



LOCAL 1245 PLEDGES ALL-OUT SUPPORT AS ELECTION NEARS

ELEVEN OUTLYING DIVISION EXECS FAVOR ONE ORGANIZATION

Have Support of 7,000 IBEW Men

The Executive Board of IBEW Local 1245, meeting in San Francisco July 11, reviewed the results of three months of intensive activity on behalf of the 7,000 PG&E members they represent in 11 outlying divisions of the PG&E and then turned their attention to another vital matter—One Organization, the IBEW, on the System.

Confident that their primary obligation—service first to the members of their own local—was properly provided for, the Board eyed the calendar and the nearing NLRB election. The time was at hand, they decided, to enter with both feet the campaign to eliminate the Pacific Coast utility "island of representation" the UWUA maintains in the four East Bay Divisions.

It was a unanimous action, the harbinger of an all-out IBEW effort to accomplish for the PG&E employee his long cherished dream of one organization on the system.

Thus one more of the confusion ghosts that the UWUA has paraded on the pages of its Newscaster has failed to live any longer than the Newscaster lives—from poison pen to reader—to wastepaper basket.

Despite the publication in Utility Facts on two occasions of a letter dated January 31, 1949 from Local 1245 Business Manager Charles Mason stating that Local 1245 was in accord with the "One Organization" principle (and extending fraternal greetings to IBEW Local 1324) UWUA Newscaster and UWUA officials have insisted that Local 1245 did not intend to aid

AFL Apprentices Graduate in S. F.

Four hundred and forty-five apprentices from 39 AFL unions participating in the Joint Labor-Management program were honored last Tuesday night at the San Francisco Auditorium.

Fifty of those receiving their journeyman certificates are from IBEW locals with headquarters in San Francisco.

The IBEW has been one of the most wholehearted supporters of apprentice training programs, not only in California but all over the country.

WHY?

On March 30, Utility Facts called the UWUA's attention to the fact that many grievances were going unprocessed. The IBEW's attempts to settle some of the grievances of its members were rebuffed. The UWUA claims to represent all PG&E workers under the contract it claims to have with the company. So the IBEW on the above date said it didn't care who settled the grievances, just so they were settled. How many has the UWUA settled since March 30?

in the campaign to eliminate the UWUA "island".

Conferences relative to such assistance were going on this week. Further details will be announced in Utility Facts next week.

It goes without saying that every PG&E employee who is a UWUA prisoner in the four Bay divisions comprising the UWUA Pacific Coast "island" is heartened by the foregoing announcement.

Dues Revocation Cards Still Being Returned

With 2,059 of the questionnaire cards on union affiliation back in the hands of Superior Judge Milton Sapiro the results have been tabulated and the UWUA is now claiming that those results show a majority of PG&E employees now favor their union.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

NO 'STRAW' VOTE

In the first place, the cards were not meant to serve as a "straw" vote. Only about 2000 of the 5000 employees in the four Bay divisions indicated their choice of a union.

In the second place, the fact has been repeatedly discussed in IBEW unit meetings that many employees are intimidated by the check-off itself. They feel that company collection of their dues for the UWUA carries with it an inference that they must remain in the UWUA whether they believe in that organization or not.

In the third place, they were asked what their choice was, not at the present time, but on February 21, 1949. That was the day Local 1324 IBEW filed suit to stop PG&E from turning over to the UWUA dues checked off the paychecks of IBEW members.

MANY ACTIVE

Since that time, scores of PG&E employees in all four divisions have deserted the UWUA and become active in the IBEW one organization on the system.

Hundreds more are awaiting an opportunity to express their feelings about union affiliation by

means of a secret ballot. Many of these people did not send back their cards because they were afraid of possible UWUA reprisals in the Locals where the UWUA maintains some strength.

And hundreds more were not on the check-off at all due to UWUA laxity in seeing that they signed check-off authorizations when they first came under the provisions of the UWUA contract with the company.

BREAKDOWN

The actual breakdown of the cards showed that 1,406 employees said that they were members of the UWUA on February 21—1,406 out of 5,000.

Five hundred and ninety-four said they belonged to the IBEW on February 21. In addition to those cards returned to the Judge more than five hundred cards have been sent in directly to the IBEW offices. These cards notify the company that the signers wish to revoke the authorization to continue the check-off. They are still coming in. They are being turned over to the company by the IBEW.

In addition, hundreds of such cards have been sent in to the company directly, saying that they wish the dues check-off stopped.

