Dues Verdict Shows White Was Right

A UWUA pamphlet issued May 4 goes to great length to impinge the integrity of Ed White, secretary of IBEW Local 1324. Ed has been a PG&E employee for a good many years, and has a reputation for forthrightness and honesty among PG&E workers that Shedlock inspired propaganda will not easily shake.

The incident mentioned in the pamphlet concerns a statement which White obtained from Ralph Hardwick. It was one of several similar ones obtained from various areas of the PG&E system to augment an IBEW contention in similar ones obtained from various workers on the system. Actually only one for each suit was needed to establish the necessary legal points.

Out of those 13 statements, all stating essentially the same information, one was repudiated, that of Hardwick. The IBEW realizes that there were extenuating circumstances which brought this change of position about. Its officers direct no criticism against Hardwick.

INTEGRITY UPHOLDED

However, it should be pointed out on behalf of Ed White that 12 PG&E workers signed statements identical to the one Hardwick signed. Those 12 were later subjected to contentsions that they might have to appear in court against the company's interest. They stood fast against these contentions because they knew, first, that they would probably not have to appear in court and, second,
Local Union and Unit Officers

LOCAL 1324
L. G. GLASSON, President
M. A. WALTERS, Vice-President
DEAN W. WRIGHT, Assistant Financial Secretary
ED WHITE, Financial Secretary
DONALD HARDIE, Recording Secretary
LEONARD H. RIAVE, Treasurer

UNIT No. 1—MARTINEZ
B. E. LIEBSCHER, Chairman
WM. H. CARITHERS, 1st Vice-Chairman
HENRY VAN ERKELENS, 2nd Vice-Chairman
ALBERT TIEGER, Recording Secretary
FRED WOLGER, Recording Secretary

UNIT No. 2—REDWOOD AND SAN MATEO
J. M. HAINES, Chairman
DAN CHAN, 1st Vice-Chairman
SAM SITCHELL, 2nd Vice-Chairman
WORLD W. LAMBERT, Assistant Financial Secretary
DONALD HARDIE, Executive Board

UNIT No. 3—SANTA ROSA
J. D. LIONEL, Chairman
JAMES W. FAY, Assistant Chairman
R. W. JACOBS, Recording Secretary

UNIT No. 4—SAN FRANCISCO
LEONARD H. RIAVE, Chairman
L. G. GLASSON, 1st Vice-Chairman
E. E. H. R. ALLGOOD, 2nd Vice-Chairman
WM. M. WHITE, Financial Secretary
WM. K. KENNEDY, Recording Secretary

UNIT No. 5—SAN FRANCISCO
LEONARD H. RIAVE, Chairman
L. G. GLASSON, 1st Vice-Chairman
E. E. H. R. ALLGOOD, 2nd Vice-Chairman
WM. M. WHITE, Financial Secretary
WM. K. KENNEDY, Recording Secretary

IBEW District Meet

Delegates from IBEW locals in the northern half of California from Monterey to the Oregon border, assembled in Renton last week for a meeting of the executive board of the Northern California Conference of Electricians.

Legislative matters in which electrical workers and their interests were discussed and plans laid to accomplish objectives approved by the delegates.

The other IBEW locals also give a complete report of organizational activity on the PG&E system from Local 1324's three delegates, Emil Hintz, L. Glasson, and William Kennedy. Their report was supplemented from reports of International Rep. "Chuck" Hughes, Merritt Snyder and Lawrence Drew.

The reports were well received and continued aid to the PG&E workers will be forthcoming from the members and officials of all IBEW local unions operating in the jurisdiction of Local 1324.

Ukiah Meeting

Local 1324 Unit No. 4, which has been meeting in Cotati, will hold its next meeting in Santa Rosa at the AFL labor Temple, 636 3rd street.

President Glasson, Ed White, and International Rep, "Chuck"...
CONSOLIDATED EDISON DEAL SLIGHTS OFFICE WORKERS AND OTHER GROUPS

UWUA's Consolidated Edison monthly publication, The Record, came in this week. As expected, it was full of back-patting for the recently-signed contract which Utility Facts reported on in a recent issue.

The Record claims that the average 11.5 cents an hour and uncharged against Hastings was obtained during the so-called fourth round. Actually the raise is seven cents per hour with certain classes of workers entitled to an additional five cents where certain qualifications can be shown. The white collar group of ConEd workers, numbering several thousand, are among the many groups who can benefit for the additional five cents.

IBEW utility workers in several nearby areas, notably at Duquesne Power and Light in Pittsburgh, enjoy still better wage rates in most comparable classifications. Tables setting up a comparison of IBEW and UWUA contracts throughout the nation will be published in Utility Facts in a future issue.

WHAT GOES ON?

Meanwhile, no amount of verbalization on pre-contract strategy of the UWUA could cover up the fact that a strike vote was not taken nor was any effort made for the company to influence the New York Public Service Commission to restore a $20,000,000 rate cut.

The Commission yielded to the strike pressure and restored a substantial part of the cut. Thus UWUA President Fisher, who was on the record in the negotiations, carried the ball once more for ConEd management. Other recent Fishinger-Collins machinations include the adoption of ConEd contract clauses requiring employee "loyalty" affidavits.

