Joint Unit Meetings
Spotlight IBEW Drive

Meetings

All seven units of Local 1324 had endorsed the recently announced participation of IBEW Local 1245 in the campaign for One Organization on the system and this week were hailing plans being put into operation as a result of that participation.

Although unit members who have been active in the IBEW campaign are not relaxing their efforts to bring the IBEW story to every PG&E employee, who will vote in the coordinated NRLB election, they are confident that that election will only make official what is already a certainty—One IBEW Organization on the System.

On Monday of this week at Belmont a well-attended joint meeting of Local 1324 and 1245 IBEW members took place with officials from both locals present.

INFORMATIVE

There was a mutual exchange of information which will enable all of those in attendance to go back to their respective stations and give a clear-cut story to their fellow workers of the IBEW's efforts to provide PG&E workers with real service and faithful representation of their objectives and interest to the management.

Present at the meeting besides Merrit Snyder, IBEW Rep., were Charles Mason, Local 1324 business manager, and assistant business managers of the local which represents 7,000 PG&E workers.

Another IBEW joint meeting is scheduled for Santa Rosa on August 20 at which the officials of both locals will be present.

Frisco Meeting

Meanwhile, details of a joint meeting in San Francisco are being worked out. Because this is expected to be a large meeting the matter of available halls and schedules of the union representatives expected to attend must be coordinated carefully.

It is notable that since the announcement of the Local 1245 par-
Labor’s Loss
It is ironic that as the forces of the Administration and organized labor went down to defeat on the Taft-Hartley fight this week, a long-time champion of labor was forced to resign his seat in the

FROM OUR MAIL BAG
August 6, 1949
Local 1324, Unit 1
IBEW
Martinez, Calif.
Mr. Charles W. Mason
Bus. Mgr., Local 1324 IBEW
914 Central Tower
703 Market Street
San Francisco 3, Calif.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Union of Local 1324 IBEW has received with comforting pleasure the news that Local 1245 Executive Board has pledged all out support in our coming election to establish complete unity on the PG&E system and bring IBEW type of service to the rest of us.

We invite you and Local 1245 officers and members to attend our Unit meetings whenever possible so we may continue to cultivate complete understanding and cooperation between our two locals. We feel that the organizational experiences of Local 1245 officers and members will be of great help in establishing IBEW as the sole bargaining agent on the system.

Members of Local 1324 IBEW in Contra Costa County are sure that in joining the IBEW family they are heading, at last, in the right direction. With pledges of support and cooperation from all IBEW locals in California, we in return pledge our cooperation to complete a united organization that will be a benefit to all IBEW members.

We would like to thank you for your interest and we ask that you keep our local IBEW representatives informed of the progress of the election. We feel that what we have dreamed of for years will be accomplished if the PG&E employees continue to get the story of the IBEW advantages that we have cited to the employees in this area.

We are heading, at last, in the right direction and with your help we hope to bring IBEW type of service to our PG&E system and bring IBEW members of other locals into the IBEW fold.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN FANTE,
Secretary
Route 1, Box 102
Antioch, Calif.

Mr. Charles Mason
Bus. Mgr., IBEW Local 1245

Dear Brother Mason:

The IBEW members of Oakland, Unit No. 7, heard with considerable interest and enthusiasm the recent action of the Local 1245 Executive Board recommending all-out support for One Organization on the System—IBEW campaign.

It is our feeling that this move will be approved by the membership and that it is being well received is the fact that several new IBEW units of Local 1245 have been set up in the East Bay divisions recently by the employees themselves.

We have realized that many of the IBEW advantages that we have cited to the employees in this area have been in force in the 11 outlying divisions for some time and are appreciated by members of Local 1245.

The story of these benefits coming first-hand from members of Local 1245 right here on the PG&E would be valuable additional information for the Bay Division employees about the many advantages of IBEW representation.

We in Unit 7, Oakland, are especially interested In hearing about the success of Local 1245 and its service to its IBEW members of the PG&E.

We take this opportunity, therefore, to extend to officers of Local 1245 a cordial invitation to attend any future meetings of our unit which your schedules permit. We are sure that such an appearance will be beneficial all around.