IBEW officials were quick to counter the UWUA claim about their strength, pointing out that if there was a grain of truth to the claim the UWUA should have nothing to fear from an election. Yet the UWUA is busy in Washington at the NLRB trying to stall or stop the election.

UTILITY FACTS

Official Organ of IBEW
Local 1324



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

Why Not a Consent Election?

If there is one grain of truth in the claims being made by the UWUA about the support they are getting from PG&E employees, then they will put an end to the confusion they have caused in their "island" on the system and consent to an immediate election.

IBEW Local 1324 asked officials of the UWUA to agree to such a consent election at both the local NLRB hearings and at the dues check-off trial in San Francisco Superior Court. UWUA refused then.

The IBEW will welcome a consent election at this time or any time and again asks the UWUA to agree to such an election.

The PG&E worker is getting sick and tired of the delay; sick and tired of the laxity in processing of grievances; he wants an immediate election so he can go about his normal work with a feeling of security once more.

The UWUA has set itself up as the champion of the American Way. Let the UWUA officials practice what they preach. Let them quit trying to forestall an election. Let them agree to an immediate consent election.

Such an election, with all parties agreeing, could be scheduled by the NLRB in a matter of a few days.

No UWUA lawyer, popping off before the NLRB in Washington, is going to decide issues affecting the welfare of PG&E employees.

The employees themselves are going to decide those issues. The longer the UWUA delays, the less their chances are going to be for maintaining the "island" of representation they have here on the Pacific Coast in the four Bay divisions.

WHY?

In the June 8 and June 15 issues of Utility Facts eight columns of data was listed showing that IBEW represents gas department workers (15,677 of them) in 86 gas and electric utilities. This was done to refute a UWUA lie. Why doesn't the UWUA print a similar list, if they can?

FROM OUR MAIL BAG

To the Editor—

It must be apparent to thinking people that the conditions existing throughout the CIO Division are not compatible to good unionism.

In the interest of a better union, I would like to add my opinion to those already given in Utility Facts. Perhaps no new viewpoint will be added to those previously given, but, the value will be in the uniformity of thought in the PG&E Division at present under CIO jurisdiction that only one organization on the system will solve the present dilemma.

When a group of people come to a situation that defies a solution there is only one way to solve that situation and that is the good solid American custom of bringing it to the people and let them decide their future.

I believe that decision will be for the IBEW because the CIO in this PG&E can never capture the imagination and confidence of a majority of PG&E employees, and that is the reason for the CIO's reluctance to have an election.

The PG&E worker is tired of the continual crises within the UWUA leadership and is anxious for a way out, and the only logical out is to join with his other PG&E brothers who are in the IBEW where he can rid himself of strife and contention which destroy his feeling of oneness and security.

It will not be a matter of indulging in personalities such as the attack on Brother Ed White's character by the official UWUA newspaper that will win this coming election, but, it will be won because above all the average PG&E worker wants something he can hang his hat on and that something will be the IBEW because their is nothing else on the horizon that can give him the things he seeks.

STANLEY DAHLIN,
UNIT NO. 1
MARTINEZ.

* * *

QUESTION AND (WHAT IS THE) ANSWER (?) DEPT.

The subject this issue is relative types of Democracy.

It has been noted by the writer that Local 134 remarks on the setting up of Unit No. 7-1324 in this manner: "IBEW, Local 1324, boasts that 25 PG&E employees in the East Bay elected officers in the new Oakland Unit No. 7. Is this the democratic procedure they so often scream about? Quote Shop Stewards Bull. Number 14, in stating that when 25 people meet that these 25 are the only people concerned in the actions taken by them. On the night in question, 25 people met to form a unit, and they proceeded to elect their TEMPORARY officers when the Unit was formed.

Question: Can even Local 134 find anything wrong in that?

I can distinctly remember when in an organization of over 1300 members, 33 yes votes bound the entire membership to a major change in policy.

When 25 members are present at an organizational meeting, any vote they cast can surely be considered democratic, all the more so considering the fact that the formation of the Unit was at that moment 25 strong.

WILLIAM HAARS.

* * *

Dear Mr. Editor:

When the river plants, Oleum, etc., were established, several new jobs were brought into being, including the position on control-operator. Because we had a strong union, these jobs were awarded under the bidding system. In San Francisco recently a new job was created in the Division Operator's department and because the Union was weak, this job was dished out under the old spoil system idea. The man appointed is O.K. That's not the point, but other good men of more seniority were ignored. Oh, yes, several competent men of more seniority refused to consider the job when offered, but others of equal ability were given the bum's rush. This all goes to show that the much talked of career system is but a myth. Men can serve honestly, diligently and efficiently and if some who have this power of appointment don't like the street they live on, your out.

