

UTILITY FACTS

BRIDGE P.G. & E. WITH I.B.E.W.

SAN FRANCISCO UNIONIST URGES ALL AFL WORKERS SUPPORT PG&E

(The following story appeared last week in Organized Labor, big San Francisco AFL paper.)

In an interview this week with Organized Labor, Charles Foehn, business manager of San Francisco Local 6 (IBEW), who represents Bay Area IBEW unions on the International Executive Council, urged all of the paper's AFL readers to aid in every way possible the fast developing IBEW organizational campaign among Bay Division PG&E workers.

MESSAGE

"Wherever you come in contact with PG&E on construction work or in industrial plants," the IBEW Executive Council member said, "let them know that the AFL union members of this area welcome them into the AFL family.

"Tell them about the democratic manner in which the AFL unions operate, and of the gains your AFL union has secured for you."

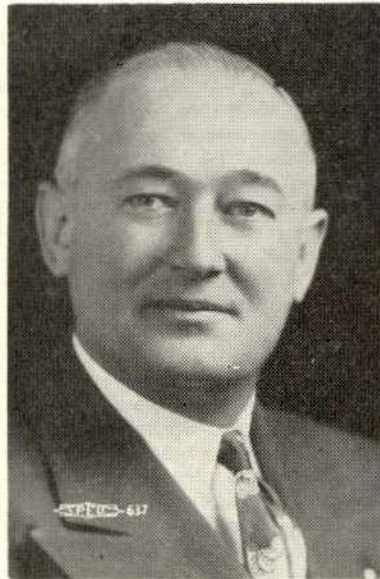
He added that the approximately 5000 PG&E men in the company's four Bay Divisions would be an important addition to the big Bay Area AFL family. "Both the PG&E employees and the AFL union movement in the area will benefit by a successful conclusion of the Local 1324 AFL-IBEW organizational campaign."

PARALLEL

Foehn drew a parallel between San Francisco Local 6, which he heads, and Local 1324. Both are set up under the Unit system, which permits local groups to have autonomy over their own affairs and yet permits concerted action on matters of mutual interest, such as contracts, wage scales and conditions. The Unit system also permits small groups to get the services of full-time paid union representatives when needed.

There are 10 units in Local 6, taking in such fields as marine electricians, contractor electricians, repair shop maintenance men, all physical employees of Western Union, etc.

The jurisdiction of Local 6 ex-



CHARLES FOEHN

tends to Marin and San Mateo counties for some types of workers, Foehn explained. Experience over the years with these groups shows that the Unit system is the best way of providing them with the service they want. The members wouldn't have any other set-up.

Local 6 accepts as members and serves all classifications incidental to the electrical industry, as does Local 1324 in the P.G.&E.

This fits into the general national program of the IBEW under which all workers in all branches of the industry are covered. Such wide coverage enables the IBEW to give its membership services not equalled by any other organization.

The earliest American habitations, aside from caves, are pit dwellings dating from the earlier centuries of the Christian era.

Australia has one farm of 260,000 acres with 30,000 acres of it under cultivation.

Aid IBEW Utility Men in Alameda

New job definitions for IBEW members employed by the Alameda Municipal Electric Light Co. were posted recently as a result of a lot of diligent effort on the part of business Representative Paul Yochem of Oakland IBEW Local 50.

The new definitions will be based on those prevailing for similar jobs in the PG&E. They will result in the upgrading of several of the 30-odd municipal employees.

LONG DISCUSSIONS

Negotiations on behalf of the IBEW employees of the utility have been going on for several months. At one stage Yochem found that the Board had drawn up classification schedules which were not a matter of public record insofar as widespread investigation could determine.

It was pointed out to the Board by Yochem that this surprise schedule when closely examined guaranteed the employee few real benefits. As a result the new schedule was finally adopted.

Yochem has an inch-thick file of correspondence and other material relating to the welfare of the 30 Municipal employees.

IBEW international representatives pointed out that the interest of the PG&E employees was to some extent involved in the Local 50 negotiations with the Alameda Board.

Not only were the Board's original job classifications a possible threat (as a convenient Bay Area example) to PG&E wages, but the working conditions as outlined were below those prevailing on the PG&E system.

TAKES UNION MEN, PERIOD

The IBEW not only recognized its responsibility to the small municipal group, but to the wage and conditions structure prevailing on the PG&E in its discussions with the Alameda Board.

