RECORDINGS PROVE IBEW SETS RATE PACE

Here's the TRUE Story About Joint SoCal Talks:--

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Here's What UWUA Said About Joint SoCal Talks

(From the Newscaster of November 1, 1949, in full)

1. "Reliable information has reached us that to date the results of IBEW bargaining in California Utility Companies add up to the grand total of zero.

2. "In the Southern California Edison Company, the San Diego Electric Company, and the California Electric Power Company the IBEW extended its contracts for one year without any changes whatever.

3. "The IBEW representative in Southern California, whom we believe is named McKenna (MacKinnon, IBEW Local 47) admitted to UWUA Representative Lewis that he was acting under instructions from the IBEW headquarters.

4. "In March, 1949, the IBEW boasted of having 1500 members in San Diego Gas & Electric Company, 500 members in California Electric Power Company, and 3000 members in Southern California Edison Company, which makes a total of 6000 persons. In spite of all these claims being made by the IBEW on the PG&E properties (including Local 1324), the records are sufficient proof that the claims are a lot of 'hot air' because the IBEW has done absolutely nothing to try and improve the wages, the working conditions, and the welfare benefits of those 5000 employees of those three companies named in this article.

5. "As far as the 1949 negotiations are concerned the record will prove that the IBEW committee in the Southern California Edison Company, left alone and deserted by the IBEW, had to rely and depend upon the UWUA for assistance in their wage negotiations. In fact, the IBEW committee joined with the UWUA committee and voted UWUA National Representative Clem Lewis as their spokesman, and proceeded to meet jointly with the Company.

6. "Also, on the record, in spite of the fancy claims about Bonneville rates and of the 'outside trades' rates in the San Francisco area, the IBEW could not get a wage increase in the San Diego Electric Company better than seven cents per hour; and in the California Electric Power Company the IBEW settled for about 5.5% or somewhere around 7 or 8 cents per hour."

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Communications from the IBEW representatives who took part in the joint IBEW-UWUA wage negotiations at Southern California Edison Company last year not only refute the UWUA Newscaster's report that UWUA should be credited with gains made in those negotiations but also show that the two organizations on the Southern California Edison system made progress hard.
Dissatisfied CIO Locals Seek AFL

Dissatisfied workers weary of the internal dissension in the CIO are seeking out AFL organizers in an effort to help obtain sound American trade union representation in dealing with employers.

Harry O'Reilly, AFL director of organizing, said that AFL representatives in Chicago, Cleveland, other parts of Ohio, and elsewhere have been sounding out the CIO unionists caught in the bitter battle between the right and left wings of the electrical workers union.

The CIO convention expelled the United Electrical Workers, led by officers sympathetic to the Communist party, and chartered a new International Union of Electrical Workers led by CIO right-wingers.

At least four of the anticomunist locals for the former CIO union have already taken steps to affiliate with AFL unions and others are reported to have made serious feelers.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of the AFL said that it has received several inquiries about affiliation.

IBEW Inter-Union Meets Continue

The recently inaugurated policy of exchanging information between two sister IBEW unions on the PG&E system, Local 1324 and 1249, will continue next week with a meeting December 6 of San Francisco unit members and officials and the staff of Local 1245.

Unit 3 officials are expected to pass the word around that this important meeting will offer PG&E employees in the San Francisco area an excellent chance to ask questions first-hand about what union conditions are like on the IBEW side of the PG&E where 7000 employees swear by the unit system.

Members are urged to begin making plans now so that they will be able to attend December 6th.

Here's the TRUE Story About Joint SoCal Talks:--

(Continued from Page One)

Policy Committee had reached a decision not to offer our contract for formal negotiations (the vote on the question was between 5 to 1) and that this decision was with the knowledge and full approval of our International Representative. Our local has in place for the experience and judgment of our International Representative and at no time have we been 'instructed' or 'ordered' to do anything which we consider to be contrary to our best interests.

On paragraph number (2), which stated that the Southern California Edison Co. contract was extended without any changes whatever, Bus. Mgr. MacKinnon had this to say:

"The Edison agreement has a provision which enables us to discuss with management certain phases of our contract other than wages. Our policy and wage committees have prepared material which is being discussed with management under the terms of that provision. Several improvements suggested by the membership have been negotiated and further meetings are to be held on unsolved issues."

