COLLABORATION OF UWUA, CON. EDISON VOIDS SECURITY

1324's Drive Gets Vallejo AFL Nod

The 44 AFL unions which make up the Vallejo Consolidated Council (Metal Trades, Building Trades, and Central Labor councils) endorsed the organizing campaign of the IBEW on the PG&E system, at its regular meeting last Friday night.

The action was taken after William Green, business manager of the Vallejo IBEW local, explained that PG&E workers had themselves organized kindred Local 1324 and that it was the policy of the IBEW to extend all possible aid to members of the Brotherhood. Thus the weight of the Vallejo AFL council and its 20,000 workers will be thrown behind Local 1324 in Solano County. The groundwork for affiliation with the Consolidated Council has already been laid and will become a matter of record as soon as delegates are chosen and pledged.

More on Collaboration

From U.W.U.A., Local 175, of Dayton, Ohio, a form letter to Congressmen made interesting reading this week because it was immediately endorsed by Joseph Fisher, National President of U.W.U.A.

The letter advises Congressmen that the proposed construction of a standby steam power plant by the Tennessee Valley Authority is a move toward socialism and puts the U.W.U.A. top officials on record as being opposed to projects such as the TVA.

William Pachler, U.W.U.A. treasurer, had previously put the U.W.U.A. on record with a news release opposing the steam plant.

The power companies' high pressure lobby in Washington has been sniping at and gunning for the TVA ever since it was set up during the depression to rehabilitate the Southland. Without it and similar undertakings such as Grand Coulee, Bonneville etc., this nation may have lost World War II.

Workers in the TVA are organized under the A. F. of L. utility signed contracts. The extent to which the government engages in power production is matter for the people and the workers themselves to decide. The prime job of union leaders is the securing of wages and conditions for the people they represent.

Platform

AFL State League For Political Education

2. Attacking the basic causes of inflation.
3. Stimulating production.
4. Expanding educational opportunity for all.
5. Solving our housing problem.
6. Attaining a more equitable taxation so that the burden of the low income groups will be considerably lightened.
7. Extending the Federal Old Age and Survivors' Insurance Program and increasing the benefits to a more realistic level.
8. Organizing a comprehensive and adequate health insurance plan.
9. Increasing the minimum wage to $1 per hour.
10. Restoring an effectively functioning Labor Department.
11. Enactment of the President's Civil Rights Program.
12. Establishing a policy of democratic security in the international field by the support of the Marshall Plan.

Eyebrows Raised by Latest UWUA Farce

The UWUA and the Consolidated Edison Co. of New York were making headlines in the nation's press last week. None of these headlines could obscure the fact that the contract just signed provided for top mechanics wages nine cents below prevailing rates in the same classifications at the nearby IBEW-organized Duquesne Power and Light.

The first eyecatcher came over the news wires saying that a provision had been incorporated in the new contract requiring all employees to sign affidavits stating that they are not members of communist or subversive organizations. CIO President Phil Murray has refused to sign such an affidavit as a matter of principle.

The UWUA action is announced at a time when all organized labor is fighting for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act which requires employees to sign affidavits stating that they are not members of communist or subversive organizations. CIO President Phil Murray has refused to sign such an affidavit as a matter of principle.

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The IBEW holds no brief for communism but it is plain to see that the security of every Con. Ed. employee will now rest on the whim of some UWUA or Con. Ed. official.

This action is all the more important when it is considered that in 1947 UWUA officials wrote a Con. Ed. contract which gave away the previously held maintenance of membership, preferential rehiring of laid-off members, and non-discrimination features.

Seniority and security at Con. Ed. are now in the hands of UWUA national officials.

The other eyepopper, which is further proof of UWUA collaboration, is the recent UWUA public opposition to the construction of a standby steam power plant by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

IBEW Local 1324 officials have been scanning the news dispatches for some UWUA indication of what happened to the 30 proposals for bettering conditions which were supposed to be submitted to Con. Ed. management before the widely publicized anti-security contract was signed with Con. Ed. The proposals got more than a page of publicity in the December 13 issue of the UWUA edition of the CIO News.

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WHY IS THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS THE BEST UNION FOR A UTILITY WORKER TO JOIN?

A union that will really serve the economic interests of any group of workers cannot be built in a day, a week, or a year. Certain basic persons belong to unions, and cynically appraising them, take the position that it is an easy matter to build a union. They expect, by writing a series of resolutions, or passing out a pamphlet or two, to create a great workingman's organization. No successful union has ever been created that way. It is the diligent work of many men over a long period of years. Moreover, it must not be mistakenly believed that a union is the production of a few local or international officers. It is the creation of the full membership. Many a man who has not won fame for his service to his union, has built union membership in a way that couldn't be a permanent part of its structure.

