IBEW UNIT 1 NOW AFFILIATED WITH COSTA CENTRAL COUNCIL

State Fed. Votes Political Action

The State Federation of Labor wound up a legislative conference last week in Fresno which was attended by delegates from every labor council in California.

Their principal accomplishment was the re-establishment of the political arm, the Political and Educational League. The delegates were to return to their respective AFL unions and labor councils and sell them on a program of monthly per capita payments against every AFL member to support the league. The proposed tax agreed upon was three cents.

Nearly 5,000 bills have been introduced into this session of the State legislature the delegates were told, and many of these were anti-labor in character. Some of the per capita would be used in the campaign to defeat these measures.

Proposition No. 4 which increases pensions to the blind and the aged got the attention of the conference. The Fed has gathered evidence showing that powerful financial and industrial corporations are behind the campaign now being waged in the daily press for repeal of the proposition, which the electorate put on the statute books.

The political league is being set up as an organization independent of the State Federation. Neil Haggett, State Fed. secretary is also secretary of the league. He will continue to head the delegation of AFL men in the state capital who have been working effectively in Labor's interest there.

Increased unemployment and disability insurance payments are among major labor sponsored measures which the State AFL will attempt to get favorable action on during the second half of the legislative session which opened in Sacramento last week.

Delegate Makes Anti-Communism Pledge

The Central Labor Council of Contra Costa County last week at its regular bi-monthly meeting in Martinez accepted the affiliation of IBEW Unit No. 1 of Local 1324.

This Unit No. 1 becomes a full-fledged member of the AFL family in the Richmond-Martinez-Concord area, entitled to all of the many privileges inherent in such membership.

The Contra Costa Central Labor Council is one of the most democratic and progressive in the state. Not only does it carry a lot of weight in organizational work in the county, but it has been an outstanding proponent of good government and good schools.

IBEW Scores New Utility Gains

Negotiations just concluded in the Seattle area by IBEW Local 77 gave utility members an increase of 25 cents per hour. Business Manager C. N. Kunz has notified the San Francisco office of IBEW International Vice-President Oscar Harbik.

The increase affects employees of the Nespelem Electrical Co-op.

"The 1948 scale was $1.85 per hour; the new 1949 scale will be $2.10 per hour," Kunz writes, "with the provision that if the Okanogan PUD goes above $2.10 per hour the Co-op will grant the same scale to its employees."

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NLRB Hearings

NLRB hearings on the petition of the IBEW for a bargaining agent election on PG&E property which have been delayed and stalled so many times by the company and the UWUA, will definitely resume on March 14 and an election will follow in due course after the usual legal niceties have been confirmed with.

The NLRB Hearings Officer has notified the IBEW and the other interested parties to be prepared.

This will be good news to the PG&E employees who in recent weeks have been showing their impatience and resentment of the fact that they can not get an opportunity to vote and establish "one union on the system."

Despite the fact that UWUA attorneys and officials have done everything possible to delay and stall the hearings on IBEW's petition for a bargaining agent election, UWUA big-wigs were countering their rising resentment in the usual manner this week—with half-truths and outright misstatements.

Meanwhile, "Chuck" Hughes, the IBEW International Rep. who is aiding Local 1324 officials in their quest for an early bargaining agent election, recalls that during the hearings UWUA's Sherlock agreed before the Hearings Officer to contact his New York office and the PG&E UWUA membership (?) on the advisability of agreeing to a consent election.

To date there has been no public enlightenment of the reaction of the New York office. Neither has there been any consultation with the membership. With Sherlock now anxiously reacting to the membership's demand for an election, he seemed to have once again publicly discredited himself and his UWUA cohorts in New York.
Vindication of Havenner Studied

The libel suit filed against the San Francisco Examiner on behalf of Congressman Franck R. Havenner, was settled out of court last week, after the paper had apologized to the Congressman publicly through the columns of its Sunday editions.

The original suit asked damages of $350,000. Last week’s settlement included cash damages to Havenner of an undisclosed amount.

An Examiner pre-election editorial asserting that Havenner was a candidate of Harry Bridges and the Communist Party and deserved the Moscow vote brought on the suit.

DAILIES TYPICAL

Such irresponsible assertions are typical of the lengths to which the Hearst press and other California dailies controlled by special interests will go to discredit conscientious public figures who manifest an understanding of the working man’s needs and aspirations.

