NEW GAINS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Act Now!
If You Work For
A Living

AFL leaders are urging that all working men act now in their own interest. The hearings on the administration’s proposal to repeal the Taft-Hartley law and to reenact the Wagner Act with certain amendments are over. The bills to accomplish this purpose have been reported out by congressional committees for final action on the floor of the Senate and House.

But the real battle is about to begin. The House will begin debate on this issue on April 26. Now is the time for all individual workers to express themselves on how they feel about the bill. If you have not written to your Senators and Congressmen NOW and told them what you think, your opinion means a lot. A few days of the current time are still available before work begins on the bill. So take a minute and write a postcard or letter.

LET CONGRESS KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT LABOR LEGISLATION.

Write to Senators Knowland and Downey and the Representative from your district.

AFL Pilots Go 20 Years Without Accident

Members of the AFL Airline Pilots’ Association, employed by Colonial Airlines, have gone 20 years without a fatality. Their record is one at which all airlines and pilots are shooting.

One UWUA Local Makes PG&E Pact Giving Away Rights of Seven Others

The palsy-walsyness prevailing between PG&E management and UWUA-CIO became clearer this week when the contract’s current claim is now in force was negated by new negotiations which were not approved by all segments of the workers affected by those negotiations.

The negotiations affect system job bidding. They were carried on and approved by one UWUA local. Such job bidding is covered in a section of the old contract which was renewed by the Company and the UWUA early this year. Parties signed to that agreement in addition to the Company are representatives of eight UWUA locals.

GIVE-AWAY

The UWUA is now in the position of having to explain to any membership it still has why one of these eight locals, No. 133, San Francisco, can give away to the Company in negotiations not authorized by the other seven locals seniority rights reserved to members of those seven locals in the contract both the Company and the UWUA claim to be binding upon all PG&E workers in the Bay Divisions.

The negotiations referred to set up a new system of bidding on certain job classifications in the San Francisco Plant which not only abridge the seniority rights heretofore enjoyed by some employees of that plant, but also limit the right of employees in other Bay Divisions to bid on jobs which come up at the Frisco plant.

CONTRACT

Section 8, Article XXI, the seniority clause of the UWUA-PG&E contract, says “Bids on any job shall be given preferential consideration in the following sequence:

“(a) Bids made by employees who are in the Division or Department who are in the same classification as that in which the vacancy exists and in classifications which are higher thereto in the normal line of progression.

“(b) Bids made by employees from any other Division or Department who are in the same classification as that in which the vacancy exists and in classifications which are higher thereto in the normal line of progression...”

By contrast, the UWUA Local 133-PG&E agreement recently made states: “1. No cross bidding between stations in the same titled classifications within San Francisco Division Steam Department in classifications of OH up to but not including LPF.

“2. Day-off Relief in Emergency Relief jobs are to be included in the basic classification and are not to be posted for bid....

POWER GRAB

It is apparent that if the membership of one UWUA local can be induced to take action on a matter which is of vital interest to the other seven UWUA locals who are signators of the contract, that similar action may be taken on other vital sections of the contract by the whim of the Company and the UWUA leaders who negotiated the new Steam Plant seniority agreement.

Labor Paper Reports

On Gains of IBEW

The San Jose Gazette, official paper for most of the AFL unions in the San Jose area, recently carried a story on the organizational gains of IBEW Local 1324 in the San Mateo-San Jose area.

Für die aktuelle Welt mit Technologie und Innovationen.
Your Paper

Several notices have appeared in Utility Facts in recent issues urging PG&E IBEW members to participate in the publication of their own paper by sending in contributions. These are still solicited from the members of all units.

It should be pointed out, however, that the prime purpose of Utility Facts is to carry the IBEW story to all PG&E workers who may participate in the coming elections for a bargaining agent. From the beginning, Utility Facts has tried to be just what the title implied, a paper with factual information of interest to the worker in the current campaign.

How to present such factual information in the most effective and acceptable manner is a problem that is bound to bring about the use of the blue pencil at times, and revision at others, of all items submitted as news, in order that all information pertinent to the election of more power dams, transmission lines, etc., may be carried on in proper relation to its importance and the limited space available.

Letters, of course, are published as written. But if they are too long, they must either be ignored or significant parts taken out of context and clothed in quotation marks.

However, the very fact that readers are submitting material keeps those charged with production of Utility Facts on their toes, and indicates whether they are missing any publicity bets. So continue to send your contributions, but be brief, avoid duplication of events.

