UWUA Rift In Oakland

A major chink appeared last week in the armour of the only large and important UWUA Local still operative in the four Bay Divisions of the PG&E. Tiring of UWUA top level policy dictation and non-enforcement of the contract, a large group of union-minded Oakland members of UWUA Local 134 set themselves up as a committee to press for a policy more in the interest of East Bay employees.

The committee was promptly denounced by officials of Local 134, UWUA.

PUBLICITY

Apparently the publicity given to UWUA do-nothings by Utility Facts, plus the progressive IBEW program and policy which has been brought repeatedly to the attention of the PG&E workers since inception of the present campaign have brought about the effort to break down UWUA chain-gang unionism.

In their initial issue PG&E employees were urged to voice their sentiments at UWUA membership meetings about what should be asked of the Company when negotiations are begun by the UWUA for a new contract. The bulletin also urges that the contract be enforced and the speedup fought.

DICTATION

Utility Facts recently noted that a handful of top-level UWUA officials decided on what was to go into the present contract and then, in effect, told the PG&E employees they could like it or lump it. Most of them lumped it and that is why an election for a new progressive system wide organization — the IBEW — is now pending.

Although the committee was careful in its bulletin to avoid criticism of present UWUA Local 134 officials and concentrated its pitch on attendance of UWUA meetings (attendance has been practically nil due to disgust with UWUA policies) Local 134 was quick to get out a bulletin denouncing the committee and disposing of the Spark.

Although the Local 134 bulletin said that the Spark contained several false statements it did not say what the mistakes were.

One section of the Spark said: "Contract violation? When in doubt call the union (UWUA Local 134). Enforce the contract. Speak out at meetings. Ask for grievance results."

NEED ELECTION

The new UWUA group and its bulletin, the Spark, gives further subsistence to the Local 1324 IBEW contention that when the PG&E employee in any part of the four Bay divisions is given a chance to vote for One Organization on the System — the IBEW, the paper unions of the UWUA "island" will be swamped with an overwhelming vote.

Meanwhile, each succeeding meeting of Local 1324's Unit No. 7 in Oakland continued to grow in attendance. UWUA Local 134's days appeared to be numbered unless a radical change in policy developed. That seemed unlikely for to date little interest has been shown in either the sanctity of the contract or in the welfare of the membership.

With the chips down and the employees whatching every move of their leaders and weighing them, the UWUA just don't seem to have what the employees want. Either that or they don't care.

Utility Facts

Rested, Too

If you failed to receive your copy of Utility Facts last week following Labor Day it was not a mistake of the mailing department.

Like most everyone else, Utility Facts took a holiday after getting out a double edition the previous issue for Labor Day.

The whole thing was arranged so that the AFL printers of the paper could observe the holiday the same as every other AFL member.

Look for us every week from now on with some timely info on the progress of the campaign.

Even Business Notes AFL Gains

Recently a well-known and reputable weekly letter subscribed to by businessmen reported that the AFL was winning more raises than the CIO.

The letter noted that not much publicity was accompanying the raises, that AFL unions have signed more than 400 contracts, that the CIO had negotiated only about 200, and that the CIO settled for more than a cent less per hour than the AFL unions.

Local 1324 IBEW is an AFL affiliate.

Expect NLRB To Act Soon On Election

With the long Labor Day holiday over most everyone interested in an NLRB election on the PG&E properties began to eye Washington for a possible announcement soon on the date.

The PG&E case has been before the Board since May 31.

With the outcome affecting the destinies of every utilities union on the Pacific Coast the NLRB has many angles to determine in the present case besides the mere setting of an election date.

Because the Company injected an important matter into the proceedings before the NLRB local field Hearing Officer elimination of the 31 classifications the NLRB Board in Washington has the representations of three parties to consider rather than the usual two.

The NLRB is well aware that the eyes of not only the 12,000 PG&E employees are awaiting a look at the decision it renders, but the eyes of every Coast Utility union member.

The right of more than 1200 employees in PG&E alone to continue to be covered by a union contract hinges on the Board's decision. Other points raised by the three parties to NLRB hearings will require thorough study.

The NLRB's announcement on the election will have nationwide significance when it comes. It is expected any day now.

It should be noted, however, that the basic mission of the NLRB is to give the worker himself an opportunity to express his desire as to who should represent him in collective bargaining. It is intended that the worker himself shall have the final say about representation. Any other interpretation of its powers by the Board, any refusal to allow the worker to express his choice of a bargaining representative would automatically commit the worker to permanent bondage to any group he happened to become attached to.

The deliberations of the Board, therefore, are not expected to be concerned at all with whether an election should be held but rather with how it should be held. An announcement should be forthcoming shortly.

