



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

According to the UWUA Newscaster, UWUA's negotiating committee finally went into action on recent layoffs which had taken place without reference to seniority.

The Newscaster said that Bros. Doyle and Shedlock talked to the company first about irregular layoffs. The Newscaster said that they referred the matter to the System Negotiating Committee. (What happened to the Grievance Committee?)

The Negotiating Committee, said the Newscaster, "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 membership." (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 Newscaster even published the text of the section governing layoffs. At least the UWUA officials can't claim they are not familiar with its provisions.

The seniority section is part of the contract. Why hasn't it been enforced? Can't the UWUA officials interpret its language? They should be familiar with the section. They made the "quickie" contract deal with the company. Why the double or triple play from Shedlock to the committee to the membership?

We always thought the membership approved the contract and the officials policed and enforced it. On second thought, we remember that Mr. Shedlock, UWUA President Fisher, (and a handful of underlings), negotiated it, endorsed it, and approved it themselves.

Employees should read well and carefully any copies of the Newscaster that come their way for that publication is one of UWUA's most revealing adjuncts. The week-

## A MESSAGE FROM GENEVA

(Editor's Note: October 18, 1949 was the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of the International Labor Organization, whose headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland. The Director of the ILO, David Morse, sent the following fraternal message to members of the IBEW to commemorate the occasion.)

(By Radio—Special to the IBEW)

I can think of no opportunity which gives me greater pleasure than that of transmitting greetings of the International Labor Organization to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on the occasion of ILO's thirtieth anniversary.

Your fellow American Federation of Labor members have been staunch friends from the founding of ILO. Indeed it was Samuel Gompers who extended a helping hand in our first successful conference in Washington.

Members of your Brotherhood know from first-hand experience certain physical facts about inventions which are making the world smaller and more interdependent. You know, for example, that it takes a smaller fraction of time for my voice to travel from Geneva, Switzerland to Washington, D. C. than it takes it to cross a room.

For that reason you realize how important it is for world's unions, employers, and governments to work together through the ILO, through the United Nations and through all other intergovernmental agencies through which the

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by-week chronicling of UWUA in action (or inaction) tells more than anything we can write of the lack of employee representation, ignorance of fundamental union concepts, and lack of interest in the welfare of the PG&E employees which is typical of UWUA and its top brass.

## Joe Keenan in Retrospect

(Brother Keenan, National Director of the A. F. of L. Labor's League for Political Education and Secretary of Local Union No. 134, IBEW, Chicago, wrote the following article for Utility Facts in answer to a request by Intl. Rep. M. G. Snyder, Local No. 1324, IBEW.)

As I look back over the record workers have made in the past nine years, I am disturbed by the ingratitude shown by certain segments of the American people to labor.

Think back and consider the tremendous accomplishments of American workers during the days before Pearl Harbor and in the subsequent war years. Consider the way big industrialists and others have treated labor since the end of the war—the Taft-Hartley Act, the cut-backs in the Department of Labor, the attempts to sabotage the Social Security program and all the other anti-labor developments in the nation.

I well remember a call I received on the 4th of July, 1940, from Daniel W. Tracy, International President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, asking me to come to Washington for two weeks. That was all he said. Following this call I received another from the late Sidney Hillman, then a member of the National Defense Council. He too urged me to come to Washington.

I went to Washington. That two week assignment lasted about seven and a half years. Those were dark days. Behind us were 12 years of depression. Almost no apprentices had been taken into the skilled trades in that time. When I got to Washington, we discussed construction and production programs beyond anyone's imagination. We were getting reports of the German blitzkrieg, the fall of France and the Low Countries and most important of all, the inadequacy of our military establishments.

At that late date there were only two powder plants in the United States. One was maintained for the Navy at Indian Head, Md., and the other for the Army at Picatinny Arsenal at Dover, N. J. Our

Army went on maneuvers that summer using broom sticks for rifles and trucks for tanks. We were faced with a gigantic undertaking. Our assignment was to try to retrain and recruit men who had drifted away from their trades. We had to set up a manpower supply to meet the urgency of the time.

Cantonments, shipyards, power, munition and aircraft plants—all had to be considered at once. In my travels about the country I saw the conditions under which our building trades people lived. They were quartered in cars, packing boxes, trailers and other kinds of make-shift shelters. This was before Pearl Harbor. I spent many hours attending meetings, making pleas, asking organizations to set aside their working rules and conditions in order to try to establish a uniform set of regulations that could be used in every part of the country. Seldom were requests made by our office ever refused.