They also saw in the case the fallacy of the Fisher-inspired UWUA policy of bypassing employees of municipal utilities in the Bay area. On the other hand, the IBEW will represent utility work-

Card Refutes UWUA "Check-Off" Letter

Right on the heels of a card last week from Superior Judge Shapiro to PG&E employees which will permit them to indicate whether they wished to have the dues checked-off their paychecks for UWUA stopped, the UWUA sent out a letter to the employees inferring that only those who had resigned their UWUA memberships could indicate that they wanted the dues check-off stopped.

Of course this was not correct.

Local 1324 IBEW officials immediately got a card into the mails explaining that it was not necessary to formally withdraw from UWUA to revoke the check-off authorization which employees may have signed.

Judge Shapiro's effort to get the employee's own dictate as to whether he wanted his dues turned over to the UWUA would obviously have no strings attached to it.

The UWUA letter, apparently designed to confuse PG&E employees, is further evidence that the Fisher dominated union will go to any lengths to prevent a fair and impartial decision on affiliation being taken by the PG&E employee.

ers regardless of the nature of their management.

\$449,675.99 was paid into the Alameda City Treasury by the Municipal utility in the past year in lieu of better employee conditions or lower rates.

U.S. Population Climbs, 148,527,000 on April 1

Washington.—The population of the United States reached a new record high of 148,527,000 on April 1, the Census Bureau estimated.

That reflected a growth of 580,000 during the first three months of this year. The same growth was recorded in the first three months of 1948.

The term phosphor is applied to various materials that will absorb invisible ultraviolet radiation and convert it into visible light.

UTILITY FACTS

Official Organ of IBEW
Local 1324



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

What About Clerical Workers?

Recently Utility Facts published a list of the utilities throughout the country where the IBEW represented the gas department employees. The list was published to refute UWUA insinuations that the IBEW did not want to represent these utility workers or that their interests were subjugated to those of other classifications.

Since publication we have heard no more from the UWUA on that matter. But statements have been attributed to UWUA's Shedlock that the IBEW does not represent or care to represent clerical workers in the utilities.

For Mr. Shedlock's information a list of the utilities will be published in which the IBEW is the bargaining agent for these workers.

When the IBEW filed their petitions with the NLRB there was not a sufficient number of names from the Clerical departments of the Four Bay Divisions to meet the requirements of the National Labor Relations Board.

(30 per cent of all eligible employees of the four divisions would have been necessary.) The only two divisions where clerical workers have been organized is in East Bay and San Francisco, leaving San Jose and North Bay unorganized.

The UWUA has been representing PG&E workers in the Bay divisions for a number of years. Maybe Mr. Shedlock can explain why his UWUA has not organized these workers or attempted to do something for them.

When the IBEW petitioned the Board for an election the clerical workers were not included because it was not possible to submit the required number of names. The UWUA and Mr. Shedlock are familiar with the facts.

However, the clerical workers can be sure that if they desire an organizational job, the IBEW will take it on when the election is over. At the present time it would be impractical to attempt system-wide organization of this group, which in all fairness to them, is the only way to handle such a project.

When the election puts the IBEW on a system-wide basis, the Clerical Workers can get organization if they want it.

On the Coast, the IBEW repre-

SEE THREAT OF "BLACKBALL" IN PG&E EMPLOYEE QUESTIONNAIRE

"Dear Fellow Employee of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company:

"We are passing around a questionnaire this week for your fellow-workers to fill out. In that questionnaire we are trying to find out all we can about you, personally. If your views are to the company's liking, if you agree with everything your superiors tell you, and if you believe in the union we want you to believe in, maybe we'll promote you some day. Promote you, that is, if your score on this questionnaire is 110 per cent.

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT FOR EMPLOYEES SECRET RECORDS"

If, as an employee of the PG&E, you got the above letter accompanied with a questionnaire to provide for the sort of information indicated, you would naturally be hopping mad.

Yet many PG&E employees recently got a questionnaire from L. J. Nevraumont's personnel department undoubtedly designed to serve some of the purposes made obvious in the fictitious letter above.

In a form letter which accompanied that questionnaire the first sentence was the tip-off as to how it was to be used: "You are being asked to fill out this report in line with an established policy of the Personnel Department to secure the best possible information regarding the abilities of the employees of this company. . . ."

The reports were not for securing information about the person filling them out but for securing that person's personal opinion about his co-workers. "Be fair to yourself and to the individual (about whom you are reporting) and the Company, by presenting your unbiased opinion (about your co-worker)," the form letter admonished.