Flattery is much like a rare perfume. One should inhale it, but never swallow it.
I.B.E.W. Watchword for Union Service

Kindly accept the following as my report as a delegate to the Annual Conference of the California State Association of Electrical Workers.

The Conference was held at the Hotel Mayfair in Los Angeles August 27 and 28, being scheduled to be held in the same town as, and the week-end directly preceding the annual convention of the State Federation of Labor. Representing this Local Union in addition to myself were International Representatives C. P. Hughes, Larry Drew, and Merritt Snyder.

As you will remember the work and purpose of the Association is mainly concerned with 3 matters:

1. Any law affecting electrical workers
2. Apprenticeship training
3. Safety rules and regulations

In past articles in Utility Facts we have tried to stress the many ways in which the I.B.E.W. serves the interests of its members.

Because the I.B.E.W. is dedicated to such service, it cannot be discussed too much. The electric employees in the four Bay divisions are certainly in need of good union service.

The Bay divisions of PG&E certainly have not had many gains to count up during the past nine months under the UWUA. With a campaign going on the system to eliminate the UWUA "island" on the PG&E, the UWUA has certainly had a wonderful opportunity to show just what it could do for the employees it represented through the "quickie" contract it put into effect last January 1st.

About the only thing that the UWUA has done with this opportunity for giving employee benefits is to hand out reams of false publicity to mislead the employees about its weak and irresponsible stewardship under the contract.

It has failed miserably to enforce the contract and has even permitted it to be amended to pay-by-job bidding practice. It has largely ignored the interest of the employees. Now it is talking about starting talks for a new contract.

The Bay division employees do not have to look far for examples of I.B.E.W. service. They can be found right on the system in the eleven outlying divisions, where the largest percentage of the employees.

Some of these services, briefly,

- Full-time I.B.E.W. representatives to look after the interests of members in the remote parts of the PG&E system.
- They include the privileges of job transfers around the system, and to other utilities on the Coast, or to practically any utility in the United States, for the UWUA has no important ones under contract anymore except the Consolidated Edison Company in the New York area. They include transfer possibilities to works of the electrical manufacturing industry on the Coast, and to radio, electronics and other lines.

The services include all of the good that can accrue through a progressive international organization such as the I.B.E.W.—benefits that come from the big I.B.E.W. legal department.

The services also include the benefits that come from I.B.E.W. affiliation with other electrical organizations on a state and national level, also A.F.L. labor and political groups on a local, state and national basis.

For those members who desire to participate in pension plans or other welfare benefits, the UWUA has bought them and they are inexpensive by comparison to most such plans.

Where a majority of employees desire to see fair and streamlined apprentice and job-training programs included in their contracts, the I.B.E.W. has such plans in many of its utility contracts. Some of them are considered more valuable and information about them is another of the many services provided by the I.B.E.W.

In fact, we could fill this issue of Utility Facts with information about I.B.E.W. services.

The Bay division employees of PG&E would do well to forget the past year and a half of UWUA top-level policy of dictation and vindictiveness toward PG&E employees, and look to a future under the I.B.E.W., and one organization on the system.

Only through one strong, progressive organization can the PG&E worker hope to attain the ultimate in economic objectives.

Know the Facts!

Here's WHERE and WHEN to ATTEND MEETINGS

1314 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, MooF 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, A.F.L.—Progress Hall, 14th and Guerrero Sts., 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.

UNIT No. 7—OAKLAND
1st Wednesday, 8 p.m.

1918 Grove Street, Oakland.

UNIT No. 8—RICHMOND
2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 8 p.m.

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1918 Grove Street, Oakland.

A man went to the bar and ordered a Martini, drank it, chewed up the bowl of the glass, and threw the stem over his shoulder. He continued this for about six months, and one night the bartender was staring at him.

"I guess you think I'm crazy, don't you?" he asked.

"Sure do," the bartender replied, "the stems are the best part."

Lave at first sight is often as foolish as divorce at first sight.
New Employees--Attention!

THE PROMOTION PATH IS SMOOTH
NOW BUT DON'T MISREAD SIGNS

This piece is written especially for the comparatively new employees on the system.

Many of you fellows who have taken jobs in the line of work in his trade so that he may obtain a diverse knowledge of his trade. In case an employer specializes to the extent he cannot provide a different line of work, Joe is sent to an employer that can. One difficulty that has yet to be overcome is the cost to Joe of his school text books which runs around $90.

This evaluation and card system has been agreed to by the California and U.S. Bureau of Standards and N.E.C.A. and is also directly supported by the latter. Our apprentices, fitters, machinists, mechanics, linemen, cable splicers, electricians, blacksmiths, gas service men, meter repairmen, would do well to observe that this organization has amongst its personnel the following Committees:

Reports from the Field

Richmond Unit 6

Reporting on our last meeting we are proud to say that Richmond is making big strides towards establishing IBEW on the PG&E system. Through the efforts of our officers and key men, who have worked hard and faithfully, we have a good operating and fast-growing Unit of Local 1324.