Havenner was supported wholeheartedly by AFL labor in San Francisco and despite the smear attempts of the Hearst press he was elected to Congress by a comfortable majority.

The settlement of the suit and publication of the Examiner retraction, belated as it was, was complete vindication for the integrity and Americanism of Franck Havenner.

STUDY CHARGES

Unfounded charges similar to those flung out so loosely and maliciously by the Examiner have been emanating from the UWUA propaganda mill operated under the direction of National Officer Shedlock during the current organizing campaign on PG&E properties.

Mr. Shedlock has recently publicly challenged on such propaganda by “Chuck” Hughes, international representative, who sought to stop the irresponsible attacks on the character of loyal PG&E employees.

Meanwhile, IBEW Local 1324 officials were carefully compiling a file of “smear” literature issued by the UWUA for study by IBEW attorneys.

WHAT, SPECIFICALLY, ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS?

In the first place, it is a bona fide American labor union, and regardless of where the member works, his membership in his union remains continuo.

Official compilations of labor movement statistics for the year 1947 revealed that 2,057,676 members, or 46.2 per cent of all members in the United States in that union, were engaged in the electrical industry.

In the second place, a private citizen, no matter how much he is interested in government, and no matter how much he realizes that government affects his daily life and his bread and butter, cannot have any influence that government very little, if he relies on individual action.

As American life is organized, private citizens must work through economic groups in order to make the full force of citizenship felt.

A worker who does not belong to a labor union is almost dis-enfranchised.

In the Brotherhood a member has a chance to see the aims of collective workers expressed and forwarded.

PROGRESS

Shortly before the Brotherhood was organized the belief prevailed that efforts to organize wage earners were conspiracies against the “natural order of life.” That belief did not long endure.

Through the power of collective action the workers is, happily, as outmoded today as the ox-cart. America has now discovered that REAL labor unions are a very necessary complement to democratic living. Labor’s right to organize is no longer questioned.

Labor today is recognized as being a fundamental part of America.

Presidents, engineers, economists, educators and social-minded clergy are rallying to labor’s aid, and supplying hundreds of unblamed arguments in behalf of organized labor.

But those who would turn the clock backward are as active as ever. Desperation drives them to new and ever-increasing falsehoods about organized workers.

On every front the battalions of reaction are4 entrenched to resist further gains by organized labor. The professional enemies of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, is particularly well organized against these attacks.

Together with all organized labor, through the Brotherhood, it is extending and carrying forward the efforts to organize labor so that the America of tomorrow will not simply agree to labor’s right to organize, but will guarantee, through labor’s own organization, that the material and moral welfare of American labor will no longer be menaced by the vicious twins of economic insecurity and lack of economic opportunity.

Membership in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is the utility worker’s best insurance for the protection of his present and his future advancement, through a complete realization of the aims of the organized workers of America.

Anti-Communist Pledge

(Continued from Page 1)

PARIS JOB FOR CHICAGO IBEW MAN

Daniel T. Cruse, president of IBEW Local 794, Chicago, has been chosen a trade union representative in the Paris area under the umbrella of the Cooperation Administration (Marshall Plan) by Administrator Paul G. Hoffman.

His duties will be to bring about a better understanding among European unions of the Marshall Plan.

Cruse has had a broad experience in unionism, and has served in several important labor relations jobs, the most notable ones being his connection during the war with the Office of Price Administration and his representation of the electrical workers of the Illinois Central system under the National Railway Labor Act.

Cruse was recommended to Hoffman as “a man with wide labor and government experience that fit him well for the job ahead of him. His abilities will be a great asset to the labor office.”

UWUA CROWING ABOUT 7 CENTS

News out of New York on the recent UWUA settlement with Consolidated Edison indicates that the National officers still think increases of less than ten cents an hour are good medicine for utility workers.

Consolidated Edison is the largest utility in the country and one of the few where UWUA has been solidly established. UWUA came out of negotiations there with a general increase of seven cents an hour raise across the board—and there is evidence of dissatisfaction among the membership.

The wage award was “one of the most marvelous ever made” in view of the declining cost of living and the general industry opposition to a fourth-round wage increase, a union spokesman bubbled to the daily press.

