SUPPORT FOR MEDICARE INCREASES

Because of the thousands of letters and petitions which have been mailed to Congressmen and Senators supporting the King-Anderson Bill which provides medical care for the aged, action on this measure seems almost a certainty in the present session of Congress.

Support for the Bill is gaining momentum every day. Strong pressures are being put upon some members of the Ways and Means Committee in an effort to bring it to the floor of the House for action.

President John Shambo makes the following comments with regard to medical care for the aged:

"One of the most vital domestic issues of our time is to provide adequate medical care for our Senior Citizens."

He notes that at the turn of the century there were only three million people in the United States over 65 years of age. Today there are 17,000,000 and the number is increasing by about 300,000 a year which means that by 1967 we will have 20,000,000 over 65 and 23,000,000 by 1972.

Ninety percent of these people will require costly medical care. Nine out of every ten people over 65 will be hospitalized and 2 out of 3 will be hospitalized two or more times. It should also be pointed out that older people use almost 3 times as much medical care as younger people.

President Shambo cites the rising costs of hospital care. In 1946, the average hospital cost per day was $9.00 - today it is $32.00. The average stay in the hospital for a person over 65 is 15 days. The average annual income of this same person is $1,300 and over 50% of them receive less than $1,000 per year. Based on present day average hospital rates, a person receiving a $1,000 a year annual income would pay approximately $470.00 which is about 47% of his total annual income.

Polls show that 72 out of every 100 Americans favor medical care for our Senior Citizens. Through Social Security and it is our duty to form from this majority some active support and outward demonstration for the King-Anderson Bill," said Shambo.
DUES INCREASE (Cont'd.)

The last dues increase was caused by a International Constitutional action that increased the Per Capita to the International Union by 50c, making it mandatory for Locals to increase their dues accordingly. The increase represents less than the 2% provided for in the Local Constitutions; however, it will be sufficient to meet the increased cost and keep the Local financially sound.

The proposed dues increase is slightly over 2% per week compared to the wage increase of 3% which results in a 6.50 increase in wages for a common labor job and up to a $4.00 per week increase for a Toolmaker.

The April membership meetings will act upon this recommendation of the Officers and the Executive Board of Local 201.

BOARD MEMBER WHITE DIES

Robert White, who was a Board Member on the 2nd shift of Steam Turbine, died after three weeks illness, at the age of 36, Brother White is survived by his wife and five sons.

The Officers, Executive Board and members when Bob White represented are deeply grieved by his untimely death. He was dedicated to the principles of the labor movement and served his people diligently. We will miss him and we extend our sincere sympathy to his family in this time of deep sorrow.

ROSARY RECITATION-GOOD FRIDAY

The Rev. Joseph Lamanna of the Immaculate Conception Church in Johnstown will lead the noon time Rosary in Bldg. 52 on Good Friday. The Rosary will be offered for world and industrial peace.

Father Lamanna will also be present on Tuesday, May 1st, when the Rosary will be recited at 12:10 p.m., on Bldg. 40, Green. Prayers will be offered every working day during the month of May at the same time rain or shine. Everyone is invited to attend.

JANEDREAU SPEAKS AT RETIREMENT PARTY

Emile Genovese, Machine Helper in the Large Lathe Section of Steam Turbine, was a guest at a retirement party given in his honor by co-workers on Saturday, April 7th, at Endries.

MAC WINDERS GUARANTEED EARNINGS

In March of 1961, a quality control problem developed in the Winding Induction Motor Stator, manufactured by the N.A.C., Dept.

This situation necessitated the re-designing of the Winding Operation which prompted the immediate hiring of additional employees. The development of the new design is still being pursued. As a result, the work force on this operation had risen from a low of 6 two-man teams to the present 39 teams.

Prior to March 1961, the job consisted of 60% standard and 40% piece work day work. A year later there was a complete reversal of 20% piece work and 80% piece work day work.

The majority of the new help hired have not been able to establish an average due to lack of sufficient available piece work; therefore, they were paid on the basis of an R-20 day work development rate.

On 3/23/62, management made the following proposal as payment for such work until such time that job would return to piece work. Starting April 2, 1962, Winders with an established work week would be paid $4.11 + 30c per hour. Winders not having an average would get $3.50 + 30c per hour in four step increments, 1 step each month.

The group rejected this offer. Union representatives after meeting with employees on all shifts made a counter-proposal to the effect that Winders with established average would receive $4.20 + 30c per hour and those without an average $3.50 + 30c, the top rate to be arrived at in 2 steps instead of 4 as proposed by management.

The Company accepted the conditions of this proposal and new rates became effective April 2nd. 25 Winders now receive $4.35 per hour and 12 will get $3.61 per hour until such time that incentive rates are applied which is estimated to be around Sept. 1963. Union negotiators were: Board Members De Marco and Kozal, Trustee De Cresce, Shop Steward Marshall White, and Asst. Business Agent Bill Christian.

The principal speaker was Business Agent Leo Jandreau who spoke on "Benefits Won for Retired Employees through Collective Bargaining". In his talk, Jandreau explained the many benefits won throughout the years as a result of negotiations, noting particularly the present U.S. Pension Plan. This Plan is considered one of the best in American Industry.