



EXPECT ELECTION DECISION THIS MONTH, NLRB EXEC. SAYS

Board Secy. Sends Letter to IBEW

The NLRB's determination of an election date for a bargaining representative in the four Bay divisions of the PG&E is expected to be issued this month, according to Louis R. Becker, NLRB associate secretary.

Several IBEW members who wrote or wired last week to the Board inquiring about the delay were advised as follows:

"Dear Sir:

"The Chairman has requested that I reply in his behalf to your letter of (dates varied) concerning the above matter.

"The Board has had this matter before it and it has been receiving the Board's most earnest consideration. As you know, the transcript of evidence totalled 1379 pages and involves rather complex and complicated issues. I might add that 1379 pages of testimony is greatly in excess of the normal size of records presented to the Board. Generally, the records average about 110 pages.

"At any rate, the Board is advised of your interest in this matter and it is expected that its determination will issue before the month is out.

"Very sincerely yours,
 LOUIS R. BECKER,
 Associate Exec. Secy."

NOTICE

Any San Jose division employees interested in information relative to the progress of the IBEW campaign can receive same by contacting—

INTL. REP. H. W. "HEAVY"
 NEWCOMBE,
 c/o Marchants Motel,
 1150 Clay Street,
 Santa Clara, Calif.
 Phone AXminister 6-1675.

AFL's Shelley To Congress

Labor in the Bay Area got a break last week when one of its best known statesmen and friends won the S. F. 5th Congressional District seat recently vacated by the death of Rep. Richard Welch,



JOHN F. SHELLEY

long-time Republican and advocate of many progressive labor measures.

Shelley, a Democrat, was a close friend of Welch, and ran for his seat on the same sort of platform that had won several times for Welch.

AFL CANDIDATE

Shelley, besides being backed by all S. F. labor groups, Democrats, some Republicans, got his principal backing from the AFL's Union Labor Party.

Most of the S. F. IBEW locals are affiliates of the Union Labor Party which is an adjunct of the AFL's Political and Educational League.

Merritt Snyder, IBEW represen-

Lakeport Meet Big Success

PG&E employees in the several outposts around Ukiah have liked the service they have been getting from the IBEW since their unit was set up under Local 1324.

The district is now about 100 per cent IBEW and will be 100 per cent when the boys in the Fort Bragg section decide to either join the Ukiah unit or set up one of their own.

It was announced at the last meeting that only two Lakeport employees do not belong to the unit. The next meeting may be held in Willits.

For a full report on the recent meeting there turn to the back page and read the report made by the members themselves.

tative, is a member of the Executive Board of the ULP and despite his preoccupation with the current campaign of Local 1324, IBEW, managed to spend some time in ULP election activity.

ANTI-TAFT-HARTLEY

Shelley made repeal of the Taft-Hartley act one of the principal planks in his program. He also favors more ship work for the west coast, government projects to alleviate growing California unemployment, the Southern Bay bridge crossing and other measures in the interest of the Bay Area.

He is a former state senator, former candidate for lieutenant governor, a member of the Bakery Wagon Drivers, AFL, president of the California Federation of Labor and Secretary of the S. F. Labor Council.

Local 1324, which has made it a practice to affiliate with all local labor councils, has an application pending for affiliation with the S.F. Labor Council.

IBEW Assigns Intl. Rep. to San Jose District

An old-timer in the utility field and in the IBEW has been assigned to the San Jose district.

He is IBEW Representative H. W. "Heavy" Newcombe, just back from a tour of duty in the utility field in the Hawaiian Islands.

UTILITY BACKGROUND

In discussing his assignment with Utility Facts, "Heavy" said that wages and conditions in the Northwest utilities are comparatively better there in the IBEW locals than on the PG&E.

Heavy Newcombe had a lot to do with making those conditions better. Before being appointed to the IBEW I.O. staff he was business manager for five years of IBEW's Portland Local 125, which has some of the highest wage rates in the utility industry.

Newcombe, who has been talking to PG&E men in the Oakland district for the past week, said that these contacts had impressed him with two things:

GOOD PEOPLE

First, that regardless of the union PG&E men might be affiliated with there were plenty of good union-minded people in the four Bay divisions.

Second, that despite the obvious fact that there was plenty of union sentiment around, wages and conditions on the system could be improved considerably.

He said that the PG&E employees could enjoy the same sort of conditions and wages that prevail in Washington and Oregon if all the good union men were in One Organization—the IBEW, pulling and working together instead of at

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UTILITY FACTS

Official Organ of IBEW
Local 1324



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

IBEW Asks Each Member To Learn T-H Dangers

Washington.—The big International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of the AFL is appealing to each of its 450,000 members to learn and understand the union-busting evils of the Taft-Hartley law.