It is easy to see how the PG&E personnel department could use a file of the personal information sought for against the interest of PG&E employees. The unions have long been against such prying into the personal lives of workers.

Such personnel policies are a modern method of putting into practice the discredited "blackball" system under which employees once known to be union-minded were barred throughout whole regions and whole industries from employment once they were discharged.

Further evidence of the vicious sends the Clerks in the Puget Sound Power and Light Company in Seattle and a part of Southern California Edison as well as other utilities. The best source of information as to how they have fared under the IBEW should be forthcoming from these people themselves.

The Puget Sound Clerical Workers have been receiving the benefits of IBEW representation since 1937.

nature of the Nevraumont letter is contained in the instructions it gives:

"These reports are absolutely confidential. To insure this, please observe the following:

(a) Do not leave the report where others might see it.

(b) It is your OPINION that is wanted; therefore, do not discuss the subject with others.

(c) Do not fill in the 'name' and 'position' of the individual on the report until just before you send the report in.

(d) Seal the report in the envelope furnished and send it to me (Nevraumont) direct through company mail."

The letter then asks that you "be specific, give examples or incidents to back up your opinions, (about your co-worker) tell your reasons for your opinions, and give as complete a picture of the individual as possible."

The personnel departments of large corporations which follow practices similar to those indicated above do so for a number of undemocratic reasons. Some of them:

To gain employee support for company policies unpopular with its employees. (Example: At the Ford Dearborn plant a few years ago the very fact that an employee had signed statements about his co-workers was used as a threat because of possible exposure as a stool-pigeon to get additional cooperation with the company against the union trying to organize there.)

To gain information which may be used against union men in line for promotion through seniority.

To gain personal information which may be used to embarrass employees attempting to represent their co-workers in grievance and other matters.

To gain information about the economic status of employees for the purpose of beating down wage rates.

There are many more reasons why company prying is not in the interest of the employee. Enough have been mentioned here to show that such practices are undemocratic and should be stopped forth-

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, ALBERT TIEGEL, JEROME WOERNER	Executive Board
WILLIAM TOWE, KARL J. ADKINS & WILLIAM HAARS	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	
ALBERT 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
UNIT No. 6—RICHMOND	
KARL J. ADKINS	Chairman
CHAS. GALYEAN	Vice-Chairman
E. A. ANDERSON	Recording Secretary
UNIT No. 7—OAKLAND	
WILLIAM HAARS	Chairman
PATRICK McFADDEN	Vice-Chairman
JOHN F. SHEA	Recording Secretary
STEPHEN L. TINGLEY	Executive Board
ERNEST E. J. LEWIS	Executive Board

Know the Facts!

Here's WHERE and WHEN to ATTEND MEETINGS

1324 EXECUTIVE BOARD — 3rd Thursday of each month, 8:00 p.m., 85 So. Van Ness, S.F.

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.

UNIT No. 6—RICHMOND

2nd and 4th Thursdays, 8 p.m., 257-5th Street, Richmond.

UNIT No. 7—OAKLAND

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 8 p.m., 1918 Grove Street, Oakland.

FROM THE MAIL BAG

EMPLOYEE WRITES ARTICLE ON "ONE UNION"

For the past several years two labor organizations have represented the employees of P. G. & E. in collective bargaining for wages, hours and working conditions. The methods of operating or negotiating their demands with the Company have been different as night is to day. The Company knowing this and being staffed with a highly competent group of men well advised to collective bargaining took advantage of this situation. No one can really blame the Company from using to their advantage the opportunities left open to them due to the two different labor organizations on the property representing their employees.

BLAME EACH OTHER

During this period of several years the memberships of each organization attempted to make the most gains possible during the course of their yearly negotiations. With two organizations on the property this is proper with the thought that in the future the employees would get an opportunity to make a selection of one organization to represent all employees throughout the system. In order to maintain their popularity it was necessary to lay the blame for failure to obtain the full demands in negotiations on the other party. As I look back, this laying the blame on someone else didn't improve our conditions or put more pay in our envelope but rather cause a bad feeling amongst the employees. Again, as I look back, I don't see what right I had to ridicule the employees in another division for accepting results of their negotiating committee, which, in most every case was as good as received anywhere in the industry. It is easy to ask for a large increase and improved working conditions, knowing the chances of obtaining them without the help of employees in another part of the system is very doubtful but also knowing if you don't get them the blame can be laid at the door of your opposition. Yes, I mean opposition, not the Company which is supposed to be the one we oppose in negotiations but a labor organization representing employees like you and I but due to geographical boundaries, in another union.

