IBEW Theme: Big 'Yes' Vote: Better Contract

IBEW sentiment in the four Bay Divisions served by Local 1324 which was first manifest when more than a majority of the PG&E employees formerly represented by the old UWUA Fisher-dominated locals signed IBEW pledge cards that resulted in the chartering of Local 1324 has now jelled so obviously that the campaign effect is now being directed to getting out not just a majority vote in the NLRB election but a near-unanimous vote. The bigger the IBEW vote — the better the 1950 contract.

With the UWUA throttling a large number of employees in a few areas in the four divisions, it admitted that getting out such a vote is a big job but the sentiment is there. Once the employees know that they have nothing to fear, once they know what the real issues of the campaign are and get into the quiet of an election booth, the UWUA-CIO top leaders are going to wish that a majority vote had been given to the interest of all the employees during the campaign.

That the IBEW campaign has gone well is due as much to UWUA shortcomings as to IBEW adherence to basic unionism. Despite UWUA efforts to keep unfavorable information out of the areas it still controls through repression and a policy of "hands under the table," most employees know what the union score is and right now it is not very favorable to UWUA anywhere on the system.

Things have been so bad for the local UWUA lately that they had to risk another blast from Utility Facts on the issue of Eastern domination by calling in the Brotherhood of Consolidated Edison Employees' Treasurer Pachler for a powwow on how to get their hands on more money to operate on during the final stages of the campaign.

(Pachler is the UWUA official who stated last spring that the IBEW represented only a few utility employees in the "cow counties." To him may be attributed the Utility Facts maps and charts which subsequently showed that out of several thousand Pacific IBEW votes in the NLRB election the UWUA represented only a handful and most of those were virtual UWUA prisoners in the four Bay Divisions of the PG&E by virtue of a non-representative "quickie" contract.

Key men in all areas of the four divisions now wait only for election day to start the final phase of the campaign for bringing to the employee the full story of the benefits which will accrue through IBEW representation and One Organization on the System.

Meanwhile, IBEW Local 1324 has from the beginning of the campaign complete mailing lists of employees in the four Bay Divisions and all except the newest employees have been getting Utility Facts and other IBEW literature regularly. The employees have been advised of all developments.

Nearly 5,000 copies of Utility Facts go out each week to the employees in the UWUA "island." The printing order was increased recently to accommodate the new employees who were not on the older mailing list. IBEW members in remaining UWUA areas are turning in the addresses of new employees.

Thus, in this and in many other ways reported in Utility Facts, the campaign for a 100 per cent vote goes forward. Not only will large IBEW vote in the NLRB elections go a long way toward softening up the few remaining UWUA diehards; but it will strengthen the bargaining position of the IBEW when Local 1324 representatives sit down with the Company to work out a new 1950 contract.

Sales Drivers No. 683 (Bakery) and San Diego bakers: $3 a week for drivers and 10 cents for hour paid employees; July 1949; 100 workers or more.

U.W.U.A. Revives Craft-Separation Propaganda

With the UWUA spreading one of its favorite bogies again — that the IBEW is not interested in the welfare of gas department employees — it is time to again call to the attention of PG&E employees the fact that the IBEW has never negotiated the gas employees into craft unions.

Workers who are in the habit of saving their copies of Utility Facts from week to week need only refer to the June 8 issue for a list of utilities under contract to the IBEW where both electric and gas department employees are represented. It is a sizable list.

The UWUA has never been able to print anything similar to it because it has only the gas department workers organized in few places outside of the Consolidated Edison Company in New York and in the Southern California Gas Company in California.

In the four East Bay divisions gas department division sentiment strongly favors the IBEW. That is the reason why the UWUA is circulating its false rumors.

PG&E employees who hear it should remind the false-tale bearers to PROVE that IBEW has ever abandoned Gas employees BY FACTS not by distorting the truth.

In fact in previous tables published in Utility Facts and which will be repeated in the future if necessary, rates being paid to gas department workers were shown. The challenge to the UWUA to publish its rates was never met. It appears that the IBEW not only raises the gas men but has benefited them over the years in negotiations.

A table showing that IBEW represents 1,677 gas men in PG&E and electric companies will be published in the near future, together with a comparison of the rates being paid to UWUA gas men in the state.

