IBEW STUDIES PG&E EFFORT TO CRADLE FALTERING UA LOCALS

From Pres. to Pres., Cordial Invitation

The following letter was dispatched to Tom Maguire, president of UWUA Local 133, by Les Glasson, IBEW Local 1324 president. It speaks for itself:

I received a postcard last week notifying me of a meeting of Local 133. To it you appended this note: “Les, come out and hear the truth.”

Well, Tom, you are a good kid, and I like you. I am going to take you into my confidence. I know the truth. That’s why I am in the IBEW. I know the “Johnny-boys” who would like to make a company union out of a “once glorious union.” I know those who are intimidated by company letters headed, “Dear Fellow Employee.” I know the “Johnny-boys” who shamed a union after holding out for the days of hard sledding and then aided and abetted a bosses’ job on it when the chance came. Maybe I’m like the “Whistler.” I know many things.

After being around for 33 years a fellow is bound to know a few things.

AFL Charter to Ukiah Council

Evidence indicating an all-out management attempt to aid the faltering UWUA’s PG&E organizing campaign was piling up this week. PG&E employees were getting leaves of absence in increasing numbers to work as UWUA organizers. UWUA pamphlets were hitting at company support and UWUA field men were openly bragging about it.

The IBEW was unconcerned. Past experience has shown that workers are always suspect of any labor organization that permits management to inject itself into union organizational affairs.

SPECIAL LEAVES

Apparently the company likes the sort of contracts it can make with UWUA. Apparently the company does not want “One Union on the System” for then it will no longer be able to play one union off against the other.

Company Leaves To UWUA Members

Company leaves and field men say that six employees have recently been given leaves of absence to aid the UWUA. These are in addition to others recently furloughed, for leaves ranging from one to two weeks.

This action was taken despite the fact that IBEW Local 1324 has requested the company by letter and through telephone conversations to take a neutral stand in this campaign.

ILLEGAL DEAL

The company takes the position that they must grant such leaves to UWUA members because the contract recently signed with that organization permits leaves for the completion of union business. Legality of the contract is being contested before the NLRB because it was written by officials who do not represent the majority of the work-

AFL Denting Anti-Labor Laws

An Indiana anti-utility workers law which outlawed utility strikes and imposed fines, jail sentences and compulsory arbitration was handed a blow by the new 1949 Legislature by a 75 to 22 majority in the House. The AFL and IBEW, through their Political and Educational League, brought about the play of forces necessary for the accomplishment.

In Delaware, a “Little Taft-Hartley Act” got a similar treatment by the House of Representatives. The Senate in both states still must act, and the AFL is continuing its campaign to eliminate the nefarious laws.

INTERSTATE TELEPHONE GOES IBEW; CIO OUT

The UWUA missed the bus again--this time in Washington state, where the IBEW won a bargaining agent election from the Communications Workers of America. The UWUA was not even in the organizational picture on the Interstate Telephone & Telegraph Company’s premises in the Spokane district.

A factor in the choice of the IBEW was the announcement shortly before the election by CWA President Joseph Bierne that he was taking the organization into the CIO, which had assured him the presidency of the national for doing so. Bierne had tried to make a similar deal with the IBEW but was promised nothing.

Delia MacIntyre and Jerry Winters were the IBEW international organizers who assisted the regular business agents of Local 71 in the Interstate campaign. The vote was 207 to 182 for the CWA.
“Light,” the UWUA edition of the CIO News, has come up with a mud-slinging, Red-baiting, campaign of IBEW vilification that does the newspaper little credit. NLRB officials have themselves stated the IBEW is in compliance with the communist provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act.

The February 7th issue also tries to bring discredit upon the IBEW by referring back to 1931 and Chicago. For its news source “Light” quotes that book by Harold Seldman titled “Labor Czar.” This is 1949 and the issues are not personalities but the right of workers to choose their own bargaining agents.

11-34 M-M!!

Every large and progressive union, including the utilities, has had its bad boys. (UWUA’s President is a good example.) A New York Supreme Court once ordered him to pay back into the union’s treasury, with interest, money he was accused of wrongfully taking.

However, the measure of any union’s value to the man on the job is not the skeletons in the family closet but what it has to offer in the parlor, the living room, and the kitchen—today.