COMPARISON

Mechanics at Con Ed will receive a top of $1.92 per hour.

This compares with $2.01 paid to the same classifications at nearby Dunkinwood Light and Power under IBEW rates.

In other Eastern Utilities the IBEW has done much better in the matter of contract negotiation. At Long Island Lighting 5 per cent raises across the board were secured effective January 1, 1949 with an additional 2 per cent slated to go into effect on July 1, 1949.

In Atlantic City Electric, the IBEW got a 6.5 per cent wage increase and have turned down 5 per cent in several other utilities recently.

The trouble with the world today is PEOPLE.
What You Buy—IBEW DUES STRUCTURE IS EXPLAINED & BROKEN-DOWN

With the recent court order prohibiting the company from "checking off" dues now in effect; with IBEW dues paying member participation; and with an increasing number of IBEW PG&E members now asking just how their dues dollar is spent...

The IBEW recognized long ago that there are two types of individuals within its fold—those interested in security on a long term basis (usually the married or elderly worker), and those who feel that they can provide for social and family security best in their own way through their own efforts.

Consequently, two types of membership have been set up.

The "BA" member pays dues of $2 per month. Seventy cents of that amount goes each month to the International Union, $1.00 remains with the local. This money pays the monthly magazine, the Journal, and 35 cents goes into the General Fund, out of which the International officers are paid, organizational activity is carried on to keep the union strong, and research and legal departments are supported.

The International prides itself and its management on the fact that in its 50 years of history no special assessment has ever been necessary, excepting once, which was voted by the members in a referendum voted (national basis) in order to avoid raising the cost of their monthly payments for pensions and death benefits.

There is no initiation fee, although the membership can establish one if they so desire after the election is held. After that event the membership will also adopt a set of by-laws to govern themselves. These will set the amount of initiation which is going to be $1.50 and the death benefit $1.20.

Either membership is optional. The 70 cents which the International gets is divided as follows: 3 cents to the Convention Fund; 2 cents to the Defense Fund; 10 cents to the fund which supports the monthly magazine, the Journal; and 35 cents goes into the General Fund, out of which the International officers are paid, organizational activity is carried on to keep the union strong, and research and legal departments are supported.

The "A" member pays $4 per month. Of that amount, $1.50 remains with the local per capita, and he receives the advantage of the pension and death benefit afforded members. $1.80—pension fund taking 60 cents and the death benefit $1.20.

Membership is optional. The 70 cents which the International gets is divided as follows: 7 cents to the Convention Fund; 3 cents to the Defense Fund; 10 cents to the fund which supports the monthly magazine, the Journal; and 35 cents goes into the General Fund, out of which the International officers are paid, organizational activity is carried on to keep the union strong, and research and legal departments are supported.

The IBEW accomplishments on the organizational front to date are easy to gauge. With IBEW utility men in the majority in every major PG&E department the story tells itself.

What about progress on the legal front?

Let Matt Tobriner, the IBEW attorney, take over the story.

"The IBEW, in recent weeks, has dealt paper unionism on the PG&E properties. "The company hopes that UWUA's ill-conceived attempt to divide unionism on its properties may enable it to destroy collective bargaining almost entirely," Tobriner said. "Obviously the company believes that one way to do this is to reduce the union to picayune proportions. If the NLRB act can be interpreted to apply only to a fraction of its employees, collective bargaining becomes abortive and ineffectual.

"The company's strong thrust in this direction is another indication of its real and underlying philosophy on this whole problem. It does not want effective unionism on its properties."

"The IBEW," Tobriner concluded, "will fight this union busting via legal strategems before the NLRB, with all of its resources and at all costs."

Milk Prices High; Will Stay High

Paul Young, president of Golden State, Ltd., told the daily press last week that Bay Area milk prices show no sign of coming down in the near future.

He said that a fourth round wage hike was going forward which seemed likely to prevent milk prices from dropping. PG&E please take note.
REPORTEES FROM THE FIELD

Martinez Unit No. 1
Well, I guess the former UWUA officers of Local 133 needn't feel lonely, as the former officers of 169 have received their letters of expulsion. Attached to the letters was a copy of the results of the trial. Here is his "Red smear." We are all employees of the PG&E and I am sure the company would remove us from the payroll if we were guilty of the things Mr. Fisher accuses us of.

