

UTILITY FACTS



VOL. 1—No. 12

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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.

Labor leaders, government experts, industrial relations specialists and anti-labor foes have had their say.

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 Thomas-Lesinski bills. Both have the complete backing of the American Federation of Labor, the IBEW, and Local 1324.

To have your say, write your Senators and Congressmen NOW and tell them what you think. Your opinions meant a lot last November. They still do. 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 Pilot's Association, employed by Colonial Airlines, have gone 20 years without a fatality. Their record is one at which all airlines and pilots are shooting.

IBEW Progresses On Several Fronts

Organizational activity for "One Union on the System" hit an all-time high in San Francisco last week. Among the things accomplished were the signing of new members, election of shop stewards among heavy gas crews, and on-the-job distribution of leaflets. In addition to heavy gas crews, our organizers also covered Station A and some of the electric substations.

The work among the heavy gas crews was to accomplish the following: elect IBEW shop stewards; get men out to the coming membership meetings; sign up new members; follow through on any existing grievances; and expose the UWUA's "do nothing" policy.

This program was successfully carried out in all gangs contacted. Two hundred workers in these gangs discussed our program with our representatives. Many new members were signed up. Many more promised to attend the next Unit No 3 meeting.

Feeling ran high in one of the gangs over what was considered the unjust firing of a co-worker. The following story was obtained from the men:

The fellow had been working only a short while. He was working with a crowbar attempting to locate a bolt; somehow he injured his wrist and the foreman had him sign an accident form. He was then fired by the superintendent on the grounds that he was physically incapable of handling the job and his work was inadequate; however, the fellows in the gang stated his work was satisfactory. They like him and want him back on the job. They agreed to be a party to a delegation to see the superintendent. This grievance is now being handled by our Unit Grievance Committee.

All shop stewards have been urged to enforce the working conditions on the job and see to it

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 both 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 under 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 Steam 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

that there are no violations by the Company. Rank and file workers were urged to cooperate with their shop stewards in doing a good union job.—Unit 3's Publicity Committee.

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 and 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 at 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.

UTILITY FACTS

Official Organ of IBEW
Local 1324



L. G. GLASSON, President
ED WHITE, Financial Secy.
1918 Grove Street
Oakland, Calif.

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 campaign may appear 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 this instant!"

Increases for N. W. Utility Workers

Increases recently won for members of Local 77, IBEW, in the state of Washington and some retroactive to January 1st, 1949, were on file in the Local 1324 office this week.

Across the board increases were negotiated for all classifications. Under the new schedule, the rate for groundmen will be \$1.59 per hour and for journeymen \$2.13. These rates apply in P.U.D. District No. 1 of Lewis County.

In P.U.D. District No. 2, Grant County, the rate will also be \$2.13 for journeymen with groundmen getting \$1.62 per hour. Comparable wage raises were also given to clerical workers.

In Benton and Franklin counties the IBEW negotiators managed to do even better for all classifications. Journeymen working in the P.U.D. of those counties will get \$2.18 per hour, with all work rates up in relation to the journeyman rate.

Okanogan, Lewis and Cowlitz County P.U.D. journeymen rates will be \$2.13 per hour.

In the recently completed contract between Local 125 and Portland General Electric journeymen got \$2.13 per hour and all classifications received comparable raises. Important fringe gains include three weeks paid vacation instead of two for 15 year men, and pay for seven holidays, regardless of which day of the week any of them fall on.

Sick leave, paid vacations of three weeks, and guaranteed paid holidays regardless of the day they fall on were among other gains received through IBEW negotiations.

Truman for More N.W. Power Projects

President Truman has urged congress to create a Columbia Valley Authority for full development of the economic potential of the Pacific Northwest.

The program envisages construction of more power dams, transmission lines, etc.

In the Pacific Northwest the IBEW has contracts with both public and private utility companies.

Wage-Hour Law Is Obsolete—Secy. Tobin

The Wage and Hour Law, in the light of present day conditions, is as obsolete as a 1938 airplane. So says Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin.

Tobin urges extension of the act to cover workers in interstate commerce, increasing the minimum wage from 75 cents an hour to a dollar an hour, strengthening of the child labor provisions, and improve administration of the act.

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 intensified 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.

DETAILS

The plan was born in April of 1948, after exploration of system needs by a committee appointed by Local 17. As a result of these studies, 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 got instruction on 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 also 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 by realistically facing facts engendered 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 apprentice-

ship 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 within its ranks. 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 working so well 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 a 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 present 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.