GOOD WORK LIVES ON

Undoubtedly it is these durable and organic qualities of the union which attract so many men and women and win their permanent allegiance. Here, they say, is something that will endure as a social instrument long after the individual's passion. This conception of the union and of the time, effort, thought, and sacrifice necessary for successful union-building, has its practical side. It should warn prospective members away from the glowing representations of people who say, "Come with me and we will build a union structure overnight." It has taken 56 years of steadfast, painstaking effort to build the Brotherhood — and the Brotherhood is rightfully proud of its achievement.

Two Sides

Let us get a true picture of this subject of labor unionism. A labor union has two sides — the business, and the social and civic side. It is a business organization seeking through group action to protect the economic interests of its members. These members are primarily employees, but they are also consumers.

Protection of them as producers echoes very quickly in the consumption field; thus when a trade union raises the wage level of its members it also raises the purchasing power of that group, benefiting society in general. Take a look at the record. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers does not merely promise Maisie that he will get nine cents more per hour — he can count on it. The UWUA-CIO got no increase for the employees in the last two negotiations with the company, even though members were assessed time and again, and after months of delay, finally accepted the company's original offer. If the UWUA couldn't get the employees an increase when they had a large membership, how could they negotiate a nine cent increase when they have no membership? The answer is — they couldn't and didn't. The UWUA, in their present detritated state, could not negotiate successfully a contract with a company the size of the PG&E. So it was not the UWUA, either, though they are quite eager to get the praise.

We must therefore admit that the company was right in increasing the wage level of the workers in the utility industry.

That's What We Wanna Know, Too

The UWUA lost more than 800 employees of the Indianapolis Power & Light Company to an independent union, after an NLRA collective bargaining agent election. An independent union, set up locally without the resources and personnel of the Brotherhood, could become "subversive" in the eyes of management.

The UWUA-Consolidated Edison precedent shattering infringement on the basic rights of Consolidated Edison workers leaves the door wide open for the next step — the requirement that a man to work for a living must sign an affidavit stating his religion, his lodge connections, his political party and other pertinent information regarding his previous condition of servitude. If any added data were needed to raise wages, and thus increase the purchasing power of its members and benefit society. It has already doubled and tripled them.

The business side of unionism deals chiefly with securing jobs for its members at good pay. Take another look at the record. Where does or can any other utility union that can approach the job-securing record of the Brotherhood? If a union did nothing more than secure jobs at good wages for its members it would justify its existence, but it also works for better safety conditions, and seeks to raise the standards of enlightenment of the workers through technical education.

The Brotherhood already has educational classes from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It isn't going to get any less union membership in a day or a year. Cer- tainly it cannot be done. It has taken 56 years of steadfast, painstaking effort to build the Brotherhood — and the Brotherhood is rightfully proud of its achievement.

UNION SECURITY

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Two Types of Membership
But Equal Vote for All

The IBEW Local 1324 has solved the controversial problem of just how deeply it should become involved in beneficial programs by the devising of two types of membership, the "BA" and the "A" membership.

The basic union rights of membership are the same for either type. The "A" member, by paying a greater monthly membership fee, may subscribe to security plans.

**EQUAL VOTE**

Naturally, only "A" members may vote on matters affecting the plans their dues support. Any special rights which they may have are confined to these plans. On matters affecting the general welfare and business of the union they have no more voice than any other member.

The chapter issued to Local 1324 by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers defines its jurisdiction as "Utility" over the employees of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's North Bay, East Bay, San Jose and San Francisco Divisions. It grants to said employees of the Pacific Gas and Electric Workers defines its fare and business of the union they matters affecting the general wel-

**TRAVEL EXPENSE**

may issue either "BA" or "A"

Constitution" which means that it if there was anything further the Seattle union could do to co-

opera, Local 1324 should not hes-

itate to communicate with them.

Although right in the midst of contract negotiations with South-

ern California Edison, Cal. Elec-

tric Power and the Interstate

Telegraph Companies, G. N. Mac-

Kinnon, business manager of the

IBEW utility workers' Local 17, of

Alhambra, found time to drum

a campaign of letter writing among the membership, his letter to C. P. Hughes indicated. He promised

Local 1324 fullest cooperation.

Charles W. Cray's letter to

Hughes indicated that he was bus-

ying in an information gathering

project for Local 1324, Cray is busi-

ness manager of Local 689 of Medford, Oregon.

"We will expect to hear from you any time we can be of any assistance to your local, Cari Lara wrote President Glasson from Salis-

nis. The Local 243 busi-

ness remarked that the unions were the UWUA. No self-respect-

ing union man will stand for such
tactics forever.

You have also called us Eastern

Raiders. Yet it is you who come from the East. I do not. Neither do the IBEW representatives who are assisting us with our campaign for one union on the system. They were born and raised in San Fran-

isco.

You have fostered many other untruths about the present situation which have been refuted.

I, and most of my fellow

employees on the system feel that your type of leadership is not good for the rank and file, Mr. Shedlock.

When the bargaining election, which you are trying so hard to delay, is held, it will be ours.

WILLIAM J. RENO.

