Organization Flash!!

San Jose Employees Set Up Another IBEW Unit

San Jose, considered by the UWUA to be one of its most dependable strong points, the home of one of the few UWUA locals that are not in the paper union ghost class, set up IBEW Local 1324 Unit Number Eight in the area recently. Temporary unit officers were elected.

SECOND MEETING

The birth of the unit and election of its officers followed by just one week an earlier meeting which 60 PG&E employees attended and signed IBEW membership applications.

IBEW Representative “Heavy” Newcombe arranged the meeting. He was assisted by Les Glasson, Local 1324 president and a PG&E employee for 30 years.

The election turnout, though down somewhat from the previous record meeting due to UWUA pressure and the holiday-press, was nevertheless a significant and very satisfactory event, and typifies the snowballing IBEW sentiment in the Bay Area. Recently Petaluma employees turned out for the meeting, the second large IBEW gathering held in the area recently. Temporary unit officers were elected.

Recently a UWUA misinformation sheet reported that sentiment for the IBEW was going up, up, down in Eureka and down, down, down for the IBEW. The report even had a touch of reality to it. It said that Business Manager Mason of Local 1245 had not visited the place since way back, thus leaving the local IBEW contingent there unserviced and neglected.

It was a pretty good story except that one whit of the report was true. The whole thing was a figment of someone’s imagination, designed to counteract Utility Facts publicity that the UWUA Island was in the Bay area slowing ebbing into a sea of West Coast IBEW members.

According to the dictionary, Eureka means, literally, discovery. The exclamation is attributed to Archimedes upon discovering a method of determining the purity of gold in ancient King Hiero’s crown.

If the UWUA representatives would venture personally into Eureka (and they were there only in the pages of their Misinformation Sheet) they would hear and discover what Business Manager Mason heard and discovered there on his last visit about a week ago.

Mason heard that there had never been a UWUA representative in town either before or after the NLRB announced its election decision. If there had been, that UWUA Rep would have discovered that unionism in Eureka was still pure gold and still IBEW.

Mason got letters and affidavits campaign of their own by setting up teams to canvas employees in the area house to house.

PG&E ESTIMATORS LINE UP WITH IBEW

Gene Ripperdan, estimator who is working full time with this PG&E group of specialists advising them on the merits of the IBEW, reports gratifying progress to date with his organizational work.

At a meeting one week ago last Tuesday more than half of the estimators working in the Oakland area for the Company turned out for the meeting. They left full of confidence that they can expect to gain more through the IBEW than any other collective bargaining agency.

This feeling was due in part to disillusionment over their treatment by the UWUA, which has consistently ignored the interest of all white collar workers who fall within the physical bargaining unit.

It was the consensus of those at the meeting, Ripperdon reports, that so far as the estimators were concerned, the UWUA has been only a collection agency.

UWUA Sacto Meet Fizzles; 3 Show Up

The Carpet Baggers from the New York Consolidated Edison Brotherhood company union led by Pres. Joe Fisher weren’t even able to open up their bag of slander, misinformation and lies when they blasted IBEW Local 1245 territory recently.

They held two meetings in Sacramento and only three PG&E employees showed up—the same three each time.

These two meetings were the same meetings the UWUA has claimed in publicity to have been enthusiastically attended.

Charles Mason, Local 1245 business manager, reports that the invasion so far of 1245 territory by UWUA top officials has been a complete flop.

A YEAR TO ACT

In the Bay area PG&E employees have had chance to watch the UWUA in action while the IBEW was ebbing into a sea of West Coast IBEW members.

Realizing that their union policies are well-known in Local 1324’s territory which contains 5000 potential IBEW votes, the UWUA carpet baggers apparently thought the 7000 IBEW members in IBEW Local 1245’s PG&E sector would be a more fertile field for their nasty propaganda and lies.

EMPLOYEES WANT FACTS

The fact that they could get no more than three PG&E employees—the same three each time—at their Sacramento meeting was further proof that PG&E employees like their unionism along traditional trade union lines.