NONE BARRED

IBEW Local 1324 has the front and the parlor open to any UWUA member or officer—at any time, President L. G. Glasson says. He points out some of the things that may be found in the parlor:

On the wall would be a copy of the unpopular PG&E Steel formula.

In the parlor, the living room, and the kitchen—today.

ELECTIONS

Nominations of officers must be made openly by members and not by any hand-picked “nominating committee.” Elections for all offices must be above suspicion, and all candidates must be permitted to have watchers present at the voting.

In the kitchen you would find a bounteous table, made possible by the best contracts for workers in the industry. These contracts are available to the membership for study at all times. The IBEW permits the execution of no contracts with tricky clauses made for the benefit of double-dealing employers.

The temporary dues structure is 2.00 for B-A members and 4.00 for A, or Beneficial members. The permanent dues rate will be determined by the membership itself.

BIG BUSINESS

A quick check of the books would show resources of more than 5,000,000 plus a death fund ($100,000) that has paid out more than $9,000,000 and is optional to members at a cost of $1.20 per month. Over $135,000 is paid out each month to members in good standing for 20 years and over 65 years of age for pension at the rate of $50.00.

The International derives its strength from two sources, both craft and industry. For over forty years Utility men have been members of the union—from the janitor to the highest skilled worker. The IBEW is not a Johnny Come Lately in the Utility field.

Restrictions on trade, either public or private, is incompatible with economic expansion and rising living standards.

Some people can hear a rattle in their cars quicker than one in their heads.

ISSUES... NOT PERSONALITIES ARE CONCERN OF UTILITY MEN

PERMANENTE HEALTH PLAN MEMBERS NOTICE

Local 1324 is now set up to collect your Permanente dues.

Checks or money orders sent to Local 1324 should be made out to HEALTH AND WELFARE FUND, IBEW LOCAL 1324, AFL, and sent to 1918 Grove St., Oakland, Calif.

Kindly remember that your payment is due in this office by the 20th of the preceding month.

Anyone wishing to apply for membership in the Health Plan may obtain information and application blanks by contacting this office or our office at 85 South Van Ness in San Francisco.

A check of the by-laws would reveal that membership meetings must be held at least once a month. Union affairs are run by the membership itself. Local executive boards must submit all their recommendations to the membership for approval.

NO SOAP!

Strenuous efforts were made to bring the AFL into the group but its political complexion was not in accord with the democratic ideals of the AFL and these efforts were soundly rebuffed.

The action at Paris which meant the death knell of the reds’ World Federation was the withdrawal of British Trade Union Congress delegates, who represented about 800,000 British unionists. This action left the CIO out on an uncomfortable red limb and there was nothing for it but to pull out too.

Thus the AFL’s years of vigorous opposition to the WFTU was finally vindicated.

February Tribute

It is fitting in this birthday month of two great Americans that we pause to pay them tribute.

To George Washington, our first president, who led the ragged armies to our first taste of real liberty and independence, we are indebted.

But in Lincoln, the Great Commoner, labor finds a man whom we can not only revere for his great understanding and high purpose, but whom we can look to for inspiration in the ever continuing battle for the best things of life.

Wisdom in all things affecting humanity lives after him, for he understood man’s weakness and aspirations and was willing to be tolerant of the one to advance the other.

He knew the part that labor plays in this economy of ours and his pertinent words on the subject should live a long time in our own memories.

“It is assumed that labor is available only in connection with capital,” Lincoln said. “that no one labors unless someone else, owning capital, somehow, by the use of it, induces him to labor. Labor is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruits of labor and could not have existed if labor had not first existed.”

This gem, along with many others from his lips or his pen, endears Lincoln to us. It is such pronouncements that stimulate the thoughts of all open-minded people, and make them ever aware of labor in our way of life.

THE BUSINESS AGENT’S DREAM

A man knocked at the Heavenly Gate,

His face was scarred and old;

He stood before the man of fate

For admission to the fold.

“What have you done,” St. Peter asked

“To gain admission here?”

“I’ve been a business agent, Sir.

For many years and a while

The pearly gates swung wide wide,

St. Peter touched the bell—

“Come in and choose your harp,” he said.

“You’ve had your share of hell.”

