New Contract, New Pension Plan—IBEW

There is a lot of conversation on PG&E premises lately about the Pension Plan which the UWUA accepted from the management and incorporated in the contract which the UWUA and the company are attempting to force upon their employees.

Apparently there are many questions in the minds of PG&E employees on the merits of the pension plan for many inquires are received daily at Local 1324 offices. The question most frequently asked is whether or not the pension plan will still be in force after the coming NLRB election is won by Local 1324, IBEW.

The answer, of course, is “No!” Local 1324 is not bound by any contract made and endorsed by a small clique of UWUA officials without the sanction of a majority of the employees it is supposed to benefit.

WILL IMPROVE

When the NLRB elections demonstrate that Local 1324, IBEW, is the chosen bargaining agent of the PG&E employees a pension plan incorporating the desires of the membership will be presented to the management for negotiation. A committee chosen by the membership and assisted by International Representatives will make every effort within their power to improve the pension plan now available.

In the meantime, Local 1324 officials are urging PG&E employees to contact either the San Francisco or Oakland offices in regard to improvements which seem desirable. Old time employees who have always had a more than passing interest in pension plans are especially urged to relay their ideas. They will be filed so that when the time comes to begin negotiations there will be a cross-section of the membership’s own pension desires on hand.

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Fed. Begins Drive For Better Laws

C. J. HAGGERTY
Secretary of the State Federation of Labor.

Delegates from every AFL union and labor council in the state converged on Fresno last Sunday at the call of the California State Federation of Labor, where they heard Secretary C. J. Haggerty implore them to concerted action for the defeat of state and national pending legislation aimed at the welfare and well-being of the working man.

Scores of anti-labor bills have been introduced into the state legislature. The most vicious of these bills have been listed by the Federation secretary and the Fresno delegates were urged to start a deluge of protesting letters aimed at their defeat when they return to their homes.

Likewise the bills the AFL is backing such as the increase in unemployment benefits amendments and many others were also listed so united AFL action may effect their passage.

Further details of the Fresno meeting will be published in Utility Facts next week.

"ONE UNION ON THE SYSTEM" IS IBEW ANSWER TO 'CRAFT UNION' BOGEY RAISED BY UWUA

Officials of IBEW Local 1324 were amused this week by the latest pitch of UWUA officials at the IBEW utility organizational setup. With the IBEW firmly established in over 200 major utility companies throughout the nation on a plant-wide basis, the UWUA cries of "craft unionism" give the IBEW further opportunity to nail down the UWUA propagandists for what they are—liars interested in their own positions rather than in the welfare of the workers they seek to represent.

EXPERIENCE

The IBEW has gone through the fire of over 50 years of experience. It is stable, responsible and respected. It has over 400,000 members. Its headquarters are in the nation’s capital, Washington, D.C., in its own eight-story building.

President Green of the American Federation of Labor has gone on record with the statement that all utility workers, including clerical workers, fall within the jurisdiction of the IBEW.

For a contrast with the clearcut position of the IBEW, a look at the CIO division of jurisdiction is interesting. In the utility field are the Gas Workers, Transport Workers, Communication Workers, Electrical and Machinery Workers, among others.

STRENGTH

It is true that the IBEW also has jurisdiction in the contracting industry and is there organized along craft lines. Organization of one trade and its related workers along both craft and industrial lines is an added source of strength to the entire membership.

Utility companies have been organized for over 40 years, with all employees in the same union. Utility men who know utility problems devote their full time to their field.

Not one light and power company in America is organized on a craft basis. It simply cannot be done. The National Labor Relations Board has never carved up or split up the groups into crafts in the utility field. However, the Board has held separate elections for clerical workers. The only exception was one little power station with 48 employees of the old Laclede Company in St. Louis before the Labor Board was set up in 1935. (When the CIO tried to take the station over it got five votes.)

THE ANSWER

Yet Sherdock, Phillips and company have suggested the possibility of a craft setup on the PG&E! The IBEW’s organizational slogan of “One Union on the System” certainly refutes such suggestions.

