Malicious Attempt Made to Discredit This Publication

The CIO News, California edition, official paper of the Congress of Industrial Organizations whose president, Phillip Murray, has refused to sign an anti-communist affidavit, launched a red-smear campaign against IBEW Local 1324 last week.

The officials of Local 1324, IBEW, have signed anti-communist affidavits, the NLRB has stated.

The smear is the newest effort of the officials of UWUA to confuse the PG&E workers about the real issues confronting them in the present campaign.

In a deliberately deceptive pastiche on the front page of the CIO News the masthead of Utility Facts appears in one corner and that of the communist People's World appears in the other. Over a story picked from each paper appears a caption "The Party Line."

Both stories note that serious accidents have increased on the system due to by-passing of established safety measures.

The CIO News does not deny that these things have occurred. Instead it chooses to draw a parallel from the fact that a communist sheet has reported an appalling fact— that the safety of workers has been sacrificed to the speedup.

The CIO News does cry that the UWUA is being maligned for these things because of laxity in the processing of grievances, some of which involve laxity in protecting PG&E workers from accidents. IBEW CHALLENGES UWUA'S SHERLOCK ON COMMUNISTS.

"The IBEW is not interested in communism, nor the support of any party member or paper. In view of the charges made in your UWUA Newscaster and UWUA CIO News you are hereby asked to furnish the name of any PG&E worker whom you know is a member of the Communist Party, or the name of anyone who follows the teachings or 'Party Line' of that party.

"If any such employees are named (after submission of proper proof) steps will be taken immediately to remove them from IBEW membership. The IBEW takes no middle road on communism. The IBEW wants no communist members or sympathizers, period."

The smear of the officials of Local 1324, IBEW, have signed anti-communist affidavits, the NLRB has stated.

IBEW LOCAL 1324 will expect your organization to take similar action on the names of communists, IBEW may submit to you.

"Let's quit this tearing down of the reputations of PG&E employees. Let's have the facts."

C. P. 'CHUCK' HUGHES, IBEW Representative.

The UWUA will continue to be maligned in Utility Facts for failure to carry out basic union obligations when such failure is brought to its attention and verified.

The first paragraph in the Daily Worker story (titled: Speedup—death at PG&E projects) which the CIO News reproduced is interesting. It says that the facts were reported by members of the CIO Utility Workers Union (UWUA).

Utility Facts report on the accident which cost one man his life was very restrained. It merely mentioned that in an IBEW meeting held in San Francisco one of (Continued on Page 2)

Efforts to Confuse Employees On Revoking Checkoff Shown

Letters and calls to the offices of Local 1324-IBEW indicate that the UWUA was at least partially successful in creating confusion among PG&E workers signed to dues checkoff. One operator in the IBEW office was kept busy nearly all of one day answering such calls and explaining that dues revocation cards could be signed without heed to rumors of UWUA reprisals for the IBEW was sure that the company would not be a party to any such reprisals.

The letter advised PG&E employees that they should not pay any attention to a letter which accompanied the revocation cards. "We ask you to sign nothing that comes from the IBEW, " the letter said. It tried to convey to the reader that the IBEW was sure that the company would not be a party to any such reprisals.

The UWUA's check-off card after June 1st. The UWUA is not interested in advising its members and all PG&E employees of the check-off. The IBEW wants none of this check-off money. It does feel that the employee should have it if he feels the UWUA is not giving him his money's worth for it in union service and contract enforcement.

The IBEW has repeatedly stated this position in open meetings.

IBEW POSITION

The check-off card sent out by Judge Shapiro did not just apply to members of the UWUA who had been expelled or who had resigned, but to all employees on the check-off. The IBEW position on this card, which the UWUA well knows, despite the lies in their letter on the check-off, is that it should have been accompanied by a letter from the judge defining what constitutes a member of the UWUA.

Such a letter was necessary because the company had also sent out a letter to the employees telling them that they did not have to be a member of the UWUA to continue to work, but that they would have to continue to have UWUA dues deducted from their checks because they had signed a card authorizing such deductions by the company.

NO MEETINGS

If there was confusion about the signing of the dues revocation cards sent out it should be clear that that confusion lies on the UWUA doorstep. For the UWUA has repeatedly refused to meet in open meetings with the IBEW to (Continued on page 2)
CIO-CWA Authorizes Bell System Telephone Strike

News dispatches out of Chicago and out of CIO headquarters in Washington have stated that nation-wide strike action has been authorized for the new CIO affiliate, the Communications Workers of America.