Federation Launches Insurance Boycott Plan

Labor's boycott machinery began to roll this week with the printing of withdrawal forms for all workers desiring to terminate their arrangements with private carriers under the unemployment insurance law.

In accord with action taken at the recent Los Angeles convention, the California State Federation of Labor, AFL, has proceeded with plans to sever insurance relationships with the commercial powers which fought every progressive social insurance plan submitted by the Federation in the State Legislature at Sacramento.

Unions seeking withdrawal forms are urged to write the California State Federation of Labor, 402 Flood Building, San Francisco 2, California.

A letter of explanation and instruction on the withdrawal procedure has been directed to all delegates to the state convention and to all local unions affiliated with the State Federation of Labor, AFL.

AFL Raises In California In July

Through collective bargaining negotiations, some 110,000 AFL workers throughout the state this July won wage increases and other benefits averaging around 5 cents an hour. This estimate is based on the items listed culled from local union newspapers published during July.

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A Note to the Ft. Bragg Men

This item is addressed to the nine members of the UUWA local in Ft. Bragg. The IBEW is now concentrating its organizational efforts on getting out a near unanimous vote in the NLRB election to be held sometime soon.

Your nine members are pretty much isolated from the rest of the PG&E employees in the four divisions so long as you continue to keep affiliated with the UUWA. With the nearest sister local many, many miles away you can expect to get little service from UUWA as it is presently set up and staffed.

In fact, until the current campaign started you never saw a UUWA official.

Why not get into step with the rest of the Local 1324 IBEW members in nearby Ukiah. The employees in the Ukiah, Willits, Lakeport area are solidly IBEW and enthusiastic about the IBEW services their units are getting and the prospective benefits to come after the election. Take a trip in your time off and talk to some of these members. Find out for yourself what they think about Local 1324 and the IBEW.

If you get sold on the IBEW, as we think you will after consulting with your nearby fellow employees, you may want to start talking about a unit of your own or of joining the one at Ukiah.

How about it? Let's make the move soon.

UNIT No. 3—SAN FRANCISCO


time of doing its work for every department, can really do the job.ough the IBEW has made possible some of the recent spotty layoffs. The UUWA would do well to see that the temporary layoffs—that do occur take place according to the seniority provisions of the contract it is supposed to enforce instead of going around creating hysteria in some sectors for organizational purposes.

AFL Raises In California in July

Bakers No. 119, Oakland, and retail bakeries; 7 cents, retroactive to March 4, and 2 cents effective July 15, 1949; about 100 workers.

Teamsters No. 624, San Rafael, and milk plants and distributors; improved days off clause; July 15, 1949; about 100 workers.

IBEW and Press

Freedom Fight

Recently Utility Facts reported how the IBEW came to the rescue of a Flora, Ill., publisher who was about to have his mortgage foreclosed, by supporting the fight of the city's municipal utility men (IBEW) for recognition of their union.

It all came about because the publisher of the Flora Sentinel, Editor Charles Crowder, refused to accede to the demands of local business interests that he refuse to publicize the union side of the conflict.

IBEW President Dan Tracy came to the beleaguered publisher's aid with a loan—in no strings attached. Shortly thereafter a city-wide referendum approved a ordinance that required collective bargaining with the union.

Four local business men promptly got an injunction against enforcement of the ordinance. There were rumors that city officials favored the suit. Crowder promptly denounced the tactics in a front page editorial, demanding that city officials show good faith by contesting the injunction suit.

Now the anti-labor crowd in the city are mad at Crowder again, but the cause of good government, freedom of the press, and the rights of free men to organize democratic unions goes along in Flora, and the IBEW is proud that it was able to do its bit to insure democratic processes in Flora.

NEW BATTLE LOOMS

A few days later, four local business men launched an injunction suit to stay enforcement of the ordinance and to knock out the contract with the union. There were hints that city officials welcomed the suit.

Crowder promptly denounced the litigation in a front-page editorial. He demanded that municipal officials show their good faith by going into court contesting the suit “with all the power at their command” and up through the highest courts, if necessary.

"If the city of Flora or its attorneys fail to show good faith in this matter, it will not only have been a shabby trick on thousands of other Americans and on municipal governments in similar situations.

