

Job Seekers' Questions

By Hap Hansen

In my nearly 30 years in business, I spent part of that time in the company's personnel department. I interviewed dozens of applicants for openings in our hourly-paid and management positions.

I recall walking in on an applicant who was supposed to be filling out the necessary forms. He was just sitting there, answering questions from his girlfriend who was writing his comments on the forms. I asked why she was doing the paperwork. She replied, "He can't read, so I'm helping him." I asked, "How will he fill out forms or for example, read meters?" He said, "Oh, she will accompany me on the job to do all the reading and writing." Then he said, "How much would she be paid to assist me?" I'm sure I just blinked my eyes for several seconds, then I thanked them for their time and told them we would be in touch if we needed a second interview. Obviously, we didn't!

Here are some other questions I recall from applicants during job interviews (the wording might be changed, but the meaning is clear):

- Can I bring my dog with me on the job?
- When do I get my first raise?
- How soon do I get a vacation?
- When does sick leave begin? I often get the flu.
- Can I get a company car to drive to and from work?
- If not, do you pay mileage on my personal car?
- Who do I see to complain about working conditions?
- How often do I get a coffee break?
- Will my supervisor be male or female?
- If I don't like my supervisor, can I change jobs?
- Can I smoke on the job?
- Will you pay my Union dues?
- Can we have Union meetings during working hours?
- How much do you make each year? Will my pay be close to yours?
- I see we get paid holidays off. Can my birthday be a holiday?
- How much do you pay as a Christmas bonus?

I'm sure you can see by now, that none of these applicants were hired. I assume most of them are still looking for an easy job.