This proves one thing, that while your Union is strong, then can you realize a career. The IBEW is such a Union. Build it, give it your support, and then those things cannot happen here.

AN OLD-TIMER.

* * *

Chuck Hughes,
Intl. Rep. IBEW,
Dear Brother:

I noticed in the last issue of Light that one, Shedlock, questions Ed White's honesty in regards to dues paid 1324 IBEW.

I wonder if anyone ever gave any thought to the different method of bookkeeping of the UWUA locals and the IBEW locals.

In the IBEW each member must be credited with 70c per month per capita at the International Office to be in good standing, therefore the International Officer knows just how many members each local has in good standing, and also knows who those members are and also know just what months they are paid up for.

On the other hand, in the UWUA insofar as I could ever find out, there are no individual records kept of each member in the National Office.

For instance, a UWUA local with 1000 members sends in 1000 per

capita tax per month and if 500 members paid their dues six months in advance, that would keep that local in good standing at the National Office for three months and the other 500 members could be in arrears with their local dues and be in good standing with the National Office.

That could not happen in an IBEW local, because if a member pays six months' dues, their six months' per capita tax paid the International office is credited to that individual member.

I don't know if I have made myself clear or not, but I think the workers might be interested in the different methods of handling dues.

In other words the UWUA locals send in a check covering so many members per capita tax but no list of members it covers. The National Office is not interested in your standing, just per capita tax. The IBEW International Officer can tell you the standing of every one of its members at any time the local or member requests it.

Sincerely yours,

ED HANLON.

* * *

Some years ago (about two), in the Bay Area had an organization called UWUA, Locals 133, etc.

Then came a time when the National UWUA thought we were getting along too smoothly. Then, through some unforeseen reason the National attempted to put us under their thumbs and started to dictate to us, telling us what we should do and what we should not do.

We had several letters from the National telling us to bring certain things on the floor of the locals and make them pass yes votes on these things. These were matters that had nothing to do with basic unionism whatsoever.

It happened that some of us had ideas of our own. So did most of the members. But we read the letter from the National to the members anyway. They turned it down flat. That peevd the National.

There were several other letters and communications that did not set so well with the members.

So then we knew the heat was on us, and we had to get out from under the thumb of the UWUA.

We sent out committees to see with whom we could affiliate and then found we could get the best charter, guaranteeing autonomy, from the IBEW-AFL.

Then we gave all of the facts to the membership and it was voted to disaffiliate with CIO-UWUA and join the IBEW-AFL.

These are my personal opinions of why I joined the IBEW.

Fraternally,

AL TIEGEL.

The National Federation of Day Nurseries was founded in 1898.

The history of dancing dates back to ancient Egypt.

Training for Better Jobs—

Here's How IBEW Members at Southern California Edison Are Trained for Better Paying Positions

PG&E employees have long felt the need for an adequate job training and apprentice program. Throughout the country the IBEW has been instrumental in getting such plans in operation in the utility field.

These plans vary according to the needs of the area or of the particular system where they are put in operation.

One such plan was in operation on the Southern California Edison Co. property since April 24, 1946. It was hatched through the joint efforts of IBEW Local 18 and management officials. Although the Cal-Edison contract provided for apprentices to be trained in a three-year program, this provision was relaxed to conform with conditions existing on the system at the time.

CREDIT DUE

In publishing the following article on the Cal-Edison program, the IBEW feels that all of the credit for its administration should go to the company. The feeling of all IBEW officials concerned with the training program is that it was ably handled all around.

When a shortage of linemen hit the Southern California Edison Co. and it became evident that it would be necessary to set up a school to train apprentices, the company did not temporize with the problem by putting up a few poles in a back lot. It went about the problem with a thoroughness and on a scale that would assure results, as evidenced by the accompanying picture of one phase of the school that was set up.

The problem was to get men and get them quickly, and to train them thoroughly in every type of line work and with all types of construction and structures on the Edison system.

C. T. Malloy, general superintendent of transmission, distribution and communication, turned the problem over to Roy E. McCann, administrative assistant, a man of many years' experience on the Edison system.

LARGE PLOT

A piece of ground containing 14 acres in the form of a plot approximately 1,000 feet by 1,400 feet, located a few miles from its main Alhambra shops was leased. Here were erected some 90 poles, ranging in height from 25 feet to 70 feet, with sections of line representing all voltage classes used by the company, from secondaries on up to 220 kv. on short steel towers.

