

UWUA CAPTIVES HOPEFUL AS "ISLAND" CAMPAIGN BEGINS

IBEW 1245 Plans For Full Support

PG&E captives of the UWUA in the four Bay divisions of the company were heartened this week by the latest developments in the IBEW campaign and were waiting only for a chance to vote in an NLRB election to end for good the handicap of two organizations on the system.

The highlight of those developments was the announcement last week that IBEW 1245 was getting into the campaign with both feet now that an NLRB election was near.

Also, in Washington this week IBEW General Counsel Sherman vigorously protested to the NLRB the UWUA's effort to delay the election by opening up the PG&E case again through an oral hearing.

CONFERENCES

Meanwhile, conferences were scheduled between IBEW unit officials and IBEW International Representatives on the best ways and means for throwing the full weight of IBEW PG&E representation into the campaign.

In active dues-paying members this representation amounts to well over the 7,000 members in the outlying 11 divisions of the system, while in the four Bay divisions comprising the UWUA "island" the UWUA could not honestly claim that it represented a majority of the employees.

A look at the map at the right should convince any PG&E employee of the hopelessness of the UWUA position.

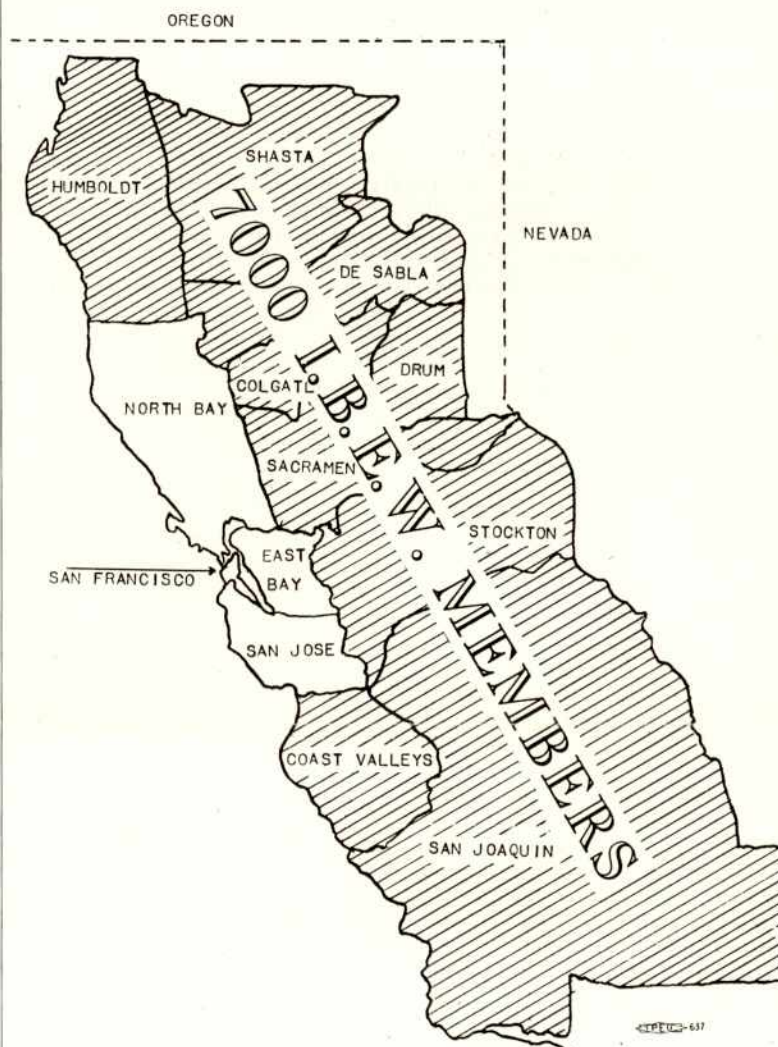
In the shaded areas of the map in nine counties are the 7,000 PG&E employees represented now by the IBEW.