Most fraternally yours,

WILLIAM HAARS, Chairman,
Unit No. 7, Oakland.

Editor, Utility Facts:

I have been asked by quite a few of my fellow employees why I am in favor of the IBEW. I wonder if you would print my statement in your paper?

In 1945 I joined the UWUA and found a good and aggressive union. Frankly, I was satisfied, until UWUA’s Mr. Fisher began to interfere with the running of the old union and to dictate policies that most of us felt were against the best interests of the membership.

At the same time that Fisher’s dictation became evident it appeared to me that there was a UWUA topside effort to rush negotiations with the company to a conclusion.

What they got when the contract first went through looked good then but judging by the rumbles I have heard since it seemed to be that there were plenty of my fellow workers who had the same idea.

For more than a year our grievance procedure has brought in fewer grievances. Is this because there are few grievances or because the membership has lost its confidence in the procedure?

I think our last negotiations spotlighted our weakness glaringly—two bargaining agents!

Does our full strength lay in two unions? Can we sit in negotiation in two separate organizations and (Continued on Page 3)
Public Opinion Helps IBEW Win Municipal Contract

Recently Utility Facts carried the story of how the IBEW nipped a vindictive employer effort to silence a Flora, Ill., editor who had courage to carry the true facts about a labor dispute.

One angle which Utility Facts failed to note in its reports of the incident was the manner in which the citizens of the Flora vicinity expressed their approval of IBEW policy and public relations through the polls.

For the benefit of Utility Facts readers who may not have read about the Flora incident, it is repeated here again, briefly:

First reported in Labor, a nationally circulated newspaper, the Flora incident started when employees of the city's own power and light company tried unsuccessfully to bargain collectively with the city. The IBEW represented them. The Flora Sentinel and its editor, Charles Crowder gave full publicity to the democratic efforts of the union to get recognition.

PRESSURE

He came under terrific pressure from a few of the town's business men to distort facts relating to the negotiations or ignore them entirely. This he refused to do and eventually the citizens of the town voted by a wide margin for an ordinance which would require collective bargaining with the union.

It was this vote which was significant. It indicated that the public, after hearing a fair account of the issue in their press, approved of IBEW public relations and IBEW objectives for the Flora utility workers.

The employers who had ganged up on Crowder and his Sentinel bought up the notes covering his building and equipment and forced them.

IBEW HELP

At this juncture, in the interest of a free press, the IBEW's President, Dan Tracy stepped into the situation with a loan with absolutely no strings attached so that free-speech loving Crowder could stay in business.

"This is a notable victory for organized labor and the freedom of the press," Tracy said. "It solves a vicious situation created by anti-labor employers and reactionary municipal officials. We are elated by the vote and we believe it will have far-reaching repercussions elsewhere.

"The IBEW has had many similar tussles before with city administrations in the issue of union recognition but," Tracy continued, "this is the first time, so far as we know, that the voters have compelled their elected officials to deal with a union."

IBEW vs. UWUA in Pennsylvania:

UWUA's Own Figures Show Why It Lost In Pennsylvania, and Inconsistency In Its Scales

One of the few groups of utility workers the UWUA has represented in the nation between their island in California and their main stronghold on the N.Y. Consolidated Edison system are the West Penn company workers.

In 1948 they also represented the workers on the big Duquesne Power and Light System of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The UWUA lost the Duquesne workers to the IBEW late in 1948. In the table below the figures show why. They also show the inconsistencies in the UWUA contracts for the two utilities which operate along side of each other in Pennsylvania.

The following wage scales were in effect at the two utilities early in 1948 and were the product of UWUA negotiations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CIO CONTRACTS—1948</th>
<th>West Penn</th>
<th>Duquesne</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Station Operator</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
<td>$1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switchboard Operator</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boiler Operator</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitor</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laborer</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lineman</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>1.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cable Splicer</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>1.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winch Truck Operator</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundman</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>1.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinist</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>1.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrician</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>1.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painter</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Meterman</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>1.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It should be noted that UWUA represented the workers of both companies when the above rates were negotiated. The West Penn workers got considerably less in every category. The figures are taken from the UWUA's own CIO Light edition of the CIO News.

IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THOUGH THE DUQUESNE WORKERS FARED MUCH BETTER IN NEGOTIATIONS THAN THE PENN WORKERS, THEY NEVERTHELESS CHOSE THE IBEW AS THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING REPRESENTATIVE IN AN NLRB ELECTION LAST YEAR.

Shown below are the 1949 wage scales of the two companies, with the IBEW this time the negotiators for the Duquesne contract. (A previous table was shown which broke down conditions of the two companies and showed that the IBEW had gotten the Duquesne workers by far the best agreement.)
WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE CIO?
(Continued from Page 1)

For one thing, the workers are tired of CIO tactics that have thrown initially on the hysteria strikes that have nothing to do with job security or economic advancement.

For another thing, the workers are fed up with top CIO policy—policy which permits affiliated unions such as Fisher's UWUA to rule its captive members along company-union lines.

The very manner in which the UWUA was born is typical of CIO policy: CIO President Philip Murray simply gave a charter to the officials of that notorious company union—the Brotherhood of Consolidated Edison Employees—to organize the utility industry. In three years it has become evident that utility workers want no part of Mr. Fisher and his UWUA—the only important groups of utility workers he managed to clutch to the UWUA bosom have in that time either repudiated his union and gone into the IBEW or are in the process of doing so.

POLICY

The CIO's latest attempt to save its melting membership follows the pattern by which the UWUA was chartered. The Communication Workers—formerly an independent—were chartered as a CIO union. The Communication Workers' President Bierce, who in 10 years managed to lose about 300,000 of his membership through misguided strikes and ignoring of the wants and needs of the members, got a deal to keep his job in going along with the CIO deal. The Communication Workers are deserting this losing battle and setting up in droves all over the nation and setting up their own unions—many of them under the IBEW. CIO Chemical Workers recently lost their contract in Niagara Falls after a 77-day strike. No raises, no jobs for many.

The matter with the CIO seems to be the same matter that is wrong with the UWUA—lack of consideration for the autonomy of its membership, blindness to their needs. Too much company policy and too little service to the members.

What is wrong with the CIO is what is wrong with the unions it is made up with—the UWUA, the CWA, the UCW (Chemical Workers) and a score of other unions which have a say in CIO policy. Or maybe it's the other way around.

Fresh Freddie: "Aw, Ma, I know where I came from now."

Mother: "W-why, Freddie, what do you mean?"

Freddie: "Well, my name's Ross, isn't it—and I just passed a high building with the sign on it, "Ross Manufacturing Company".

Reports From the Field

Unit 3, San Francisco
August 2, 1949

Elected chairman pro-temp in the absence of Brothers Tiegel and Van Kriekels, both on vacation. Bro. Nash very capably presided over Unit 3's August 2 membership meeting. Equally capably, and "on the ball," was Brother Kennedy as acting recording secretary.

After installing new members the meeting swung into high gear with round-robin discussion on local and unit executive board minutes, several points being laid over to unfinished business to make way for the reports of Int'l Reps. Snyder, Drew and Brother White from the East Bay division.

On the timely subject of NLRB action Brother Snyder stated: "Every means within our power is being used to bring an early election day." That normal time for NLRB decisions was 3 to 4 months.

Int'l Rep. Drew, just back from a joint conference meeting in Los Angeles comprising all California Utilities stated that this was the first time a joint meeting had been accomplished, and further that the representatives at the meeting were solidly behind the IBEW fight for one organization on PG&E.

Brother White was very definitely welcomed to the unit meeting and gave a good report of outlying areas of the East Bay, Ukiah and Lakeport.

Unfinished business brought forth the usual good reasoning, differences of opinion and counsel of Unit 3's many attractive and participating members. That's what we need, brothers—your participation and thoughts to assist the campaign for one organization.

Publicity Committee, Unit 3.

Oakland Unit 7

For information on the current activities of this unit see Chairmain Haas' letter on page two in "The Mail Bag."