All types of transformer mountings, from a single transformer to

Lineyard at Southern California Edison School



Above is the school site for apprentice linemen who participated in the Southern California Edison Company's training program. There are 86 poles on the field, where the trainees and instructors worked.

platform structures, were erected. Street lighting mast arms, pole-type disconnecting switches, complicated corner poles, pin-type, suspension, dead-end and post insulator construction—secondary racks, communications circuits, capacitor mounting—all are to be found. In short, it would be difficult to find a type of construction or a line problem that does not have its counterpart or cannot be duplicated at the school.

Besides the big lot which will accommodate as many as five gangs, or about 50 men, doing different work at the same time, there was a cable splicers' school with enrollment of about 18, and an inside class and demonstration room at the Alhambra yards.

GI'S AIDED

Theory and fundamentals needed by trainees was given in class, but emphasis was on practical work in the outside school. Roy McCann did not feel that a man needs to know anything about vectors to be a good lineman. Men taking the apprentice training were recruited mainly from GI's with some previous line experience with a utility or while in military service, and from groundmen already in the employ of the company. About 86 per cent are GI's.

Since the course took trainees through the fifth step of apprenticeship in four to six months' time, apprentice linemen already working for the company were also given an opportunity to attend to reduce the three years' time nor-

mally required to become a journeyman. When men left the school they were fifth step apprentices (equivalent to two and one-half years' job experience) and then after working on the job for six months, become journeymen.

EXPERIENCED STAFF

There was 145 years of experience on the teaching staff. Men change from gang to gang for the various kinds of work, so that they receive training under the methods of several different foremen—a big advantage. Hot line work, because of its great importance, naturally occupied a fair proportion of trainees' time.

The training program was in direct charge of the operating department, with assistance by J. Long, supervisor of industrial training, and R. G. Kenyon, vice-president of industrial relations. The Southern California Edison Co. was highly pleased with its linemen's school and particularly with having laid it out on a large physical scale where there was no interference between gangs, nor from the public. It was getting results at nominal cost and was producing an exceptionally well trained and efficient force. It was turning out men of estimator and line foreman caliber for the future.

"In all my years of experience never have I seen such seriousness and enthusiasm—such esprit de corps—among men to improve their status," says H. W. Tice, Edison vice-president in charge of operation.

UWUA Throttling News Distribution

To prevent the membership from learning the true state of the present organizing campaign, the UWUA is marking all of its Shop Stewards bulletins "Do Not Post." Apparently the "Do Not Post" order is also an effort to keep lies and propaganda out of the hands of the IBEW and thus prevent the IBEW from bringing these things before the PG&E worker.

For instance, when the IBEW Oakland unit was set up and officers elected by 25 employees from the Oakland division, it was reported in the UWUA shop stewards' bulletin that only a handful of workers showed.

They didn't dare to post that one on the bulletin boards because if any of those at the meeting had seen it they would have known that it was a lie, and would have told their fellow-workers that it was.

On the other hand, there have been recent meeting of Oakland UWUA Local 134—which claims to represent 1,400 members—which were unable to muster a quorum for the conduct of business.

GRIN AND GROAN

Professor: "If molecules can be split into atoms, and atoms broken up into electrons, can electrons be split up any further?"

Student: "Well, professor, you might try mailing them to someone in a package marked 'fragile'."

A young couple asked the parson to marry them immediately following the Sunday morning service. When the time came, the minister arose to say:

"Will those who wish to be united in the holy bonds of matrimony please come forward?"

There was a great stir as 13 women and one man approached the altar.

First Lobbyist: "As soon as I realized it was a crooked business, I got out of it."

Second Lobbyist: "How much?"

White girls born today in America can expect to live to be 70; and white boys to reach the age of 65.

The first lighthouse in the world to guide vessels at sea is said to have been erected off the coast of Egypt in 280 B. C.; it was 400 feet high and visible for 40 miles.

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 Thursday, 8 p.m.
257-5th Street, Richmond.

UNIT No. 7—OAKLAND
1st Wednesday, 8 p.m.
1918 Grove Street, Oakland.

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, WILLIAM TOWE, KARL J. ADKINS & WILLIAM HAARS Executive Board
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JOHN FANTE Recording Secretary
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L. MUSCANTE Vice-Chairman
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JOHN F. SHEA Recording Secretary
RICHARD BROWN Asst. Fin. Sec.
STEPHEN L. TINGLEY Executive Board
ERNEST E. J. LEWIS Executive Board

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Redwood City Unit No. 2

International Rep. Merritt Snyder attended our meeting held on July 11.

