IBEW Installs First
Alaska Traffic Light

The first traffic light in Fairbanks, Alaska, and probably the "farthest north light on the North American continent" was installed recently by members of IBEW Local 1533 of that city.

"Being a small local with few out-of-the-ordinary events to report," said W. P. Laughlin, Local 1533 business rep, "we are proud that there were IBEW members in on this very important local occasion."

Say Charges Were
Not Justified

The UWUA was trying last week to cultivate the very officers whom they recently tried "in absentia" in their kangaroo court, and whom they have so soundly castigated in their handbills and records of the NLRB.

Several former officers of Local 241 have been approached by UWUA National Representative Edward Shedlock himself and urged to come back into the local on the premise advanced by Shedlock that perhaps their trials were unwarranted.

TRIALS WERE HASTY

The UWUA's top man in this district told two ex-241 officials that the trial board's decision was undoubtedly hasty and would not have been so severe had the official been present to defend himself.

Utility Facts is in possession of facts showing that Shedlock is working very actively to bring back the UWUA fold any of its ex-officers who were expelled.

UWUA Calls Cops to Quell
Members Wanting to Talk Up

San Francisco UWUA Local 133 almost lost its pants, along with those of Natl. Rep. Shedlock at the meeting held last week (on Feb. 8) when the membership took over procedure.

Shedlock was so put out that he ordered the cops called to put the union men who were interested in a democratically run meeting out of the meeting. Natl. Rep. Anderson, who was delegated that onerous task, went out and came back to report that the paddy wagon would be along in about 10 minutes. It didn't show up!

UWUA Attacks
Labor Board

The National Labor Relations Board itself was attacked in a bulletin distributed last week by the UWUA, in an effort to justify opposition to the IBEW's petition for an election among PG&E employees.

In hearings to date before the regional officer of the NLRB in San Francisco the UWUA has used the occasion more for a sounding board for propaganda directed against the officers of Local 1324 than for the presentation of evidence which will permit an election to be held and the issue of "who wants who" to represent them determined.

The UWUA bulletin said that "The possibility of an election always exists, since the NLRB does not and will not check authenticity of pledge signatures. They merely check names submitted against payroll lists and do not concern themselves with questions of fraud, misrepresentation or even forgery."

Policy

In the past the CIO has fared as well as any union group in procedures before the NLRB. It is

UWUA Calls Cops to Quell
Members Wanting to Talk Up

Cites Checkoff

The fuss started when Al Tiegel's right to be present at the meeting was challenged by Shedlock on the ground that he was prominently identified with Local 1324. Tiegel pointed out that he was a paid up member of Local 133 because the UWUA insisted on collecting dues from him through the "check-off."

Shedlock then stated that he could remain but would be permitted no voice in the proceedings. The members present then moved and seconded a motion that Shedlock be permitted a voice. Shedlock then attempted to have the order set aside through the Chair, on the grounds that his rights as a national officer superseded those of the local chairman and the membership.

(Continued on Page 4)
To Push 30-Hour Week When Needed

As soon as the present easing off of the post-war boom shows signs of becoming another depression, the AFL will strongly push the 30-hour week.

The AFL's last convention adopted the 30-hour week proposal of the IBEW International President, Daniel W. Tracy who was also the principal advocate in the AFL movement for the shorter week to avoid work during the depression of the 30's.

DUES LOOKS AHEAD

"We don't know how long present employment will continue," Mr. Tracy has said, "but we must be prepared to work toward a shorter work week when the Marshall European Recovery program and the German rearmament are no longer necessary to carry us along."

The California State Federation of Labor has also gone on record favoring the 30-hour work depression hedge and urges all locals to write it into contracts when necessary and possible.

The IBEW itself has already made a three-year contract the shorter work proportion in both building trades and industry contracts.

Inference

A Committee to Combat Intolerance has been set up by San Francisco Central Labor Council, AFL.