THE ISLAND

In the unshaded areas are the 5,000 PG&E employees, a majority of whom signed IBEW pledge

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Here's the UWUA Coast 'Island'



The shaded areas in the above map contain the 7,000 PG&E employees represented by the IBEW. In the unshaded area are the 5,000 PG&E employees captured by the UWUA through a quickie contract executed last January while an NLRB election petition was pending. Most of those 5,000 employees are either now active IBEW members or awaiting an opportunity to vote for the IBEW in an NLRB election.

Except for a few hundred employees in Southern California and a handful in Coos Bay, Oregon, the UWUA island above contains the only UWUA group of any consequence anywhere in the nation outside of New York where the UWUA claims 25,000 employees under contract with Fisher's Consolidated Edison Union.

Official Data Shows 'Island' Surrounded

A Bulletin (No. 944) out of the United States Department of Labor, which was sent to Utility Facts by the IBEW statistical department produced the following enlightening information:

Without the notorious company union, New York Consolidated Edison, the UWUA in the four PG&E divisions in California is indeed an island in the so-called UWUA "empire."

The Bulletin, a slick paper job put out by the Department of Labor, and selling for 30 cents, is titled "Employment Outlook in Electric Light and Power Occupations." In its discussion of "unions" it gives these statistics, quote:

"Approximately 90 per cent of the workers in the privately owned electric light and power industry in 1949 were covered by union contracts. The most important of the unions in the field is the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), which has over 75 percent of the unionized workers."

Some quick elementary arithmetic will show that if the 75 per cent of workers in the industry is subtracted from the 90 per cent the Labor Department says are unionized, there is a balance of 15 per cent represented by other unions. Since there are a number of independent unions in the utility field as well as several CIO national unions the UWUA percentage of representation is somewhere between zero and 15 per cent.

Bulletin 944 states that on June 1, 1948, 279,000 workers were employed by the private utility companies in the United States. Two hundred seventy-one thousand of these were organized. IBEW represented 203,250 of them; 67,750 (the

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UTILITY FACTS

Official Organ of IBEW
Local 1324



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

One Organization

If the Newscaster and officials of the UWUA run true to past form this week they will be ignoring their past inferences that the IBEW has not had the full support of its PG&E membership in the "One Organization—IBEW" campaign. They will probably even be "pooh-poohing" the official Local 1245 action which puts its 7,000 members into the campaign.

In a recent issue of the Newscaster some UWUA writer even had the gall to state that an IBEW official, Charles Mason, was not in accord with official IBEW policy, to-wit: one organization on the system. This, of course, was part of the UWUA campaign of deliberate confusion.

That one was answered in Utility Facts with the publication of a letter from Mason which put him squarely behind the One Organization idea several months ago. Mason's position is also restated in a new letter published in Utility Facts this week.

However, as it has been frequently pointed out in Utility Facts, IBEW locals are democratically run by the members themselves. The constitution and by-laws of the IBEW ensure democracy and autonomy in matters affecting the welfare of the membership. Local 1245, like all other IBEW locals, operates along those lines.

So much confusion was spread throughout the system by the UWUA about the issues in the current campaign that the interest of the membership of Local 1245 demanded a thorough canvassing of all of these issues before entering the campaign.

When the decision was made by unanimous action of the Local 1245 Executive Board it was made in the knowledge, after thorough canvassing of the membership, that that was what the membership wanted.

The Local 1245 Board meets every three months due to the vast territory covered by their jurisdiction, which is composed of scores of units scattered all over northern California. The Board's regular quarterly meeting was held last week.

That action was not taken on entering the campaign at the previous meeting held in April was

IBEW Local 1245 Execs. Honored

Pictured above are members of the IBEW Local 1245 Executive being presented with specially designed gold emblems for their outstanding service in the interest of the 7,000 IBEW members they represent in the -- outlying districts of the PG&E system.

The emblems are a new departure in union circles from the customary handshake, backpat or verbal tribute for a job well done. They are of gold and possession of one of them will be lasting evidence that the owner has performed the duties of his union executiveship in an outstanding manner.

MILNE APPROVES

The idea for such an emblem originated with Charles Mason, Business Manager of Local 1245. Industry has long recognized that their employees will put forth their best efforts to win similar awards. His conviction that such an award would work in the same way to the best interest of the IBEW was referred to IBEW International Secretary J. Scott Milne, who gave his wholehearted approval.

