



Note UWUA Erosion--

Look at the map of the Pacific Coast on the right. Note the manner in which the fraction of UWUA representation is surrounded by the IBEW. Whether it be Washington, Oregon or California the story is the same. IBEW has been chosen by an overwhelming majority of utility workers as the collective bargaining representative.

From Southern California to the Canadian line the IBEW represents and has represented for several years approximately 31,000 coast utility employees. These employees will be found not only in the big metropolitan districts but in the rural areas as well.

The rural areas are the "cow counties" the UWUA National Treasurer spoke about when he was in California last Spring. He stated at that time that the IBEW represented only a few employees in the cow counties.

THE MAP

The map at the right indicates that the UWUA not only does not represent any utility workers in the cow counties but has very few indeed in the other counties.

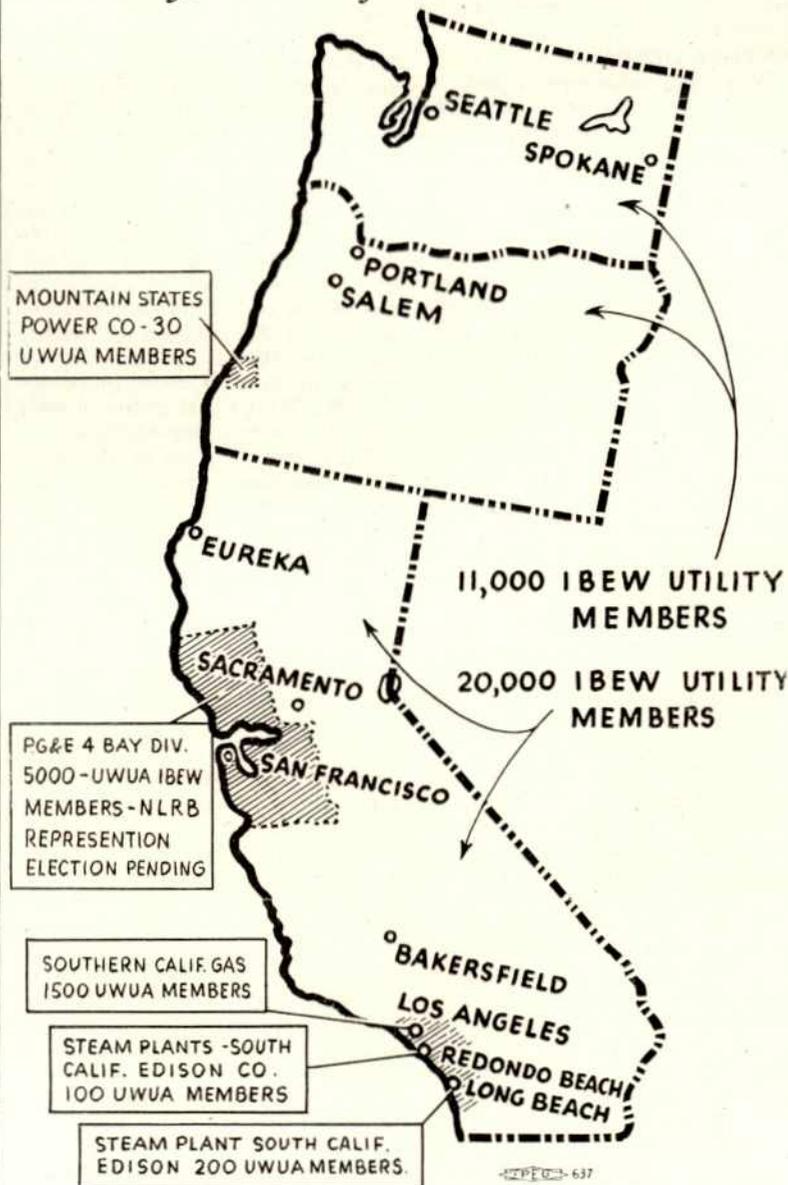
The 30 employees of the Mountain States Power Company of Coos Bay, Oregon, do not even represent one percent of the utility workers in that area. Whatever gains they have made recently were gotten on the basis of wages and conditions established on the system by the IBEW which represents the vast majority of Mountain States employees. Following long-standing IBEW policy, no effort will be made to organize those 30 workers into the IBEW unless they, themselves, indicate that they desire affiliation.

IBEW SETS PACE

The same IBEW policy makes it possible for the UWUA to hold bargaining rights for about 100 Redondo Beach and 300 Long Beach utility workers on the Southern California Edison System, although here again the IBEW bargains under an IBEW agreement for the big majority of system employees.

In both districts at negotiation

Birdseye View of UWUA in West



The map above shows only the utility workers represented by the IBEW on the Coast. In addition, the IBEW represents approximately 20,000 workers in radio, electronics, manufacturing and construction industries.

time the UWUA sits back on its haunches and waits for the IBEW to establish wage rates and conditions. The UWUA also represents 1500 gas department workers in the Los Angeles area.

In the San Francisco Bay area

where the UWUA claims to represent 5,000 employees under a quickie contract executed while an IBEW election petition was pending, the situation is somewhat different.