In its first public statement the committee said "President William Green, of the American Federation of Labor, has steadfastly opposed bigotry, pointing out that discrimination in any form—religion, race or nationality—threatens democracy upon which free organized labor depends for its survival."

Our committee has an ambitious program and it deserves the support of every AFL union in our council, and we urge every union give full co-operation to the work of this important body."

1,500 New York Clerks Bolt: CIO for the AFL

1,500 New York City Wannamaker Clerks recently left the CIO in a body and joined up with AFL Retail Clerks International Association.

That news marked a growing string of victories in recent weeks by AFL over defeated CIO groups.

The Wannamaker group was accepted into the Clerks union only after the general membership, shop stewards, and the general executive board of the union had approved the action, thus spotlighting the democratic manner in which AFL unions are conducted.

IBEW Utility Men Making Big Organizing Gains in New York

The IBEW won several NLRB elections held recently in the East, thus chalk up new gains for the progressive union.

An election among production, maintenance and distribution employees of the Niagara Hudson Power Co. at Syracuse, N.Y. found the IBEW certified as the bargaining agent after winning in the balloting by nearly two to one. Actual count was 257 to 453.

In a statewide election on the Niagara Hudson system, District 50 of the United Mine Workers took a drubbing later when 4,068 employees from every section of New York marked their ballots for the IBEW versus 1,913 for the CIO union. AFL leaders had urged them to vote for the latter because they had been ruled off the ballot for failure to sign the non-communist affidavit.

At the Hazard Insulated Wire Works where the NLRB conducted an election among office clerical workers on the union shop, 70 voted in favor of the provision and only 12 against. Among the production workers the vote favored the IBEW by an even more resounding score—612 for vs. 52 against.

N.J. VII

In an election at the big Kearny, N.J., works of the Western Electric Co., the IBEW ran on the ballot against three competing unions—the CWA, TWOC-CIO, and WEA—and got the largest vote. In the run-off election the CIO did not even appear. IBEW polled 6,822 votes vs. 5,450 for the CWA.

IBEW Apprentices Finish Job Training

Nine Electrical Workers' inside wiring apprentices were last week certified as journeymen in the trade and have joined the ranks of their fellow craftsmen as skilled workers.

Apprentice training is an important part of IBEW's progressive program. Not only does the joint union-employer program enable the IBEW to build good will with the industry through furnishing it with competent help, but it enables the union to protect the jobs of its members from the designs of untrained, inexperienced men who often are too eager to sell their skills, for just what it is worth.

IBEW Int'l Secy. J. Scott Milne in a recent speech before a joint meeting of union officials and employers said that high jour- neymen standards could make the International a stronger union. He urged both the union officials and employers present to give their support to the apprentice training programs.

Frisco Offices

Officials of Local 1324 remind the membership that an office for the convenience of members living and working in the San Francisco and San Jose districts has been opened at 85 So. Van Ness San Francisco.

Impairies on all matters pertaining to the current organizing campaign may be obtained there, and all other normal union business, such as the collection of dues, etc., transacted there.

Premature

Recent reports of price declines in some foods have been widely played by the press, and already there is talk that a general price break all along the line may not be far away.

Trade unionists, along with everyone else, devoutly hope this is so. But we cannot help recalling that prices shot up 25 per cent from June, 1946, to August, 1946—and the recent decline is less than 1½ per cent.

What is more, it is by no means certain that the present price cuts will continue. Meat prices, for example, are customarily lower in winter than in other periods of the year, and the price may very well turn up again this spring.

Department store sales have also been much featured in the news, but the price cuts offered have, for the most part, been limited to less desirable merchandise.

Trade unionists welcome these price cuts. But any rejoicing done now may be premature. The time for shouting is not here, yet.

Atomic Workers Victor On Vacation Pay Issue

Oak Ridge, Tenn.—The AFL's Atomic Trades and Labor Council has announced a favorable decision from the Board of Arbitration on the issue of calculation of vacation pay for atomic energy employees of the Carlsbad and Carbon Chemical Corporation.