Oscar Harbak, Ninth District IBEW vice-president (covering Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Hawaii and Alaska) made the presentation.

IBEW SERVICE

Receipt of the emblems was no hollow honor. The jurisdiction of IBEW Local 1245 covers all of the PG&E network outside the Bay Area or nearly two-thirds of California which is the second largest state in the Union.

Bringing IBEW type of services to IBEW employees in the far reaches of the big PG&E system is a big job in itself. Performing that

due entirely to UWUA smear and confusion tactics, as well as to the UWUA election stalling in the hearings which were still going on at that time.

At any rate, it appears that some of UWUA's old propaganda ghosts are now coming back home to die.

job as the members want it performed has been complicated by the presence on the system of the UWUA "island" in the four Bay divisions, for they were often confronted with UWUA acquiescence, in the UWUA sector, of UWUA modification of contract clauses guaranteeing basic union rights. The execs insisted that their IBEW membership be accorded their full rights, at all times, under the IBEW contract.

With an election impending on the PG&E, field efforts of the Local 1245 executive board members had been intensified recently so that every effort could be extended when it counted most toward accomplishing the "One Organization on the System" slogan.

LEFT TO RIGHT

It was fitting, therefore, that the hard-working Local 1245 Executive Board members should get the honor of receiving their first merit emblems.

Standing in line above receiving their emblems are left to right, Elmer Bushby, Colgate; Drew Baker, De Salba; Shep Shephard, Coast Valleys; E. O. Bruntrick, general construction; Mitch Mitchell, Humboldt; Gordon Strazzo, Sacramento; Bill White, Drum; Frank Gilleran, Stockton; Ward Anderson (sub for Pete Dailey of Shasta who was on vacation), and Gene Ripperdan, San Joaquin Power. In the foreground are Oscar Harbak and Chet Sorensen, president of Local 1245, and Charles Mason, business manager.

Rye, sown in the garden when it is too late in the season to plant fall vegetables, makes an excellent winter cover and good green fertilizer when plowed under in the spring.

Official Data Shows 'Island' Surrounded

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15 per cent) were independent, unaffiliated, UWUA or other CIO unions.

THAT UNION

Thus the UWUA is left with a representation of approximately 45,000 private utility employees. Twenty-five thousand of these are in the company union, the UWUA Brotherhood of Consolidated Edison Employees.

(The 45,000 membership estimate of national UWUA strength is very liberal. When the CIO granted the UWUA its charter it gave the new national union an organizing fund of \$1.00 per member or \$40,000.)

Carrying the figuring a little further and it will be evident that there are only about 15,000 UWUA members outside of Consolidated Edison.

The UWUA's President Fisher breaks his power "empire" into five regions. Consolidated Edison with its 25,000 employees is in Region No. 1. The remaining 15,000 UWUA members are distributed throughout the other four regions covering the United States.

PLAIN ADDITION

The UWUA claims to represent 5,000 UWUA members in the four Bay divisions of the PG&E. Adding the 300 employees it represents at the Long Beach and Redondo Beach steam plants of Southern California Edison to those 5,000 and even throwing in the only other groups UWUA represents on the Pacific Coast—the UWUA can come up with total Pacific Coast representation of approximately 6,800 workers.

These workers are in UWUA Region No. 5. They amount to only 15 per cent of the total UWUA national membership. Twenty-nine per cent by UWUA is distributed throughout four other UWUA regions. The New York region, made up practically entirely of Consolidated Edison employees contains the balance of UWUA's captive members, 56 per cent of them.

CONTRAST

By contrast the IBEW represents 25,000 utility workers on the Pacific Coast alone. In this sea of progressive unionism, the spongy UWUA island on the Pacific Coast in the four Bay divisions looks tiny indeed. However, the UWUA sits on this "island." It does not own it, for most of its UWUA captive members have signed IBEW applications or pledge cards.