Both labor organizations have possibly made mistakes but the record of what can be accomplished through negotiations by one union set up on a Unit basis, such as the IBEW, shows me, at least, how progress can be made with a limited amount of friction between the membership and with management. I realize no union is perfect and some friction possibly still goes on but the reason for it is what I am trying to convey to you.

I would like to tell you why I think two organizations on the system is not to the advantage of you and I as employees of the P. G. & E. That the only one who profits by it is the Company and their recent change of attitude from wanting One Union to maintaining Two Unions on the System speaks for itself.

TOO MANY LOCALS

There exists today on the property of the P. G. & E. eight local unions under the CIO, all signed to an agreement. Each local has the power to change the sections of this agreement without contacting the others (the recent change in bidding system by San Francisco, Local 133.) The IBEW has, I believe, two agreements covering the employees to be included in our coming NLRB election. Before these agreements can be changed or modified it must meet the approval of the entire membership through discussion at the regular unit meetings, executive board or a secret referendum vote. Suppose the employees in the IBEW are receiving a great deal of benefit from a certain clause in their agreement and one of the eight CIO locals decide to change or modify it — just how could the IBEW overcome in their next negotiations the Company's demand for this change in order to make it uniform throughout the system. Look how advantageous it would be to us as employees if we were all under one agreement which would give us an opportunity to express our opinions, no matter what part of the system we worked. In this way the conditions would be uniform, wages the same for all classifications (right now there is a slight difference in wage scales for certain classifications depending what Division you work and under what Union.)

I am interested in job opportunities, grievance machinery, application of a seniority system that is acceptable to all employees. Now suppose I am successful in bidding for a job outside the Divisions which are now CIO. Being a union man I would either drop my CIO card or take a withdrawal, then pay a new initiation fee and join the IBEW. The same applies to an employee transferring into the CIO divisions from the IBEW. Grievance machinery is very important but the way we operate in some of the CIO locals is different from the IBEW and in some cases different between the eight CIO locals which were on the property prior to the present request of an election by the employees. Seniority, yes we have it but it stands to reason the union representing employees in the Divisions they are certified are going to do everything within their power to see that their members get every job possible that comes up in their divisions. Now this is what I see would happen if we had One Organization on the System—transfer of employees to jobs anywhere in the system based on seniority with no interference from union affiliation and no additional initiation fee. A uniform grievance plan, no matter where you worked, which means to me that I would always know what to do in case I had

a grievance. It wouldn't be necessary for me to contact my steward and say this is the way I handled it in the last division I worked, but what do I do here?

Now the matter of pensions and hospitalization, which is very important and vitally affects us all, regardless of where we may work on the system. This plan that is presently in effect may or may not be acceptable to the majority of employees but I doubt if the employees from the IBEW Division have even consulted these in the CIO Divisions. The talk that I hear on the job is that the Company could do a great deal better but until there is One Organization on the System how can we present a plan that is acceptable to all employees and support them in negotiations? Again the thing that prevents this from coming about is the Two Organizations on the property — but through One Organization we could at least, as employees, be of one united thought.

Another important point, which as you all know, can happen as it very near did on a couple of occasions. Suppose one of the Two Organizations on the property decided to take a strike vote and as a result a strike was called. Even though we would not break the strike of the other organization we would be definitely affected, yet never having an opportunity to vote, one way or the other. If the Company was successful in replacing the men who struck or enough men stayed on the job with help of some supervisors were able to keep the plant running — what would be the position of the other union?

UNION BUSTING POTENTIAL

They have a contract with a no-strike clause which prevents them from taking any action, even though they might want to. This would be one beautiful way of breaking an organization because the Company would know it would be impossible for one organization to support the other, due to the contract. Now picture it as One Organization—where all employees participate in a vote or action of this nature and you know the answer — it wouldn't be necessary because when all employees are united together their bargaining strength is as strong as the Company's and problems are settled across the table without the necessity of resorting to economic pressure.

I don't know whether Utility Facts will print all of this but I want them to carry as much of my message to the employees through their publication as they have room for. It is important to me, as I was a member of both the CIO and the IBEW, depending where I worked.