The drive, getting underway with the December issue of the union's journal, is believed to be the first and most ambitious union-wide attempt yet undertaken to educate every rank and file member on the dangers of the law.

The campaign is expected to create a groundswell across the nation of rank-and-file pressure on Taft-Hartley congressmen to vote for repeal of this law or to elect a successor who will. The movement may spread to other unions.

The electrical workers have ordered copies of the AFL pamphlet, "What's Wrong With the Taft-Hartley Law?—Plenty!" stapled as supplements to their monthly journal going to each union member. As a preface, AFL President William Green explained that the subject matter of the pamphlet was discussed at the St. Paul convention.

"Labor will not rest, it was made clear, until the Taft-Hartley law is wiped from the statute books," Mr. Green said. "Briefly, this report explains why labor asked both political parties to repeal the Taft-Hartley law and why the candidate of the party, pledged to its repeal, was elected last November. We confidently expect that Congress will see the justice of our position."

Dan W. Tracy, president, and J. Scott Milne, secretary, addressed this joint plea to all IBEW members:

"The Taft-Hartley law is wrong. And it is not wrong merely because (as its chief sponsors claim) labor officials have declared it to be wrong. It is wrong because it is unfair to all organized labor. It is wrong for you.

"Reading this pamphlet will be time profitably spent. It is not a shrill, venomous indictment, but a sober, painstaking study that blasts to bits the sanctimonious claims

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP BUILDS WIDE-AWAKE UNIONS

In order to place our labor movement on the main road to success and achievement there is no development within the organization of labor that is so important as the awakening of the membership. Experience has demonstrated again and again that a wide awake membership seldom lets anything be put over that is fundamentally bad.

It is unions where the larger percentage of the membership stays at home and leaves it to a handful to run the union any way they please that undemocratic practices are most liable to develop. In such unions it sometimes happens that domineering individuals become virtually dictators of the official acts of their local unions.

Wherever this or anything else that is detrimental gets the upper hand in any union there is no remedy that can possibly do as much good as a genuine awakening of the membership. Such an awakening invariably brings the awakened members of the meetings of the union and there are times when increased attendance works wonders in getting a local union back on the main track again.

If you are a member of any union be a wide-awake member.

IBEW Assigns Full-Time Intl. Rep. to San Jose

(Continued from Page One)

crosspurposes as the case has been with the UWUA representing a minority of the employees.

Newcombe assisted in organizing the Bonneville Power Administration employees, who now have the best utility wages and working conditions in the United States.

NEW UNITS

He will set up headquarters in the San Jose area, where the employees have lately shown definite signs of dissatisfaction with UWUA representation. Contacts will be made with these employees and assist them in setting up their own unit, under Local 1324.

Other IBEW representatives will soon be in the Bay Area for similar assignments in the East Bay.

which have been made for the Taft-Hartley law. It is drawn from our experience and the experience of all the international unions of the American Federation of Labor which have had to do business under the act.

"Read this pamphlet tonight—then pass it on to a friend who is willing to be influenced by the facts."

Attend the meetings of your union regularly. Be a living factor in making and shaping the policies of your own local union. It is just this way that the best unions come into existence."

HERE'S HOW THAT UNION SHOP AT CON-ED OPERATES

"The cherished ideal of an American trade union principle reached fulfillment in the giant Consolidated Edison Company, New York City, on October 20th when 18,000 employees voted in favor of a union shop (in an NLRB election)."

That was how the first paragraph of a story in the UWUA'S Newscaster led off November 1st. Several more paragraphs followed which broke down the vote.

The next to last paragraph took Utility Facts to task. It said: "This significant victory in Consolidated Edison should be enough to close the loud, yapping mouths of the poisonous pen artists who write the 'Utility Facts,' for the people of ConEdison have spoken out and have fully answered the dirty, contemptible lies circulated by 'Utility Facts' about Edison people and their own leadership."

STATEMENTS

Utility Facts has stated on numerous occasions that the Brotherhood of Consolidated Edison Employees union is an employer-dominated union. It has also stated that, in effect, the Brotherhood of Consolidated Edison Employees, UWUA, is the national UWUA.

The UWUA's national officers came from there. Of a total membership of 40,000 (excluding the PG&E UWUA "island," which is thinly held), the ConEd group of 27,000 members represents nearly three-fourths of the total UWUA national membership.