Advantages of ramie fiber, now being grown in America, include the fact that it is several times stronger than cotton and has high immunity to shrinkage, mildew and abrasion; it can be combined easily with such fibers as cotton and rayon.

"ISLAND" CAPTIVES HOPEFUL

IBEW 1245 Plans For Full Support

(Continued from Page 1)

cards when the IBEW union for the four Bay divisions was set up last fall.

These employees subsequently became captives of UWUA through a contract signed by the UWUA with PG&E while a petition for an NLRB election was pending before the NLRB.

The campaign to free those captives from the UWUA and win over those who have not yet made up their minds about the relative merits of the two organizations will not change materially from its conduct during the past few months.

INFORMATION

The campaign of education regarding the advantages of the IBEW over the UWUA will be intensified. An added advantage will be dissemination of first-hand information on what these advantages are and how they work by first-hand information from PG&E employees from the 11 outlying divisions. They have been enjoying IBEW benefits for years.

Plans are being made for them to come into the IBEW 1324 unit meetings and explain not only what those advantages are but how they could be made better with the elimination of the UWUA island.

Members from the four Bay division units will visit the units in the 11 outlying divisions and vice versa. The information that both bring back will spread through the system and aid materially in eliminating the confusion and lies which the UWUA has spread recently.

MORE PROOF

UWUA scoffing about the authenticity of letters in Utility Facts from Bus. Mgr. Charles W. Mason of Local 1245 is spiked effectively with the following letter from Mason. It not only reiterates his previous statements, but clarifies much of the confusion deliberately created by UWUA officials.

The letter, addressed to "Chuck" Hughes, International Rep. of the IBEW, follows:

"There seems to be some misunderstanding on the part of certain PG&E employees in the East Bay, San Francisco, North Bay and San Jose Divisions, as well as officials of the UWUA concerning our attitude toward Local 1324 of the IBEW.

"This subject was one of the main topics of discussion during our quarterly Executive Board meeting on July 11th. The follow-

Letter to the Executive Board of Local 1245

Executive Board of Local 1245 IBEW,
914 Central Tower,
703 Market Street,
San Francisco 3, Calif.

Attention: C. W. Mason, Business Manager

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

At the regular meeting of the Executive Board of Local 1324, held in our office at 85 South Van Ness, San Francisco, July 21st, the members who are representative of all units in the four bay divisions, were very happy to hear of the action you took to support Local 1324 in putting One Organization—the IBEW on the PG&E system.

Your action which is representative of all PG&E employees in the 11 divisions now served so well by Local 1245 officials will no doubt eliminate the unnecessary friction between the employees that has been going on these past several years. Your action definitely shows those of us who have joined the IBEW the real Organization that is interested in Labor for the benefit of the PG&E employee.

Words cannot express how grateful we are to you who are officials of Local 1245 when you will take time out from the many problems you no doubt have in servicing 7000 members to discuss the welfare of all PG&E employees regardless of where they are located. Further, to offer to throw your entire strength behind this campaign to bring to all PG&E employees an organization that will unite them together for the benefit of all parties, knowing it will double the work you are now doing, is without saying one of unselfishness and sincere belief in the IBEW.

Our executive board together with the International Representatives who are assisting us in this campaign plus all unit officers and entire membership of Local 1324 desire to cooperate with you in every manner. Our unit meetings are listed in Utility Facts and you and your members are more than welcome to attend. It is our sincere desire to arrange joint meetings between the membership of both locals in those areas where both have established units.

In closing, again please accept our sincere appreciation for your action and our assurance of our full cooperation not only in this election but future programs which effect the PG&E employees.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

FRANK MERCER,

Secretary, Local 1324 Executive Board.

ing is the summary of our discussion in the matter.

"As you are aware, Local 1245 of the IBEW represents 11 divisions, including General Construction and Gas Supply and Transmission, of the PG&E, with a membership of 7,000. We have built our local on a firm democratic basis with each and every member having a voice and vote in all matters pertaining to the union. As a result, we have built a successful union. Our accomplishments are a matter of record for which our membership is justly proud. These things have come to pass because of sincere and honest relationship of 7,000 IBEW mem-

bers standing together in one union brotherhood.

