Three Strikes—You’re Out!
From Shedlock, To Committee, To Membership, and Then Where?

According to the UWUA News- 
caster, UWUA’s negotiating com-
mittee finally went into action on rec-
tent layoffs which had taken place without reference to senior-
ity.

The News-caster said that Brog- 
dale and Shedlock talked to the 
company first about irregular lay-
offs. The News-caster said that 
they referred the matter to the 
System Negotiating Committee. (What happened to the Grievance 
Committee?)

The Negotiating Committee, said 
The News-caster, “met with the 
Company on Sept. 6th and again 
discussed the entire matter. The 
Committee advised the Company 
that the UWUA was 100 per cent 
opposed to any layoffs and would 
refer the matter to the member-
ship.” (What membership?)

It sounds a little like that old-
time baseball combination, “From 
Tinker to Evers to Chance.” In 
this case the guy that seems to be 
"out" is the employee with the 
grievance—the one who got laid 
off despite his seniority.

The News-caster even published 
the text of the section govern-
ning layoffs. At least the UWUA of-
cials can’t claim they are not 
familiar with its provisions.

The seniority section is part of 
the contract. Why hasn’t it been 
interpreted? Can’t the UWUA of-
cials interpret its language? They 
should be familiar with the section.

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Attention, Gas Men

Recently Utility Facts published a table showing that IBEW was the bargaining representative for 15,677 gas department employees in 85 companies. The list was incomplete. Actually IBEW bargains for many more than that number. The list broke down employees at each firm and showed the number of gas men at each.

Below is a schedule which includes many of the utility companies where IBEW bargains for the gas men and shows the amount of raises which have been obtained for both electric and gas employees since the first of the year. It was also published before. It is republished now for the benefit of PG&E gas men who may not have seen it before to help refute UWUA propaganda that gas men should not belong to the IBEW, Local 1324:

- Central Arizona Light & Power: 5%
- Frontier Power, Trinidad, Colo.: $21.67 month
- Public Service, Pueblo: 5%
- Connecticut Light & Power: 5%
- Deleware Light & Power: 6% plus additional 1%
- Savannah, Georgia, Elec. & Power: 5%
- Indina Gas & Water, Inc.: 8%
- Public Service of Indiana: 5%
- Iowa Southern Utilities: 6%
- Kansas Electric Power: 5%
- Bangor (Maine) Hydro-Electric: 10c hour
- Ameshay (Mass.) Electric Light: 10c hour
- Fall River (Mass.) Electric Light: 10c hour
- Haverhill (Mass.) Electric: 10c hour
- Lawrence (Mass.) Gas & Electric: 10c hour
- Lowell (Mass.) Electric Light: 10c hour
- Malden Elec. & Melrose Gas Light: 10c hour
- New England Power (NE Div.): $4.00 week
- New England Power (West Div.): $4.00 week
- Conn. River Power (West Div.): $4.00 week
- New England Power Serv. Co.: 10c hour
- Northern Elec. Ltg.: 10c hour
- Northampton Gas Ltg.: 10c hour
- Northern Berkshire Gas: 10c hour
- Southern Berkshire Power: 10c hour
- Western Mass. Elec. (threes agreements, 3 divs.): 10c hour
- Upper Peninsula (Mich.) Power: 10c hour
- (approximate)
- Union Electric Power (Missouri): 10c hour
- Montana-Dakota Utilities (covering 11 cities): 12 1/2%
- Cen. Ind. (N. Y.) Electric: 5%
- Exeter & Hampton Elec. (N.H.): 5%
- Public Service of N.H: 5%
- Public Service of N.M.: 5%
- Public Service Elec. & Gas (N.J.): 6%
- Niagara Hudson (Western Div.): 6%
- Niagara Hudson (Central Div.): 6%
- Niagara Hudson (Eastern Div.): 6%
- Long Island Lighting: 5% plus additional 2 1/2%
- Queens Borough Gas & Electric: 5% plus additional 2 1/2%
- Nassau & Suffolk Lighting: 5% plus additional 2 1/2%
- Orange & Rockland (N.Y.) Electric: 6%
- Duke (N.C.) Power Co.: 10%
- Tidewater (N.C.) Power: 5%
- Public Service of Oklahoma: 5%
- Calif.-Pacific Utilities (Ore.): 5%
- Pacific Power & Light (Ore.): 5% plus additional for some classifications
- Portland General Electric: 5% plus additional for some classifications
- N. Pennsylvania Power: 6%
- Pennsylvania Electric: 9%
- Southern Carolina Elec. & Gas: 10%
- South Carolina Power: 8%
- Dallas (Tex.) Power & Light: 5%
- El Paso Electric: 12 1/2 hour
- Southwestern Public Service (Tex.): 10c hour
- Virginia Electric & Power: 6%
- Puget Sound Power & Light: 5% plus additional for some classifications
- Washington Water Power: 6.2% plus additional for some classifications
- Wisconsin Electric Power: 5%
- Wisconsin Gas & Electric: 5%
- Wisconsin & Michigan Power: 5%
- Montana-Dakota Utilities (Wyo.): 10%
TWO OF THE ISSUES—INSINCERITY IN ACTION