That is the way all good newspapers are run. Your cooperation will permit Utility Facts to reflect the clean, straightforward, and factual campaign that the IBEW is carrying on for the PG&E worker in the Bay Divisions.

MIND READER

The night was supreme. Old Luna was beaming in all its glory. John pulled up to the pavement and sighed:

John: “Two minds with but a single thought.”

Lil’ Nell: “You Brute, let me out of this instant!”

Eastern Utility and IBEW Turn Out Apprentices in Two Years

A large class of IBEW utility worker apprentices is now in training in Detroit, under an enlightened joint Labor-Management program that is working out well for everyone concerned.

The apprentices themselves, are finding the program a blessing, for under an intensive course of training they are able, if capable, to become journeymen in half the time usually allotted for such advancement.

To make this possible, Detroit IBEW Local 17 has relaxed several of its working rules, and the company has put up $365,000 to establish five training centers on its system and supply them with the latest equipment.

The plan was born in April of 1948, after exploration of system needs by a committee appointed by Local 17. As a result of this study, this committee and one from management sat down and worked out the details of the plan as it now operates.

Three "live" training centers were set up, complete with poles, transformers, and all of the equipment used in actual field work. Apprentices not only get instruction in electrical theory and methods at these centers, but after six months were permitted to practice what they learned, after six months, on "hot stuff."

The instructors and their assistants were experienced IBEW journeymen, picked from the Detroit Edison system by management with the approval of Local 17.

ON-THE-JOB

The apprentices alternate monthly periods between the training centers and work in the field, where they are under the eye of experienced construction foremen.

Certain rules have been set up covering the status of these journeymen which protects the interest of everyone concerned. For instance, upon graduation they must pass the examining board of the union, after which they assume "probationary" ratings until they have been four years on the Detroit Edison system. The total number of apprentices must not exceed the ratio established in Local 17's contract with the company.

The training program came about as a result of facing facts demanded by World War II. During and after the war, there was a shortage of apprenticeship material which even returned veterans with service training failed to alleviate.

NEED

The IBEW has long recognized the need for keeping the standards of its journeymen high. The traditional four-year apprenticeship period was one means of assuring adherence to this goal, and also protected journeymen from the unfair competition of "mail-order" journeymen.

However, IBEW also recognized a duty to the untrained youngsters and veterans. To aid these people in aspiring to better jobs, with better pay, it entered wholeheartedly into the joint training program with Detroit Edison.

The class of 45 apprentices on the Detroit Edison system which were getting their training under the old four-year plan were combined with 45 new applicants under the new plan. This was in March, 1948. By fall of 1948 the plan was in such good shape that 25 more apprentices were added.

This plan is typical of the manner in which the IBEW recognizes its responsibility to all groups within its membership, and how it carries them out.

Steam Plant Bill Passes Senate Vote

The United States Senate has passed a deficiency appropriation bill which will permit the construction of standby steam power plant by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The bill now goes to conference committee of the House, which previously passed it, and the Senate.

The UWUA national officers have been opposed to the construction of the plant and have been urging various UWUA locals to adopt resolutions against passage.

The IBEW, with wage and hour contracts with both public and private utilities, has taken no action on this controversial measure.

Billion Education Aid Asked by AFL

The American Federation of Labor has asked Congress to appropriate a billion dollars for Federal aid to education. Vice President Matthew Woll termed the $300,000,000 appropriation called for in the bill before Congress as inadequate.

"Nothing less than a billion dollars can begin to do what has to be done," Woll said.

The larger amount is needed, he said to raise salaries of teachers, provide essential services to protect and promote the health of children, provide scholarships and loans for worthy students, provide a needed school building program and eradicate adult illiteracy.

Industrial engineers estimate that an increase in speedup of 5 per cent would throw three million workers out of their jobs throughout the nation.
Two fleas fell madly in love and, one beautiful day, got married. Young, ambitious and industrious, they labored hard and saved their earnings. One day they counted their money and discovered they had five dollars.

"If we saved five, we can save ten," they chortled and they continued to economize, to work hard, to shun all extravagance, until one day they had ten dollars. Then they went out and bought their own dog. — Old American News.

It’s not easy to look bored when you’re having a good time, but some guests can manage it.

First person: “Dull party, isn’t it?”
Second: “Sure is.”
First: “Let’s beat it.”
Second: “Can’t be the host.”