"We have always maintained—and still maintain—the welfare of all PG&E employees can best be served by one organization representing all employees throughout the entire system.

"It is our sincere desire to have all PG&E employees stand together in one strong IBEW union brotherhood. The membership of Local 1324 may be sure that Local 1245 will do everything within its power to help them build a strong local union.

"The territory of Local 1245 is large and the business manager and his four assistants' time is

MONOPOLY: INCLUDES THE KITCHEN SINK

Washington. — Monopoly has reached out for everything including the kitchen sink. The Justice Dept. announced July 13 that four kitchen equipment manufacturers in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland had been indicted for violation of anti-trust laws. The four manufacturers had clubbed together to prevent competition and keep prices high, the Justice Dept. charged.

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.

filled to capacity, but we wish to extend our services as well as the services of our membership in helping to bring the IBEW to all PG&E employees.

"With best wishes to you and the membership of Local 1324, we are,

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES W. MASON,
Business Manager,
EXECUTIVE BOARD
of Local 1245, IBEW."

(See "From the Mail Bag" for letter of invitation extended to Charley Mason to appear before membership meeting of Redwood City Unit 2.)

Local 1324 Executive Board Meet of July 21

The regular monthly meeting of the Executive Board of Local 1324 was held in the San Francisco office, 85 South San Ness Avenue.

Correspondence was read and filed with the exception of one letter from the former counsel of the UWUA which was referred to the Editor of Utility Facts. This letter gave his approval to print certain data in the Oakland office concerning the officials of the UWUA which should be very enlightening to the membership. It will further bring out the high-handed method by which the UWUA came about and the absolute dictatorial control by Fisher and the other former Con Edison officials now heading up the UWUA.

Reports to the board were made by both international representatives, Hughes and Snyder. Local 1324 is still continuing to make progress throughout the four divisions despite UWUA's propaganda to the contrary.

The actions of several units in accepting the support of Local 1245 was read plus the letter written by Unit 2 (Redwood City) to Business Manager Charles Mason. It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that the executive board write a letter of appreciation and thanks to Local 1245 for their cooperation to put One Organization, the IBEW, on the System. It was very heartening to the board members that all IBEW locals, not only in the four Bay divisions but throughout the state have offered their all-out support to the PG&E employees.

It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that the international representatives meet with the officials of Local 1245 to set up joint meetings of Locals 1245 and 1324 in those areas where both have established units, such as San Francisco and Santa Rosa. Also, that members of Local 1245 general construction crews, as well as other members, be encouraged to attend Local 1324 meetings and vice versa.

It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that all units take an active interest in publicity and set up publicity committees to assist in the publication of Utility Facts and leaflets if necessary to bring the facts to the employees.

The executive board which is made up of the president, vice president, recording secretary, financial secretary, treasurer and chairman of each unit, all attending this meeting, personally or by an alternate, were very pleased with the showing of cooperation between all units regardless of size.

Our next meeting will be held on August 18th, same place and time.

FRANK MERCER,

Recording Secretary.

P.S.—Copies of the minutes will be mailed to all unit secretaries.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

San Francisco Unit No. 3

A complete program to unify the organizational efforts between our Local 1324 and Local 1245 was discussed at our last Executive Board meeting.

Brother Snyder stated Local 1245 has voted to throw every available resource into the present drive to help achieve "One Union on the System." To push the present campaign, Local 1245 is going ahead with the following plans:

1. They will send representatives to our meetings for the purpose of getting our ideas and suggestions as to how they can most effectively aid in the present campaign.

2. They will issue regular leaflets and literature if necessary, to be distributed among PG&E workers throughout the system.

3. Between now and the election date, Local 1245's representatives will spend an increasing amount of time contacting PG&E workers on the job and in their homes to encourage them to become active committees of one in pushing for IBEW victory.

Unit 3 membership voted to call a special meeting of Local 1324 and Local 1245 for the purpose of discussing organizational problems and setting up a program for future unified action. Unit 3 membership felt there was a need to prepare a joint economic and social welfare program at the present time which would be suitable to both locals for future contract negotiations with PG&E.