The decision of the arbitrators gave to M. J. McDaniel the award providing that in his case, as well as in all other cases involving Carlsbad and Carbon, the company would be required to include the differential in shift premium pay to employees receiving shift premium pay in their calculations for vacation pay. This means that approximately one week's pay will go to about 900 workers.

Many a woman who can't add can certainly distract.
More Homes for Low and Middle-Income Families—AFL

Washington.—The AFL last week launched a drive for a greatly enlarged federally supported program to build homes for low-income and "middle-income" families. The 15-man Executive Council approved of a program dealing with both home-building and rent control at its meeting here.

On housing, the AFL calls the Administration and Housing bill "an adequate program," and the Capper-Vandenberg housing bill, and lauds the provision calling for construction of 1,000,000 public low-income units over the next seven years. Thus, the AFL resolution indicates that this goal can be reached in four years.

However, the AFL "cannot accept the Administration housing bill as the solution to our housing problem because it contains no provisions for middle-income families.

1. A housing bill should be passed by Congress giving to all U.S. families. These are the families with incomes between $2,000 and $10,000. The AFL calls for federal loans to large-scale rental and cooperative housing available to public agencies, cooperatives, non-profit and limited dividend corporations, and private builders who can conform to rent schedules of about $20 to $30.

2. The so-called "economy houses," promoted by home builders' associations, the Housing and Finance Agency as a substitute for rent control, are no solution, the resolution charges. If these "economy houses" really are built in substantial numbers, they may well become the slums of tomorrow.

The AFL Council also called for:

1. Extension of the rent control law for a two-year period, or until Congress or the President decides it's no longer necessary. The AFL also wants the new bill to give the Administrator power to use for crime and to seek criminal prosecution of repeated and willful offenders. The "rent advisory boards" should be replaced by new effective labor representation, and a national advisory committee including organized labor should be set up. The 15 per cent voluntary lease provision should be ended. "Recontrol or extension of control to those geographic areas and classes of rental accommodations which cannot has seriously worked adequate rent controls," particularly new construction, permanent accommodation in residential hotels, motor courts, trailers and trailer spaces.

Duquesne Electric Workers Get Raises

Utility workers employed at the giant Duquesne Power and Light company, who represented the UWUA to choose the IBEW in system elections held last fall, have ratified an IBEW contract providing for a 10 per cent rise in wages over an average of 8 per cent.

The contract also contains many improvements in working conditions. Increases of 12 cents an hour were obtained for all classifications.

RAISED PLUS

In addition to the 12-cent raise, Hot Stick linemen will get an additional 10 cents, making their increase total 22 cents. Line Crew leaders of sub-foremen will get an added 10 cents; Hot Stick line crewmen an added 3 cents; Welders, Pipefitters, and Electricians 11 cents addition al; Larry operators and hot opera tors, 10 cents extra; and the Equitable Unit (auto mechanics), 5 cents in addition to the general 12 cents raise.

The new IBEW contract covers employees working in the physical, clerical, steam, heat and gas sections of Duquesne in addition to many other types of workers.

Garment Workers Gain Settlement in Dispute

Philadelphia.—An agreement has been reached, in a controversy involving 4,000 employees, between representatives of the Philadelphia Printers, Stenographers and Embroidery Workers Association and the Waist and Dress Joint Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union (AFL).

Terms of the settlement, which extends the existing agreement for 32 years, are:

1. A 63 weekly increase for all employees of the members of the association. The increase is retroactive to Dec. 17, 1948.

2. Authorization of increased payments to unemployed workers from the industry's Fair Income Fund, maintained by contributions from the employers.

Appointment as impartial chairman of the industry of Dr. George W. Taylor of the University of Pennsylvania, former chairman of the War Labor Board.
UWUA Attacks Labor Board

(Continued from Page 1)

doubtful that a policy of criticism of that body by the UWUA is in line with NANCIAL CIO policy. The UWUA action is undoubtedly an attempt to influence by indirect means a decision of IBEW's election petition.