Bro. Snyder gave a detailed report on organizational work being done on the four divisions, and of the meetings he has attended in the various units.

He spoke of the stalling tactics of the UWUA throughout the NLRB hearings in order to forestall the coming election and of the new stalling tactics, whereby UWUA has now requested the Board for an oral hearing, in order to gain a further delay and create more confusion.

The question of the dues check-off was discussed and various questions answered concerning this matter.

It was pointed out that all that is necessary to be done in order to get the dues check-off is to sign a revocation card. Hundreds of the cards have been received by Local 1324 and are being processed.

Rep. Snyder also reported upon the Local 1245 Executive Board action which put the full force of that organization behind the One Organization on the system campaign.

A general discussion then ensued regarding organizational work, and policy to be followed throughout the campaign.

Redwood Unit meetings are well attended, and a great deal of interest is being shown.

—R. PLACE, Secretary.

Ukiah Unit 5

In order to give the utmost in service to the PG&E employees Local Union 1324, IBEW Unit 5 held its July 13 meeting at Willits.

The turnout was gratifying to those who know the vast distance one must travel in this area to attend a meeting. Ukiah, Lakeport and Willits were represented, also Bro. E. I. Crocker from the city of Ukiah brought two new members with himself plus four applications for membership.

Ukiah Unit is sold IBEW and we know where we are going. Can't blame the boys at Fort Bragg for not being there as the 35 miles of chuck holes over the mountains are a tough job to negotiate to and from.

Intl. Rep. Drew brought us up-to-date on all phases of the campaign and left one important thought with us. Why is UWUA afraid of an election? and that their only weapons, "confusion" and delay, are being worn out.

Richmond Unit No. 6

As our election date draws nearer the interest of all employees in the Richmond Unit is mounting. Bro. Drew attended our last meeting and gave a very complete report on the up-to-date facts of

the campaign. The report that our sister local, No. 1245, IBEW, is in the fight with all its resources to put One Organization on the System was received with satisfaction by we who are sold on IBEW policy.

It was reported that a special organizational meeting was held the previous Thursday at which plans were laid to actively assist in bringing the true facts to all Richmond employees. This meeting was well attended and the results were shown by the interest at this meeting.

We are all waiting for the election date to cast our vote for IBEW—the One Organization on the System. See you all next meeting night.

E. A. ANDERSON,
Recording Secretary.

WHY?

On July 13 Utility Facts carried two columns of utility companies under IBEW agreement and the gains secured for IBEW members at those companies. Why doesn't the UWUA show what it has done for its utility members?

25 Million Won at Sacto. for Workers

More than \$25,000,000 in benefits will accrue to California workers through benefits won from the recently adjourned session of the State Legislature, principally through the efforts of the powerful California Federation of Labor.

About \$10,000,000 of that sum will come from the extension of state disability insurance to include \$8 a day for 12 days for hospitalized workers.

VICTORY

Bottled up in committees of both branches of the legislature this bill was maneuvered onto the floor during the last two days of session and passed largely through the personal efforts of Federation Secretary Neil Haggerty.

A score or more of other bills adding an additional \$15,000,000 to workers' benefits became law chiefly through Federation efforts.

Union men generally dubbed the

FUN and FOP

MOE: I used to be a labor leader on a baseball team.

JOE: A labor leader on a baseball team?

MOE: Yeah, I use to call the strikes.

* * *

Mother Nature selects our faces for us but she lets us pick our own teeth.

* * *

The two principal reasons for divorce are matrimony and alimony.

* * *

The belief that a red-headed woman always marries a very meek man has been proven false. He just gets that way after marriage.

* * *

Mrs. Henpeck: "Everything is going up."

Mr. Henpeck: "Oh, I wouldn't say that. For instance, there's your opinion of me, my opinion of you, and the neighbors' opinion of us both."

* * *

Traffic Cop: "Listen, lady, didn't you hear my whistle?"

Young Thing: "Yes, but you're wasting your time; I'm engaged."

* * *

Doctor: "Why do you have A-58445 tattooed on your back?"

Patient: "That's not tattooed, that's where my wife ran into me while I was opening the garage doors."

* * *

"Hey, what's the big idea painting your car red on one side and blue on the other?"

"It's a great idea. You should hear the witnesses contradicting themselves."

* * *

Patient: "I suppose the operation will be dangerous, doctor?"

Doctor: "Nonsense—You couldn't buy a dangerous operation for forty dollars."

legislative representatives anti-labor because they had introduced more than 2,000 bills aimed chiefly at labor. These were subsequently either successfully bottled up in committee or killed on the floor of the legislature.

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