One other point which I believe can't be overlooked and that is the kind of service I can receive from One Organization on the System. I have noticed that the IBEW has several full-time paid representatives serving the membership of Local 1245 and that with the exception of a couple of CIO locals, the membership is serviced by a member who is also employed by the Company. I am not saying the member is not doing a good job but certainly believe a better job could be done by one who does not depend on the P. G. & E. for his livelihood. I am under the impression that when you join a union you expect that union through elected full-time officials to handle your problems. The dues are the same for both organizations and I can't understand how one labor organization can cover its entire jurisdiction once each month with paid representatives and the other can't. If we unite all employees under one labor organization the service would be the same — namely, by employees elected by us to devote their full time to handling our problems which their is no question in my mind would bring better results and better relationship with the Company.

THE MEANS FOR UNIFICATION

Now this is why I say the IBEW can accomplish for the employees of the P. G. & E. the desires we have sought for a long period of time. Every power company on the Pacific Coast represented by the IBEW is set up on a Unit system, making it possible for them to employ all the help on full-time, necessary to give proper service. If we join with the employees in these companies we can benefit by their experience and the accomplishments they have made in their negotiations. It seems not only impossible but impractical for us employees in the P. G. & E. to say to those employees that your type of organization under the IBEW is wrong and won't apply here. When you look at the wages and conditions they are enjoying plus friendly relations with the management and not to be forgotten wonderful cooperative feeling between all employees — it is we that are wrong — not them. For years we have disagreed between ourselves as employees, as to which organization deserved the credit for our present conditions, disregarding entirely the unrest and unstable conditions it was causing within the company which naturally affects our everyday work. The time has come when we have got to forget the past and take a look around us at the other utilities. If we do this honestly, not only for our own benefit but others as well, because you know we cannot and do not stand alone. The employees of our neighboring utilities who helped us in an indirect way are hoping we will join with them. Picture in your mind the utilities up and down the Coast all under contract with the IBEW and you can see the only answer for us is One Organization on the System and that one—the IBEW.—A PG&E Employee.

Reports from the Field

Martinez Unit No. 1

Had a good turnout, as usual, for our meeting on June 13.

IBEW Rep. Merrit Snyder visited us and urged everyone to sign the dues revocation cards and mail them back to Local 1324 offices. Brother Snyder also gave us a bang-up report on the fine progress being made in the Oakland district and everywhere else on the system in the One Union drive.

JOHN FANTE, Secretary

Redwood City Unit 2

There is never a dull meeting of our Redwood Unit. The last regular meeting was no exception. Plenty of the members were on their feet taking part in discussions of the many vital matters affecting us right now.

We have affiliated with the big San Mateo county AFL council and henceforth will have the active support of that body in all matters affecting the welfare of our unit and the organizational campaign as a whole.

Robert Woods and Russell Place were chosen as our delegates to the council.

R. PLACE, Secretary

Santa Rosa Unit No. 4

Our regular meeting was held on the 15th. Reports from the members present indicate that the PG&E workers in this district are going to roll up a big IBEW vote when the election is held.

Brother Merrit Snyder, IBEW representative who is assisting the IBEW campaign in San Francisco, was present and gave us an encouraging report on the progress being made by the newly set up Richmond and Oakland units. He advised everyone to keep up the fine organization work being done and said that every effort should be made to maintain the sentiment in favor of the IBEW existing throughout the Bay Divisions.

We are looking forward to the coming election and hope someone will build a fire under the NLRB, responsible for a decision so they will set an early election date.

DEAN BEAN, Secretary

Oakland Unit 7

Our new unit held its second meeting since organization recently and our officers were encouraged at the turnout which was double the first one.

However, a check revealed that many of the workers in this area who would like to attend have not done so for fear of retaliation of some kind from the UWUA. Fear is an awful thing and any union which uses it to intimidate the workers usually finds that in the end such tactics boomerang.

Those who attended asked many questions and they were answered honestly and forthrightly by those

CIO News Maligns White's Unionism

The latest UWUA edition of the CIO News singles out Local 1324 Financial Secretary Ed White for what his friends believe is an unwarranted personal attack.

Ed, who has been spending practically every hour of his spare time bringing the IBEW story to scores of personal acquaintances he has made over the years on the PG&E system, was apparently selected as a UWUA whipping post because of effective work he has been doing in the North Bay and the Oakland-Emerlyville-Hayward district for the IBEW.

NO MUD-SLINGER

Ed's work has been successful because his sincerity is known, and his word is respected up and down the system. Throwing mud has been out of his line and he was a little bit surprised this week to find himself the target of such tactics in the CIO News.