The signatures on all IBEW pledge cards are authenticated by competent witnesses. Forgery of signatures is punishable by existing law. Competent witnesses. Forgery of signatures is punishable by existing law and fraud statutes.

All the signatures on all IBEW pledge cards are authenticated by competent witnesses. Forgery of signatures is punishable by existing law and fraud statutes.

The Chair was called to order. The minutes were read and approved. The Chair went along with this request. The meeting was then called to order.

The minutes tell the rest of the story:

Moved, seconded, carried to adjourn.

J. Russel Evans, Recording Secretary

Several UWUA members who were present signed IBEW membership cards after the meeting.

Building Service Union Negotiates 12c Raises

One dollar a day raises across the board for the workers in 40 office buildings have been negotiated by officials of Local 18, AFL Building Service Employees.

The old contract expired February 1st. The new one, calling for 12c raises for all classifications, runs for one year.

It provides for the five-, the four-, and the standard fringe issues.

AFL Workers Get Oregon Pay Boost

Chalk the first union pay boost in Oregon in its history to the AFL Building Trades Unions of Portland.

IBEW electrical workers' hourly wage increases of 15 cents would bring their scale to $2.35 per hour.

The industry scale in the Bay Area for IBEW electricians is $2.45 per hour.

Lathers, carpenters and bricklayers have signed contracts calling for increases of 25 cents.

IBEW and Sign Group Agree on Pensions

Seventeen firms in the sign industry operating in the San Francisco - Richmond - Oakland district have joined the growing list of employers subscribing to IBEW's pension fund, Business Manager S. E. Rockwell of Oakland Local 505 reports.

Rockwell said that the Bay Area companies were the first in the industry on the West Coast to sign contracts containing clauses providing for the IBEW standard employer contribution, of one percent of wages. The contribution goes into the Brotherhood's pension fund and is being written into all new IBEW contracts.

The agreement was effective January 1, and has provided for union service since 1957. Wage rates for electricians in the industry are $2.45 per hour.

Electricians in the building trades in San Francisco area have had the benefit of the pension plan since 1946 when the electrical contractors of the area started contributing one percent of their gross payrolls to the IBEW fund.

NLRB Election

Hearing Off

The hearing on IBEW petition for a bargaining agent election has been postponed due to the illness of Mr. Paul St. Suro, attorney who has been handling the interest of the PG&E before the NLRB.

To date, in the week of hearings held, most of the hearing officer's time has been taken up by UWUA representatives of Local 124 officers and working members who are all employees of PG&E, despite the fact that 1324 officials have signed anti-communist affidavits and are in conformance with requirements of the Taft-Hartley act.

Say Charges Were Not Justified

(Continued from Page 1)

port of their conversations. The gist of their replies was that even if there was a possibility of a change in the current UWUA policy which brought about the result, it's now too late to return. They feel that they can get vindication from the false and vicious charges leveled at them by the UWUA only through an IBEW election victory.

Uranium, of atomic energy fame, is too scarce to use as fuel or power.

AFL Auto Workers Local Wins Favorable Contract

AFL Auto Workers have successfully concluded a strike against the Brown - Morse Manufacturing Company of Muskegon Heights, Mich. A blanket wage increase and one of the best insurance plans in the state and which will be financed by the employer was won in negotiations.

Tracy on Board To Aid Minorities

DANIEL W. TRACY
IBEW President

A board to investigate cases of discrimination against minority groups in the United States has been set up by the National Civil Service Board. Daniel Tracy, president of the IBEW, is the only appointee from the ranks of organized labor.

The group will hear appeals of persons or organizations who think they are being discriminated against because of race, color, religion or politics.

Tracy said that despite the heavy press of IBEW business he had a limited amount of time to apply to outside interests, but that he felt that the undertaking of the new board was very important and that it would get the time needed to get the task done.