In another Local 1245 IBEW sector, National Rep. Agers was greeted with similar disinterest. He showed up on the Drum Division in Humboldt county and was rudely insulted for his carpet bag.
Mateo Employees Deplore Literature Put Out by UWUA

Fifty-five percent of the PG&E employees in the San Mateo district turned out recently at a meeting held there. To be more specific, 51 PG&E employees were at the meeting in addition to those from Redwood City who were present.

Int'l. Reps. Merritt Snyder and Kenneth Favell, who reported on the meeting, talked about the growing interest in the San Mateo district in the IBEW. They mentioned the San Mateo Employees Union, and said that more than 90 percent of the employees in the San Mateo district were present at the meeting, held there. To be more specific, 51 PG&E employees were present.

The San Mateo group was one of several which went IBEW last January when Local 1324 IBEW was chartered. Many of those present at the meeting expressed their dissatisfaction with the UWUA and thought that if mud than 90 percent of them would sign the Bay Area for the IBEW. The growing interest all over the Bay Area for the IBEW is credited both locals to use the growing interest in the San Mateo district.

Kenny Favell, who reported on the meeting held there, talked about the meeting in addition to those from Redwood City who were present.

The old CIO Union was built, not because of, but in spite of, political pie-cards and Johnny-come-latelys. You, who have no charges of standing in those days worked hard with many of us to build a Union of 7000 members on this Coast.

You, Doyle, and members of your IBEW, came into the picture somewhat belatedly. You worked with that same leadership you are now scared to death to be identified with. You further an elected leadership in those days worked hard with many of us to build a Union of 7000 members on this Coast.

The UWUA is the stooges of past leadership and you know it. Tracy is currently serving the present administration as a member from the ranks of Organized Labor on the National Civil Service Board, a body charged with investigating cases of discrimination against minorities.

The UWUA smear is the party line. They attempt to bait us into a political squabble in San Francisco, regarding our move into the IBEW.

That move was made in spite of you and over the opposition of our former leadership and you.

That move was pioneered by those same employees who repeatedly opposed non-communist affidavits except when absolutely necessary to deny to a person some benefit. This was not in accord with CIO policy at that time.

The benefits of IBEW were offered, compliance followed by the officers of Local 1324, which is complete accord with IBEW-AFL policy. We are now before the Board, much to your chagrin. When you red-bait the IBEW you really expose your lack of political program.

In the future, therefore, if you wish to continue your character as anti-Communist, and slander your fellow workers, be at least honest enough to call us Individual Reds and stand ready to prove it by fact, not back-door suggestions that you do not differ with you, we are therefore "subversive". Be prepared to stand in a Court of Law and make your case. It had better be good because you have done enough harm already to supply documented evidence, to at least indicate that you believe us to be more serious, symptomatic with alleged criminal activities.

You know, it's a pleasure to be associated with men of principle who stand "guilty" of the "charge" of being worthy of decent treatment. You really ought to try it some time.

—RONALD T. WEAKLEY

GLASSON'S GRABS

Joe Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda artist, once said that if a lie suits your purpose and if it is a means to an end, use it. There are certain types of people who glory in digging into the mud to besmirch the union movement. No lie is too big nor slime too smelly for them to handle if it suits their purpose.

Recently the company-union carpet-baggers of the UWUA picked me for their target, it was like driving a wagon full of empty cans. The cans make a lot of noise but they are just empty cans. The UWUA smear is the worst type of propaganda because you have done enough harm already to supply documented evidence, to at least indicate that you believe us to be more serious, symptomatic with alleged criminal activities.

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DANIEL W. TRACY

Daniel W. Tracy, above, president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, as he appeared during World War II when he served the nation as wartime Assistant Secretary of Labor.

He was picked for the job by the late President Roosevelt because of his distinguished record in the interest of several hundred thousand IBEW members in particular and the whole labor movement in general.

At a time when there was great pressure from industry to relax the labor laws and use the war emergency as an excuse for attacks on long established trade union gains, Tracy rolled up an impressive record as Assistant Secretary of Labor that was commended by labor leaders of all groups as well as by industry leaders.

DRAFTED

After the war he was drafted from his government job by IBEW convention delegates to run as president, and was established in his present position as president of the IBEW.

Tracy is currently serving the present administration as a member from the ranks of organized labor on the National Civil Service Board, a body charged with investigating cases of discrimination against minorities.