History probably will never fully record the outstanding job that the laboring people of this country did during those days. They did not hesitate to take these "defense" jobs. But in Washington, the large manufacturers were demanding guarantees before they would even consider converting their plants to defense needs.

You recall the controversy over Lend-Lease and Selective Service. Many of the men in Congress today, notably Senator Robert A. Taft (R., Ohio) who voted against every attempt by President Roosevelt to develop our defenses are still using the tactics of needless debate and delay to sabotage the Fair Deal. What would have happened if the American gift of 50 destroyers to Great Britain, probably the turning point in those early days of World War II, had been the subject of Congressional debate? And what if the movement of the small amount of arms we had in this country had to be passed on by Congress?

The cause we were working for must have been right. Most of the men who made up the National

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**UTILITY FACTS**

Official Organ of IBEW  
Local 1324



L. G. GLASSON, President  
ED WHITE, Financial Secy.  
1918 Grove Street  
Oakland, Calif.

**Plea—Get Into Campaign Now!**

PG&E IBEW men who have dropped into the office to report on conditions around the four Bay divisions have noted that a lot of good union-minded men have decided that they will be neutral until after the NLRB bargaining representative election.

Unionism being what it is, there is no such thing as being neutral. A man either believes in the principle of unionism or he don't. The neutral man who plans to start being a union man next week or next month may wake up one of these days and find out that unionism is gone on the system.

**In unionism you don't stand still. You either progress or you backslide. When backsliding begins the anti-union forces step in.**

Every union minded employee should make his decision now as to which union he wants to represent him in collective bargaining and then get out and pitch for the union of his choice.

For when the election takes place every neutral or passive employee represents a negative vote. The union which wins the election will need 51% of all employees who are eligible to vote not just 51% of those voting.

**Most PG&E employees in the four divisions are agreed that a union is needed on the property. Every employee who is holding back should get up and be counted now, for the election is eminent. Become active. Urge your fellow workers to be active on behalf of the union of your choice.**

Otherwise the election may be non-conclusive. Get into the campaign or there may not be any union on the system—that is one that can operate in the interest of the employee.

**Customer: "I want a nice anniversary present for my husband. What do you advise?"**

**Shopkeeper: "May I ask how long you have been married, madam?"**

**Customer: "Oh, about 15 years."**  
**Overhearing the conversation, the storekeeper's wife volunteered: "Bargain counter in the basement, madam."**

**A MESSAGE FROM GENEVA**

(Continued from Page One)  
**causes of hunger, war and unrest may be eradicated in our international economy.**

It is my pleasure to report today that both the ILO and the UN have earned right to mankind's gratitude not for what they hope to do in the future, but what they have already accomplished. The United Nations has prevented bloodshed, has put a stop to bloodshed and has proved its worth a hundred ways. The International Labor Organization has established an international labor code—98 conventions with 1035 ratifications have been deposited in Geneva to date.

We shall in the future with your fine support move ahead to even greater accomplishments. Today we pause to thank those workers who have from the beginning believed in the ILO and have given it their help.

**GLASSON'S GROANS**

In a recent article commenting on a bulletin put out by Local 133, UWUA, in which they asked their members to "be prepared" for "negotiations." I warned the "UWUA" about losing their shirts.

Just for example, that you may get my meaning, there is a "rainy-day" clause in the contract, which the UWUA claims to hold. O.K. So far so good. Now don't lose sight of the "rainy-day" clause. The next fact is this: There is a bulletin out, warning a certain section of workers that are subject to the application of the "rainy-day" clause. That they must procure for themselves rain repellent clothing, as the rainy season is at hand.

Now the question is: Is this department just interested in the employee's health, and don't want them to get wet on their way to and from work, or is it a threat to violate the contract which you claim to hold? Are they about to violate a clause that was put into the agreement after lots of hard work and the mounting of every obstacle put in its way by the company? What good will additional clauses in a contract be, if the present ones are not respected? Just look into it and fix it if you can, but I don't think you can, or the notice would not have been posted in the first place. But we'll fix it when we bridge the system with IBEW. In the meantime, play safe, talk IBEW and when the time comes, vote IBEW. Just some sound advice, brother, some sound advice.

