An Open Letter—

TO THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD IN D.C.

The IBEW, though opposed to the Taft-Hartley act, has attempted to observe the letter of that law since its inception. Your honorable body, the NLRB, is supposed to be the custodian of that act. You are supposed to see that both employers and unions get a fair deal under that act. The IBEW has used your good offices on countless occasions. Though there have been decisions handed down by you that were not always to the liking of IBEW members, the IBEW has accepted those decisions in good faith and abided by them.

That is as it should be. Conditions in this great nation would be chaotic, indeed, if individuals or organizations were permitted to flaunt every law which they did not like. The IBEW has not liked the Taft-Hartley act because it believes it is a bad law. But it will continue to abide by it and by the decisions your Board renders under it until such time as the people of this nation agree that it is a bad law and send enough legislators to Washington to erase it from the books.

The IBEW has complied with the rules of your board and the provisions of the Taft-Hartley act in its petition for a collective bargaining representative election on the PG&E properties. It intends to abide by any decision your Board may render in connection with that petition.

However, if the language of that act means what it says, the IBEW is entitled to a decision on that petition and it is entitled to that decision NOW!

It is entitled to such a decision on the basis of the following facts:

1. That the NLRB regional Hearing Officer qualified the IBEW to petition for an election under the terms of the Taft-Hartley act. Its officers have filed the required non-communist affidavits and in every way complied with the law.

2. No delay in the rendering of a decision on the election petition is valid in the light of the foregoing. The right of the employee to select his bargaining agent is the only matter your Board can in fairness consider.

3. The IBEW first petitioned for an election last November—nearly a year ago. Your Regional Hearing officer exercised great restraint throughout the subsequent hearings in the face of obvious UWUA-Company efforts to delay and prolong those hearings. If the UWUA and the Company had an ulterior motive for seeking such delay, then further delay on the final decision in this case is playing into the hands of UWUA and Company officials.

4. This unprecedented dragging out of a so-called democratic process was due in part to maneuvers of the PG&E and in part to obvious stalling of the intervening union, the UWUA.

5. The UWUA spread the word around among its members that there would never be an election. Yet the IBEW has repeatedly told its membership that the UWUA had no “in” with your body, that the hearings would be completed eventually, and an election decision given.

6. Your Board has had the case under advisement now for five months. You have not announced your decision. In that time a union endowed with less fortitude, lesser faith in the democratic principles which brought about its formation, would have withered on the vine and died.

7. Yet today the IBEW in the four Bay divisions of the PG&E is stronger, has more members than when it was first begun. A check of the IBEW books will show that a great majority of the PG&E employees want it for a collective bargaining representative.

8. The IBEW realizes that some study is required on that phase of the petition in which the PG&E attempted to have the workers in 51 classifications excluded from the collective bargaining unit.

9. If your Board does not realize the many ways in which unionism suffers on the PG&E system while you ponder a decision, you are so advised that union rights are abridged in countless ways. However, the IBEW has filed no unfair labor charges because that would mean more delay.

10. For the past months the IBEW has been telling its membership that an election on the PG&E was in the offing. That advice was given in good faith, in the belief that the NLRB is administered fairly, in the interest of the worker, and if that fact is true, an election would indeed be forthcoming.

11. However, it is not within the province of the NLRB to decide that an employee may or may not belong to a union merely by withholding from such employee the right of the ballot. It is for the employee himself to decide who shall represent him in collective bargaining.

(Continued on Page 2)
Local 1324 delegates to the annual IBEW Ninth District Progress Meeting held last weekend in Seattle, Washington, with every IBEW local in the United States, Alaska and Hawaii participating, were back this week with a report.

All international representatives and business managers were present and participated in policy making for the district for the next year.

Scott Milne, IBEW international secretary, reported on the healthy state of the IBEW pension and insurance fund. Participation in these benefits is optional with all IBEW members.

Milne said that the fund's reserve has an actuary status and was being administered so that 100% would be reached sometime in the near future.

The IBEW pension fund is now supporting 3,446 members. Sixty new members went on the rolls last month and 19 came off through deaths. Fifteen hundred members are eligible to go on pensions but have chosen to continue working.

The international secretary also urged on every IBEW delegate the importance of continuing the fight against the Taft-Hartley Act. All IBEW locals were urged to participate in political campaigns which will lead to the election of legislators pledged to rid the country of the act. He pointed out that the Electrical Worker, IBEW monthly publication, is currently carrying a series of articles written by him telling what is the matter with the Taft-Hartley act.

There was much discussion in Seattle about IBEW participation in a movement to set up a political organization on the precinct level throughout the Pacific Northwest. Steps were taken to implement this move.

Other information turned up at the meeting including the fact that many IBEW members who have worked on more than one job during the year and earned more than $3,000 have had social security taxes deducted from their checks for amounts earned above that ceiling. Such deductions may be refunded if the member applies for them within two years after the overpayment. IBEW members were urged to keep daily logs of their hours and earnings and watch their checks to see that social security taxes stop after earnings reach $3,000.

Other IBEW officials at the meeting included Oscar Harbak, IBEW Ninth, the UWUA. He voiced a strong opinion that the Board will have failed to perform its function and the P.G.&E. employees will have been barred from their fundamental rights to select their bargaining agent in a manner prescribed by the National Labor Relations Act and the Taft-Hartley Act.
Martinez Unit No. 1
At our regular meeting of Oct. 25, Unit No. 1 voted to concur with the Central Labor Council of Contra Costa County to support the Retail Clerks in their economic strike against Safeway Stores. We have received a complete list of Unit No. 1 dues-paying members and pledge card employees from the International office. This list will be turned over to the Unit Organizing Committee, who will complete the organization of all members in Unit No. 1 area. Every effort will be made to have a united front in Unit No. 1 on election day.

