PG&E 'Island' Represented At State-wide Conference

One Organization Drive Now Rolling

The recent Local 1245 Executive Board action putting 11 outlying PG&E divisions squarely behind the One Organization—IBEW campaign was being implemented this week at different parts of the UWUA Bay Area “Island” in several ways:

1. Several conferences were held between officials of Local 1324 and officials of Local 1245 relative to development of that support.

2. Members of the entire Humboldt County division of Local 1245 at a Eureka meeting endorsed the Local 1245 Executive Board’s “One Organization” recommendation and voted to extend 100 per cent support to Local 1245’s campaign to get the Bay Area division employees off the UWUA “island.”

3. Plans were being laid for a joint meeting of Local 1324 and Local 1245 members of Santa Rosa units. An intensive organizing drive is expected to follow the meeting, with the objective of 100 per cent IBEW for the area.

4. A similar joint meeting is to be arranged for San Francisco. Local 1245 represents the PG&E construction men in the district and a joint meeting of the two units will undoubtedly prove educational.

5. In response to an invitation from the Redwood City unit, Business Manager Charles Mason of Local 1245 will attend the meeting of that unit on August 8 and discuss the benefits of One Organization on the System.

Meanwhile, as the various units of Local 1245 met and acted on (Continued on page 2)

California Utility Problems Discussed

Despite the fact that some 5,000 PG&E workers are “island” captives in the four Bay Area divisions through a quickie contract executed last January by the UWUA while a collective bargaining petition was pending, these workers were represented for the first time last week in a statewide meeting of utility unions at Los Angeles by the IBEW. The union locals, all IBEW, which participated in the utility conference, represent more than 10,000 utilities workers employed by the five largest California power utilities. The meeting took place in L.A. on July 25.

FIRST TIME

Larry Drew, IBEW International Rep, represented PG&E workers in the seven Local 1324 units of the four Bay Area divisions. Charles Mason, Business Manager of IBEW Local 1245, represented the 7,000 PG&E workers in the 11 outlying divisions.

Local 1324’s participating in the Conference is another example of the many services and advantages at the command of PG&E workers through affiliation with the IBEW.

Drew brought back a host of information to the Local 1324 Executive Board which it is believed will be of inestimable value to the UWUA “captives” in the four Bay Area divisions after they have an opportunity to liberate themselves through an NLRB election.

Where Do UWUA Members Go To Work From UWUA Island?

Where do PG&E employees with UWUA cards go for work when they leave the UWUA “island” in the four bay area divisions?

As a matter of cold fact, there are few places open to the UWUA member for transferring his card either on the Pacific Coast or anywhere else in the United States.

The UWUA has a contract with the So. California Gas Company in the area, but it represents about 1,500 gas employees. This would be of some benefit to any gas department members, but it is not enough.

Meanwhile it's necessary to look for that type of work elsewhere. But what good would such an opportunity do to UWUA members working in the electrical departments?

For such a worker the UWUA could offer the possibility of transfer to Mountain States Power Co. at Coos Bay, Oregon, where 300 are employed under a UWUA contract. That is as far as the job transfer possibilities go in the West.

FEW PLACES

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Big IBEW Picnic August 14th!

A big annual and favorite IBEW event, the Northern California IBEW Picnic, is set this year for August 14 in Linda Vista Park in Mission San Jose.

It is the 17th annual occasion for this get-together. This year as in past years a program has been planned that will appeal to every member of the family.

Dancing, swimming, games and other entertainment as well as plenty of free cold drinks and coffee are planned.

Facilities at Linda Vista lend themselves nicely to an enjoyable outing. Members are urged to bring their families and a picnic lunch and plan on staying all day.

That is a question that is important to every captive UWUA member and who would one of many considerations the worker in the UWUA “island” will mull over in his mind before he gets ready to cast his ballot in the coming NLRB election.

CONTRAST

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That is as far as the job transfer possibilities go in the West.

By contrast, IBEW utility members have the entire field open to them on the Pacific Coast and most of the rest of the nation as well, with IBEW’s 203,250 utility members vs. UWUA’s 35,000.

In addition, the IBEW has a preponderance of the related or kindred electrical industries on the West Coast area under contract.

Electrical manufacturing, electrical service industries, radio and electronics industries are about 90% IBEW in those areas.

When help is needed in those industries, it is the IBEW card man that gets the preference.