This is a free country, and if the employees of ConEd are satisfied with UWUA's type of service, they certainly are entitled to it. Perhaps if they had access to the true state of representation they get things would be different. In voting for the UWUA they had merely a choice between "no union" and the UWUA. On the PG&E, the vote in the coming

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S.F. Label Section To Hold Orphans' Christmas Party

The best talent available will put on a Special Christmas Show in the AFL Labor Council auditorium for teen age orphans again this year. AFL Union Label Section will be the sponsor.

Besides colorfully wrapped gifts, individually addressed, there will be a full course dinner of turkey and trimmings for all.

Jim Symes, secretary of the Union Label Section, who will act as host in the person of Santa Claus—Jim has all the natural "trimmings" for the job—has asked for volunteers from among all unions for entertaining.

Mason Asks Board For Early Election On Behalf No. 1245

C. W. Mason, business manager of IBEW Local 1245, which represents the PG&E employees in the 11 outlying company divisions, was among the many IBEW members who telegraphed to the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, D.C., last week asking for an early election.

"Regarding the (two IBEW petitions for an NLRB election) cases, we of Local 1245 of the IBEW urge that you take immediate action . . . as the delay has had a demoralizing effect on all PG&E employees," his wire said.

His action was announced at a joint meeting of the two PG&E locals attended by his staff and the Executive Board of Local 1324 IBEW.

Several important organizational matters were studied by those present and plans for joint action laid. Local 1324's 18 point economic program was discussed, some Local 1245 suggestions for improving certain portions of it were considered, and ways and means of implementing it were taken up.

There was a beneficial exchange of information about conditions on both sectors of the System. Out of this information, definite organizational plans were laid, and further meetings scheduled.

The first of these will be between Business Manager Mason and his staff and Local 1324's San Francisco Unit 3.

Approximately 240 of the 687 commercial frequency modulation (FM) broadcasting stations in the United States are owned outright or in part by newspapers.

The Ohio Power Case: UWUA WAS MUM AT PG&E NLRB EXCLUSION HEARINGS

The Ohio Power Case, soon to be heard by the U. S. Supreme Court, involves an interpretation of the Taft-Hartley act which may prohibit supervisors from belonging to the collective bargaining unit in any firm.

The Supreme Court's decision, when it is made, will have far-reaching effects on the bargaining status, not only of PG&E employees in 51 classifications which the PG&E is attempting to exclude but of all employees in industrial type unions in the IBEW and the UWUA.

REPORT

Recently Utility Facts gave what it admits was a sketchy report of certain developments in the case. Its report was based on the story contained in the UWUA "Light" edition of the CIO News.

The CIO News story on the case which grew out of court action brought by the Ohio Power Company to exclude Tidd River Plant control operators from the bargain-unit was not clear as to whether the UWUA—the bargaining representative—was going to take part in the hearing before the Supreme Court.

The NLRB itself asked for the hearing for it had ruled that the control operators should be part of the bargaining unit. Ohio Power had the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals reverse the NLRB ruling.

ALERT

It was also noted that the CIO News had not said whether the UWUA was intervening in the Supreme Court. In fact the CIO News report made it appear that the UWUA had not even fought the case wholeheartedly in the Circuit Court.

Int'l. Representative Merrit Snyder, upon reading the CIO News account of the Case and feeling that such an important issue should be followed closely due to the PG&E and national implications, immediately called the case to the attention of IBEW Int'l President Tracy. He was advised that the International's general counsel was following the case.

Utility Facts had also said that if it had misinterpreted the CIO News' story about the case the inference that UWUA was again practicing company-unionism by defaulting on its obligations would be corrected in subsequent issues.

Recently a long story on the case in the Newscaster appeared to point out that UWUA was following up the case. The result of the

Supreme Court decision will have national implications in the labor movement.

SUSPICION

Local 1324 and the IBEW have plenty of cause to be suspect of the UWUA motives in connection with fighting exclusion moves due to UWUA's historical relations with the New York Consolidated Edison Company.

Some of that suspicion stems from experiences right here on the PG&E system.

When the PG&E sprung their surprise bid in the NLRB San Francisco hearings to have 1675 employees in 51 classifications excluded from the bargaining unit on the same grounds as those advanced by the Ohio Power Company, IBEW immediately sought a conference with UWUA officials so that a common defense could be worked out.

CONFERENCE

UWUA's Shedlock and UWUA Attorney Darwin met with IBEW's Chuck Hughes and M. G. Snyder and IBEW Attorney Matt Tobriner and Nyhart to plan a common defense against the exclusion move. UWUA promised to go all out in the fight along with the IBEW.