Paragraph (4) -- The relationship of the membership UWUA speaks about to the IBEW membership in utilities of southern California was shown by a map published in ‘Facts’ on August 17, 1949. The ‘record’ by the UWUA Newscaster speaks about in that paragraph happens to be an IBEW record in the form of a tape recording of joint IBEW-UWUA negotiations with Southern California Edison. It will be played for the benefit of UWUA and IBEW members if the UWUA will consent to an open meeting for the purpose.

The "record" is again mentioned in the Newscaster's paragraph (5). Says Bus. Mgr. MacKinnon: "We have the record. As you probably know, we of IBEW Local No. 47 record all of our negotiating conferences so that if members are not satisfied with the UWUA will consent to an open meeting for the purpose.

"We have an amplifier and two speakers attached to 25-foot cords. Our reel of tape is carefully indexed and it is our practice during negotiations to play back to our membership at unit meetings those parts of the negotiations that they wish to hear."

"The joint IBEW-CIO wage negotiations are on our tapes, and if necessary I will take the recording to San Francisco and we will play it back and let your membership and the UWUA's, if you wish, hear what was said to whom."

Paragraph (5) charging that the IBEW negotiating committee had been deserted and had to rely on the UWUA committee seems to be the old discredited type of Hitlerian propaganda which sought to cover its faults by attributing similar faults to its enemies. It is possible that the opposite had happened.

MacKinnon says: "Our International Representative, our Local Union staff and our elected Negotiating Committee were in attendance at each session and at no time did our committee alone. This cannot be said, however, of the UWUA committee.

"Mr. Lewis was occasionally absent because he was negotiating with the Southern California Gas Co., at the same time. On the day they surpassed settlement was reached, Mr. Lewis was not present and the UWUA committee members were alone with our committee.

"Mr. Lewis, I am certain, will not deny this."

"As to the Newscaster's claim that Lewis was 'a spokesman, that is a stupid assumption. In the first place, our committee never elected a spokesman. All the members of our committee participate actively in the discussions as our record will prove and it's outrageous for the Newscaster to say that our committee is under the control of CIO representatives as spokesmen."

In closing, MacKinnon said, "It is degrading to realize that we have in the labor movement people capable of such enormous dishonesty as is displayed in the Newscaster article. It is no wonder that UWUA members in the PG&E system and elsewhere are deserting their organization. It is no wonder that those members want a new deal. The article was one for the book."

In paragraph (6), still speaking on what it calls the "record," the Newscaster talks about wage rates negotiated last year at San Diego, which, by the IBEW. These rates, it said, involved only 7c or 8c an hour increases. Actually according to Intl. Rep. L. B. Morris, who sat in on the negotiations, the rates were not the direct result of negotiations, but the result of an arbitration board award. Seven cents was the lowest wage increase and many classifications got as much as 12½c per hour.

Another Gas Dept. Chart About Ready

Local 1324's Headquarters reports that a chart showing the status of rates of journeyman gas department workers is about ready for publication.

Watch for this enlightening bit of information, which will refute many of the claims being made by the UWUA.
The Sims Case: He Was Expelled; UWUA Can Have 'im

UWUA's Newscaster used its member, George Sims, in a recent issue, as the subject of a story meant to impinge the loyalty of PG&E employees who happened to be good union men.

Apparently Sims himself had foreknowledge of the story and its intent, for he was on hand when the story came out. When people lend themselves to use in ulterior projects they must be brunt of any discredit that may result from playing around too loosely with people's reputations.

So in spinning the Newscaster's story the chips will have to fall where they may.

The Newscaster said: 'George Sims, a member of Local 133, UWUA, when the old leaders were in charge was brought up on charges and expelled from membership because he proposed that the union go after a union shop election. The Hames-Bloomer clique were against anything that required them to say 'non-communist' affidavit.'

The Newscaster's sly reference to communications, the Hames-Bloomer clique will fool no PG&E employee familiar with the old union setup. Both of those former UWUA paid representatives no longer have anything to do with union policy on the PG&E system and neither are members of the IBEW nor were they ever.

But L. G. Glasson, president of Local 1324, IBEW, who incidentally has signed a non-communist affidavit, along with other Local 1324 officials, has this to say about the Sims case:

"In the old UWUA, Sims was once a good union man but he never asked for a union shop. He was elected steward and made a member of the old UWUA executive board. However, he proved lax in the handling of grievances. Many members complained that they submitted grievances to him and never heard anything more about them. Finally, when the executive board checked with him on this he admitted that he had torn up grievances because he felt that the company rather than the union member who submitted it was right.