The transfer privilege enjoyed by IBEW members is very important, in fact, right on the PG&E system where IBEW already holds the contract covering the majority of jobs 7000 of them.
LETTER EXPLAINS ANOTHER OF SERVICES FOR IBEW MEMBERS

The following item explaining the functions of the California Association of Electrical Workers was written expressly for Utility Facts, by James E. Lance, secretary of the Association. Local 1324 is an affiliate.

The Association is composed of IBEW Local unions in the state, representing utilities, radio, manufacturing, telephone and inside and outside electrical workers.

"The California State Association of Electrical Workers greets with enthusiasm the decision of Local Union 1324 to affiliate with the local California IBEW legislative and political body of our state! With the addition of 1324 every utility local in the state is now represented by our organization. Welcome to the gang, 1324!"

ADVICE

"And to the employees of the P. G. & E. who have decided that fooling around with the UWUA is a waste of time, let it be said that a wiser decision was never made. Affiliation with the IBEW—the International Union that for 58 years has fought the battles of the electrical workers of every classification—will result in higher wages, better working conditions, and more holidays with pay and longer vacations."

"Take a look at the record of the IBEW. On the property of every utility, coast to coast—from the Atlantic to the Pacific—under contract with the IBEW, the employees have cashed in. Their few pennies per day for dues have grown into many dollars per month on their pay checks. Their vacations, sick leaves and paid holidays have been increased—indeed, in many cases these benefits were non-existent before affiliation with the IBEW—and the safety of their working conditions have improved immeasurably.

SAFE T

"Better Safety Rules, providing for the reduction of hazards through the use of proper equipment, work practices, etc., one of the primary objectives of the State Association of Electrical Workers. Through the efforts of our group of men our shops growing employee engaged in the construction, maintenance and repair of high-voltage transmission lines was written into State Electrical Safety Orders several years ago. At the present time the State Association is working on two more orders of particular importance to utility employees: one covering high-mechanics and operating employees, and another providing for the safety of underground men."

"Interested parties' meetings have been held on these two orders and they are now open for public hearings. Brother Hal Mayhew, of Local Union 1324, is a member of the Safety Rules Committee of the State Association and we urge everyone to turn up at these 'interested parties' meetings at San Francisco and Santa Barbara, where we had the representatives of 29 different corporations to contend with. When public hearings on these orders are held, Local Union 1324 will do well to have representatives present to see that the orders as agreed upon by our people are not weakened by spokesmen for other interests not competent to judge the hazards involved in the handling of high-voltage conductors and equipment.

"These orders will be discussed at the annual convention of the State Association in Los Angeles on August 27th and 28th, and it is important that Local Union 1324 have delegates present to act on these orders and other matters of importance to all electrical workers in our State. Affiliation is important—participation is much more so. There will be a place for Local Union 1324. We want you there!"

One Organization Drive Now Rolling

(Continued from Page 1)

their Executive Board's recommendation relative to the campaign, support for the drive snowballed around the system.

The whole UWUA island is interlaced with Local 1245 crews working out of Local 1245 units. With more and more of these crews carrying the IBEW story to UWUA captives, the few remaining UWUA "strongholds" are expected to find themselves in the grip of irresponsible charges and unscrupulous tactics. The Consolidated Edison union, discredits whose primary representation is IBEW, are expected to find themselves in the union shop card and card union buttons.

GUARANTEE

The IBEW will participate in Union Label Week and will urge its members everywhere to purchase union-made goods bearing the union label and to demand union services by button-wearing AFL members in houses displaying the union label.

The union label and the union button are guarantees that goods or services purchased from their users are made under sanitary conditions, at fair wages and under acceptable conditions. The labels and buttons tell all the world that "no sweat shop or child labor exists here."

Because of this implied message the union label program is an important part of the AFL's traditional fight to bring the advantages of unionism to every employed worker, thus raising in the process the economic standards of all workers.

BADGE OF HONOR

But the union button is more than just a mirror reflecting conditions of wages and hours. It can mean that its wearer is proud of the union which brought him his conditions. It can also mean that the wearer is proud of the things he has accomplished in his union stand."

In the present campaign on the PG&E system the button can play an important part in bringing the IBEW story to all fence-sitters or UWUA captives.

In anticipation of Union Label Week, officials of the IBEW this week urged all AFL members to wear their IBEW buttons. Such a display not only tells fellow-workers that the wearer has the courage to stand up and be counted; it tells them that there are plenty of others on the system who feel as he does about the IBEW and One Organization.