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Smeared!

Joe Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda artist, once said that if a lie suits your purpose and if it is a means to an end, use it. There are certain types of people who glory in digging into the mud to besmirch the union movement. No lie is too big nor slime too smelly for them to handle if it suits their purpose. No lie is too big.

If a person is immune. When you red-bait the IBEW you really expose your lack of political program.

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At a time when there was great pressure from industry to relax the labor laws and use the war emergency as an excuse for attacks on long established trade union gains, Tracy rolled up an impressive record as Assistant Secretary of Labor that was commended by labor leaders of all groups as well as by industry leaders.
PENSION GAIN, WAGE BOOST

A general wage raise of 6% retrospective to October 1, 1949—the second raise since IBEW defeated UWUA in a collective bargaining election 18 months ago; an improved pension plan, additional paid holidays, and paid life insurance and other contract improvements have been secured for Duquesne Power and Light Company employees in Pittsburgh, Pa., have been won by the IBEW, according to letter just received from Local 1324 headquarters from K. J. Raynes of the Duquesne IBEW Joint Board.

Under the new contract the pension plan—based on individual service—will pay a minimum of $75 per month, a raise of $15. The plan is backed up by adequate reserves which assures retirement benefits regardless of work stoppages or possible economic misfortunes of the company. The proposed CIO plan has been criticized by many experts because it does not provide for these safeguards.

Life Insurance, paid for entirely by the company, is upped from $3200 to $4200.

OTHER GAINS

Another paid holiday has been added, giving the Duquesne workers a total of 10 annually. Also, election day is made a partial holiday with a provision for two hours of pay for time off to vote.

The Duquesne sick plan was also improved. The waiting period is cut down to one day from three. Employees with seniority up to five years may be paid for four full weeks or nine half weeks of sick time. Workers with service under ten years may be compensated for 13 weeks of sickness and 15 half weeks, while those with service of 10 years or more get 13 full weeks and 39 half weeks.

Many inequities were adjusted in the new contract. It will run for five years, but may be opened for wage increases and further pension plan improvements on the anniversary date.

Progress of the Duquesne IBEW was a big factor in a recent election among three small subsidiary companies of Duquesne Power and Light Company. The election of those companies voted UWUA completely out of the electric power company picture around Pittsburgh recently after the bulk of Duquesne employees had earlier turned down UWUA on their NLRB ballots.

UWUA Sacts Meet Fizzles

Continued from Page 11:ing efforts by Local 1245 members. He pulled out in a hurry. Apparently it is going to take more than a carpet bag full of promises and lies about the IBEW and its officials to win the votes of PG&E employees.
Open Letter To UWUA Pres. Fisher

Sir:

Please note that we are addressing YOU, Mr. Fisher. For it is our feeling that the few members who cling to the UWUA do so out of a misplaced loyalty that is typical of good union men. We think you are doing those union members an injustice by the type of campaign you are conducting. What we have to say we want to say particularly to you or any of the other National officers who may have come out to California from that Eastern citadel of company unionism—The Brotherhood of Consolidated Edison Employees, UWUA.

Well, Mr. Fisher, since you have PERSONALLY taken charge of this campaign it has reached a plane that even your field representatives never stooped to during the year that they have been out here trying to undo the damage brought about by your high-handed policies and interference with autonomy. And by damage we mean the approximately 3500 out of 5000 employees who quit your union last fall in disgust and joined the IBEW.

VOTE WILL TELL STORY

We do not propose to base our campaign on personalities, Mr. Fisher. But we do reserve the right to criticize your policies. We do not think those policies have any place in the trade union movement. We will find out how right we are when the vote is in and counted.

Now, Mr. Fisher, since you have chosen to come out here from your Eastern headquarters to personally run this campaign, since you are calling the shots, and since you are the National president of the UWUA, you'll certainly have to receive whatever onus there is connected with what you are doing.