"He was censored for this high-handed action. From that time on he began an anti-union campaign. It was an open secret. He refused to abide by the wishes of the majority. He maliciously attacked the characters of the officers of the union and otherwise conspired against the union manner. When he was tried to the main offices on Market street a few times it was the feeling of the executive board that the interest of the membership demanded that

Eleccion Decision To Eliminate Fear

In any campaign such as that being conducted by the IBEW and the UWUA on the PG&E there is bound to be a few employees who feel threatened into making it appear that they belong to the organization claiming to be the legal bargaining representative, regardless of the fact that existing labor laws say that they are free to choose their bargaining representative without fear of reprisal.

Unfortunately, too, there are always a few people on management side—supervisors, if you please—who become a little bit confused about the right of those working under them to choose the union organization that does not have the sanctity of a formal contract with the company.

Too often, such unenlightened supervisors do not understand the IBEW and HU, and hence are not able to understand that an employee DOES have the right to repudiate any union organization that does not honestly and properly represent him.

These management people sometimes begin looking over the shoulder of those under them at the same time that UWUA officials are looking over the other one.

The new employee, or the probationary employee, under such circumstances, is sometimes apt to feel a bit intimidated, especially when he finds his boss and his IBEW steward or officer all but shoulder to shoulder while the looking is being done.

The IBEW understands that there are very many employees who have not taken the initiative to join the IBEW because of such fears. But any American working man is naturally going to resent any situation which makes him, by the accident of circumstances, the victim of fear, if it is only fear of losing one's job.

Such employees are going to find the IBEW a place where an opinion can be expressed without fear of reprisal for any sort. In fact, opinions of all sorts, open or closed, in open meeting, are the foundation of IBEW policy and progress.

The IBEW points out that from the demands of the UWUA's Attorney Darvin it was evident that UWUA will try to wring every penny it can from the PG&E employees before the NLRB. The UWUA has already promised a decision on the election this month. However, the UWUA is attempting to recover money paid in not only by its own members but IBEW members as well.

Darvin insisted that every IBEW member who signed dues check-off waiver be brought into court and testify that he signed such a waiver.

This is an obvious attempt to keep the PG&E employees from joining the IBEW. The UWUA can't be successful unless they can keep the PG&E employees from joining the IBEW.

The IBEW has taken a strong stand against this attempt. The IBEW is confident that these
IBEW Doings Among the Bay Units

By PG&E Employees

Martinez Unit No. 1

Shop stewards are contacting each employee in the Contra Costa area in our organizational drive for a 100 per cent vote for IBEW on election day. All indications point to election day just around the corner and it cannot come too soon for Unit No. 1 members.

Unit No. 1 members were very much pleased to hear that International Representative Bro. Favell will return and also that Bro. Newcombe and Hanlon will be added to our full time organizing staff.

Members received with great pleasure the news that Bro. Blair is back on the job in good health also with great sorrow the news that Bro. Garner passed away on November 1st after a long illness.

Organizing Committee Unit 1.

Redwood City Unit No. 2

Unit No. 2 membership turned out in full force at our last meeting.

It was the largest meeting held since the start of this year.

International Representative Snyder introduced International Representative H. W. "Heavy" Newcombe, who has been assigned by the U.O. office to handle organizational work in the San Jose area.

Bro. Newcombe gave a report and answered several questions concerning utilities in the Northwest area and was well received. Also present was Financial Secretary Bro. Ed White who has been working in the San Jose area for the past few days doing organizational work. Bro. White reported on several areas where the IBEW is continuously moving ahead and brought out the advantages of "One Organization on the System."

International Representative Snyder reported on some of the UWUA moves that have been made and brought the IBEW campaign up to date. He also pointed out that all indications are that an election decision would be received by the NLRB this month, according to several letters received from the NLRB office.

Active discussion was engaged in by the membership and several points were discussed relative to the economic program and Unit No. 2 benefit plan. A committee was elected to handle the benefit plan.

Bro. Carditt and Place reported on the recent dance put on by Unit No. 2, and that a good time was had by all.

All our membership down this way is "chafing at the bit" waiting for that election day. Everything is set up and ready to go. After the meeting adjourned, Bro. Carlson did his usual fine job on the serving of doughnuts and coffee.

By seeing you.

Unit No. 2 Publicity Committee.

San Francisco Unit No. 3

At our last meeting Bro. Merritt Snyder reported last minute news concerning the coming election date. Our representatives received word from Paul Herzog, NLRB director that an election date will be set not later than Dec. 1 and possibly the decision will be announced by Thanksgiving Day.