The strike action was authorized by the CWA convention in Chicago. It should be pointed out that this convention was composed of delegates representing not more than 71,731 communications workers, for by that is the figure—given out by CWA President Bierne himself—who voted recently to affiliate with the CIO.

The affiliation deal itself was similar to one arranged on top levels when UFWA President Fisher took his company union, the Brotherhood of Consolidated Edison Employees into the CIO and made it a national union.

Efforts to Confuse Employees On Revoking Checkoff Shown

(Continued from Page 1) work out programs which would benefit all PG&E employees regardless of affiliation. Nor would they carry on open meeting to discuss issues.

The IBEW position still remains the same as it was several months ago. Its representatives will meet with UFWA representatives on issues in an open meeting anytime, any place. The PG&E has no right to dictate what is to be decided and not UFWA's Shedlock or UFWA's Fisher.

SECOND CALL:

In case you did not receive a dues revocation card through the mail and want to be sure that the company does not continue to deduct your dues for the UFWA's inactive, the card is reproduced again. By signing it you will make sure that the company is notified to stop your dues checkoff. If you do not sign the card, dues checkoff will automatically be continued after June 30 unless you notify the company to stop it by letter.

Cut this out, sign and mail to Local 1324, 1918 Grove Street, Oakland 12, California. We will forward it to the company along with the many others.

Check-Off Revocation

TO PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

I (print) hereby revoke any authorization to deduct from my paycheck dues for Utility Workers Union of America, CIO, or for any local union thereof, which may have heretofore been given you.

(Signed)

Department

(Social Security Number)
Confusion Delusion:

**UWUA Officials Confused On How Many Lies They Can Get An Intelligent PG&E Worker to Swallow**

**IBEW Will Pay Cost Of Joint Open Meet**

Apparantly the facts on the PG&E issues which have appeared in Utility Facts of late, have created the UWUA where they hurt most—loss of prestige among the union-minded PG&E worker who will be the backbone of any organization emerging from the coming election as the bargaining representative.

The UWUA has been unable to successfully answer many of the facts thrown at their doorstep. So, the UWUA represents these facts as "confusion". Any confusion existing among PG&E workers at the present time about the issues, before them is there because of UWUA refusal to discuss these issues. If the UWUA officials think that the average PG&E worker is not capable of recognizing a fact when it is properly presented to him, then there is a lot of confusion among UWUA thinking.

Officials of IBEW and Local 1324 are so sure that the facts of the current campaign are working for an IBEW victory in the coming election that they will pay all expenses of an open meeting of PG&E workers. In such a meeting the worker himself will decide who is causing confusion on the system.

The IBEW offers the following for clarification by UWUA officials in their publications or in open meetings:

**Why Did the UWUA Delay the Election?**

It has been shown in Utility Facts that the UWUA, through various tactics before the NLRB sought since last fall to avoid first, and later to delay, an election. When the hearings were concluded, these delaying tactics were continued. Their June 7th Newscaster implies that their brief was filed with the NLRB by the May 31 deadline.

Actually, the UWUA requested an extra 20 days for the filing of briefs, thus delaying consideration of the IBEW petition for an election by NLRB officials in Washington.

The IBEW had its 120-page brief on file long before the UWUA got in its 20 pages of mere notes taken from the transcript of the hearing. (It has just been reported that Darwin, attorney for the UWUA, is asking the NLRB in Washington, D.C., for an oral hearing, which means further delay.)

**Is the Worker Stuck Forever With UWUA?**

The June 7th Newscaster also claims that the contract is a bar to an election. In layman's language this means the UWUA feels that once a contract is made for them, they will retain their contract indefinitely, regardless of how the union may enforce it in the interest of those it is supposed to represent.

When further analyzed, the UWUA's position is revealed to be against the interest of the employee in other ways. The UWUA has contended that inasmuch as the NLRB once certified it and its eight local unions as the collective bargaining representative for the four Bay Divisions, there are no grounds for establishing One Union on the System or on the four divisions.

Such a multiplicity of organizations for collective bargaining would not seem to be in the interest of the worker.