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Joint Unit Meetings

"At last some good solid progress is being made for bringing one organization on the PG&E and it looks like the IBEW is the logical union for accomplishing this task."

It is evident that thought was buzzing through the minds of a lot of UWUA "captives" as a result of recent developments.

The facts were that IBEW Local 1245, representing 7000 PG&E members in the eleven outlying divisions of the system which included the system's construction crews in all divisions, was this week participating 100% in the current organizational campaign of the IBEW.

This all-out participation represents the final phase of the "one organization—IBEW" drive. Local 1245 has been on record as strongly favoring one organization since the drives inception. Actual campaigning had been delayed only by the UWUA stalling of the NLRB hearings.

CONVERSATION

Wherever Local 1245 men met their fellow workers this week—and that was in every division of the PG&E system—they were not only letting their support of the One Organization slogan become known, but were telling of the many things the IBEW had done for them in recent years—evident from right here on the System of IBEW democracy, progress and service.

It was devotion to furthering of those tenets of IBEW policy that brought officials of the sister local to a recent meeting of Redwood City-San Mateo Unit No. 2, to tell about IBEW progress and benefits which have been brought to the IBEW members in the 11 outlying divisions. Because Local 1324 members realize that such visits are in addition to a heavy and regular schedule of night meetings they are appreciated.

Mason said that the current campaign had been a topic for discussion in all of their recent unit meetings, and that the members

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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.

50 Years a Member**I'VE BEEN A MEMBER
50 YEARS!**

Fifty years ago I was a young man with a purpose. That new experiment, electricity, had opened up a vast new field in what modern-day writers call "vocational education." Electricity and all its promise held a strange fascination for me, and my purpose was to become part of electricity—part of its growth and progress. I became an electrical worker and set out with all the inexperience and enthusiasm of youth to "light the world."

I had a rude awakening. The work was dangerous, very dangerous. It was strenuous, and low wages, long hours and unsafe working conditions were the order of the day. A fellow didn't have a chance in this new industry against the powerful employers who ruthlessly exploited his health and skill with utter disregard for him as a person.

And then I learned about a new organization of electrical workers, one that had been founded a few years before, the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, as it was called back in those days. I made inquiries. I asked a member of the organization what its objects were. He read them to me from their constitution:

"To organize all electrical workers into local unions, to develop and to maintain a higher standard of skill, to encourage the formation of schools of instruction for teaching the practical application of electricity and for trade education in general, to promote reasonable methods of work, to cultivate feelings of friendship among those of our craft, to settle all disputes between employers and employes by arbitration (if possible), to assist each other in sickness or distress, to secure employment, to reduce the hours of daily labor, to secure adequate pay for our work, and by legal and proper means to elevate the moral, intellectual and social conditions of our members, their families and dependents, in the interest of a higher standard of citizenship."

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**Who Won the
Dues Victory?**

By **MATT TOBRINER**
IBEW Attorney

IBEW has been successful in stopping the payment of deducted dues to UWUA from PG&E employees. This victory, recorded in a preliminary injunction signed by Judge Milton D. Sapiro on July 20, 1949, came only after the hard-fought efforts of IBEW attorneys who were opposed at every move by UWUA and PG&E.

Two suits were filed to stop the turning over of dues on checkoff to UWUA, one known as the Howard case and the other as the Thompson case.

MUTUAL DEFENSE

When the suits were heard, Attorneys Paul St. Sure for PG&E and Jay Darwin for UWUA joined in a mutual defense plea that the Superior Court could not hear the case. Mr. St. Sure argued for almost a day that the State courts had no "jurisdiction" of the matter and that the case should have been brought before the National Labor Relations Board. He made a learned argument to which the UWUA attorney added, "Me, too."

Upon the next day of hearing, the IBEW counsel showed the weakness of this defense. He pointed out that the Superior Court DID have the right to hear these cases and should decide them because there was no remedy before the Board. The Board could not give effective relief because it was months behind on its calendar, and, in any event, the Taft-Hartley Act did not intend to take away from the state courts the power to hear a question arising out of a contract such as a collective bargaining agreement.

TURNED DOWN

The court turned down the plea of the two counsels. It held it had jurisdiction of the case. It held the Taft-Hartley Act did not take away the right of the state court to decide this matter. It ordered that a preliminary injunction be issued. This injunction is an order of the court that dues not be deducted and turned over to UWUA from the paychecks of persons who had resigned from UWUA.

UWUA found itself in the silly position that it was claiming that it could have dues from people who were not even its members. Of course, such a claim was unsupported, and the court told UWUA in no uncertain terms that it could not exact and force from employees money for itself when those employees did not want to support UWUA.

And the court not only issued an injunction in the Thompson case but held the Howard case for trial in the future.

So UWUA is tied up in two knots. An injunction has been is-

**Note UWUA
Erosion—**

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The very fact that the UWUA holds the contractual strings for such a sizeable group influences PG&E negotiations. With two unions to deal with the company it is able to play one against the other. This is understandable. Only the pressure of gains made by the IBEW elsewhere on the coast has enabled negotiators to do as well as they have in recent years.

