ATTEMPT NEW ELECTION STALL

Still Attempting To Delay Election

By IBEW Representative Merritt Snyder of the Local 1324 S.F. Office

Once again the UWUA stalling tactics retarding the coming election on the PG&E is being shown.

Attorney Darwin, representing UWUA, has now requested the NLRB Washington office for an oral hearing relative to the PG&E

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Not content with delaying the recent NLRB regional board hearing in every way possible over a period of several months, he is now up to old tricks again.

Could it be that UWUA Administrator Shedlock is behind this???

If so, why???

Is Shedlock and UWUA afraid of taking their chances by letting the PG&E employees decide in a democratic manner, who shall be their bargaining representative?

Could it be that they do not believe their own articles written in the Newscaster and CIO Light, such as "Local 1324 is falling apart at the seams" and of the many meetings being held by the UWUA and the fine support they are receiving?

Surely if they are as strong as they claim they are taking no chances by being in favor of an immediate election! Or could it be that this strength is merely on paper?

Local 1324 again asks UWUA to consent to an immediate election in order to give the employees on the system a chance to express their democratic rights by voting in an election.

Or is the word "democracy" foreign to the UWUA line of thinking?

If not, it's time the UWUA gets out of the way and gives the employees the democratic right to an election day.

What do you say, UWUA?

Here's an Election the CIO Should Have Stalled

In an NLRB bargaining representative election held at the Westinghouse Sunnyvale plant on Tuesday of last week the United Electrical Workers (CIO) sponsored IWWU went down to a resounding defeat as the IBEW emerged as the bargaining agent by a comfortable margin.

The victory adds another Bay Area electrical industry to the growing ranks of those with contracts with the IBEW.

They Shouldn't Throw Rocks

"People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw rocks," is an old familiar adage. So is "Practice what you preach."

Top UWUA officials would do well to consider those well-worn phrases, Communism is supposed to be against the democratic way of things. They, the UWUA, hurl communist smear phrases. Communism is supposed to be against the democratic way of things. They, the UWUA, hurl communist smear material in their propaganda sheets and through whispering campaigns. Yet they seem to embrace the communist theory that democratic elections are not in the interest of the "regime."

The IBEW position against communism as stated in the last issue of Utility Facts still stands. As Utility Facts was going to press no word had been received from the UWUA on IBEW's pledge to expel any member of the communist party, or sympathizer, if UWUA would submit evidence in support of its charges.

The IBEW subscribes to the American way. That way embodies democratic elections.

The UWUA conception of democracy is obvious from the news appearing on this page of Utility Facts.

(Continued on page 2)

Utilty Facts

Bridge P.G. & E. With I.B.E.W.

Vol. 1—No. 21

Oakland, California, July 13, 1949
The AFL on the Political Front

With the state legislature adjourning a look at what the California Federation of Labor was able to accomplish in Sacramento during its historic session should be of interest to every PG&E employee.

The IBEW is affiliated with the State Federation. Scores of IBEW locals on the coast have helped to defray the cost of the Federation's fight in Sacramento for the California working man through the payment of a small per capita tax.

The adjourned session of the legislature was noted for its anti-labor attitude. Of the 5,000 bills introduced in this session, more than 2,000 of them were aimed at labor, according to the report made to the San Francisco Labor Council last week by Federation Secretary Neil Hanney.

Practically all of these were killed in committee or on the floor of the legislature, almost entirely without the aid of the CIO.

In addition, again without CIO assistance, the Federation scored a smashing victory over the anti-labor lobbyists in Sacramento by maneuvering to passage in the closing days of the session an extension of the benefits of the State Disability Act.

Henceforth, in addition to the $25 per week paid to hospitalized workers, hospitalization benefits of $8 per day for two weeks may now be paid. This gain, backed by the lobbyists and had been killed by their pressure in committee.

The maneuver by the Federation's secretary which finally brought the proposition to a vote by the house and senate was a brilliant one.

In addition, despite the hostile Sacramento air, a score or more of small bills which will add some $25,000,000 to benefits received by California workers under various laws were also maneuvered into law.

Thus the PG&E worker has one more example of the progressiveness of the AFL unions in California and the value of membership in the IBEW whose interest is served by the Federation along with other AFL unions in the state.