Specifically, the News said that Ed was trading free paid up dues receipts for membership in Local 1324 IBEW; that Ed was a "sore-head" who got that way because the old UWUA wouldn't give him a full-time job; and that he was a member of a clique of ousted UWUA officials and members whose political complexion was suspect.

CHATEL MEMBERS

Checked by Utility Facts for his reaction to the News story, Ed didn't comment on the UWUA comment about dues. The IBEW members are paying their dues on a voluntary basis. In connection with getting new members there has been no emphasis on dues, mainly because the UWUA insists on collecting them from both UWUA and IBEW members.

To date in all its maneuvers in court and in the NLRB hearings the UWUA has regarded the PG&E employee as personal chattel with no right to choose freely his bargaining representative. The UWUA approach to the campaign has been—Once a UWUA member, always a UWUA member.

THE LEWIS PURGE

Ed noted that he, along with all of the other Local 1324 IBEW officials, had signed the non-communist affidavits required under the Taft-Hartley law. He also observed that he did not get into the fight against UWUA national policy until UWUA President Fisher sent Clem Lewis to California in charge.

Brothers Hastings, Dahlin, and Petty were visitors from Contra Costa county and extended invitations to those present to visit the meetings of the two Contra Costa County units.

The meeting was adjourned after an all-out discussion.

J. SHEA, Secretary

IBEW SAVES FRIENDLY PAPER FROM ATTACK

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (AFL) has come to the rescue of Charles A. Crowder, published of the Flora (Illinois) Sentinel, with a \$12,500 loan to save his paper from shut-down by a group of anti-labor businessmen.

The Sentinel, a small semi-weekly, has aroused the enmity of local employers and the southern Illinois oil industry generally because it has printed strike news and editorial comment favorable to labor's objectives since Crowder bought it in 1945.

Pressure was turned on with increasing force when Crowder sided with employees of Flora's municipal power plant who struck against the city's refusal to recognize their union, the IBEW, as bargaining agent.

Some local merchants withdrew their advertising and threatened a boycott. Other local merchants stuck by the paper, however. All unions in the area organized subscription campaigns to raise the paper's circulation, and the boycott failed.

Next thing that happened to Crowder was the sudden purchase of his mortgage, in which he was \$800 in arrears to the White County Bank. Suit for judgment was begun immediately by one E. D. Given, as trustee for unknown buyers.

In Circuit Court, Judge James G. Burnside compelled Given to reveal for whom he was acting. The names of H. G. Henson, Flora manager for an oil-producing company; Fred Chaney, a Flora cleaner; H. W. Eaton, owner of a Flora auto parts store, and Walter Appling, a drill bit sharpener, were then added as plaintiffs in the judgment suit.

during contract negotiations with the company. Lewis, during these negotiations, attempted to replace officials elected by the membership with officials acceptable to the PG&E management.

It is notable that there was no "Red" bogey on the system until the PG&E took exception to criticism of its public stewardship and wage policies by negotiators who went on the air waves in the interest of winning things the members had voted for.

"I was at the end of my rope," Crowder told a reporter for the AFL Weekly News Service. "The sheriff had demanded the machinery in my plant under replevin proceedings. I had to raise \$12,500 or get out."

It was then he received a telegram from D. W. Tracy, international president of the IBEW, offering the loan. Full security for the money was required, but Tracy said the union considered it a straight business transaction and would not use its financial interest to influence the editorial policy of the paper.

Crowder accepted immediately, with a great sense of relief.

"I am happy to know the people of the United States, and especially the Electrical Workers Union, realize the full value to our democracy of a free press," the publisher commented.

Report from Local 1324 Executive Board

The regular meeting of the executive board of local 1324 comprised of the chairman of each of the seven units plus the officers of local 1324 was held Thursday, June 16th in our San Francisco office.

The meeting was turned over to the discussion and formulating of an economic program for 1324, to be acted upon by the members in the regular unit meetings and then printed in Utility Facts for the information of all PG&E employees.

This program is not being drawn up for the purpose of propaganda as the UWUA will no doubt try to imply but rather to enlighten the employees of the necessity of certain improvements in their wages and conditions to bring them more in line with the other Coast Utilities under agreement with IBEW.

Discussion of the failure of the UWUA to enforce the agreement they claim to have was reported by all those in attendance which included several active members besides the regular board. Grievances were mounting in all areas yet the UWUA does nothing to settle them but at the same time go out of their way to see that the IBEW is prevented from assisting the grieved employee.

Sec. 562, P.L.&R.
U. S. POSTAGE

1c PAID

Oakland, Calif.
Permit No. 1283