The PG&E employees have never had an opportunity to join together until now.

This program for increased activity by Local 1245 gives the lie to frequent charges made by the UWUA wherein they have attempted to create the impression that Local 1245 is not backing our present union drive. Such charges have been lies. They have been discredited before and now again they are discredited.

As requested by the membership, discussion was continued concerning the need to train more members for publicity work. There was complete agreement that the most suitable way to accomplish this would be to elect members from all the units to serve on a Utility Facts editorial board. It was suggested that these members should assist in the makeup of the paper each week in order to gain the necessary technical experience and an understanding of how to shape editorial policy. It was pointed out that although at the present time the burden of this work is being carried out by full-time representatives, there soon will be a need to run a paper with volunteer members of the local union. A recommendation was voted urging other units

and Local 1324 to adopt such a program.

UNIT 3 PUBLICITY COMMITTEE.

* * *

Santa Rosa Unit No. 4

The IBEW as promised, is giving our unit good service in that two international representatives showed up at our last meeting. Both representatives, Merritt Snyder and Chuck Hughes, gave us a complete report of the activities of the campaign to put one organization on the system. Those of us in attendance can sure agree that the IBEW gives you plenty of factual information with no mudslinging, except the proving of misstatements made by the UWUA in their publications.

We in Unit 4 are very anxious for an election to clear up this confusion on the part of the UWUA and can't understand why they do everything possible to prevent an election. As reported by Representative Snyder the UWUA is trying to delay the election by requesting an oral hearing in Washington. Most of us don't understand all about the NLRB but imagined the hearings in San Francisco were for the purpose of hearing the arguments from all sides and it looks like all could be accomplished is just some unnecessary expense to be paid by the membership of the UWUA.

Our unit went on record of concurring with the Executive Board of Local 1324 to set up a program outlining points of interest to all of us. This program will be further discussed by all units and when finally drawn up, referred back to us for our approval. We like this action, as it makes us feel like we are a part of building a real union for the benefit of all PG&E employees, regardless of whether you are in the big city or a small town in the country several miles away.

Well, we don't know how you feel, but I imagine the same as us, and that is very happy over the action of the Executive Board of Local 1245 to support Local 1324 to put the IBEW throughout the entire system. Our unit went on record of writing a letter to the Executive Board of Local 1245 and requesting the Executive Board of Local 1324 to do likewise, thanking them for their assistance in helping to put the IBEW on the system. Local 1245 has had a unit here in Santa Rosa for several

years and it was regularly moved and seconded that a joint meeting be held of the two locals to establish a real organizing program in this area.

I know this is long but we haven't written for quite a while, so we would like to let you know that there is a large number of employees here interested in One Organization—the IBEW.

JERRY WOERNER,
Chairman.

The Mail Bag

Chas. Mason
Business Mgr., Local 1245, IBEW
914 Central Tower
San Francisco 3, Calif.

Dear Bro. Mason,

At the regular meeting of Unit 2, Local 1324 IBEW-AFL, held in Belmont on July 11th, the membership was pleased and elated to receive the report of the action taken by you and the Executive Board of Local 1245 in placing yourselves actively in the campaign to put the four Bay Area Divisions of the PG&E in the IBEW camp.

Your action was truly a firm and concrete step in placing the IBEW as the sole bargaining agency on all properties of the PG&E and to all those people that are truly interested in Labor for Labor's sake cannot help but feel that they have won a great advantage. Our Unit congratulates you and commends your action.

Our Unit No. 2 meets every second and fourth Monday of each month in Community Hall in Belmont at 8 o'clock p.m., and we extend to you a most gracious invitation to attend any of our meetings that you are free to attend. We recognize your ability in the work at hand and know we can gain much from any meeting that you are able to be present. If possible let us know when you are able to attend so that we may have a good attendance.

Through you we would like to extend a like invitation to any of your officers or members to attend any or all of our meetings.

Again voicing our appreciation for your action, and adding my personal regards, I am

Most fraternally your,

G. B. TROXEL, Acting Secy.
Local 1324, Unit 2.

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