**Is There No Consistent UWUA National Policy?**

In the East, where the UWUA's main bastion is the company union, the Brotherhood of Consolidated Edison Employees, the UWUA preaches the merit of One Union on the System. However, the UWUA in California has worked consistently against the idea. In California the interest of the company at the moment is also to keep more than one union on the system.

It is possible that the UWUA is fighting to retain the bargaining rights for any group of PG&E workers it can retain—even on one division—because the National UWUA treasury needs the money after the many losses suffered recently by the IBEW.

**What Happened to the CIO One Union Idea?**

The CIO has always claimed to be the champion of the One Union idea of industrial organization. The UWUA is supposed to be a part of the CIO. Yet the CIO industrial principle has been cast by the UWUA wayside in the interest of high national UWUA policy that does not involve him in general, and the worker in particular no good.

**What's the Truth 'Bout The Brag About F. Bragg?**

Again in the June 7th Newscaster it is reported that Shedlock and Bragg met on May 27 with the Pt. Bragg membership. About seven PG&E workers are employed there and not all of them showed up at the meeting. It was the first visit by a UWUA official to the area in several years, and only the fact that an IBEW unit was set up to service PG&E employees in this district as well as Willits, Lakeport, Ukiah and other communities on the outskirts of the PG&E brought out the UWUA per capita conscious representatives.

Previously these employees were located from Oakland for the UWUA to bother. However, it is the UWUA's right to claim them as members. Claiming them and getting their votes in the coming election are two different matters, and the group have been in touch with IBEW officials of the Ukiah Unit.

**UWUA Says No Raise; IBEW Got 30 Cents**

Before space runs out, another Newscaster misstatement should be pointed out. It claimed that the IBEW asked for a 22-cent raise. Salt River Valley Water Users Assn. employees and then agreed to a contract extension with no raise. Letters, which may be checked by UWUA officials of PG&E employees, are on file in the IBEW office showing that some classifications of workers at the company have received wage increases for as high as 15 cents an hour. Both physical and clerical workers are covered by the IBEW contract.

Sometimes mistakes happen when they do not get acknowledged by a newspaper. When they are not mistakes it is evident that such items are intended to deliberately take advantage of the reader's gullibility. From the foregoing accounts, it would appear the UWUA's Shedlock could make his propaganda stick better if he would fortify it with some facts.

**Shedlock Walks Into Another Beartrap???**

It has also been said the IBEW "outside members" of Local 77, Seattle, conducted a strike which was not supported by IBEW officials. Because International Representative "Chuck" Hughes is a member of Local 77, Utility Facts asked him if he had knowledge about the situation. "Chuck" replied that he was in the area at the time.

"The company had offered ten cents an hour across the board for all employees," "Chuck" said, which was turned down. A meeting was held and a fact-finding board was set up by Cyrus Ching of the Federal Mediation Board. The Board's decision gave the IBEW employees 15 cents an hour across the board, effective as of January 1, 1949. It will be enlightening to compare that figure with the raise the UWUA negotiated for PG&E workers effective January 1, 1949.

Hughes pointed out that the 15-cent raise came about because the IBEW in Seattle stood behind the desires of its members. In PG&E negotiations last winter the UWUA national officers attempted to dictate a settlement, which was partly responsible for the birth of Local 1324, IBEW.

**Was the UWUA Penn Raise Average?**

The Newscaster also remarks about UWUA gains at West Penn Power Company in Pittsburgh—they won an election among employees of the Meter Division. No reason is given as to why the longtime contract UWUA had with this firm did not, until the election, cover the Meter Division.

The last UWUA edition of the CIO News also reports that Penn UWUA employees got an 8 cents per hour raise.

Light did not mention that IBEW employees of nearby Duquesne Power and Light got 12 cents an hour plus many contractual improvements.

Utility Facts would like to publish the terms of that contract so PG&E employees could compare it with the UWUA Penn contract, and invite the UWUA to publish its contract.

The IBEW is a comparatively recent arrival in the Pittsburgh area, and had the system, yet the benefits of its contract far outstrip those in the older Pittsburgh UWUA union.

**To Disperse UWUA Confusion—An Offer**

In a past issue of Utility Facts the IBEW published the list of utilities throughout the country under contract to it. The list showed that the IBEW has most of the big ones and the most contracts.

The IBEW will list the wages paid at these utilities in Utility Facts if the UWUA will publish in their publications the wages paid under their contracts.