Now, the anti-labor crowd in Flora is angry again at Crowder and may precipitate a new freedom fight of the press battle.

Know the Facts!

Here's WHERE and WHEN to ATTEND MEETINGS

1834 EXECUTIVE BOARD—3rd Friday of each month, 8:00 p.m., 85 So. Van Ness, San Francisco.

UNIT No. 1—MARTINEZ

2nd Thursday of each month, 100F 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), 100F Hall, 829 Ferry St., Martinez, at 7:45 p.m.

UNIT No. 4—SANTA ROSA

1st and 4th Tuesday 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, Ukiah.

UNIT No. 6—OAKLAND

2nd Thursday, 8 p.m., 257-5th Street, Richmond.

UNIT No. 7—OAKLAND

1st Wednesday, 8 p.m., 1918 Grove Street, Oakland.
Last week Utility Facts published a story entitled "Seven Years of Progress," it detailed gains for the 7,000 PG&E members in the 11 outlying divisions represented by Local 1324.

"This week Utility Facts will attempt to explain why it is that the number of Local 1324's seven units, as well as the number of members Local 1324, are boosted by sincere union men whose opinion on union matters can be trusted. They have stood up to be counted under trying circumstances on vital matters of interest to all employees. They are not afraid to stick their necks out when their own and their fellow-workers' interests are threatened. The NLRB has expressed interest in the welfare and prosperity of the PG&E Company through the pages of Utility Facts which is published every issue came out in February the month revealed only four units—two in the San Francisco, Redwood-San Mateo, Martinez, and Santa Rosa areas.

\[ PRESSURE \]

The areas that have dual representation will undoubtedly be solidly IBEW the minute the election day arrived, and the UWUA is no longer able to keep its membership in line with subtle coercion and pressure. The progress which has been made by Local 1324 since the IEW campaign began is nowhere better revealed than in the pages of Utility Facts. The first issue came out in February the roster which is published every week revealed only four units—San Francisco, Redwood-San Mateo, Martinez, and Santa Rosa. Since February new units have been formed and have shown the rate of growth and the same enthusiasm as the original four. The three are located at Richmond, Ukiah, and Oakland.

So well has the IBEW campaign been going that two and possibly three new units are to be set up very shortly to serve the growing IBEW interest in other districts.

\[ MANY KEY MEN \]

Anyone who cares to go to the trouble of counting them will find that there are 43 listed. There are many more like them in the IBEW that were not listed—many were not appointed—some of the officers and locals in the San Francisco have not been appointed.

The election of these key men—usually more than 500 PG&E members scattered over wide areas and the IBEW willingness to expend its resources to protect those employees in the four divisions—a fact that it was trying to force the members that it excluded to continue to pay it dues through the checkoff—has deteriorated by such refusal.

Those grievances are being catalogued by the Unit Committees and will be processed thoroughly when the election is held and won.

\[ SEEK BIG VOTE \]

With this election day near, the Units are now concentrating on organization. Publicity Committee By-Laws Committees and Grievance Committees have been set up in most of the Units but the members of all of them are working closely with Organization Committees. Objective—a 100 per cent IBEW vote to swell IBEW prestige and strength in negotiations for a 1950 contract.

Those who have been making much of the growth of the IBEW in the four Bay divisions has been the most salient feature of its progress from the beginning of the current campaign, it can be seen that even though it has been making advances in several important events which typify the sort of service to the membership that has helped the IBEW sell itself.

IBEW willingness to expend its huge resources to protect those PG&E employees who originally came to it for aid in setting up the Local 1324 Charter was displayed early in the campaign.

\[ SUITS \]

When the UWUA brought nasty personal suits against former officials who acted upon the instruction of the members they were duty bound to honestly represent, the IBEW not only defended those wronged officials successfully in court, but started a few suits of its own (to prohibit UWUA from collecting dues from IBEW members through the checkoff). These suits are also proceeding.

When the UWUA, during the NLRB hearings, agreed to join with the IBEW in fighting the UPWA to prevent the attempt to have 51 classifications of workers excluded from the collective bargaining unit, the UWUA trotted out only four witnesses to testify. Two of these were IBEW officials. The IBEW had 20 witnesses on hand and would have called more if necessary. PG&E employees noted this UWUA inactivity and will remember the 51 classifications excluded.