So, to aid the IBEW campaign—wear your IBEW button. The IBEW will participate in Union Label Week and will urge its members everywhere to purchase union-made goods bearing the union label and to demand union services by button-wearing AFL members in houses displaying the union label.

"Your Honor," said the prosecuting attorney, "your bull pup has wended and chewed up the court Brief."

"Well," grumbled the judge, "make the witness kiss the pup; we can't adjourn court to get a new Bible."

"Aren't you the same man I gave a piece of mince pie to last month?"

"No mum. I'm not; and wot's more, the doctor says I never will be."

same category as most UWUA Bay Area locals—paper strongholds, and wet paper at that.
**PLANS SET FOR NEW ATTACK ON TAFT-LAW REPRESENTATIVES**

The American Federation of Labor's 1950 political campaign "has begun as of now," declared AFL President William Green in keynote noting the legislative conference of Labor's League for Political Education, held July 19 and 20, in Washington, D. C.

Three hundred delegates from every state Federation of Labor in the nation and from scores of Central Labor Councils, attended enthusiastic sessions.

The California delegation was comprised of C. J. Haggerty, Secretary, and John F. Shelley, President, of the California State Federation of Labor; W. H. Baskett, Secretary-Treasurer, Long Beach Central Labor Council; Richard Seltzer, Teamsters 572, Long Beach.

President Green appointed the following committee to submit a program of action to the conference: C. J. Haggerty, chairman; Cari H. Muller, president, Indiana State Federation of Labor; R. T. Wood, president, Missouri State Federation; Louis P. Marciante, president, New Jersey State Federation; Phil Hannah, secretary-treasurer, Ohio State Federation.

Later, these recommendations as suggested by the committee, were adopted by the conference:

1. That the National Labor League for Political Education undertake to obtain from each member affiliated with the American Federation of Labor an individual, voluntary, minimum contribution of $2, and that each labor organization affiliated with the AFL and each state and local league cooperate fully with the National Labor League for Political Education in this undertaking.

2. That on half of each $2 received by the national league from members in any state be in turn contributed by the national league to the league of that particular state for the use of the state league and local leagues within that state for political activities.

3. That the National Labor League for Political Education contribute to state and local leagues such additional amounts of money, which, in the discretion of the national league, are believed necessary for the successful conduct of the political campaigns being carried on by a state league and local leagues within that particular state.

4. That if state and local leagues are in need of funds over and above that received from the national league, the method of raising such funds should be left to the discretion of such state and local leagues, provided, however, that the method adopted should not interfere with the collection of the $2 individual, voluntary contribution sought by the National Labor League for Political Education.

**TO GET OFF UWUA HOOK:**

(Fill in with ink) Date.

TO PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

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

(Signed)

Department

(Social Security Number)

**NOTICE**

The Utility Facts as well as the International Representatives have always made it a point to inform the PG&E employees correctly on all issues of this campaign. Therefore, in connection with the dues revocation cards sent to the employees for the purpose of stopping their dues deduction, one point should be cleared up.

When the dues deduction cards were originally signed by the employee and in accord with the Taft-Hartley Law, it was for ONE YEAR from date of signing or the expiration of the contract, whichever came first.

In our reports to the membership at regular unit meetings or in the Utility Facts the thought was possibly left that an employee could get off the dues check-off after June 30th regardless of when they originally signed the dues deduction card. This we have found by talking to our attorneys who in turn discussed it with the company, is not true.

**THE TRUE FACTS ARE THESE AND IF WE INFORMED THE EMPLOYEES WRONGLY WE TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY THROUGH UTILITY FACTS TO APOLOGIZE.**

If you signed a dues deduction card prior to June 30th, 1948, to become effective in July, 1948, and sent in a revocation card to the company prior to July 1, 1949, your dues would be stopped.

If your dues deduction card was sent in to the company in August, 1948, and was effective in September, 1948, your dues deduction would not be stopped until September 1, 1949, when the dues revocation card is sent in to the company prior to September 1, 1949.

Therefore, if you have sent in a dues revocation card and the dues are still being taken out of your check, it is because you signed a dues revocation card in 1948 after July and it will be necessary for you to remain on dues deduction until ONE YEAR after the date you originally signed, unless the contract is terminated before.

If the above is not true in your case and you are still being deducted, contact us at either our Oakland or San Francisco offices and we will be glad to look into it with the company.