Our membership was very enthusiastic about this announcement. They immediately voted to set up an Election Campaign Committee and instructed this committee to carry out the following program:

1. Make arrangements to call a Special Mass Meeting of San Francisco's PG&E workers as soon as the election date is set.

2. Get out special publicity announcing this meeting and see that there is a wide distribution on it.

3. Of first importance on the meeting agenda will be a discussion of how we can achieve IBEW support among PG&E workers and win an overwhelming victory for one IBEW organization on the PG&E system.

4. The workers will work out a program at this meeting which we will fight for after the election is won.

Our membership charged this Election Campaign Committee with full responsibility for all organizational work between now and election day. They elected Bro. Henry Van Erkelin as temporary chairman.

Watch for the announcement of this important mass meeting. Be sure to attend and participate in the discussion. Give us your ideas. We need every PG&E worker's support.

Let's pack the hall and make it a real mass meeting to vote for IBEW organization on the PG&E system.

Within a week we will have Intl. Rep. Kenny Favell working on organization in the Oakland area. Bro. Favell has been working in Alaska for the past 8 months.

Before going to Alaska he worked in the PG&E organizing department. He is known and well liked by many of us. Lots of luck, Kenny.

Bro. Ed White, Local 3224's financial secretary has been busy as usual doing organizational work on his days off. He spent two days recently in San Jose with Intl. Rep. Newcombe who is stationed in that area heading up organizational work, and reports that several of our members there are planning on spending their vacation time in contacting PG&E workers both on the job and in their homes to convince them that we need one IBEW organization on the PG&E system.

Unit 3's Publicity Committee.

Santa Rosa Unit No. 4

The recent meeting held by Unit No. 4 was devoted to organizational work, and election committees were set up. Lists of all PG&E workers in the area are being compiled and contacts established so as to be ready for the final drive.

Intl. Rep. Snyder attended our meeting and gave a report on the campaign.

He stated that several more international representatives were being brought into the area to assist in organizational work, and that several PG&E employees would be working for the next few weeks in various areas doing organizational work. Information received makes it appear as though the NLRB decision can be expected momentarily.

Men in management discussed a light that conditions are still being broken down and UWUA is still practicing its "do nothing" policy regarding enforcement of the contract. Further discussion showed that this will probably continue until an election is held, and UWUA is defeated.

The longer the campaign continues, the more apparent it is that the only answer to protect the workers' conditions is "One Organization, the IBEW," on the system.

UWUA has proven that it is incapable of doing the job.

We're all ready to back up the IBEW in this area, so here's to a speedy election date.

—Unit 4 Publicity Committee.

IBEW Meeting in Lakeport

It would have made Ed White's heart rejoice if he had been to our meeting in Lakeport. We missed you, Ed, and sorry you couldn't come.

It was as near 100% of the men employed in Lakeport as anyone could expect with the number of men here and the varied interests especially in social and fraternal.

Representative Larry Newcombe stopped in Ukiah and picked up several of the boys and brought them along. The construction department (1245) who is working out of Lakeport, were there with a goodly number.

Larry brought us up to date on the doings and happenings in the pre-election program. He explained how the union man who pays his dues is entitled to service and the IBEW have paid representatives in the field at all times who give that service. If a grievance occurs that cannot be cared for locally, a representative can be called and could be at the scene within three hours.

The sentiment of all was, that we should have a union to represent us and there seems to be one answer only. The IBEW is giving that service in 1245 and naturally we would expect it in 1234, as we are all working for the PG&E.

—Unit 5 Publicity Committee.

Oakland Unit No. 7

In a recent meeting in San Francisco, Win. Agers of the UWUA showed signs of weakness in his talk to 14 UWUA-minded employees. He promised that even if UWUA loses the election they intend to be around. I don't think the men were fooled as I thought it was a pitch to keep the members paying dues, who think UWUA is on the way out.

There are many Oakland employees paying dues, also, but not because they want to. It's the fear of reprisal that is keeping Local 134 from falling apart.

The feeling is that it won't be long until the NRLB reaches a decision and then we will be free to vote for our choice of Labor representation.

IBEW has many friends in Oakland, East Bay division, and we urge all of them to get out and do a job on the receipt of a Board decision.

Let's get a solid vote for One Organization, IBEW, on the entire PG&E System.

—Publicity Committee, Unit No. 7, Oakland, Calif.