Citing the UWUA’s obstinancy in blocking a bargaining agent election, IBEW officials point to those tactics as the best evidence of who wants to divide the system.

Oakland Local Is Proud of Oldsters

Proud of Oldsters

At the close of 1948 ten 25-year pins were awarded to members of IBEW Local 595, Oakland, marking the annual revival of a ceremonial banquet started back in 1943.

In addition to these ten, three electricians who had retired on IBEW pensions were recalled and presented with 50-year pins.

S. E. Rockwell, Local 595 business manager, says that since the pin presentation was inaugurated six years ago, 114 members have received them, of whom 14 have passed on and 19 are drawing their pensions.

Rockwell says that the local is proud of the number of oldtimers in its ranks. Taking into consideration the year of their initiation, the service of these 114 reaches a total of 3,763 years, or an average of 33 years of continuous membership.
A.F.of L. Parade of Raises Continues

The AFL unions were doing all right for their members in a host of places during the past few months, many of which were near at home and abroad. Here are some of the gains won for members which came to the attention of the editor:

New York: As a result of the AFL-United Mine Workers contract, a new $3.75 per hour wage was awarded. The new wage rate will be phased in over the course of the next six months.

Chicago: The Retail Clerks Union has negotiated a new contract with several department stores, increasing wages by 10%.

Los Angeles: The United Electrical Workers have achieved a substantial increase in wages, with the average wage rising by $1.50 per hour.

The figures were results of the current Electrical Workers' Survey, which is conducted annually to assess wage trends in the industry.

Unions Help Make Democracy Work, IBEW President Says

President Truman has promised a "Fair Deal" for every group and individual in this vast nation. A "Fair Deal," said IBEW President Tracy, "has made an appearance" in the current Electrical Workers' Journal, "as that labor over workers, Trade unions have" made a "Fair Deal." "Trade unionists have" made a "Fair Deal" for each and every one of the members of the union, which we know as American democracy. "One of the most striking exemplars of this teamwork is found in the excellent record made by America's organized workers in World War II. The American labor union is an unifying force in the creation and preservation of American democracy because it is the basis of democratic life.

Recalls Europe

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Tobin Speaker at Apprentice Fete

Maurice J. Tobin, Secretary of Labor, will be the principal speaker at the second annual mass graduation of AFL apprentices in the East Bay. To be held at the Oakland Auditorium arena on May 17, 1949, the event will feature the graduation of approximately 600 apprentices from the AFL Central Labor Council.

Scey Tobin

1949 was the year of the graduation of the first class of apprentices from the AFL Central Labor Council. Last year, the mass graduation of apprentices was sponsored by 35 joint labor and management apprenticeship committees in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

U.C. Survey Shows '48 Living Costs Up

The cost of living in 1948 increased from 3 to 5% over 1947, the University of California's Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics reports. The figures were results of the yearly survey of budget costs for wage earners, white collar workers, and farmers. The committee found that the cost of living increased by 3.7% for wage earners, 4.3% for white collar workers, and 5.2% for farmers.

Notice - All PG&E Workers

This is your paper! It is written in your interest. Your participation in its publication is earnestly desired and solicited.

If you have any ideas for improving the character and content of this publication, you are invited to submit them. We are not looking for praise but rather constructive criticism, or articles you think will interest your fellow-workers and improve your job and your union.

Address correspondence to the IBEW Local 1324, 1918 Grove Street, Oakland, Calif., or 85 South Van Ness Ave, San Francisco, Calif.
Thousands Benefit From Miner Fund

The sorry story of the miners’ prostration before the unbridled lust of the mine operator for gain shows conclusively that unless certain unfounded charges are promptly denied by Joseph Dillon, Executive Secretary of the Teamsters Union. The charges were brought by Mr. Lewis against Local 133 officials. Mr. Lewis was permitted to speak at least three Local 133 meetings at District Council meetings and at State-wide conferences.

