



## President's Report:

# A CALL FOR UNITY

Some of you may have heard and some of you may not have heard, but recently there has been some *bad gossip* concerning the benefits of our Contract. Some of these untruths are centered around our *pension plan* and other areas. But, let me remind all that the pension plan is better today. That's right, better than it ever was. The plan is now over two hundred seventy-six million dollars. The other gossip concerning other benefits is no more than unfounded rumors.

As most of you are probably aware, this is the year for election of officers of Local 689. And it never seems to fail but when it's time for elections, some *bad gossip* and unfounded *rumors* are heard. I beg of all members to UNITE

and seek the right information before forming an opinion. Very soon after the election of officers, our Contract expires. Local 689 and Metro are in the process of exchanging contract proposals, so again, we must have Unity.

After nearly 2½ years of negotiations, Local 689 and the Transit Authority have agreed to settle the TOPS Attendance Policy. I had said several times that I believed that the old policy was unfair to our members and that a better policy could be negotiated, and now we have won.

Copies of the new policy have been circulated at all locations by the shop stewards and executive board members. If more information is needed  
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## A New Headquarters and memories...

Moving into new office space recently, as Local 689 has, makes us want to have you all come down to see where we serve you. In hopes of getting every-  
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Pres. "Tommy" Thomas and Recording Secretary Eugene O'Neill in the new lunch room.



## 689 Softball Champs—

We can't see too much of our champs! In the two top pictures are players on the winning "Four Mile Runners" team. Below left a look at the Pirates and on the bottom right, some of the Northern Stars.

# 'Tommy' TALKS:



James M. Thomas, Jr., *President*

## ... about "The Champs, TOPS Attendance Policy, and Elections:

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call the union hall. This new policy became effective on the 6th of Oct. 1985.

On the cover page are pictures of the softball champs ("Four Mile Runners") Pirates and the Northern Stars. I'd like to remind all members of the softball and basketball teams to remember the Sports Banquet that will be held on the 15th of Nov. 1985 and will be at the Union Hall from 8 til 10:30 p.m. Please plan to attend.

The D.C. & Md. State AFL-CIO convention was held in Baltimore October 6th through the 9th. President Ed

Lamon was re-elected, and all other top officers were re-elected also.

I was proud to be elected as first Vice President. This will be my first term as an officer of the State Federation and I am looking forward to being a major part of that organization.

Melvin Broyles, executive board member/shop steward didn't seek re-election. But I am proud of the fact that Melvin was dedicated and gave all he could during his term as an officer for the federation.

In closing I request that all members make a pledge to keep UNITY in Local 689. Remember: This is YOUR Union!

Yours in Solidarity,

*James M. Thomas Jr.*  
President, ATU Local 689

## RTW for less \$\$

Per capita personal income for Americans in right-to-work (for less) states was \$1,478 lower on the average throughout the United States than in the 30 states without the restrictive laws.

According to the latest figures developed by the AFL-CIO's economic

research department, 79.3 million Americans work and live in the 20 right-to-work states and 154.6 million Americans live in free collective bargaining states.

Per capita personal income in the "really free" states in 1983 averaged \$12,186, as opposed to \$10,708 in the right-to-work states.



LOCAL UNION  
**689 news**

James M. ("Tommy") Thomas, Jr.  
President

John A. Thomas  
Secretary-Treasurer

Eugene O'Neill  
Recording Secretary

James W. Allen, Jr.  
1st Vice President

Herbert E. Bynum  
2nd Vice President

Shop Stewards and  
Executive Board Members:

Melvin L. Broyles	Theodore H. Parrish
James E. Bynum	Sandra M. Perrin
Robert Douty	Craig G. Simpson
Jasper J. Farley	Luther L. Smith
Thomas H. Foushee	Clair J. Stephens
Warren L. Flowers	Joseph D. Taylor
Harold E. Hume	Maurice Waller
Donald R. Jackson	David B. Weaver
Joseph L. Jackson	Billy D. Wright

And Appointed Shop Stewards for Maintenance: Bernice Barnes; Russell Childress; Paul Green; and Eugene A. Stevens.

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## ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS

(First Tuesday each month for evening meeting; morning meeting will be held on Wednesday)

- Nov. 5: 8 p.m.
- Dec. 3: 8 p.m.
- Nov. 6: 10 a.m.
- Dec. 5: 10 a.m.

The Laborer's Office Building,  
815 Florida Avenue, N.W.

# New Headquarters and Old Pictures

(Continued from page 1)

one out to the meetings, we have included some pictures taken at our new quarters.

Moving also stirs up some old memories, and we've also included a few old pictures that turned up as boxes of papers were shuffled back and forth from old to new headquarters.



David Weaver and "Tommy" Thomas at the Virginia Democratic Convention in 1981. Great hats!



Gene and "Tommy" discuss a finer point in the President's new office.



A very young "Tommy" Thomas back in 1975 when he was a Shop Steward.