Viewing the situation of the California workers under various labor laws were also maneuvered into law.

UWUA in Another Move to Avoid PG&E Showdown

(Continued from Page 1) some members of Local 1324 are Communists or fellow-travelers.

While smearing loyal PG&E workers with the Communist accuses the UWUA is following a tried Communist device in Washington. Through the oral hearings it would seek to use the NRLB as a sounding board for propaganda while at the same time seeking to pressure the Board into an unfavorable election decision.

The Communist doctrine is said to be composed to democratically conducted elections. The UWUA's effort to sidestep an election on the PG&E while at the same time conducting a red-scare campaign passes its (UWUA's) ineptitude.

UWUA's Secretary recently stated that Local 1324 is falling apart at the seams. If there is a grain of truth in the charge, the UWUA certainly would not be seeking to avoid an election. Employees in the four Bay Divisions are chafing at the delay in getting an election. The UWUA knows that an election is wanted.

Unless there is a major change in the policies of the UWUA, the longer the employees have to wait for an opportunity to vote, the greater the vote against UWUA will be when the election does take place.

Meanwhile, IBEW officials are confident that the NRLRB will see through the UWUA effort to deny PG&E employees their right to a democratic election. They are confident that an announcement on the election date will be forthcoming soon.

IBEW Still Winning NLRB Decisions

The IBEW continued to forge ahead all over the country during the past month as the result of the following NLRB elections will show:

The IBEW was certified as the collective bargaining representative for employees of the General Electric Supply Corporation in Washington, D.C. Local Union 1325 will do the bargaining.

Production and maintenance employees of the Schaefer Machine Co., Cincinnati will be represented by IBEW Local 1061 due to results of an election conducted there.

RCA Service Co. employees of Culver City, Calif., chose the IBEW Local 45 as their bargaining representative.

(Continued on Page 4)
Why One Organization on the System?

'Sketchy' UWUA Position Shown

C. P. "Chuck" Hughes, the IBEW representative who is assisting the officials of Union 1324 in the current organizational campaign, this week drew upon his familiarity with the West Coast utility picture and spent some time discussing reasons why elimination of the UWUA "island" on the PG&E system would be in the interest of the PG&E worker.

As presently constituted, the UWUA's principal stronghold is in the four Bay Divisions of PG&E. Except for that questionable island of representation in the Pacific Coast utility field, UWUA represents only a handful of employees in Southern California Edison (Local 47), at Coos Bay, Oregon, employees of a small water company, and the Southern California Gas in Los Angeles.

Hughes' knowledge of the West Coast utility situation stems from his early days in the IBEW. He spent seven years directly representing utility workers on this coast prior to becoming a labor relations manager. Before that he was a West Coast utility worker himself for 12 years. As a negotiator or as an organizer he has come in contact during the past few years with the employees of every major Coast utility.

Related Interest

With such a background, Hughes feels that he understands well the interests of the average utility worker. "I think this campaign has reached the stage," Hughes said, "where a few observations coming from me not as an official but as a utility worker, will be of interest to the PG&E employee."

Noting that the interest of the PG&E employees and other Coast utility employees are interrelated, he began by harking back to 1934. "At that time," he stated, "the only major utilities which were organized outside of the independent unions were the Portland General Electric, Northwest Electric Light and Power, and San Diego Gas and Electric. All were under agreement with the IBEW. Some other companies probably had some relationship with the IBEW, but the agreements were not through written agreements.

"From 1934 to 1939, these companies were organized on an industrial basis and sought to break IBEW agreements: Pacific Power and Light, Southeastern Oregon Power, Washington Water Power, Grays Harbor Light and Power, Washington Gas and Electric (the latter two are now out of business)."

These companies are still covered today by IBEW agreements.

In addition, the ranks of Northwest utilities under IBEW contract have grown to include at the present time municipalities, federal agencies, public utilities, districts. All major utilities in the states of Washington and Oregon are organized under the IBEW.

In 1938 the UWOC-CIO made a strong effort, employing three organizers to take bargaining rights for Puget Sound Power and Light employees away from the IBEW. The CIO gave up after three months and hasn't tried again. The UWOC was the forerunner of the Pacific Coast of the present UWUA.