**Check Tires Now.**—Automobile tires should be examined now, and smooth tires should be retreaded before winter rains begin. Smooth tires puncture easily and also increase the skidding hazard.

**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 propoganda 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.....	6½% plus additional 1%
Savannah, Georgia, Elec. & Power.....	15%
Indiana Gas & Water, Inc.....	8%
Public Service of Indiana.....	5%
Iowa Southern Utilities.....	6½%
Kansas Electric Power.....	5%
Bangor (Maine) Hydro-Electric.....	10c hour
Amesbury (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
Northampton Elec. Ltg.....	10c hour
Northampton Gas Lt.....	10c hour
Northern Berkshire Gas.....	10c hour
Southern Berkshire Power.....	10c hour
Western Mass. Elec.	
(three agreements, 3 divs.).....	10c hour
Upper Peninsula (Mich.) Power.....	10c hour
Mississippi Power.....	10% (approximate)
Union Electric Power (Missouri).....	10c hour
Montana-Dakota Utilities	
(covering 11 cities).....	12½%
Concord (N.H.) Electric.....	5%
Exeter & Hampton Elec. (N.H.).....	5%
Public Service of N.H.....	5%
Public Service of N.M.....	6%
Public Service Electric & Gas (N.J.).....	6¾%
Niagara Hudson (Western Div.).....	6%
Niagara Hudson (Central Div.).....	6%
Niagara Hudson (Eastern Div.).....	6%
Long Island Lighting.....	5% plus additional 2½%
Queens Borough Gas & Electric.....	5% plus additional 2½%
Nassau & Suffolk Lighting.....	5% plus additional 2½%
Orange & Rockland (N.Y.) Electric.....	6%
Duke (N.C.) Power Co.....	10%
Tidewater (N.C.) Power.....	5%
Public Service of Oklahoma.....	5½%
Calif.-Pacific Utilities (Ore.).....	5%
Pacific Power & Light (Ore.).....	5% plus additional for some classifications
Portland General Electric.....	5½% plus additional for some classifications
No. Pennsylvania Power.....	6½%
Pennsylvania Electric.....	6%
Southern Carolina Electric & Gas.....	10%
South Carolina Power.....	8%
Dallas (Tex.) Power & Light.....	5%
El Paso Electric.....	12½c hour
Southwestern Public Service (Tex.).....	10c hour
Virginia Electric & Power.....	6%
Puget Sound Power & Light.....	5% with additional for some classifications
Washington Water Power.....	6.2% with additional for some classifications
Wisconsin Electric Power.....	5%
Wisconsin Gas & Electric.....	5%
Wisconsin & Michigan Power.....	5%
Montana-Dakota Utilities (Wyo.).....	10%

**Know the Facts!**  
Here's WHERE and WHEN to  
**ATTEND MEETINGS**

**1324 EXECUTIVE BOARD** — 3rd  
Friday of each month, 8:00 p.m.,  
85 So. Van Ness, San Francisco.

**UNIT No. 1—MARTINEZ**  
2nd and 4th Monday 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, Bel-  
mont, 8 p.m.

**UNIT No. 3—SAN FRANCISCO**  
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each  
month (day workers), Building  
Trades Temple, AFL—Progress  
Hall, 14th and Guerrero Sts., 8  
p.m.

Last Monday of each month  
(night workers), 1:00 p.m.  
2nd and 4th Tuesday of each  
month (Executive Committee),  
85 South Van Ness, 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., 257-5th  
Street, Richmond.