Vindication for AFL Red Position

The World Federation of Trades Unions has folded up as a result of actions taken at Paris recently where the World Federation met.

Set up during the early years of the war, when Russian-American relations were more friendly, the World Federation was intended to be the voice of world trade unionism. Instead, with delegates from post-war France, Italy and Soviet satellite countries in the majority, the organization developed into one more front for party-line propaganda.

NO SOAP!

Rising prices have wiped out every gain made by workers in the past six years. That blunder fact was underlined this week in “Labor Survey,” research organ of the AFL.

The Survey points out that from 1939 to 1942 noticeable advances were made in the organized worker’s real wages. However, after 1942 the “Little Steel formula” halted boosts in wages. Rising and take-home pay also rose because of the long hours worked in the war industries.

After the war, overtime earnings vanished, but prices continued to rise. Wage increases since the war have lagged behind living costs. “What remains to the worker today,” the Survey said, “is the real wage he had in 1942.”

In other words, all labor wage gains made since that time have been used up by the rapid rise of living costs.

Anxiously to have his fortune told, the young man decided to go to the local Swami. As he sat down, the Swami noticed that young man’s crystal ball had two holes in it.

“What’s the idea of the holes?” he inquired curiously.

“Well, on Wednesday nights,” explained the Swami, “I go bowling.”
Hughes, IBEW International, who confusing propaganda being circulated by UWUA officials, C. P. Hughes, IBEW International, who is assisting the organizing campaign of Local 1324, this week called upon Ed Shedlock, UWUA Administrator, to make public a list of all PG&E members expelled for alleged communist connections.

In various public statements and in pamphlets the UWUA has stated that such expellees are now in the ranks of IBEW Local 1324. Charges were not brought nor a trial held until the members in question and a very large majority of their fellow unionists had bolted into the IBEW in disgust with UWUA policies.

SLANDER
"Administrator Shedlock, by his irresponsible red-baiting is casting a shadow on the loyalty and Americanism of every honest PG&E union man who now considers himself an IBEW member," Hughes said, "and the IBEW pledge cards that have been signed certainly indicates that those pledged comprise a majority of the PG&E personnel. It is high time that these malicious attacks cease. I therefore demand that Mr. Shedlock either make public a list of all PG&E personnel accused of communist connections together with specific charges against each, or stop this slander."

The UWUA's "Light" edition of the News on February 7 carried a piece titled "Lefflies in PG&E Firm Haven in IBEW." The title to the piece was a misnomer. It was strictly an apology for UWUA interminable troubles. So far as IBEW Local 1324 was concerned, it named no names, lefty or otherwise.

REFUTATION
Directly refuting such propaganda from Administrator Shedlock's office, was Shedlock's persistent efforts to woo back into the UWUA fold the very officials it has intimidated are red-tinged.

J. E. Gibbs and Manuel Ferreria, who are former UWUA members, and who were blanketed with red innuendos by the UWUA kangaroo court which tried them along with a host of others recently, are the latest ex-UWUA officials to be approached by Administrator Shedlock.

Shedlock told them that he had found that charges against them were not wholly true and justified. He added that if they would return to the IBEW he would have the charges nullified and issues the truth against them.

HELL, NO!
Naturally, the two refused, as other ex-officers who have been similarly approached, refused. It is such maneuvering by the top brass that led to the demise of UWUA in this area.

All IBEW officials have signed the anti-communist affidavits required by the Taft-Hartley Act. The NLRB Regional Director has confirmed this in writing.

THEY WERE HAVING JUST ONE MORE
At the bar when an old friend, previously quite normal, came through the door, walked up the wall, crossed the ceiling, down the other wall, and disappeared out of the door.

"There was a moment of stunned silence, then, "What in the world's the matter with that guy?"

"Yeah, he didn't even speak to us."
ATTEMPTS TO MISLEAD UTILITIES MEN REVEALED BY PAPER

Two articles on the current PG&E organizing campaign stood out in the last issue of "Light," UWUA's edition of the CIO news. The first said that Clem Lewis, National UWUA representative, had asked an 18 cent an hour general wage increase for utility employees of Southern California Edison Company. That is about the same fine wage figure that preceded the illegal contract Lewis, Shedlock and Company negotiated recently with PG&E.