Local 1324 IBEW has tried to conduct its campaign honestly and straightforwardly in the firm belief that any other approach would not only be hypocratic but contrary to the tenets of good unionism. Whether it be a campaign or the normal conduct of collective bargaining responsibilities, if the interest and desires of the membership are overlooked or slighted no union or its representatives can keep the support of the workers.

Local 1324 is a new union for Bay division PG&E Bay division employees who refused to be dictated to by top UWUA officials who had been trying to run the Bay locals like they ran New York Brotherhood of Consolidated Edison Employees union—like the company wanted it to be run. Those L. U. officials had to stand up and fight for the things the PG&E worker wanted from his union.

As a new union, Local 1324 has nothing to apologize for. In its current campaign it has sought to convince the PG&E employee that it is capable of bargaining for him honestly, intelligently and effectively.

Through the pages of Utility Facts, it has been shown that the wage charts and other media that the UWUA offers to the employees in the 11 outlying divisions who know that in the past there have been handicaps to union progress due to the presence of a few men who do nothingness and Albany Insincerity are issues of the current campaign. Several of the stories in this issue of Utility Facts are devoted to exposing both which have no place in any honest union picture.

UWUA Wreckage On the System

The UWUA's Newscaster attacks the officials of union on the big half of the System — IBEW Local 1245. Yet these officials are repeatedly selected from year to year by the employees in the 11 outlying divisions who know that in the past there have been handicaps to union progress due to the presence of a few men who do nothingness, and Albany Insincerity are issues of the current campaign. Several of the stories in this issue of Utility Facts are devoted to exposing both which have no place in any honest union picture.

The Newscaster also attacks the officials of Local 1324 and the officials of the seven Local 1324 units. Yet to a man these officials were former UWUA members who became dissatisfied with UWUA national interference with local union affairs.

When the UWUA attacks Local 1324 it is in effect attacking itself. The very contract with UWUA foisted upon the employees in a few seconds re-elected due to the presence of the System of two organizations.

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NEED UWUA ACTION NOT Hysteria to Save Past  

The UWUA's Newscaster took up the UWUA layoff scare theme last week which had begun earlier in the Napa UWUA Local.

While the UWUA was busy stirring up the employees and attempting to use their fears to force them closer to the UWUA because as they have been braying, "we have the contract", the Company was not only S.F. Examiner as reported last week in Utility Facts that mass layoffs were impending but was announcing new expansion plans.

Thus, as usual, the Newscaster begins be caught off base with its propaganda.

The Newscaster devoted practically all of its issue to rebutting Utility Facts charges of laxity in enforcement of the contract provisions covering the seasonal layoffs that had occurred.

Apparent charges struck pay dirt again. The Newscaster reports that the UWUA negotiating committee had taken the matter or layoffs up with the Company. The committee was against them, according to the Newscaster, and the Company was so advised.

When layoffs occur on account of the speedup, heinlein against them is sometimes helpful. No honest workingman likes the speedup. No workingman likes the inactivity that comes about when layoffs are impending.

And if layoffs occur today for the purpose of hiring non-union men tomorrow, being against them is important. But action on contract enforcement, not lip service is needed.

The IBEW is against layoffs too, but realizes that the Company is under no compulsion to keep a man it no longer needs on the payroll if the reason is a shortage of work.

The IBEW insists that every layoff that does occur should be according to seniority.

The Newscaster reports that every layoff will be checked to see that it is made according to seniority. The IBEW insists that this check include every Bay division employee and not just a handful of the friends of UWUA officials.

The present contract is supposed to cover all of the employees and not just the minority UWUA members.

Due to circumstances beyond the control of the editors, it is necessary to carry to next week several reports intended for this issue.