If the air of confusion around the heads of UWUA officials, and which is reflected in their publications, is unaffected, then the IBEW offer will be accepted. But it won't be accepted if the UWUA feels that the condition will help them win a bargaining election.
REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

San Francisco Unit 3

One of the highlights of our last membership meeting was a report by Bro. "Chuck" Hughes concerning IBEW activity in the Utility Field. Bro. Hughes pointed out that UWUA charges that we were only interested in organizing a part of the electrical workers in the electric light and power industry.

Bro. Hughes called attention to our recent articles in Utility Facts which gave a complete list of the workers in the gas utilities covered by the IBEW. This is to show that we represent 15,000 gas workers in 96 different companies throughout the country.

In answer to UWUA charges that IBEW only organizes certain crafts in the electric light and power industry, Bro. Hughes introduced a pamphlet issued by the United States Dept. of Labor which states: "Approximately 90 per cent of the workers in the privately owned electric light and power industry in 1948 were covered by union contracts. The most important of these unions is the IBEW, AFL, which has over 75 per cent of the unionized workers."

Continuing his report, Brother Hughes criticized PG&E's job-training program because it is not properly organized. The whole program should be put on a definite basis including courses which are for the benefit of the PG&E employees. One must be a journeyman before he becomes a fully qualified electrician. What IBEW is industrial organization is a well organized program whereby an employee will receive a definite number of hours in a classroom which specializes in each particular classification of work. Time spent in a classroom must be during regular working hours and paid for at the regular rate of pay. The course of training for each particular classification of work must be given service.

Bro. Hughes also took upon himself the responsibility of being the representative of the union at the present time. He calls attention to the present drive for "One Union" which is the IBEW activity in the Utility Field. He calls for a good turn out at this meeting and no doubt Lakeport and Ukiah will be well represented.

ROY V. LOGER, Sec. Secy.

At the request of the many interested members of Unit 3, the monthly meeting was held in Ukiah at the Ukiah Elks Club. Ed. White was given the job of locating a meeting hall and he will get one if he has to build one.

The I.B.W.E., through its representatives, has proven to us that no matter how small a group, we will be given service. We expect a good turn out at this meeting and no doubt Lakeport and Ukiah will be well represented.

ROY V. LOGER, Sec. Secy.

Labor Units in 3 Nations

Desert Pro-Soviet WFTU

Washington.—The Soviet-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions suffered another blow as labor organizations in three more nations voted to sever their ties with the pro-red international unit.

The Danish Federation of Trade Unions, the New Zealand Federation of Labor, and the General Union of Labor in Israel decided that it was useless to attempt to live with the Communists in the WFTU. Their action, following that taken by the CIO and the British Trade Union Congress, served to vindicate the traditional policy of the AFL, which refused to affiliate with the WFTU when it was organized in 1945.

Job Opportunity With an IBEW Card

A communication to International IBEW Representative Chuck Hughes this week spotlighted one of the many advantages which go to the holders of IBEW membership cards.

The letter arrived from Anchorage, Alaska, IBEW Local B-1547 by air-mail and stated: "We need four or five utility line men right away. They are for the City Utility and at the present time these men are working 48 hours per week. However, they will work only 40 hours during the winter."

The scale is $2.65 per hour. One and one-quarter days per month are given for sick leave. They will receive 8 paid holidays. This would be a steady job if the boys want to stay.

The letter was signed by Business Manager Lou Taylor. Hughes said that interested PG&E workers should contact the Local 1324 office in Oakland for further details.

CIO On Downgrade

NLRB Indicates

The NLRB, summarizing the results of collective bargaining elections in the first three months of this year, announced that election winners were as follows: AFL unions, 436; CIO unions, 181.

The recent top level interference by the CIO with local autonomy of its affiliates and deals similar to the one that took in CWA President Bierne and guaranteed him a job are some of the reasons for the CIO decline.

Hosiers' Union Seeks to Rejoin AFL

Milwaukee—Delegates attending the convention of the American Federation of Hosiers Workers here voted unanimously to seek re-affiliation with the American Federation of Labor.

The hosiers' union which has about 50,000 members, left the AFL 14 years ago at the time its president, the Textile Workers Union of America, walked out with the group which subsequently was suspended recently by the CIO when it refused to go along on certain per capita tax payments.