The California State Federation of Labor Weekly News Letters of Oct. 9 and 12 contained some interesting articles, but the one of most interest to Unit No. 1 was the news that the 68th annual convention of the A. F. of L. came to a close, pledged to the greatest political effort ever undertaken by Organized Labor in the history of the Nation. Pledged to open a nation-wide drive to elect a Congress that will respect the Hartley law and enact liberal legislation. Pres. Green also warned the enemies of labor that the A. F. of L. would persist in its traditional crusade, refusing to waive its rights to demand wage increases and better working conditions.

All Local 1324 members are urged to visit Bro. Garper, who has been ill for several weeks in the Merritt hospital in Oakland.

Publicity Committee Unit No. 1

San Francisco Unit 3
At our last meeting, Bro. Kennedy reported an official announcement of the coming election should be forthcoming very shortly. He received this information through Matt Toluriner, IBEW attorney, who recently spent some time in Washington on union business.

Organizational work is progressing well in San Francisco. As the election date draws closer, our members are active in contacting PG&E workers who have not made up their minds as to who they intend to vote for. As a result of these talks, we have been able to swing many workers into support of our drive for one IBEW organization on the system. Others have asked for further information and every effort is being made to comply with their requests. A real interest is being shown by the workers in our program. They are pleased that the election is expected soon so they can settle the problem of union representation and get on with the business of winning improvements in working conditions, pensions, wages and real job security.

Another important organizational problem that is being handled by the membership is the enlargement of our mailing lists, which enables us to get Utility Facts and the information literature to all PG&E workers. Members in every department are turning in names and addresses of all the new workers. These in turn are checked with our present mailing list and those who have not being receiving mail are being included.

To supply PG&E workers with a little operation which we understand by the membership is the enlargement of our mailing lists, which enables us to get Utility Facts and the information literature to all PG&E workers. Members in every department are turning in names and addresses of all the new workers. These in turn are checked with our present mailing list and those who have not being receiving mail are being included.

A recent report concerning San Francisco Local 133, UWUA, indicates they are receiving so little support from PG&E workers that their national office has had to subsidize them in recent months to the tune of several hundred dollars. Lack of support and interest on the part of PG&E workers toward UWUA can all be traced to the fact that we, as members of UWUA, are signing our contracts with the company; the contract by the company in the Ukiah area. The violation was in connection with overtime work and standby time. We hope this one is the last of the violations.

Bro. White gave us the organizational picture in the entire North Bay Division and stressed the importance of making home contacts in organizing. Bro. Dahlin reported on the solidarity of the members of Unit 1, in Martinez, and stressed the importance of building a new union within the IBEW—that the CIO union to which we had belonged was now dead and that it would be impossible to ever bring it back again.

Our meeting turned into a lively discussion on organizing and how we could best complete the job which lies ahead of us.

Bro. Nos. 4 and 5 has held a joint meeting with Local 1245's unit in Santa Rosa recently and welcomed participation at all of its meetings by members of Local 1245.

Publicity Committee Unit No. 4

Ukiah Unit 5
As publicity committer of Ukiah Unit No. 5, and being my first report for Utility Facts, I would like to stress strongly that IBEW workers are with the wonderful attention and service they are getting from the IBEW. This is something we saw very, very little of from the old "spent" UWUA. In fact, I can safely say that many good union-minded men who joined the UWUA soon after they were employed by the company, have never seen a UWUA representative in three years. Just the same their two union meetings a month went to that union regularity.

Is the kind of organization we want to represent us in collective bargaining, etc.? Not by any stretch of the imagination, and we will prove it when the election is held, by putting on the PG&E system "one organization"—the IBEW.

Publicity Committee, Unit 7
Win Victory in Missouri
By OSCAR A. JOHNSON

For some months an organizing campaign has been under way at the Kansas City Power and Light Co., Kansas City, Missouri. Recently NLRB elections for bargaining rights were held, with the following result:

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<tr>
<th>Total eligible</th>
<th>IBEW</th>
<th>IUUE</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Void</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>711</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>21</td>
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Several organizing campaigns have been carried on in this company during the past 19 years but with the exception of the generations, none was successful. The situation brought much disappointment to employees who were loyal to our Brotherhood. These loyal brothers have worked hard through the years to have the IBEW win and have now finally reaped success for all their hard work. Now the Kansas City Power and Light Co. is fully 100 per cent IBEW.

You made another tough decision shortly afterward when the UWUA top officials put on the heat to stem the UWUA breakup. You decided to stick with them. In defending that decision you told the IBEW representatives who talked with you about it that you were neutral. "I'll go the way the rank and file go," you said.

That decision was understood and accepted at its face value. The IBEW officers believed you made it in good faith, but because you have always been a sincere union man.

It is now time for you to make a third decision. You are surrounded by IBEW units and you have no nearby UWUA sister locals. The employees in your own division have indicated that all they need to go IBEW in fact is an IBEW unit to turn to. Such a unit will be set up.

You must know the facts as well as we do. If you do not, then we have underestimated your ability for straight thinking. If stubbornness and tenacity have led you into maintaining your present position, that is understandable and creditable in a union leader, but scarcely in the interest of those you are supposed to lead.

Now is the time for new counting on the PG&E. At this time you can win back from the employees in your district some of the respect they once had for your judgment by following them into the IBEW.