**UNIT No. 7—OAKLAND**  
1st Wednesday, 8 p.m., 1918  
Grove Street, Oakland.

**Local Union and Unit  
Officers**

- LOCAL 1324**  
L. G. GLASSON ..... President  
M. A. WALTERS ..... Vice-President  
FRANK MERCER ..... Recording Secretary  
ED WHITE ..... Financial Secretary  
DONALD HARDIE ..... Treasurer  
B. E. LIEBSCHER, EMIL HINTZ, ALBERT  
TIEGEL, JEROM WOERNER,  
WILLIE TOWE, KARL J. ADKINS and  
WILLIAM HAARS ..... Executive Board
- UNIT No. 1—MARTINEZ**  
B. E. LIEBSCHER ..... Chairman  
E. S. SETCHELL ..... Vice-Chairman  
JOHN FANTE ..... Recording Secretary  
F. J. CARTIER ..... Asst. Financial Sec.  
DONALD HARDIE ..... Executive Committee  
STAN DAHLIN ..... Executive Committee
- UNIT No. 2—REDWOOD AND SAN MATEO**  
EMIL HINTZ ..... Chairman  
L. MUSCANTE ..... Vice-Chairman  
R. PLACE ..... Recording Secretary  
W. LEMON ..... Asst. Financial Sec.  
J. COSTA ..... Executive Committee  
FRED WOLGER ..... Executive Committee
- UNIT No. 3—SAN FRANCISCO**  
ALBERT TIEGEL ..... Chairman  
HENRY VAN ERKELENS ..... Vice-Chairman  
JESSE NASH ..... Recording Secretary  
WM. M. RENO ..... Asst. Financial Sec.  
WM. KENNEDY ..... Executive Committee  
LEONARD H. RIAVE ..... Executive Committee
- UNIT No. 4—SANTA ROSA**  
JEROME D. WOERNER ..... Chairman  
WILLIAM CARITHERS ..... Vice-Chairman  
DEAN BEAN ..... Recording Sec.
- UNIT No. 5—UKIAH**  
WILLIE TOWE ..... Chairman  
ORRIN HOWELL ..... Vice-Chairman  
ROY V. LOBERG ..... Rec. Sec.-Treas.  
WALT MILANDER ..... Asst. Financial Sec.  
E. I. CROCKER ..... Executive Committee
- UNIT No. 6—RICHMOND**  
KARL J. ADKINS ..... Chairman  
CHAS. GALYEAN ..... Vice-Chairman  
E. A. ANDERSON ..... Recording Secretary
- UNIT No. 7—OAKLAND**  
WILLIAM HAARS ..... Chairman  
PATRICK McFADDEN ..... Vice-Chairman  
JOHN F. SHEA ..... Recording Secretary  
RICHARD BROWN ..... Asst. Fin. Secretary  
STEPHEN L. TINGLEY ..... Executive Board  
ERNEST E. J. LEWIS ..... Executive Board

**TWO OF THE ISSUES—  
INSINCERITY, INACTION**

Local 1324 IBEW has tried to conduct its campaign honestly and straightforwardly in the firm belief that any other approach would not only be hypocritical 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 worker.

**Local 1324 is a new union for Bay division PG&E workers. Its only past history is the record of employee union service its leaders brought into the Local from the defunct, oppressed UWUA.**

Local 1324 and its leaders are a cross-section of PG&E Bay division employees who refused to be dictated to by top UWUA officials who wanted to run the UWUA locals like they ran New York Brotherhood of Consolidated Edison Employees union—like the company wanted it to be run. Those L. U. 1324 leaders had the courage 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 the 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 shown in newsstories, wage charts and other media that it has in its midst the sort of union people who recognize the shortcomings of present and past collective bargaining in the four Bay divisions and that his has the union know-how and spirit for bringing about better conditions.

**The Local 1324 and IBEW officials responsible for the present campaign have therefor tried to approach the employee with a positive campaign rather than a negative or defensive one such as is being carried on through the UWUA's Newscaster.**

That is why the employee is urged to read the Newscaster as well as Utility Facts carefully. Study the issues raised by Local 1324 officials in Utility Facts. Then study the UWUA's reaction to them in the Newscaster.

**Countless instances of UWUA do-nothingness have been raised. The UWUA refused to answer any of them but devoted the columns of the Newscaster to vague undocumented attacks on the credibility of Utility Facts and mud-slinging at Local 1324 officials.**

At the same time it was conducting its IBEW educational pro-

gram through the columns of this paper and in numerous open meetings around the four divisions, the IBEW has done everything it possibly could do through the media of publicity to protest the PG&E employees from UWUA tampering with and non-enforcement of the contract its officials negotiated over the heads of a representative and duly elected negotiating committee.

UWUA do-nothingness, and Newscaster insincerity are issues of this 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 re-elected 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 on the System of two organizations.

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 deal with the company is the product of past negotiations by present Local 1324 members and officials. Those officials left the UWUA because its top officers wouldn't let them negotiate for the improvements demanded by the employees.