"It is notable," Hughes continued, "that in the 12 years that union has been on this Coast, the CIO was always able to win for some 30 employees in Coos Bay, Oregon, Southern California Gas, a water company, and the four Bay Divisions of PG&E. In those 12 years there was no other organizational progress, with one exception. The fifth year ago the bargaining rights for the Long Beach plant of Southern California Edison. The IBEW did not participate in that election.

IBEW Growth Shown

"In the meantime, IBEW utility representation on the Coast continued to expand. From 1944 to 1946 industrial-type agreements covering all categories of employees were won from these firms by the IBEW: Sierra Pacific Power Company (Local 1245), California Electrif Power and Interstate Telegraph (Local 47), Southern California Edison (Local 47).

Hughes noted that in addition to these major utilities, the IBEW was also successful during the period in securing the bargaining rights for employees of many smaller firms in both the power and telephone fields.

"Now it seems to me as a utility employee," Hughes went on, "that if the CIO was doing a good job where the utility workers they represented, they could have held their union to the employees in many utilities where they participated in campaigns or elections. By the same token, if the IBEW was not doing a good job where it was established, the CIO might have tried to step in. It never did.

By contrast, the IBEW has progressively agreed to IBEW policy and is today to offer organization to any group of unorganized or badly organized utility workers regardless of the size of the company, the number of employees, or the cost involved. This policy is based on the obvious knowledge that any unorganized or poorly organized utility group is a threat to the wages and conditions of every organized IBEW utility employee.

Others Are Interested

"Most utility workers have realized that someday they could belong to one organization, such as the IBEW. The advantages accruing from such an association are obvious. Industry and employee alike would benefit from working through one organization. The problems of one would be the concern of the other, and management would have to deal with the public, and the employees would benefit.

"On the other hand, two organizations in the same field have never gained the employee. In the Pacific Northwest and in Southern California, where representation is predominantly IBEW, relations with management are on the high level. Employee wages and conditions are the highest in the industry. Except for the UWUA island in the Pacific Northwest and in Southern California, where representation is predominantly IBEW, relations with management are on the high level. Employee wages and conditions are the highest in the industry. Except for the UWUA island in the Pacific Northwest and in Southern California, where representation is predominantly IBEW, relations with management are on the high level. Employee wages and conditions are the highest in the industry."

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REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

San Francisco Unit 3
Bro. Snyder reported the attempt on the part of UWUA to delay the coming union election. UWUA has petitioned the NLRB for an oral hearing to prevent the coming election from taking place. They contend that the election should not be held for two reasons: 1. That the units are petitioning for are not appropriate to those traditionally established. 2. That Local 1324 is a front organization.

Bro. Snyder stated that oral hearings are seldom granted but should this request be granted to UWUA, they will no doubt succeed once more in stalling the election date.

This move once again reveals the fear of the coming union election. Just recently they revealed their fear by stalling election proceedings when they asked and were granted a 20-day extension of time to appeal the election hearing in Redwood City. It also gives the lie to a statement made by them in a recent issue of their publication "Light" wherein they stated that the IBEW organization is coming apart at the seams. As a matter of fact, a report we received recently from one of our own supporters, in which he stated that only a half dozen of them at one of their recent membership meetings here in S.F. indicates that it is the UWUA that is coming apart at the seams.

To fight this new stalling tactic of UWUA the board requested Bro. Snyder to send a telegram to IBEW President Tracy, calling it to his attention and asking him to do everything in his power to make sure the NLRB handles the case as it should be.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE.

At our last Executive Board session, Bro. Snyder reported a meeting was scheduled Friday, July 1st with Judge Sapiro concerning the refusal of dues check-off money to PG&E workers. Our members will be represented at this meeting by Matt Trubner, IBEW attorney (postponed until July 7th).

Just who among PG&E workers will have dues money returned to them will be decided by the cards they returned to Judge Sapiro's office. These cards were sent out to the employees who were having dues taken out of their paychecks.