While IBEW organizational meetings in San Francisco, Redwood-San Mateo, Martinez, and Santa Rosa were open to PG&E members and officials, the UWUA closed its meetings to all but UWUA card holders—despite the fact that it was trying to force the members that it excluded to continue to pay it dues through the checkoff—by this refusal.

OPEN MEETINGS

Every week at the Local 1324 Union meeting is still open to any PG&E employee regardless of his union affiliation or inclination.

When the UWUA challenged the Americanism of Local 1324 officials, Local 1324 countered by exposing the undemocratic lengths to which the UWUA was resorting to stall the NLRB hearings and the IBEW was forced to make another non-representative contract with the company.

When the UWUA refused to intervene for employees who were tried and arbitrarily disciplined contrary to the contract, Local 1324 and the IBEW took the matter up so forcibly that even though complete satisfaction was not forthcoming, such occurrences have not been so widespread since.

When one Local 1324 Local 1324 negotiations, a seniority pact affecting the rights of all steam plant employees in the four divisions—a pact which eliminated certain seniority and job bidding rights which had been established in the contract UWUA was honor bound to enforce for all of the employees—Local 1324 gave such wide publicity to the matter that the UWUA has since been faced with an avalanche of communications and similar deals to by-pass the contract.

WHAT TO DO?

When employees were being led off recently out of seniority, the (Continued on page 4)
'We Have The Contract'

"In my contacts with the PG&E employees, both UWUA and IBEW, I have found widespread distrust with the UWUA's continual drumming of the theme: 'We have the contract with the company.'"

"The UWUA inference, of course, is that UWUA is the only legally constituted group that has a 'legal' in to the front office that there is not anything much that anyone can do about it or them that non-cooperation with their 'legally constituted' group could have dire results.

"Good union men," Ed says, "would not be bragging about a contract that was made without the support, participation, or approval of the people it is supposed to benefit. The contract was made at a time when a majority, if not all, Division employees had signed IBEW pledge cards and a petition to benefit. The contract was made with that hollow boast and implication that anyone can do about it if they are excited the employees may be."

Bay Divisions Progress

(Continued from Page 3)

UWUA officials, instead of acting on the matter as was their duty, passed the buck back to their members, the Bay and local, and asked them what they should do about it.

In the Napa district they even used the threat: 'We have the contract; police it and enforce it to the benefit of all employees.'

"The UWUA has had the whole summer to prove their intentions and they have fallen down miserably. When people are held they will find out just how they stand with many employees who have been unable to protest their do-nothings too loudly."

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Richmond Unit No. 6

The member of Unit No. 6 knows that the answer to their problems is the I.B.E.W. across the entire system and are working to that end.

The UWUA, with their national office policy of today is entirely foreign to the labor movement. We stand to lose everything we have gained under such leadership. The members of the entire four Bay divisions should take cognizance of the fact that UWUA has given very little support, participation, or appeal and is currently the majority of the Bay Division employees almost from the inception of the campaign. On at least two occasions it asked the UWUA (through meetings and the columns of Utility Facts) to agree to a consent election. The UWUA refused.

Oakland Unit 7

Unit No. I.B.E.W., which has been established in the last remaining stronghold of the UWUA, is making rapid strides in selling the IBEW. Employees are feeling the value of having one organization (I.B.E.W.) on the entire system.

The U.W.U.A. has no strongholds and we have a well knit unit there holding regular meetings. The attendance of these meetings is increasing steadily. A number of our rank and file members from the East Bay and San Francisco are going into the Napa area and talking with workers in their homes and file members from the East Bay and San Francisco we have a well

San Francisco Unit 3

On Thursday, Sept. 22, Unit 3's Organization Committee met at 85 So. Van Ness to discuss organizational work. The meeting was called by Bro. Wm. Kennedy, Unit No. 3 Organization Committee chairman.

Among the departments represented present were: Gas Meter Shop, Sub Stations, Gas Street Gangs, Underground, Overhead, Gas and Electric Service and Meter Reading.

International representatives were present as visitors as was Ed White, of Oakland, Local 1324, who is a member of the IBEW and all the workers in their homes and file members from the East Bay and San Francisco are going into the Napa area and talking with workers in their homes and file members from the East Bay and San Francisco we have a well

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