

United Steelworkers of America
THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION CONSULTANTS

The responsibility of democratic citizenship requires union members to participate in political affairs, and to help shape the political decisions which affect their daily lives.

A nation-wide program of political education and action, called the "Legislative Education Program", is now being established by the United Steelworkers of America. This is a continuing, year-around program, a joint project of the Legislative and Education Departments of the Union. The purpose of this program is to provide organization and training needed for local union members to play more active and responsible roles in political affairs.

To service properly this program for members of the 3000 locals in the 29 districts of the Union, a staff of consultants is required. These consultants, located in different sections of the country, will serve on a part-time basis. The function of these consultants is to advise and assist, at the request of the district directors of the Union, LE staff representatives, coordinators, and committees in planning, organizing, and conducting Legislative Education training programs and action projects, in accord with the Steelworkers' national LE program.

In addition to obvious requirements of personality, these consultants must possess the following qualifications: (1) training in American government and politics at the Ph.D. level, or the equivalent; (2) experience in practical politics including the use of techniques of political and legislative action; (3) competence in instructing mature adults in workshops by means of discussion techniques; (4) interest in the labor move-

ment generally and, particularly, sympathy with the aims of the Steelworkers' Legislative Education Program.

In the main these consultants must be recruited from political science and other social science teachers in colleges and universities. A list of potential consultants is being compiled. These persons will be invited to attend a National Conference on Legislative Education, sponsored by the Steelworkers, to meet with representatives of the Union's LE Program. At this conference the purpose and methods of the program will be discussed.

After this conference, those who indicate a desire to serve in this program, and who appear suited for such work, will be instructed in the details of the program and the role of consultants in it. These consultants will then be available for assignments in the district or districts in the vicinity of their residence. Periodically, national conferences of persons working in the LE Program will be held to review activities and to plan further developments of the program,

For their services and expenses incurred, LE consultants will be adequately compensated by the Steelworkers' Union.

August 15, 1958

#7553