The company has taken the responsibility for these alleged errors charged against Hastings are too technical for discussion here. The point that every worker at the Oelum plant will not fail to note is that costlier mistakes have been committed at the plant. Many of them were of a more serious nature. There were no disciplinary measures. Apparently the company was prepared to recognize that the nature of the work at Oelum made some mistakes inevitable.

It should also be noted that there is no section in the contract which the company and the IBEW renewed for 1949 for disciplinary action as was taken against Hastings.

The proper way to handle complaints against individuals working on the system would have been to refer the matter to a grievance committee so that he would have had a fair and impartial hearing.

The company's action is reminiscent of similar action taken by management in Southern California against SI UAW-CIO employees.

LETTER

In the letter to Hastings from Superintendent Dawson informing him officially of the penalty, it is notable that there is no reference made to possible jeopardy of plant safety or public safety due to the laxness charged.

Hastings is chairman of the plant safety committee. The plant has a good safety record. It also has a large following of IBEW members, and Hastings' relation to

Lay off IBEW member with good record (Continued from page 1)

The fireman in question is Eugene Hastings. He will spend his two weeks off organizing for the IBEW.

Technical

The nature of the "on the job" errors charged against Hastings are too technical for discussion here. The point that every worker at the Oelum plant will not fail to note is that costlier mistakes have been committed at the plant. Many of them were of a more serious nature. There were no disciplinary measures. Apparently the company was prepared to recognize that the nature of the work at Oelum made some mistakes inevitable.

It should also be noted that there is no section in the contract which the company and the IBEW renewed for 1949 for disciplinary action as was taken against Hastings.

The proper way to handle complaints against individuals working on the system would have been to refer the matter to a grievance committee so that he would have had a fair and impartial hearing.

The company's action is reminiscent of similar action taken by management in Southern California against SI UAW-CIO employees.

BACKFIRE

If the intent of Hastings' penalty was to create the impression on the system that IBEW sympathies are unhealthy, such tactics are going to do the PG&E-UWUA cause more harm than good.

The year happens to be 1949, not 1929 when the worker knew he was dead.
REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Martinez Unit No. 1
Brothers from San Francisco Unit No. 3 visited that area in April, and it was good to hear of the progress they are making. We see they also have grievances. The change in the bidding in their steam plants is very deeply concerning. They remember that the employees in this area are opposed to any change in our bidding system that will lessen job opportunities. Brother Snyder, whom we haven't seen in a long time, gave his usual complete report on issues, stressing the importance of grievances. We will welcome the grievances forms and any found here will be processed, according to the policy adopted by Local 1324.

Brother William Smith, who had an auto accident, was advised that Attorney Mat Tobarner would be glad to give him some legal advice. The brothers are sure appreciative of the service that they get through IBEW Local 1324.

Our chairman and vice-chairman were unable to attend the meeting and so did a good job. We hope San Francisco sends a delegation here again as well as to other units. We are still all for the IBEW and One Union on the System.

JOHN FANTE, Secretary.

Redwood Unit No. 2
We were honored with visitors to our regular meeting of March 28th. President Glasson spoke to the membership and urged everyone to eat, talk and sleep One Union on the System. If we are to go forward, improving where needed and maintaining our working conditions, he said, it will be necessary for all employees to unite together under one organization, the IBEW.

International Rep. Breuillard, recently assigned to the PG&E, spoke to us and related that he would work in the San Jose Division.

International Rep. Chuck Hughes gave a complete report on all issues and urged those present to process all grievances. The settling of grievances and maintaining of our hard-won conditions are vitally important.

Brothers Gibbs and Cardiff reported on their appearance before the NLRB to testify against the now famous “51 Classifications.” Several of the members plan on attending the meeting of Local 617, IBEW, in San Mateo, on April 5. The UWUA have not been able to set up a local yet and we are still strong for the slogan One Union on the System. Remember our meetings are the 2nd and 4th Mondays. Doughnuts and coffee are served, too.

F. PLACE, Secretary.

San Francisco Unit 3
Steam plant workers are blowing their tops over a new violation of their working conditions which has just been reported. The violation is being fostered upon them by the joint collusion of the Company and the UWUA. The whole matter was well explained in a leaflet put out by Unit 3 and in Utility Facts, but we cannot reproduce it in this column in order to reach workers who may have missed it.

Without their consent and certainly not their approval, a new change in job bidding is being instituted. It abolishes the right of workers with classifications of Low Pressure Firemen to bid on jobs in other steam plants. The change goes into effect April 1st.

It was pointed out that this was the first entering wedge to destroy the seniority principle in job promotion and a return to the “Company Period” of promotion and the choice of the supervisor or foreman. This will mean a return to the “If you don’t like it you know what you can do days,” which none of us liked and most of us do not.

Another significant change is that all days off and emergency jobs will not be posted for bid. These vacancies, when they occur, will be filled by the man in the next lower classification with the most seniority in the plant where the vacancy exists. Here again we see the abolishing of our right to move from one steam plant to another. If they get away with this it will only be a short time before they reach out and abolish the rights of other PG&E workers.