Also in attendance were Brothers Ed White of Unit 7 and Gene Hastings of Unit 1, plus Int'l Reps. Larry Drew and Merritt Snyder, who gave interesting and factual reports on the progress throughout the entire four Bay divisions.

Brothers Pleas Galyear, R. Y. Goodman, and Loyd Small were elected members of Unit 6 Publicity Committee and will cooperate with all other unit committees in setting up the joint committee of Local 1324. We feel there is much to be gained for all employees of PG&E by having one organization on the system and our aim is to make it IBEW.

Unit 6 Publicity Committee.

San Francisco Unit 3

Unit 3 had one of the largest delegations present at the special committee meeting in Oakland, on August 29th. Unit 1 of Martinez also had an exceptionally large delegation present. But one of the most encouraging turnouts was the delegate who drove 100 miles from Ukiah. These brothers, in spite of the fact they are working the regular 40-hour week, left Ukiah after their regular work day, reached Oakland just in time for the meeting; participated until late that night, drove the 135 miles home and reported for their regular work day the next morning. This is an example of the fine spirit of cooperation shown by PG&E workers in building a sound Local 1324 and establishing one organization on the system.

The main business concerned the economic and social welfare program demands which the membership of Local 1324 will negotiate with the company as soon as we have won the coming NLRB election. Delegates came instructed by their membership. New suggestions and ideas were added to broaden the program. Local 1324's executive board was instructed to get out extensive publicity on the program and see that it is told to PG&E workers.

Brother Snyder reported that Ed White, Local 1324's financial secretary, spent a full day in San Francisco last week contacting PG&E workers and officials in the fields and streets. They told Brother White they had decided to join us because of the do-nothing policy of the UWUA. They didn't like the way UWUA had agreed to the company's proposal to take joint bidding rights away from some of the steam plant workers and they felt the company was getting away with murder as far as the bid bidding rights of PG&E workers generally were concerned. "The company," they put it, "awards jobs to just about anyone they choose and now there's a report that they are going to do away with the bidding system entirely and UWUA is going to let them get away with it."

New Employees: Attn.

(Continued from Page 3)

the provisions of the present contract.

Remember, too, that the wage rates established for any job given you by the supposed grace of some supervisor, who seems to have a kindly interest in you now can be given to someone else in the same way if you fall out of grace. And the rate of pay for that job was established not by the supervisor but by the concerted action of

State AFL Takes Stand Against Insurance Plans

At the meeting of the State Federation of Labor held recently in Los Angeles AFN union delegates approved a recommendation of the Fed Executive Board that all private insurance schemes be boycotted.

That was the Fed's answer to the powerful insurance lobby that gained up in importance during the last session of the legislature to help defeat many important labor-sponsored measures favoring increased unemployment and disability insurance payments.

The Fed also called for more public works to combat growing unemployment in the state.

Better get in step with him.

Meanwhile consider that the benefits you now enjoy in whatever job you may have—pay for overtime worked instead of compensating time off; a decreased probationary period when you start; improved vacation with sick leave pay; superannuation; a decreased working time; work facilities far above anything you would get without union representation; and many other improvements over the old days.

Whatever your job or however long you received it, remember that the union made possible the conditions that go with it. Keep at least one leg on the union side of the fence, the IBEW side.

By doing so you can benefit yourself and any fellow worker, not only in keeping you have now but in obtaining better conditions in the future.

In fact, with the UWUA holding the official bargaining rights for you by virtue of a quick contract made last winter while an IBEW petition for a bargaining agent election was pending, you cannot be blamed for being disillusioned with unionism as practiced by the UWUA. The UWUA has done little bargaining in your interest, or any other PG&E employees interest since that contract was signed.

GOOD & WELFARE

A full report of the California State Association of Electrical Workers was received from Harold R. Mayhew and the membership voted to the Annual Conference held in Los Angeles. Our membership voted to write Bro. Mayhew thanking him for his report.

This conference, Bro. Mayhew stated, was concerned mainly with accomplishing three matters. These are:

1. Any law affecting electrical workers.
2. Apprenticeship training.

Bro. Mayhew covered the discussion centering around these three points in great detail. Here are a few of the highlights:

Every effort is being made to protect electrical workers by fighting any legislation which is detrimental to their interests and also by fighting for improved state laws which will further protect them.

As things stand now, many workers are compelled to do journeymen work for years at a much reduced pay.

On safety rules and regulations the conference endeavors to have these improved at all times and see that they are enforced. At the present time the state inspector's staff is greatly understaffed and a lack of safety enforcement results. This must be corrected.

—Unit 3 Publicity Committee.