Next thing some modern Ben Franklin will put lightning rods on those wired bras.

During the war the demand for mechanics was so great that the test for availability got to be very simple. The applicant was put into a room with a bag of lamb, a dog collar and a screwdriver. If he picked out the crewdriver he was hired.

His thoughts were slow, his words were few, and never formed to glisten, but he was joy to all who saw him.

‘TWAS INGENUITY

The little man was pushing his cart through the crowded market. "Coming through," he called merrily. No one moved. "Gangway," he shouted. A few men stepped aside. Relyfully he surveyed the situation and then smiled as a bright idea struck him. "Watch your nylons!" he warned the women scattered like chaff in the breeze.

When Dottie’s lazy things I see Hung out upon the line I get a fair idea of Her all-over design And when they flutter in the breeze, I like to think that it Is Dottie’s wicked wiggle For my special benefit. —Joplin Hi-Li-Ter.

Progress is wonderful, You used to have to make an alibi when you ran out of gas. Now, all you gotta do is locate the moon and let nature take its course.

Do local unions have the power to set their own admission fees and monthly dues?
Yes. The constitution provides, however, that the admission fee shall not be less than $10.00 for "A" members unless the local union charter is opened—during the present P&G organizing campaign for journeymen “A” members (those receiving death and pension benefits) shall not be less than $3.00 per month, nor less than $2.50 for apprentices. The minimum admission fee is $1.50 and the dues cannot be less than $1.20 per month for BA members.

Does all the money received for admission fees and monthly dues remain in the local union treasury?
No. Each local union sends to the International Office a monthly per capita tax of $2.50 (70c per capita tax and $1.80 for pension and death benefits) for each “A” member. A monthly per capita tax of 10 cents is remitted for each "BA" member. Fifty per cent of all admission fees in excess of the amounts given above is also paid to the International Office, unless such percentage exceeds $60.00.

What does the local union do with the balance of the money received for dues and admission fees?
Local unions may divide their funds. They have a general fund which is used for operating expenses, such as salaries, rent, light, heat, telephone, printing, office expenses, insurance and maintenance charges on automobiles used for union business; and per capita tax paid to central labor councils, state or executive boards and organizing expenses. There may be other funds such as sick and death benefit funds. Each local union divides its funds in accord with its by-laws.

Can local union money be spent without the consent of the members?
No. Outside of regular expenses for the operation of the union enumerated above and remittances to the International Office for per capita, no money can be taken out of the union treasury without the members so ordering it at regular meetings.

Do the members get any accounting of the money received and disbursed by the local union?
Yes. The books of every local union are audited quarterly, either by a committee of union members or a certified public accountant. The reports of the auditors are read at union meetings and are always on file in the union office.

How many of the local union officers are involved in the handling of union money?
Four. First, the financial secretary, who receives all money and issues official receipts to members. Second, the treasurer, to whom the financial secretary turns over all money collected for deposit in a bank designated by the members. Third, the recording secretary, who makes out all vouchers for disbursements. Fourth, the president, who signs all vouchers with the recording secretary, and all checks with the treasurer.

This provides a four-way check on union receipts and expenditures. The treasurer sees that all money received by the financial secretary is turned over to him for deposit. The recording secretary makes no vouchers for withdrawals that have not been authorized by the members. The treasurer draws no checks until vouchers are signed by the president. And finally, no checks can be cashed until signed by the president.

The financial secretary and treasurer are bonded through the International Office on a blanket bond, as provided for in the constitution.

How much truth is there in the stories printed in the newspapers about the "enormous" treasuries of unions—and why is it necessary to have union treasuries?
Practically all of these stories are, at best, half truths. They are based solely on the amount—usually estimated—collected in dues and admission fees. Nothing is ever said about the expenditures necessary for organizing and maintaining unions. Current expenses of unions, like those of any business, must be met also. Moreover, there are unpredictable expenses which may have to be met and which, therefore, may be the basis of fall due. The items of expense enumerated above account for the major portion of the money received by a union. The balance—and there must be a balance—is used in meeting these same expenses during times of industrial inactivity, when because of unemployment, members do not pay their dues on time, and the receipts fall below the figure needed to meet the expenses. Unpredictable expenses may have to be met also. Moreover, there are certain times when organization of a group of workers is easier than at others. Organization drives are more expensive. If there is insufficient money in the treasury, the advantageous moment must be passed by, and the opportunity to better serve the membership is lost.