FUN and FOP

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. I'm 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 leg 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 his friends—you should have heard him listen!

* * *

"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.

Ruefully 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 wind.

* * *

When Dottie's lacy 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 Dotti'e 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.

IBEW Lowdown— AUTONOMY AND OTHER QUESTIONS ANSWERED; KNOW YOUR UNION

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—as during the present PG&E organizing campaign—and that the monthly dues 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 70 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 to central labor councils, state labor 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 cosigns 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 for 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 cosigned by the president. And finally: no checks can be cashed until cosigned 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 institution, must be met when they fall due. The items of expense enumerated above account for the major part 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 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.

The people who sponsor the stories of "enormous" union treasuries are usually those who say nothing about the profits of the corporations they represent, and who fought for years against the

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

UNIT No. 1—MARTINEZ

2nd and 4th Monday of each month, IOOF Hall, 829 Ferry St., Martinez, at 7:45 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.

Last Monday of each month (night workers), 1:00 p.m.

2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month (Executive Board), 85 South Van Ness, 8 p.m.

UNIT No. 4—SANTA ROSA

3rd Wednesday of each month, Labor Temple, Santa Rosa, 8 p.m.

UNIT No. 5—UKIAH

2nd Wednesday of each month, 8 p.m., in the Odd Fellows Hall.

Local Union and Unit Officers

LOCAL 1324

L. G. GLASSON President
M. A. WALTERS Vice-President
FRANK MERCER Recording Secretary
ED WHITE Financial Secretary
DONALD HARDIE Treasurer
B. E. LIEBSCHER, EMIL HINTZ, ALBER TIEGEL, JEROME WOERNER and WILLIAM LOWE Executive Board

UNIT No. 1—MARTINEZ

B. E. LIEBSCHER Chairman
E. S. SETCHELL Vice-Chairman
JOHN FANTE Recording Secretary
F. J. CARTIER Asst. Financial Sec.
DONALD HARDIE Executive Committee
STAN DAHLIN Executive Committee

UNIT No. 2—REDWOOD AND SAN MATEO

EMIL HINTZ Chairman
L. MUSCANTE Vice-Chairman
R. PLACE Recording Secretary
W. LEMON Asst. Financial Sec.
J. COSTA Executive Committee
FRED WOLGER Executive Committee

UNIT No. 3—SAN FRANCISCO

ALBER TIEGEL Chairman
HENRY VAN ERKELENS Vice-Chair.
JESSE NASH Recording Secretary
WM. M. RENO Asst. Financial Sec.
WM. KENNEDY Executive Committee
LEONARD H. RIAVE Executive Committee

UNIT No. 4—SANTA ROSA

JEROME D. WOERNER Chairman
WILLIAM CARITHERS Vice-Chairman
DEAN BEAN Recording Sec.

UNIT No. 5—UKIAH

WILLIAM TOWE Chairman
ORRIN HOWELL Vice-Chairman
ROY V. LOBERG Rec. Sec.-Treas.
WALT MILANDER Asst. Financial Sec.
ROY NICHOLSON Executive Committee

law permitting the publication of income tax payments. Remember this: unions are non-profit organizations. Money collected is used solely to maintain them at the standard necessary to protect the interests of the membership. Remember, too, that the amount necessary is decided by the members themselves, who, in the final analysis, are better able to judge their needs than the writers of sensational news stories with anti-union bias.

Good & Welfare

By Unit 3's Publicity Committee

At our last membership meeting, Stanley Nyhart, IBEW attorney, gave us an up-to-date report on the election hearings before the NLRB. Attorney Nyhart reviewed briefly the entire history of these hearings and then gave detailed information on recent developments.

This subject, particularly the Company's efforts to bar some PG&E workers from the coming election, has been covered before in Utility Facts, but we feel it needs repeating due to the fact that there are still many among us who are uninformed about it.

In his review, Attorney Nyhart stated that PG&E has used three devices to block our efforts to achieve "One Union on the System." At the outset they came into the hearings and tried to disrupt proceedings by violently red-baiting witnesses. Second, they invoked unfair labor practices against us, such as the continuance of the check off, in hopes that we would file charges against them and by so doing bar an election. Third, they have seized upon this final effort to exclude 51 classifications of workers from the election. In addition to these three devices, PG&E has, on various pretexts, stalled the hearings by securing as many delays as possible.