GENERALIZATION

Here the wage demand started off at 16 cents, but the amount settled for was an inadequate 9 cents.

The article dealt with that settlement. There was one very brief paragraph telling about the nine cent increase, and another brief one generalizing about pensions and taking half as much as they want to settle for.

The story did not say that the contract had been preceded by the shell of National officers and members remaining in UWUA after the main body of membership had bolted to the IBEW.

BARTER

The UWUA practice of barter by propaganda; of walking into negotiations high in hope but low in data; of asking for half again as much as they want to settle for and taking half as much as they should have settled for is contrasted by IBEW practice.

The IBEW goes into negotiations with a contract which has been fully discussed and approved by the membership beforehand. That contract reflects the maximum wage needs of the employee plus all of the desirable conditions he aspires to. These things are incorporated into the contract by the IBEW's legal department, and are documented by one of the largest and most comprehensive research departments operated by any International union.

Fortified with the material supplied by this department, IBEW's negotiators go into the conference room with the assurance that they are asking for nothing unreasonable, nothing that some other company has not already subscribed to. They stay until they have sold their program.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

MARTINEZ UNIT 1

The membership attended a meeting that they were told was to be open to both Mr. Shedlock of the UWUA and Mr. Fante of the IBEW. After some discussion, Mr. Hughes retired from the meeting, rather than have Mr. Shedlock adjourn it.

Mr. Hughes stated the employees of PG&E were perfectly capable of making their own decision, based on facts. The employees who were all, with the exception of about six, members of IBEW then listened to and questioned Mr. Shedlock and others. Nothing was accomplished.

At our last regular meeting, the Publicity Committee of Mayhow, Fante and Howard was selected. The membership also took action to affiliate with the Central Labor Council of Contra Costa County.

We are still well over 90 per cent IBEW and the only local union for PG&E employees in the area. Mr. Shedlock has not been able to secure enough in a meeting to set up the old local under UWUA. JOHN FANTE, Secretary.

REDWOOD CITY UNIT 2

Redwood held its regular meeting Monday, February 14. Representative Snyder attended and brought us up to date on the current issues. It was reported that Mr. Shedlock contacted two of our very active members and former officers, offering to have them reinstated in the UWUA. Yes, that's right, they said no dice. Too late!

We are still very solid IBEW and no UWUA local has been established to take the place of old No. 137. We sure would like to see some of the gang from the old Local 137 attend our meetings. You won't go away hungry as we always serve coffee and doughnuts or cookies after each meeting.

JUSSY RUSSELL PLACE, Secretary.

SAN FRANCISCO UNIT 3

The IBEW Local 1324 reports very good progress in San Francisco despite the fact the UWUA has centered its full-time organizing in this Division. The last meeting was well attended and several new applications were received. The Organizing Committee, headed by William Kennedy, reports progress in all departments. Representative Snyder has contacted many crews in the field and answered many questions. He urges all members to use the facilities of his office at 85 South Van Ness.

JESSE NASH, Secretary.

SANTA ROSA UNIT 4

Well, we had a visitor at our meeting in Cotati on the 10th, R. M. Rulofson, who is on leave of absence from the company to organize for the UWUA. Our meetings are always open under the aegis of company hostility to the IBEW comes to their attention they may bring the matter to the attention of the entire Northern California AFL labor movement through the various joint labor councils.

Panama Minority To Get AFL Aid

The AFL's executive council at its mid-winter meeting in Miami, voted to take action to improve the lot of thousands of Mexican workers employed under discriminatory conditions in the Panama Canal Zone.

An "Equal pay for equal work" stand will be applied to the canal zone situation so that skilled and semi-skilled Mexicans will be paid the same rates as American workers who perform similar tasks. The AFL has made a thorough of wage and working conditions in the American zone.

The council also reiterated its desire for AFL convention action to extend social security wage and have Congress pass bills providing for health insurance, a dollar an hour minimum wage, and a billion dollars of Federal aid to improve the Nation's ailing school systems.

"What advantages do pajamas have over an old-fashioned nightgown?"

"Don't know. I've never worn pajamas over an old-fashioned nightgown."

(Sec. 542. P.L.R.)

RC PAID

Oakland, Calif.

Permit No. 1283

February 23, 1949