Finally the membership of several Locals voted Lewis or others not approved by the membership to be excluded from meetings. The charge is ridiculous unless the National union wanted to try all those members who voted Lewis out of future meetings. Other National officers were actually invited out to the West Coast to work out our differences. The National officers did not appear at the meetings.

(IBEW meetings are open today to any UWUA official who wants to discuss issues before the membership.)

3. Conspiring to carry out a communist inspired plot against the UWUA.

No evidence was introduced to back up this libelous charge. It is now clear that it was levelled de

Grin or Groan

Auto Examiner: “Do you know what it means if a driver puts out a hand?”

Applicant: “Well, if it’s a woman, it means she is going to turn right or left, shake the ashes off her cigarette, or reverse or stop, or it’s pointing to a hat store or admiring her ring or—”

 Examiner: “Yeah, and if it’s a man?”

Applicant: “Why, he’s usually waving at a woman.”

“Daddy, may I ask you a question?”

“Sure, son.”

“Well, if a doctor is doctoring a doctor, does the doctor doing the doctoring have to doctor the doctor? Now, can you give me an example?”

Applicant: “No, doctor.”

“Doctor, do you know what it means if a doctor puts out a hand?”

Applicant: “Yes, sir. It means that the doctor is going to turn right or left, shake the ashes of his cigarette, or reverse or stop, or he’s pointing to a hat store or admiring his ring or—”

Executive: “Yeah, and if it’s a man?”

Applicant: “Why, he’s usually waving at a woman.”

“What’s in the fancy vase on the mantel?”

First Bride: “I've got my husband's ashes.”

Second Bride: “Oh, I'm so sorry. How long has he been dead?”

First Bride: “He isn’t. He’s just too lazy to get rid of them.”

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“Wise men are always in doubt.”

Kare Hansen, a Norwegian electrical worker who rose to the presidency of the Oslo Federation of Labor, was feted in this country by A.F.L. President William Green recently. Hansen was in this country with a group of six of his countrymen gathering industrial information and studying American production methods.

On the itinerary of the party were stops in Detroit, Youngstown, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and the great Norris Dam of the TVA project where they had lunch and dinner with local union officials.

Hansen remarked that capital was limited in his native country and that so far only 15 per cent of the power potential there had been developed. Large scale investments for harnessing power locked up in the great fjords would result in additional, cheaper, better steel mills. According to the Norwegian citizens, he said, but in the long run the added power would result in the production of more things which the people needed.
IBEW Gains Across Nation Continue

The CIO demise around the country continued this week in both large and small plants. Speaking on the victory of IBEW Local 1324 of Chicago over UE-CIO at the Belmont Radio Corp., M. F. Darling, president and business manager writes:

"We successfully defeated an independent union which was really the UE-CIO operating under an alias in order to get on the ballot.

"It is our belief that winning this plant is important to the Brotherhood as a whole inasmuch as the UE-CIO have publicized this plant nationally wherever a conflict between the IBEW and UE-CIO was in progress.

"We hope that this information will be helpful to any other local unions which may be involved in a dispute with the CIO."

TECHNICIANS IN
Radio broadcast technicians, announcer technicians, and field engineers of the Associated Electronic Enterprises, Inc., of Woonsocket, R. I. voted seven to three for a bargaining representation by IBEW Local 1281.

About 35 utility workers employed by the Tombigbee Electric Power Association, (a co-op) are now IBEW as a result of a NLRB bargaining agent election.

In other NLRB elections IBEW has secured the union shop recently for the state-wide system of the Illinois Public Company; at the Kewanee (Ill.) Public Service Company; at the Baton Rouge, La., plant of the Westinghouse Electric Corp.; and at the Unadilla Telephone Corp. of Oneonta, N. Y.

Know the Facts!
Here’s WHERE and WHEN to ATTEND MEETINGS

UNIT No. 1—MARTINEZ
2nd and 4th Monday of each month, I. O. O. F. Hall, Martinez, 829 Ferry St.

UNIT No. 2—REDWOOD & SAN MATEO
2nd and 4th Monday of each month, Community Hall, Belmont, 8 p.m.