On the card, Judge Sapiro asked whether or not they had been a member of UWUA-CIO on February 1, 1949. This was the date when the members of Local 1324 IBEW took court action to have dues check-off money returned to us because we no longer considered ourselves members of UWUA-CIO.

Discussion revealed that some PG&E workers had failed to receive these cards although they were having dues taken out of their paychecks. In other instances, workers had received cards who had not been having dues taken out of their paychecks. These facts indicate that the dues check-off records supplied to Judge Sapiro by PG&E were in error and therefore the entire proceedings have been unfair. The Executive Board voted to instruct our attorney to make affidavit showing the errors and ask for an investigation of the dues check-off proceedings in order to guarantee that dues will be returned to workers who are rightfully entitled to them.

—UNITE 3 PUBLICITY COMMITTEE.

Oakland Unit 7
The last regular meeting of our unit of Local 1324, IBEW, was held Wednesday, July 6th, and a tremendous amount of interest in the coming election was expressed. We were all given an up-to-date report on the activities of Local 1324 and the progress being made. A lot of us, not only those attending, but not understanding why the UWUA is doing everything within their power to stop the PG&E employees from having an election. This latest move to delay the election by requesting an oral hearing in Washington doesn't look like it is for the best interests of the employees in getting this election as soon as possible. We were wondering if the UWUA officials in making this move have the support of the employees here in Oakland. Our unit is growing and we hope that other Oakland employees will attend our next meeting and participate in the discussion of the issues which so vitally affect us. There were some new faces in the meeting and as one expressed he could see a difference between the UWUA and IBEW meetings, because in ours there was no mud slinging and fighting used. He said he enjoyed the meeting as it was very interesting and could be counted on to attend the next one. Richard Brown was elected to fill the vacancy of a temporary financial secretary.

WILLIAM HAAS, Chairman.

IBEW Still Winning NLRB Decisions
(Continued from Page 2) Local Union 1229 was certified to bargain for the employees of Jefferson Standard Broadcasting Co. of Charlotte, N.C.
IBEW Local 49 of Portland, Ore., was certified to bargain for the employees of the Westinghouse Radio Station.

At the NLRB election conducted by the Lexington Lagowsky of the General Electric Co., Lexington, Ky., IBEW Local 183 was chosen.

‘Sketchy’ UWUA Position Shown
(Continued from Page 3) handicapped in bringing the PG&E employee the gains enjoyed by other utility workers. The record of past negotiations will prove my point.

Election Important
The IBEW members in utilities up and down the coast and those outside the Four divisions are interested in the coming election. They have hoped for years that the Bay Division would join with them in a coast organization.

“The campaign and the coming election is a topic of discussion in the meetings of every IBEW local in the West. These locals and their officials have been cooperating in every possible way to aid Local 1324 officials in getting IBEW facts before the PG&E workers who must make the decision on representation.

“These members and officials are hoping that this decision will not be delayed by the UWUA just because it has been around for a while on the Four divisions. They hope it will go to the IBEW because they have tried and tested the IBEW from a system-wide standpoint, Know it functions in the interest of all utilities employees; that its policies are set by the members themselves and not by one or two personalities at the top; that it offers the most from a social security standpoint and the most from the standpoint of wages, hours and conditions.

“With the election approaching I advise every PG&E employee who has a vote to examine closely the program of the UWUA and the IBEW before making up their minds. The program has been presented by the individual in charge of the UWUA campaign. Remember first that he is an Easterner with little knowledge of our Western conditions; second, that he may be more interested in preserving his job than bringing any real gains to the PG&E employee, for the employee’s interest certainly lies in one Organization on the System.

“There has been chaos on the System as long as there has been two organizations. The opportunity is at hand to end that chaos—by an IBEW vote.”

THE MAIL BAG

After reading an article in Utility Facts written by Business Manager Charles Feenh of Local 6, IBEW, I want to thank him, through our local, 1324-AP, for the interest he has taken and the help it will give us to win our campaign, and put one organization, the IBEW on the system.

AL TIEGLE, Chairman of Unit 3.

Sulphuric acid is important in industry, science and art.
Sawdust is a good mulch for small fruits.
Sprouts of the soybean are a fresh vegetable rich in vitamin C.

The Mail Bag

JULY 13, 1949

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