEE (Cont'd)

Toolroom work, assigned to the Machine Repair Group in Eids. 273, was also discussed. The Company agreed to correct this problem by channeling work to the proper groups.

Chairman Kanzino states that there are other problems under discussion and that the Union officers and the Toolmakers Committee are currently meeting with management in an effort to resolve them in the best interest of our members.

AREA UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASED

According to a news release, dated Friday, Feb. 16, 1962, W.P. Chalwood, Regional Commissioner, of the N.Y. State Dept. of Labor, Division of Employment, noted that in Nov. the State's unemployment rate was 7.435,000 in December equalling the high for 1951. However, he also observed that unemployment was estimated at 445,000 or 5.6% of the State's Labor Force in December. This was due to seasonal job declines in farming, construction, apparel and other non-durable goods manufacturing industries.

In the Albany-Schenectady-Troy Area, 12,600 workers were unemployed (4.4% of the labor force) as compared with 11,900 (4.3% of the labor force) in November.

GUNN ATTENDS FULL CITIZENSHIP CONF.

Dave Gunn, Asst. Secy. of Local 301 and Legislative Chairman of Dist. 43, recently attended the UE Full Citizenship Conference held in Washington, D.C.

He reports that a variety of subjects were discussed. The list of speakers included several Senators and Congressmen, Sec. of Labor Arthur Goldberg and Director of the Housing Agency, Robert Weaver. Also spoke to the Conference delegates. The majority of the speakers conveyed practically the same message in certain parts of their speeches. They noted that we today are living in a rapidly changing time in which Unions must also change to meet the challenge. A strong recommendation that Unions take a more active part in politics was made. This is vital and necessary, they said, if Unions want to maintain and preserve the gains they have made in the past and to pass legislation that will benefit workers in the future. Industry people, the speakers cited, need fair Labor Laws, better Social Security, higher unemployment compensation, full employment at good wages, tax relief for the working man and pensioners.

G.E. CONFERENCE BOARD MEETING

The delegates to the G.E. Conference Board representing Local 301 attended a meeting held at the IUE National Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on February 15 and 16. They reported that the National Union has embarked on a campaign to organize at least 25,000 new members by the end of 1962. Several unorganized and new G.E. plants are among those earmarked for the campaign.

Considerable discussion took place on plans and program for the 1963 contract negotiations. It was generally agreed that we should start now to consider issues for contract demands and make sure that the G.E.-IUE members understand the issues, as well as the people in the G.E. communities.

Some Locals reported that they were having difficulties with their respective managers in negotiating supplement agreements covering the application of seniority on layoffs and bumps. Local 301 delegates reported that we had negotiated the supplement covering our Local.

During the reports from the Locals it was pointed out that G.E. was closing plants in Worcester, Mass., Boston, Mass., and one in Cleveland, Ohio. In all instances, the work force in these old locations was being transferred to other communities.

The reports on the organizational status in terms of percentage of Union members in each G.E. Local showed Local 301 among the top with 92% of our bargaining Unit organized.

John Callahan was re-elected, without opposition, as Chairman of the Conference Board for a two-year term.

STEWARDS URGED TO RETURN ANDERSON-CING PETITIONS

While many petitions supporting medical care for the aged have already been received in the Union Office, there are, however, some shop stewards who have as yet made no return to the Board Members. It is very important that this be done immediately.

Committee meetings on medical care for the aged are currently being held in Washington. We must have these petitions in the hands of our Senators and Congressman as soon as possible in order to advise them of our feelings with regard to the Anderson-Cing Bill. Anyone in the Capital District who is eligible to vote can sign the petition.