In 1981, as Recording Secretary, a proud James M. Thomas, Jr. (our Local 689 President) receives a top COPE Award at the 4th Annual "Evening With Labor" event.



Josh Williams, left, president, Greater Washington Central Labor Council, and J. C. Turner, president, Operating Engineers International Union, right, congratulate Local 689 President Thomas on his award as "Outstanding Labor Leader of the Year" for 1983.



Gene and "Tommy" in the reception area, waiting to greet YOU! Come on down!

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# Local 689 members' NEWS:

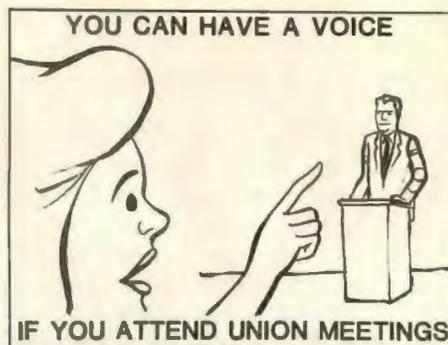
We send our DEEPEST SYMPATHY to the families and friends of these members who have passed away: **Edward J. Paris**, Sept. 5; **Leon E. Rose**, Sept. 18; **Laird S. Jerman**, Oct. 10; **Russell Frances DeAtley**, Oct. 5; **Arthur C. Rhoades**, Sept. 5; **Lewis Z. Eichelberger**, operator at Bladensburg Division, member since Aug. 1, 1967, died Sept. 27; and **Robert Nelson Tur-**

**ner**, mechanic at Bladensburg Garage, member since July 1, 1980, died Sept. 15 as a result of injuries sustained in motorcycle accident.

We send CONGRATULATIONS to these members who have retired as of Oct. 1: **John E. Cunningham**, **Bernard I. Hoffman**, **James H. Johnson** and **Kenneth N. Walton, Jr.**

We send GREETINGS to pensioner **Leon D. (Curley) Richeson**, who is home recuperating from recent surgery and to **Rupert (Pete) Bull** at home, too, after having back surgery, and to **Theodore Hile** who was seriously injured after a fall at his home.

Also we send GET WELL WISHES to all our sick and shutins.

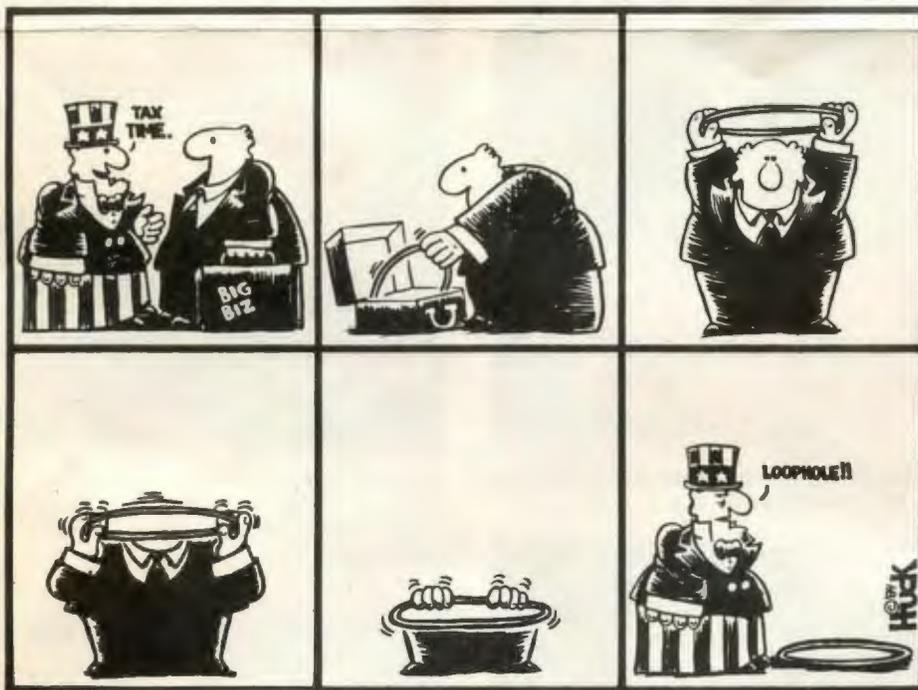


## Moral Victory at Marval

The National Labor Relations Board charged recently that the Marval Poultry Company paid workers to decertify their union which struck the turkey processing firm last year. The NLRB complaint alleges that Marval violated labor law when he "telephoned employees and solicited their assistance in a campaign to decertify the union and promised to compensate employees for such assistance."

The workers of Marval, the nation's largest turkey processing company, have struck over low pay and poor working conditions and a company demand to weaken union security.

Thomas McNutt, president of the Landover-based union, which has pushed a nationwide boycott of Marval products stated, "This is a moral victory and a substantial victory from a propaganda standpoint but it doesn't mean much" unless the company is made to resume bargaining with the union."



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