UNIT No. 1—MARTINEZ
3rd Wednesday of each month, Labor Temple, Santa Rosa, 8 p.m.

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., 8 p.m.

UNIT No. 4—SANTA ROSA
3rd Wednesday of each month, Labor Temple, Santa Rosa, 8 p.m.

UNIT No. 5—UHAI
2nd Wednesday of each month, 8 p.m., in the Odd Fellows Hall.

Know the Facts!
here's WHERE and WHEN to ATTEND MEETINGS

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Local Union and Unit Officers

LOCAL 1254
L. G. GLASSON, President
M. A. WALTERS, Vice-President
FRANK MERZER, Recording Secretary
ED WHITE, Financial Secretary
DONALD HARDIE, Treasurer

UNIT No. 1—MARTINEZ
Chairman
B. E. LEMSON
Vice-Chairman
JOHN FRANTZ
Recording Secretary
L. MUSCANTE
Financial Sec.
FRANK MERCER
Executive Committee

UNIT No. 2—REDWOOD & SAN MATEO
Chairman
L. MUSCANTE
Vice-Chairman
W. LEMON
Recording Secretary
J. J. WHITE
Executive Committee
FRED WOLGER
Executive Committee

UNIT No. 3—SAN FRANCISCO
Chairman
HENRY VAN ERKELENS
Vice-Chairman
L. G. GLASSON
Recording Secretary
W. M. RENO
Asst. Financial Sec.
LEONARD H. RAY
Executive Committee

UNIT No. 4—SANTA ROSA
Chairman
MICHAEL D. WOERNER
Vice-Chairman
WILLIAM S. HAMMERS
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utility facts
REPORTS FROM THE FIELD
Santa Rosa Unit No. 4

Well, it has been a long time since you have heard from us but if you fear you: we are still active for the IBEW and One Union on the System. Our Unit was in the process of changing its Bidding System and placed the Cotati to Santa Rosa which delayed our regular meeting. Our last meeting, held here in Santa Rosa, April 30th, was attended by the always reliable Ed White, who is assisting us in organizing and doing a very good job in North Bay Division. Also, President Glasson of Local 1324 and International Representative Hughes attended, both giving us reports on the other units and issues to date.

This disciplinary action of Brother Hastings, in getting six days off without pay, was certainly objected to and hope under the NWUA he will be heard. Even the UNUA should fight this. The fact Gene is an active IBEW supporter shouldn't stop him from at least taking some local action.

Another little matter that surfaced was the change in the Bidding System made by local 133, UNUA without asking any of the other local unions. A little local under the UNUA hasn't much of a chance when this kind of thing is allowed which is why we want the IBEW—One Union on the System.

It is sure good news to hear a unit was set up in Ukiah, and one of these night some of us may attend their meeting.

Brother Frank Mercier was appointed temporary secretary of Local 1324 and will attend all Executive Board meetings in Oakland with our chairman. Dean Bean was appointed as Secretary of the Unit here and Carithers as Vice-Chairman.

Next meeting will be held May 18th, and we hope some of you from the other units will pay us a visit.

DEAN BEAN, Secretary.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OF LOCAL 1324

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of Local 1324 was held Thursday, April 21, in the office at 85 South Van Ness, San Francisco.

Frank Mercier was appointed as Temporary Secretary to replace Dean Bean, whose outside activities made it impracticable for him to attend the meetings. Brother Dean will assume the duties of Secretary for the Unit in Santa Rosa.

Those in attendance were Glasson, Walters, Mercier, White, Harding, Local 1324 officers; Tiegel, a chance when things kind of thing is allowed which is why we want the IBEW—One Union on the System.

It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that the week-end of May 7 and 8 be set aside for a meeting of the By-Laws Committee and that the entire two days be used to establish a temporary set of by-laws for Local 1324.

The traveling card of Brother Frank Vander Plas, Jr., from Local 16 was accepted. He is now working as an apprentice in Redwood City. It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that a petition be drawn up and sent to all five units, requesting the PG&E stop the deduction of dues from the employees paychecks and return the money they are now holding.

The case of Eugene Hastings disciplinary action of six days layoff for operating errors was discussed at great length. This type of action by the PG&E is greatly objected to and it was regularly moved, seconded and carried that a letter be sent to the company not only objecting to this but also other actions of coercion being used by them.

The next meeting will be held May 18th, and we hope some of you from the other units will pay us a visit.

DEAN BEAN, Secretary.