The next step, I understand, is the filing of a "suit" against us, which may tie up our bank accounts. We have confidence in the IBEW so we will let Mr. Tobriner, our able attorney, handle our problems—our ability to present our case should say the UWUA problem.

We have affiliated our local unit with the Contra Costa County Central Labor Council, AFL, and are assured of their support.

I don't know what Mr. Shedlock is telling the employees in the other areas about Martinez, but for the moment at least the men are still on the fence, we are still solidly IBEW. Mr. Shedlock has not yet set up a local; can't even be down there to lend you a hand.

Coffee and cookies were served. We are still strong IBEW and want "One Union on the System." Don't you?

—Secretary R. Place.

San Francisco Unit 3
The organizing campaign in San Francisco is bearing very favorable results. The personal contacts being made with employees in the various San Francisco departments of PG&E by President Les Glasson, Brother Ed (Reliable) Hanlon and Jesse Nash, to name a few of those who have been active, are winning new support for the IBEW every day. Membership applications continue to roll into the San Francisco office daily.

Those out in the field report that the men are very interested in having the NLRB election held in the near future in order to have "One Union on the System" as soon as possible.

Brother Will Kennedy, chairman of the San Francisco Organizing Committee of Local 1324, who is being assisted by the Executive Committee and the Shop Stewards in the many PG&E departments, reports that the committee is meeting several times a month, at which time strategy is reviewed to fit current developments and organizing programs laid out.

Other committees have been set up and are coordinating their activity with that of the Organizing Committee. Two of these important groups are the Recreation and Sports Committee headed by Lenny Riaves, and the Publicity Committee headed by Jack (Rusty) Evans.

The activity of these committees is materially aiding the IBEW campaign in this area.

All regular meetings of Unit 3 have been very well attended, with the membership and officers present. As pointed out in Local 1324's weekly paper, Utility Facts, these meetings are open to the National Office of UWUA and an open discussion of the issues. The IBEW has taken this stand so that the PG&E workers can hear both sides to all questions of interest to them.

We haven't had a meeting since our last report in Utility Facts. The next meeting will be at 70 that would show up. Out of curiosity some of us accepted a UWUA invitation to a fine dinner so we could meet one of their organizers. All we got was a bottle of beer apiece. There were no toasts. We are all still IBEW.

That is all for now. Hope to see some of you at our meetings.

—Chairman Al Tiegel.

Good and Welfare
Syl Cruz, Station A maintenance man, is laid up at the Franklin Hospital with an injured ankle. He is down there for three or four days and then home for a week.

The injured man while he was doing maintenance work at Station A. Syl would appreciate having his friends visit him. There's a bottle of beer apiece. There were no toasts. We are all still IBEW.

San Francisco Unit 4
We haven't had a meeting since our last report in Utility Facts. The next meeting will be in Cotati on March 16. At that time we would appreciate a visit from some of our IBEW brothers.

Brother Ed White has been giving us a lot of help in organizing these last few weeks and is making a very favorable progress.

Reports from Ukiah indicate that they are solidly IBEW. Santa Rosa is still okay. Dick Ewing, who was organizing for the opposition, is now back to work. We all like and hope that he will see the advantages of "One Union on the System" when the time comes.

Counting employees, visitors from Local 135, and officials of the UWUA there were 20 persons at the meeting they held recently.

One of their organizers had wanted to bet that 70 would show up. Out of curiosity some of us accepted a UWUA invitation to a fine dinner so we could meet one of their organizers. All we got was a bottle of beer apiece. There were no toasts. We are all still IBEW.

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—Jerry Woerner.

Dues
Dues to the IBEW Local 1324 can be paid to the stewards, assistant financial secretary of the various units, or may be mailed directly to the Financial Secretary of Local 1324, IBEW.

The IBEW's position on dues money now being held by the company as a result of payroll deductions is that this money will be returned to the employee when the court orders it refunded. Therefore those IBEW members who are now on payroll deduction need have no fear of paying dues twice.

Dues payment to the IBEW, Local 1324, by the member is on a biweekly voluntary basis.

There is no initiation fee at the present time. In this connection it should be mentioned that it is the policy of the IBEW, L.C. No. 1324, to exempt veterans, who are not union members.