Attorney Nyhart stated he had never in all his years of hearings before the NLRB seen a corporation display such a vicious and vindictive attitude toward its employees.

He related how in one case the PG&E attorney spent an entire day trying to browbeat and intimidate one of our witnesses who is a watch engineer. The watch engineer in this instance was one of our best union militants. He stood his ground through the entire day and resisted all effort of company intimidation.

By attempting to exclude these key workers from union jurisdiction, the Company, even though they fail this time, is making the record in the hope they can successfully accomplish this aim at a later date. Further, they hope to exclude these workers from the principle of seniority rights.

Still further, they hope to slow down union-minded workers in the classifications immediately below subforeman by only promoting those who are good company men.

Still further, the Company's effort to take subforemen out of union jurisdiction, if successful, would make it possible for them to whittle down their wage scales and by this device attempt to lower wage scales in general.

In closing, Attorney Nyhart stated that information he had received indicated that Washington has given this case the green light

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Santa Rosa Unit No. 4

Well, it has been a long time since you have heard from us but don't let it fool you; we are still active for the IBEW and One Union on the System. Our Unit was in the process of changing its meeting night and place from Cotati to Santa Rosa which delayed our regular meeting. Our last meeting, held here in Santa Rosa, April 20th, 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 here and hope under the IBEW things like this won't happen. Even the UWUA should fight this. The fact Gene is an active IBEW supporter shouldn't stop them from at least taking some local action.

Another little matter that surprised us was the change in the Bidding System made by local 133 UWUA without asking any of the other local unions. A little local under the UWUA 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.

Frank Mercer 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.

Our 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.

Calif. Transit Men Seek AFL Help

In a letter to all A. F. of L. Central Labor bodies in California, D. D. McClurg, secretary of the State Council of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees this week urged support for Assembly Bill No. 113, which extends the right of collective bargaining now enjoyed by other workers to employees of publicly-owned utilities.

and once the hearings are concluded a rapid settlement will follow and an election date will be set.

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 Mercer was appointed to act 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, Mercer, White, Hardie, Local 1324 officers; Tiegel, Carithers, Hastings, Unit officers, and International Representative Hughes, Snyder and Drew.

The Executive Board recommended that the members write their Congressmen and Senators, expressing their views as individuals for the outright repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.

It was recommended that Local 1324 concur in the request of Local 55 of the International Association of Fire Fighters in Oakland in opposing Charter Amendment No. 11 and to assist them in any way possible.

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 travelling card of Brother Frank Vander Plas, Jr., from Local 6 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 some of their local supervisors in the field against IBEW members.

The recent change in the bidding system in the Steam plants of the San Francisco Division was discussed and the tremendous danger

No Depression in Sight, Agency Says

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has predicted that no serious recession is in sight but says further declines may be expected in industrial employment with a consequent improvement in the prices consumers pay for what they buy.

The bureau said that the tremendous demands shown in the past few years for goods does not seem to be falling off appreciably.

Increases in farm employment and expenditures of funds by state, municipal and county governments are expected to take up what slack there has been in industrial employment.

77th Year of AFL Chicago Plumbers

The AFL Chicago Plumbers union will celebrate its 77th year of existence by a ceremony in which \$450,000 worth of mortgages on its \$1,000,000 building will be burned.

More than 4,000 members of organized labor, industry and government are expected to attend.

to the conditions the employees have tried to build up and maintain over these past several years appeared to be in jeopardy by the actions of one UWUA local in San Francisco which does not even represent the employees in that area. It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that the PG&E be notified of our objections to this change which was not discussed with other employees which are vitally interested in any change of the bidding system.

The collection of dues plan recommended by Unit 3 was concurred in and they were urged to proceed immediately to place it into effect.

All units are urged to take immediate action to affiliate with the Central Labor Councils within their areas. It is through affiliations such as this that we can give the membership the results they desire and also take an active part in the community.

The Executive Board wishes to take this opportunity through "Utility Facts" to notify the membership that these meetings are open to them and further urge each and everyone to attend the meetings in their area, so that they may become familiar with the facts. Be an organizer—talk to your fellow employee—urge him to join the IBEW and help put One Union on the System—IBEW.

FRANK MERCER,
Secretary Local 1324.

Sec. 562, P.L.&R.
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Oakland, Calif.
Permit No. 1283