Since your arrival, Mr. Fisher, you have had several pamphlets issued. They contain some of the most lowdown propaganda we have ever seen in similar campaigns. Eighteen months ago on the big Pittsburgh, Pa., Duquesne Power & Light system similar campaign literature was handed out. The misstatements and lies you used in that campaign were checked by the NLRB, and found satisfactory. The IBEW had the right of reply. If you are talking about the IBEW that is another lie, Mr. Fisher. We're tagging YOU with the lie because no such reckless statements were made before you arrived from the East. You are in charge of the campaign—personally, Mr. Fisher.

For your information, Mr. Fisher—as if you didn't know—Ward, Bloomer and Hames are not members of the IBEW. Nor were they ever, now, or at any time in the past.

You know, too, that every official of IBEW Locals 1245 and 1324 have signed non-communist affidavits which were checked by the NLRB, and found satisfactory.

TRADE UNIONISM NEEDED

We of the IBEW feel that this campaign among the PG&E workers should be fought along traditional trade union lines. For in the final analysis, the PG&E employee is going to judge your organization by how good a trade union it is and not by how cleverly you lie about the issues or how you smear your opponents.

In fact, Mr. Fisher, the judging has already begun and it is not favorable to you. Our office has had scores of calls and many letters from your own Local Union officials deploring your taste of campaign literature. Though these people may feel honor-bound to stay in your camp for the time being they are going to cast their vote for the IBEW on election day. When the votes are in and counted and the IBEW emerges as the bargaining representative you may look back on the literature you caused to be distributed and find that the following items were the ones that helped most to discredit yourself and the organization you head:

1. An item intended to impinge the integrity and honesty of top IBEW officials. We know now, Mr. Fisher, that you must also have directed the attacks and smears during the past year against loyal PG&E employees who happen to be members or officials of IBEW Local 1324. Men who have the interest of the labor movement do not engage in such attacks, Mr. Fisher, and leave the smear business to such people as Westbrook Pegler and others who are out to discredit the union movement.

2. You have sought to also discredit the IBEW pension plan because in past campaigns which you have lost you know that the existence of that plan was one of the IBEW assets that contributed to such losses. That plan, which is optional, has been fully explained in our publications and meetings.

3. And then, Mr. Fisher, because the whole nation knows that the CIO is badly split right now because of a fight over Communism, you accuse the IBEW of Communism, because you were afraid we might use that fact against you. We would rather stick to the trade union issues, Mr. Fisher.

But we think when the president of a national union chooses to ignore traditional trade union issues, when he cannot make his fight on those issues, but has to stoop to mudslinging, misrepresentation and lying, then it is time that the worker with a vote to cast knows what sort of a union you are running.

You have no trade union issues, Mr. Fisher, on which you dare to base your campaign. The UWUA threw out the Communists, you said in your literature since you arrived here, and you mention former UWUA Joint Council Secretary Bloomer, and UWUA National Representatives Hames and Ward. You said that the IBEW gladly took them in. That is a lie, Mr. Fisher.

LIES AND SLANDER

You said "criminalism and communism now goes hand in hand." If you are talking about the IBEW that is another lie, Mr. Fisher. We're tagging YOU with the lie because no such reckless statements were made before you arrived from the East. You are in charge of the campaign—personally, Mr. Fisher.

For your information, Mr. Fisher—as if you didn't know—Ward, Bloomer and Hames are not members of the IBEW. Nor were they ever, now, or at any time in the past.

You know, too, that every official of IBEW Locals 1245 and 1324 have signed non-communist affidavits which were checked by the NLRB, and found satisfactory.

PUT UP OR SHUT UP

And the IBEW has a standing cash reward of $1000 for you or anyone else who can furnish satisfactory proof that any present member of Local 1324 is a Communist. Local 1245 will pay you another $1000 if you can prove a Communist is among their official family.

"Vote for a clean, honest, real American union . . . vote for the UWUA," you ask in one of your latest pamphlets.

Well, Mr. Fisher, if the unfair propaganda line you are putting out to the PG&E worker is in the American tradition of fair play, we'll give you our vote. If the lies you are distributing makes you and your ConED union clean, we'll campaign for you. And if you have an honest trade union program that is designed for negotiation and not just for propaganda purposes, we'll ask our brother to vote for you.

But even if you could fool us you couldn't fool the PG&E employee for it's his bread and butter you're fooling around with, not ours.