Joe Keenan in Retrospect
(Continued from Page 1)

The Defense Council and the War Production Board were people who were in no way sympathetic with President Roosevelt or anything he stood for. But day after day outstanding industrialists came to Washington. They had only short interviews, but nearly everyone stayed on to contribute whatever they could to the tremendous job that confronted us.

You remember the controversy between those who advocated an all-out war program and those who wanted to maintain a peace-time production. The efforts to get the large industries to convert to war were now a matter of history. But, December 7, 1941, closed all debate. Pearl Harbor unified thought. It probably brought the most concentrated period of unity in the history of our country.

For the first time everyone was ready to make every sacrifice so that we could first equip our Army and Navy and the armed forces of our Allies. None of us who were in Washington at the time will ever forget the dark days of 1942. In that year we built ships totaling 12 million tons. But at the same time 13 million tons of ships were destroyed by our enemies. Our armies were being defeated on every front—principally because of a shortage of equipment. I hope that God sees to it that we are never in that position again.

The turning point of the war came in late September, 1942, with the successes of General Montgomery in Africa and the triumph of our Army and Navy in the South Pacific. Then came the period of concentration of material, supplies and men in order to make the greatest military movement in the history of the world, the invasion of Europe. How we waited and waited. And finally that day came, "D" Day, June 6, 1944. A period of suspense followed. Would the Germans repel us and drive us back into the sea?

Anyone visiting Omaha and Utah Beaches today is amazed that any one was able to overcome the obstacles against which soldiers fought on those coastlines on that same morning. Then it was one success after another. And there was the great battle which broke the counter-offensive of the Germans—the Battle of the Bulge. Our men and guns have taken a hand to allow us enough time to reorganize our forces and carry on to victory.

Let us return a moment to late 1943. We were called to the office of the Secretary of War. The conversation went something like this. "We know that the Germans have this weapon and we don't know how far in front they are as far as production is concerned. However, we are positive that the first one that perfects this weapon will win the war." Turning to me, the War Department officials said, "Keenan, we need 100,000 of the best mechanics in the country to build construction projects. It's your job to get them. You have priority over all other work in the country."

This project was the now famous Manhattan Project. The weapon, of course, was the atom bomb.

Think of it—50,000 people were living in barracks in Passaic, N.J. There were barracks for single men. There were separate barracks for husbands and for wives and they were able to see each other only on weekends. People were recruited from all over the United States. At Oak Ridge, Tennessee, whole towns were built. All the effort was worthwhile. We perfected the atom bomb. After its use, only lasted a few weeks.

Remember this important fact—if it were not for the reservoir of skilled workers the trade unions of this country supplied, the job could never have been done. And what was our reward? The 80th Congress passed the Taft-Hartley Act.

Shortly after leaving the War Production Board, I was asked by General Lucius Clay to go to Germany to help reorganize the trade unions of that country so they could be a foundation for the re-establishing of real democracy there.

In Germany I saw the results of modern warfare. I witnessed the destruction not only of material but of flesh. I witnessed the deterioration of the inhabitants of the old countries. I saw the weapons that were used, the bombs, airplanes and guns. I have often made this statement, "I wonder if it would happen again."

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In America there are many great industrialists who have the mistaken notion that these things belong not here but still there are many important industrialists who would make every effort to destroy us and take away from our voice the government. In Congress, the road so well marked by Hitler and Mussolini.

The Taft-Hartley Act was passed in 1947 and the American Federation of Labor at its convention in 1947, October 26, at San Francisco, called on the officers to set up Labor's League for Political Education for the purpose of carrying on a campaign of education with the intention of retiring from Congress those men who by direction voted to destroy our American labor movement. We have established a political organization and it is our hope to achieve our political objective by banding together and educating our members and advising them of how we want Congress to act. We know that when our members have the facts they will vote to preserve what they have struggled for so hard and so long. We are working together to make up a force to prevent what happened in Germany and Italy from happening here.

We have set our course. We will carry on and we will leave no stone unturned until the Taft-Hartley Act is repealed. I am sure the employers and labor of this country will make you realize the result of division which caused the catastrophe in Europe. The world is looking to this country for guidance. While on every front we are preaching democracy, the newspapers are preaching fear of Socialism. Yet there is no surer course to Socialism than driving the trade unions into politics for the purpose of trying to undo the wrongs done them. The American Federation of Labor, the CIO, the Railroad Brotherhoods, the Machinists, the United Mine Workers—all great organizations, are working together. We shall proceed in the way we know best, the old American way.