C. P. HUGHES, Intl. Representative.
REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

San Francisco Unit 3
Brother Snyder, International representative, reported that he has been holding regular monthly membership meetings with the night workers. The attendance has been very good. In one department which has 18 workers, 16 of them turned out at the last meeting. They’re all anxious to get the election date set so they can vote for One Organization On the System.

One item covered by Bro. Snyder was that workers who are vacationing at the time the election takes place. He suggested a large box notice be run in several issues of Utility Facts asking members who are vacationing on election day to send in their address so we can be sure an election ballot is sent to them to guarantee their right to vote. IBEW Attorney Mat Tobriner is investigating the NLRB policy re: absentee ballots.

Bro. Snyder reported he was investigating the company’s failure to stop deducting dues from PG&E workers’ checks although they had notified the company to stop deductions. In some cases the worker had originally signed up at a later date than June 1948 and inasmuch as the sign-up was effective for a full year, he would continue to have dues deducted until the year expired. There are cases, however, where the worker signed the check in June 1948 and is still having dues deducted. This is illegal. The company is in error. Any such cases should be reported and will be taken up with the company immediately.

Please report such cases to Merritt Snyder, IBEW representative, 85 So. Van Ness Ave., S.F., or call HE 1-1213 or GL 2-1880 and they will be taken to have your money returned to you.

The Executive Board voted to send a letter to Les Glisson, Local 1324 officials, asking him to call a meeting of the Local 1324 Executive Board within three weeks of the last meeting date. This would move the regular meeting date up a week and was felt necessary to speed discussion and action on such important matters as an economic and social welfare program, organizational work and procedures. The meeting was made on the joint Local 1324-1245 meetings. 

—Unit 3’s PUBLICITY COMMITTEE.

* * *

P.G.&E. Service Workers Unit No. 3
We, the service workers, who toil at night, are appreciative of the IBEW and its representatives in setting up day meetings so we P.G.&E. employees get an opportunity to express our opinion on matters of Local Union 1324 IBEW.

We are convinced that the IBEW has much to offer the employees of the P.G.&E. in benefits as members plus greater economic security as our bargaining representative.

The report given by Rep. Snyder at our last meeting on the development of Local Union 1324 organizational campaign was very stimulating to all those present. We like to keep informed by personal contact even though we can get all the facts from the I.B.E.W. Utility Facts.

Despite the continual exaggeration of UWUA strength, as reported in their “Newscur—...” they are doing everything possible to delay the coming election.

The information reaching us regarding Local Union 1245 IBEW, our sister local, voting to give their full support with all resources available to put one organization on the P.G.&E. system, was well received and heartily endorsed.

The policy of IBEW of “service to the membership” is winning more friends every day.

Our group can be recorded thanking the officers and ex-board of Local Union 1245 IBEW, for their welcome support to put “one organization on the system.”

—Unit No. 3 Service Workers

* * *

Redwood Unit No. 2

Bro. Kennedy was welcomed by the members and his talk was well received. He covered in his report the organizational work being done in San Francisco by Unit 3 and the very active participation in the IBEW campaign that the members of that unit are carrying on. Bro. Kennedy has been chosen representative of the Organizational Committee of that unit since the start of the campaign. He invited Unit 2 members to attend the meetings in San Francisco whenever possible.

Since our last membership meeting, following out their instructions, a letter was sent to the Executive Board of Local 1245 through Bus. Mgr. Mason thanking them for their action in throwing all their resources behind Local 1324 in order to put ‘One Organization on the System.” We are looking forward to seeing the officers of Local 1245 attending our meetings in conjunction with their members in our area, in order to put the four Bay Area divisions of the PG&E in the IBEW campaign by joint organizational efforts of all IBEW members and thus eliminate the UWUA “island” of mis-representation.

Coffee and doughnuts were served as usual. Bro. Andy Norris acting as chef. Be seeing you and until then here’s to “One Organization on the System.”

G. B. TRONER.
Acting Secy., L. U. 1324, Unit 2.

Seek to Expedite NLRB Election Day

Officials of Local 1324 have been communicating with IBEW headquarters in Washington, D.C., during the past week to determine what steps could be taken to expedite the processing by the NLRB of the PG&E case.

To date the Board has not indicated whether it will grant the UWUA petition for reopening the case through oral hearings.

This UWUA effort to delay and obstruct a democratic election is believed by Local 1324 officials to have been the principal factor delaying an NLRB announcement of the election.

The IBEW feels that there has been too much talk already before the Board and too little consideration of what the PG&E employee wants—he wants an election so he can get on with the business of improving his economic and working conditions.