Yet in the following hearings, little evidence came from the UWUA and they marshalled only five employee witnesses and furnished little testimony. The IBEW, by contrast, produced 20 witnesses and had others available in case they should be needed. The resultant transcript of IBEW evidence was about three times that offered by the UWUA.

However, it is significant that in the joint meetings of the IBEW and UWUA officers and attorneys which discussed defence plans, Representative Shedlock of the UWUA did not say one word about the important Ohio Power case.

SINCERITY?

If the UWUA had earnestly fought the Ohio Power Company's exclusion attempt, the facts or the experience should certainly have been available to national officer Shedlock, for the Ohio power company sought to justify its position before the NLRB and lost shortly after May 13, 1947, according to the Newscaster's own story. The NLRB exclusion hearings regarding the PG&E case were held here March, 1949.

Yet with a similar exclusion matter under discussion on the PG&E system Mr. Shedlock and the UWUA attorney said nothing about Ohio Power.

Here's How that Union Shop at Con-Ed Operates

(Continued from Page 2)

NLRB election will be between "no union," the UWUA, and the IBEW.

FACTS

There are some significant facts to consider in regard to the result of the ConEd union shop election. By the Newscaster's own figures 27,000 were eligible to vote. Only 23,000 did. And only 18,000 voted in favor of the union shop as it would be administered under the policies of the UWUA.

That is just 66% per cent of those eligible to vote. Where unions are doing a good job for the rank and file, the union usually wins by 90 to 95 per cent of the total eligible vote. There has been talk in the NLRB itself that it recommend elimination of the Taft-Hartley provision that requires such elections, because almost invariably the workers vote for the union shop by margins of 90 per cent or better.

In the March 16 issue of Utility Facts the collaboration of UWUA officials with ConEd was documented. The following facts have never been refuted by the Newscaster:

That UWUA top officials in 1947 gave away the previously held contract provisions for the union shop and maintenance of membership.

That in 1947 preferential rehiring of laid-off members and non-discrimination provisions were also given away.

That in 1948 the UWUA took up the ConEd opposition to Government efforts to build a steam plant in the Tennessee Valley, despite the fact that such a position involved the interests of thousands of utility workers in this country. (The IBEW takes no position on such matters.)

That in 1948 the UWUA, at ConEd request, wrote a provision into the contract requiring every employee to sign affidavits stating they were non-communist and non-subversive. Under this provision a "subversive employee" can be construed to be anyone who does not agree with the political views of ConEd or the UWUA leaders.

WAGES

That in 1948 UWUA officials agreed to wage scales nine cents an hour under those prevailing at the nearest comparable system, Duquesne Power & Light, in Pittsburgh, where IBEW is the bargaining representative.

Referring to the union shop election at ConEd, Local 1324 officials noted that application for such an election was never made public in their own official UWUA papers until Utility Facts exposed the fact that that very provision had been negotiated away.

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, Belmont, 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**
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HENRY VAN ERKELENS Vice-Chairman
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WILLIE TOWE Chairman
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E. I. CROCKER Executive Committee
- UNIT No. 6—RICHMOND**
KARL J. ADKINS Chairman
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E. A. ANDERSON Recording Secretary
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JOHN F. SHEA Recording Secretary
RICHARD BROWN Asst. Fin. Secretary
STEPHEN L. TINGLEY Executive Board
ERNEST E. J. LEWIS Executive Board

IBEW Doings Among the Bay Units By PG&E Employees

Ukiah Unit No. 5

It was approved by a unanimous vote of the membership, at the October meeting of Unit 5, that the next meeting of Unit 5 would be held at Lakeport.

The Ukiah Unit was set up to service the members on the extreme northern part of the North Bay division of PG&E, which includes Willits, Lakeport, Fort Bragg, Ukiah, Covelo and Point Arena.

It is the opinion of all the members in Unit 5 that the meetings should be alternated to give all members a break.

And I mean it is a break not having to drive those 38 crooked miles from Lakeport to Ukiah, especially on a wet night.

Intl. Rep. Larry Drew and some of the boys from Ukiah who attended the Lakeport meeting, Nov. 8th, were pleasantly surprised by the 98% turnout of the employees in the Lakeport division plus five members of Local 1245 construction department who were in the area.

The meeting was a terrific success and all but two employees at Lakeport have signed applications into the IBEW.

Rep. Drew said it was a pleasure to drive those 38 crooked miles with such a swell bunch of fellows to be met at the other end.