You may be next.

These proposals also violate the Seniority Article of the UWUA Agreement which was supposed to have been signed for another year “without change.” The agreement states: “All vacancies shall be posted in the monthly Employment Bulletin.” In other words, the Company and UWUA are violating their own agreements!

How do you like that?

Most in the steam plants are correctly calling this a sell-out. The company wants to preserve their hard-won conditions, he said, it will be necessary for all employees to unite together under one organization, the IBEW.

Another significant change is that all days off and emergency jobs will not be posted for bid. These vacancies, when they occur, will be filled by the man in the next lower classification with the most seniority in the plant where the vacancy exists. Here again we see the abolishing of our right to move from one steam plant to another. If they get away with this, it will be only a short time before they reach out and abolish the rights of other PG&E workers. You may be next.

Ed White's Report
For Unit No. 5

The interests of Local 1324 have been extended in the North Bay division during the past week. The help of Brother Mill Ingram was appreciated.

A report is being made toward bringing unity to every part of the division. On Monday, April 4, a meeting of PG&E workers was held at Point Arena, with all of the members of one line present.

Discussions of problems became so engrossing to those present that the meeting lasted over two and one-half hours. It was the first meeting of PG&E em-

GOOD & WELFARE

By UNIT 3 MEMBERS

At the last membership meeting Unit 3 members stood in solemn and bowed their heads as a token of respect for Ted Groger, a co-worker, who was electrocuted recently while repairing a high line. Bro. Groger was employed as a foreman in the Overhead Dept.

Bro. John Dettmer, Gas Street Gang, is a comparatively new employee, has volunteered to work on Unit 3's Publicity Committee in the near future. Before coming to work at PG&E, Bro. Dettmer worked for Gas Consumers and has done pipe work of various kinds all his life.

The policy of Unit 3 members of paying visit to other Local 1324 units is really catching on. More and more members are expressing a desire to make these trips. It doesn't look like Bro. Snyder's car will hold them all so we're planning on getting up a caravan.

There's usually always coffee and doughnuts after the meetings and sometimes a couple of beers. If you'd like to go, call Merritt Snyder at HEmlock 1-1213.

Bro. Henry Van Erkelens, Unit 3's vice chairman, was laid up with the flu for a short while but is now back on the job. We all missed him at the last membership meeting.

***

Meter Readers are chuckling these days over a recent incident. Bill Kennedy, Meter Reader, was instructed to report to the NLRB hearings which have lately concerned the company's efforts to exclude 51 classifications of workers from union jurisdiction. Meter readers are one of the classifications which the company wants to exclude on the grounds that they are office and not physical workers. However, when Brother Kennedy appeared at the hearing dressed in the rough and ready garb needed for the meter readers' outdoor work, it was quite obvious that he was not a white collar worker. When asked if his attire could be considered typical, he got quite a rise from the onlooking legislators, saying that he was considered one of the best employees ever held in that area.

The next Ukiah meeting will be held in the same place as the first one—at the Palace Hotel. I am looking forward to this meeting of Ukiah, Willits and Lakeport employees.

GOOD & WELFARE

More Ships Roster

At its last meeting, Unit No. 1 of Local 1324 adopted a resolution urging more shipbuilding for the Pacific Coast, which has been slighted in present government ship construction. The resolution points to the effects idle shipyards, and the progress in the Pacific economy and the damage to our war-potential such needless idleness is creating.

Since shipbuilding is an economic and defense concern of the entire Pacific Coast, as well as the concern of Contra Costa County, the resolution will be forwarded to other Local 1324 units for concurrence before being forwarded to legislators in the East.

Most California AFL unions have passed similar resolutions and the AFL Metal Trades unions are especially interested in securing more shipbuilding for their members on the West Coast.

Hit Building Wages

San Diego.—First major assault on wage scales enjoyed by AFL building tradesmen in southern California has been made by two powerful employer groups, the Associated General Contractors and the Building Contractors Assn.

The brothers here sure appreciate the service that they get through IBEW Local 1324.

The brothers here sure appreciate the service that they get through IBEW Local 1324.

Bill Kennedy, Unit 3's One Union on the System organizer, was elected as a delegate to the Northern California Electrical Workers Conference. The conference is in Reno, Nev. While he's there he'd like to take a whirl at some of those fancy new casinos, but a guy can't do much of that on PG&E wages!

Oral Elledge, North Beach shop steward, played the role of the good samaritan recently. Due to sickness, one of his co-workers, Aaron Brown, had a run of tough luck. When Brother Elledge heard about it he passed the hat. The fellows came through with a nice little stake. Brother Brown extends his thanks to his co-workers.

It is quite likely that the dues check-off will be settled in this manner: All union members will be given an opportunity to re-sign having the deduction of their dues check-off. Those who do not will no longer have dues deducted from their pay checks.

See Sec. 562, P.L.&R.

U.S. POSTAGE

FACED

Oakland, Calif.
Permit No. 1283