The wreckage of the UWUA now on the four divisions is a product of UWUA squabblers and national union dictators. The squabblers are still in there squabbling among themselves, and Mr. Shedlock has tried to make a show of unity through the UWUA joint council. Mr. Shedlock has succeeded as well as he has only because he votes the ballots of the UWUA locals which are in receivership.

The laxity in enforcement of the present contract is due largely to lack of any representative membership.

The UWUA has the contract but Local 1324 IBEW has the members and the people who used to stick

**NEED ONLY 5  
SENATORS TO  
REPEAL T-H**

(State Fed. Release)

The 68th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor came to a rousing close on Monday, October 10, in St. Paul, with the giant organization pledged to the greatest political effort ever undertaken by organized labor in the history of the nation.

The 700 delegates, representing 8,000,000 workers, pushed through a social-economic program for 1950 highlighted by the announcement that Labor's League for Political Education will immediately open its drive to elect a Congress that will repeal the Taft-Hartley law and enact liberal legislation.

Joseph D. Keenan, national director of the LLPE and an IBEW official reminded the delegates that labor needs only five more "friendly" members in the Senate and 14 in the House to put over the Taft-Hartley repeal and other union objectives.

Pres. William Green, re-elected for his 26th consecutive term, also warned the enemies of labor that the AFL will persist in its traditional crusade, refusing to waive its right to demand wage increases and better conditions of work.

**Insurance Boycott  
Sweeps California**

(State Fed. Release)

The AFL boycott of private disability insurance plans in California moved into its second week with more than 30,000 withdrawal forms being requested by unionists seeking to terminate arrangements with private carriers under the unemployment disability insurance law.

In response to the 1949 convention mandate, the California State Federation of Labor is directing the workers' economic fight on the commercial powers which assailed every progressive social insurance plan offered by the Federation in the State Legislature at Sacramento.

Unions seeking withdrawal forms should write the California State Federation of Labor, 402 Flood Bldg., San Francisco 2.

their necks out to enforce the contract.

That is the real reason why UWUA is unable to enforce the contract. That is the reason for the smoke screen of attacks on the IBEW — to cover up UWUA shortcomings and confuse the employees.

One organization on the System is needed today and needed badly. Vote IBEW in the coming election. Pitch for IBEW preceding the election. Remember, the bigger the IBEW vote, the better the 1950 contract.

# NEED UWUA ACTION, NOT HYSTERIA TO SAVE PACT

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 bragging, "we have the contract", the Company was not only denying (in the 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 seemed to be caught off base with its propaganda.**

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

Apparently the charges struck pay dirt again. The Newscaster reports that the UWUA negotiating committee had taken the matter of 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, being against them is sometimes helpful. No honest workingman likes the speedup. No workingman likes the insincerity 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)

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 he 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 peacetime production. The efforts to get the large industries to convert to war are 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 triumphs of our Army and Navy in the South Pacific. Then came the period of concentration of materials, 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 anyone was able to overcome the obstacles against which soldiers fought on those coastlines on that June 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. Again the good Lord must 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 Pasco, Wash. 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, Tenn., whole towns were built. All the effort was worthwhile. We perfected the atom bomb. After its use, the war only lasted a few days.

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 be possible to send at least 200,000 American a week to Germany to see what it means to lose?" Then people would know what confronts the German people. Cities comparable to Pittsburg, Kansas City, Chicago, New York, San Francisco were 90% destroyed. They were reduced to twisted steel—with people starving and with children with rickets and many other diseases which result from malnutrition.

People visiting Germany today must have the same feeling that I had. What could cause countries—great countries such as Germany and Italy—to subject themselves

to a kind of government that would bring about the results that they witnessed? There must be some force lacking and that force was that of the free trade unions who carried on against totalitarianism to the bitter end until they were overwhelmed. Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini realized that a free trade union movement in any country is a detriment to their schemes.

In America there are many great industrialists who have the mistaken notion that these things could not happen here. But still there are many important industrialists who would make every effort to destroy us and take away from us our voice in the government. In short, they follow 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 October 1947 instructed 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 this political organization and it is our hope to achieve our political objective by banding together and educating our members and advising them of happenings in Congress. 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 want no repetition of 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, and the United Mine Workers—all great organizations, are working together. We shall proceed in the way we know best, the old American way.

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