The credit goes to Bro. Milt Ingraham for the fine turnout and those who were present showed their enthusiasm for IBEW one organization on PG&E by signed applications.

Unit 5 is ready for the election when the Board renders a decision.

—Unit 5 Publicity Committee.

* * *

Richmond Unit 6

Brother members of Unit 6 are very glad to hear the good news that the decision from the NLRB has been promised for the very near future. Bros. Drew and White were in attendance at our last meeting, Nov. 10, and gave reports on the latest communications with the Board. They reported that letters received by individuals from the Board had stated that a decision could be expected before the end of November. This is welcome news indeed.

We know that we can turn in a good score from Richmond for the IBEW when the election is held.

Publicity Committee, Unit 6.

Only 20% of the American people can afford adequate medical care.

San Francisco Unit No. 3

Plans are being made by our sister IBEW Local 1245 to send representatives to one of our membership meetings in the near future. Bro. Mason, 1245's business representative, reports this will be possible as soon as they wind up some of their immediate pressing business. Announcements of this important visit will appear in our press and every effort will be made to publicize it widely in the field through leaflet distribution. Watch for the meeting date. Come out and get acquainted.

It was reported that Local 1245's and Local 1324's executive boards met on Monday, Nov. 7th, to discuss and work out joint strategy to effectively step up organizational work for one IBEW organization on the PG&E system. Local 1245 pledged complete support of this drive. They are throwing all their efforts into contacting PG&E workers to convince them of the soundness of the IBEW program. They expressed dissatisfaction with the unwarranted delay by the NLRB in granting a union election to PG&E workers and stated they are sending a communication to the NLRB pointing out the demoralizing effect this delay is having on PG&E workers and urging them to set aside an immediate election date.

Another matter discussed at this meeting concerned Local 1324's 18-point economic program which was recently published in Utility Facts and previously concurred in by Local 1324's membership. Local 1245 was heartily in accord with most of this 18-point program. There were a few points which they felt needed further discussion and consideration. Our Unit 3 committee felt that these few points could be satisfactorily worked out.

In the recent issue of UWUA's Newscaster, we noticed an item stating Geo. Simms had been "appointed" shop steward to represent his co-workers at Station A. It's rather revealing that he was "appointed" instead of being democratically elected by his co-workers. We wonder if it would be possible for him to be elected. Maybe not. Maybe his co-workers are getting wise to him. Maybe they didn't attend union meetings often enough about a year and a half ago to hear him get up on the union floor and shout that the Taft-Hartley Law was a godsend to the American workers and that the Taft-Hartley Law was the silver lining that the American workers had been looking for. If they haven't gotten wise to this employer's flunky yet—they soon will!—Unit 3 Publicity Committee.

SF UNIT DOING GOOD ORG. JOB AS ELECTION NEARS

Members of San Francisco Unit 3 of IBEW Local 1324 are doing a good job in preparation for the coming election on the PG&E. Two of the members of that organization who deserve special mention among others are Brothers Jesse Nash and Bill Kennedy.

They have been burning the midnight oil in Local 1324's San Francisco office on Thursday nights on a project that does not carry very much glory but nevertheless will be extremely important and beneficial when the final organizational drive gets underway.

Their project consists of compiling a complete list of PG&E employees falling within the jurisdiction of their unit, which includes all of San Francisco.

GRASS ROOTS DEAL

The list is now just about complete, and they are beginning to break it down into various cate-

gories to get the most efficient use out of it. New names are being added to it every week.

The two IBEW brothers have developed a list of 100 field contacts who are furnishing many of the names. When the campaigning really begins in earnest, it is planned to conduct a regular grass roots crusade.

When Merritt Snyder, IBEW Rep. who is assisting Local 1324 in its campaign, was checked on the advisability of tipping IBEW plans to the UWUA, he replied:

"Everything the IBEW does is open and above board. We hope the UWUA WILL get around among the employees and tell their side of campaign issues. The more the PG&E employees know about those issues, the more sure we are that they will vote for One Organization—the IBEW—when the election is held."

TO GET OFF UWUA HOOK:--

CUT THIS OUT, sign and mail to Local 1324, 1918 Grove Street, Oakland 12, California. We will forward it to the company with the many hundreds on file.

Check-Off Revocation

(Fill in with ink)

Date.....

TO PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

I (print)....., hereby revoke my authorization to deduct from my paychecks dues for Utility Workers Union of America, CIO, or for any local union thereof, which may have heretofore been given you.

(Signed).....

Department.....

(Social Security Number).....

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