UNIT No. 3—SAN FRANCISCO
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, (Day Workers) Building Trades Temple, AFL—Progress Hall, 14th and Guerrero Sts., 7 p.m.

Last Monday in each month, (Night workers).
2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month (Executive Board), 8 South Van Ness, 8 p.m.

UNIT No. 4
2nd Thursday of each month, Odd Fellows’ Hall, Cotati, 8 p.m.

IBEW Benefits—
Here’s What the Brotherhood Offers Members for Security

(Note: In response to the many inquiries received by Local 1324, the following articles on IBEW benefit plans are published. The Death Benefit plan, and the Pension plan may be taken at the option of the member).

These are new plans instituted by the IBEW for the purpose of extending the valuable work of the 
BEW properties, as some parts may attempt to insinuate. The Death Benefit plan has been in effect for approximately 27 years. It is tried and tested, and proven many times. Either plan is available to the families of IBEW members. Though not so old (10 years) the Pension plan has also proved its soundness and value.

Electrical Workers
Benefit Association
"Death Benefits"

Since the inception of this plan in 1922 over $14,000,000 in death benefits have been paid to the beneficiaries of IBEW members. It now pays out approximately $216,000 per month for such benefits or $1,512,000 per year.

Every "A" member at a cost of $1.20 per month derived from his or her $1.00 per month dues, and in continuous good standing for one year or more but less than two years preceding his or her death, shall have a death benefit of $300 paid to his or her designated beneficiary.

Thereafter the benefit increases in proportion to the number of years the members has subscribed to the plan as follows:

Two years or more but less than three years, $475; three years or more but less than four years, $650; four years or more but less than five years, $825; and five years or more, $1,100.

An example of the plan’s benefit on a short term basis is this typical case taken from the EWB files: A member who had subscribed to the plan for five years or 60 months paid in $72 at the rate of $1.20 per month, when he died, he received a cash pension of $300 paid to his designated beneficiary.

Thereafter the benefits increase in proportion to the number of years the member has subscribed to the plan as follows:

Two years or more but less than three years, $475; three years or more but less than four years, $650; four years or more but less than five years, $825; and five years or more, $1,000.

AFL Turns Prof.
For Eastern Pupils

The AFL took a long step down the road of Democracy last week in Newark, N. J., when a plan was worked out in conjunction with school authorities of the city and the Essex County Trades Council whereby students at East Side High School will get an insight into the major fact labor unions play in our form of government from labor leaders themselves.

In preparation for the experiment, 40 AFL representatives will teach teacher training courses sponsored by Rutgers University, after which they will appear before the high students as labor professors.

GOOD AND BAD

Every phase of the labor movement will be explained, its birth, its progress and accomplishments over the years, current objectives, and question and answer periods will allow the students to clarify matters of particular interest to them.

The "unvarnished truth"—good and bad, lockouts, jurisdictional strikes, and the Taft-Hartley Act will be laid before the young scholars.

If the experiment proves to be popular and the success union leaders think it will be it will be extended to other schools in the country.

"How come," asked the good wife, "There's no lodge meeting tonight?"

"I hate to be postponed," her husband explained. "The Grand All Powerful Invisible Supreme Omnipotent Sovereign got beaten up by his wife."

IBEW Pension Plan

The IBEW set up its Pension Plan in 1929. It provided a month by month dues of an "A" or Beneficial member. The cost is included in the monthly dues of $3.10 and his name is kept on the pension and death benefit rolls. The benefits are administered by officers of the Brotherhood and the pensioner would collect at $300 per month, a total of $3,000.

Many workers ask whether the pension and death benefits are retained if they should leave the trade? The answer is yes!

Such members request withdrawal cards from their local unions. If investigation proves the member is adopting other means of livelihood the request is granted. The withdrawal card is then deposited in the International office and the member thereafter pays only the monthly per capita tax of $3.10 and his name is kept on the pension and death benefit list. If he returns to the trade his card must again be placed in the local union that issued it.

Any member wishing further information explaining the plan in detail should request it through Local 1324, IBEW.

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