**UWUA Delays NLRB Hearing Again**

The NLRB hearing on the petition of the IBEW for a bargaining agent election among PG&E workers was again delayed by the UWUA this week.

This time the UWUA claimed that their attorney, Mr. Darwin, was sick. The NLRB hearing officer disapproved the delay. However, the hearing officer indicated that the hearing will be resumed again on March 31, whether Mr. Darwin is available at that time or not.

**IBEW Raises**

The I.B.E.W. has won 7% wage increases for the more than 1,000 employees it represents with Salt River Valley Water Users Assn. in Arizona.

The IBEW, after long and arduous negotiations with the utility, agreed to settle for a temporary wage increase of 7% that will be in effect for 90 days prior to the first day of the April 17 election.

The IBEW also negotiated an agreement with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company for a temporary wage increase of 7% effective immediately.

The agreement was reached after long and arduous negotiations with the utility, and the IBEW is happy to have successfully negotiated this important agreement.
That "Union" Turns Down An Opportunity to Aid PG&E Men

At the hearing in San Francisco Superior Court last week before Judge Milton Sapiro on the IBEW Local 1324 petitions to stop the PG&E from check-off dues, the UWUA got an opportunity to let the employee decide the issue. It was turned down.

The IBEW has sought such relief until such time as the NLRB orders a bargaining agent election.

**QUESTIONS**

With Mr. Shedlock, Attorney General of the UWUA, and Mr. Darwin, the lawyer for the IBEW, sitting in judgment, the sitting judge was not consistent upon getting an answer.

Darwin finally stated that the UWUA does not want the dues of anyone who has not a member representation whereupon IBEW's Matt Tobin, when asked why don't you say so publicly? Darwin stated that the UWUA definitely concurred with their policy of misinformation, and that this case was just another example of the duplicity and insincerity of UWUA's national officers.

Mr. Shedlock, Attorney General of the UWUA, gave a report on the UWUA's activities reports. William Reno, gave a report on the PG&E's activities.

The meeting was thrown open to the public. He intimated a decision favoring the IBEW might bring about the filing of unfair labor practice charges with NLRB.

At the hearing in San Francisco superior courtroom where the hearing on IBEW's petition to stop the dues check-off is being heard. The subject was the Taft-Hartley Act, which all reputable unions are currently seeking to have eliminated from the statutes.

By contrast, the IBEW's position was that the National Labor Board protects workers from the deduction of dues for an organization to which they do not belong or from which they have withdrawn.

**Responsibility of Leaders Discussed**

Following is the gist of a conversation which took place in the San Francisco superior courtroom where the hearing on IBEW's petition to stop the dues check-off is being heard. The subject was remarks UWUA National officer Pachler made at a meeting of PG&E men in Redwood City, February 24th. (Pachler stated IBEW had organized only the cow country utilities whereas the IBEW has a large majority of the largest utilities under contract.) The conversation centered on UWUA's Shedlock and C. F. Hughes, IBEW International Representative.

Hughes: Pachler's statements were organizational work, N.L.R.B. union election hearing and grievance hearing.

Gibbs was suspended after his name had been dragged through the mud by UWUA. The hour for correcting the damage done to him and other former members is now pretty late.

Even after Gibbs' resignation, "No!" to Shedlock's proposition, that individual insisted on driving by Gibbs' home and picking him up for the meeting. But Shedlock never showed up. We are all wondering "WHY?"

R. PLACE, Secy. Unit No. 2

**San Francisco Unit 3**

The Executive Board of San Francisco's Unit 3, held its regular meeting on March 8, 1949 at the union offices, 85 South Van Ness, Oakland, Calif.

The meeting was open to organizational reports and Brother William Reno, gave a report on the Organization Conference which he recently attended in Oakland.

Brother Reno pointed out that delegates who attended the meeting represented PG&E workers in all four divisions of the system. Report of these delegates showed that all strong opposition on the system grows daily.

Particularly encouraging reports were made by the delegates from Oakland. Brother Reno pointed out that I.B.E.W. support is growing in Oakland. Some of the PG&E workers feel that the company, in cooperation with U.W.U.A. union, is moving against the company's efforts to exclude those workers from the bargaining unit, but so far U.W.A. has not responded.

Following this report, Brother Snyder went into the important problem of grievances. He introduced a letter which had been written to the company by Brother Chuck Hughes, demanding a settlement of grievances which have been pending for some time and which are flagrant violations of our working conditions. Brother Snyder stated that the company had not answered this letter and therefore, he suggested we start processing these grievances on a rank and file level through our Unit 3 Grievance Committee. The procedure will be as follows: Any member or members having a grievance will have the grievance taken up by the shop steward with the foreman on the job. If this does not get satisfactory results, the Unit 3, Grievance Committee will write the grievance up in detail and present grievance form and take it up with the company's grievance committee. Brother Snyder's suggestion was adopted by the Executive Board with the understanding that all grievances will be processed in the name of the I.B.E.W.