The logic of one organization for the PG&E system—IBEW, has already eroded the UWUA Bay Division island so badly that only the formality of an NLRB election is needed to eliminate it entirely.

The "island" is being interlaced by that erosion this week. Not only the Local 1324 IBEW members in the area, but the crews of IBEW Local 1245 who work throughout the area were this week enthusiastically bringing the advantages of one organization home to the undecided and confused UWUA captives. Those advantages included: autonomy over the conduct of the affairs of their union, progressiveness, a fine pension and insurance plan that is optional, service to the member, transfer privileges to every West Coast utility, a solid front in contract negotiations.

Take another look at the map. The experience gained by the IBEW in the servicing of the 31,000 members shown thereon is available to the UWUA captives in the bay divisions. That experience and service, to cover so many employees in such a vast territory, must be good medicine.

Certainly it is better medicine than anything the UWUA is offering or can hope to offer.

sued in one case and it is held for trial in another.

THE CARDS

The Thompson injunction runs in favor of those people who have withdrawn from UWUA before February 21, 1949. To find out who had withdrawn, the judge proposed that he send out cards to PG&E employees asking them whether or not they had withdrawn. When this was proposed, UWUA cried to high heaven that it was unfair, but their falsetto protests did not stop the judge from carrying out his order. As a result, hundreds of employees stated they had withdrawn from UWUA. Today their dues are NOT being turned over to the company but are being held under the preliminary injunction. When the case goes to trial in the next few months the deducted dues will be returned to them if UWUA cannot show that their statements were false.

CAPTIVES

The Howard case will also go to trial, and if the court holds

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The Mail Bag

Mr. William Haars, Chairman
Local 1324, Unit 7, IBEW
Oakland, California.

Dear Sir and Brother:

In reply to your letter of August 9th in which you extended to myself and the membership of Local 1245 an invitation to attend your meetings, I want at this time to assure you that we of 1245 are solidly behind you in your organizational campaign and I will be more than glad to attend your meeting in the Oakland area if I can work out a schedule so I could bring with me some of the assistant business managers and officers of our local.

We have been rightfully proud of our organization and the method by which it has served the membership and I think if we are able to impart this information to some of your prospective members in your area they will readily realize the benefits of coming into the IBEW and that the possibility of achieving all of their desires from the union standpoint will take definite shape by being one organization on the entire property.

Fraternally yours,
CHARLES W. MASON,
Business Manager.

**Joint Unit
Meetings**

(Continued from Page 1)

we are glad that an opportunity was now at hand for eliminating the UWUA PG&E island, and had expressed their desire for doing whatever they could to augment the information and educational campaign being conducted in the four Bay divisions by Local 1324.

On August 11 William Haars, chairman of Oakland Unit 7, Local 1324, got a Mason reply to his recent bid for a joint meeting, and schedules of all IBEW officials are being studied so that such a meeting may be held in the near future.

Other arrangements are progressing for joint meetings in Santa Rosa and San Francisco.

IBEW Rep. Merritt Snyder will be in Santa Rosa August 23 for the joint meeting scheduled there. Snyder was in receipt of a Mason communication recently in which he struck out at UWUA rumors that the 1245 action was in the nature of a gesture only.

"I think you know, and are aware of the fact," Mason wrote, "that Local 1245 is more than mildly interested in this present campaign to put the IBEW on the entire PG&E system and the staff, and the 7000 members of our organization are solidly behind your present campaign to take over the four bay divisions. Feel free to call upon us in any way you deem advisable."

IBEW a Prop Under AFL's Taft-Hartley Repeal Plans for 1950

The IBEW is extending its full support to the AFL's Political and Educational League which has the task of rallying the workers to the polls next year for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act. Joe Keenan, recording secretary of Local 134 (IBEW) of Chicago, and secretary of the Chicago Building Trades Council, is the director of Labor's League for Political Education.

At a recent caucus of LLPE delegates from all over the nation held in Washington, D. C., a program

for 1950 Taft-Hartley repeal was drawn.

Since the raising of funds to finance activities was considered a most important first step, the program already in force in California through the efforts of the State Federation of Labor (AFL) was adopted. This calls for a voluntary contribution by each AFL union member of five cents per capita per month, two cents to go to the local LLPE and three cents to go to the State League for use in

areas where special effort is needed to attain political objectives.

EDUCATION

Most of this money will be spent in educating the voters about the qualifications and voting records of all prospective candidates.

The balance will be spent to advise the members and the general public about the unfairness and viciousness of the Taft-Hartley act itself.

It was agreed at the caucus that no political candidate will get a blank check because he happens to

belong to a particular party. For LLPE backing the sole consideration will be how the candidate will vote on repeal of the Taft-Hartley act and other measures which labor is interested in.

The league will go into the primaries with their support for good, friendly candidates.

Prime target for defeat in 1950 in addition to all congressmen who voted for Taft-Hartley continuance at the last session, will be Senator Taft.

Compare These S.F. IBEW Rates With Yours

Following are some of the wage scales for various classifications of Local 6 (San Francisco) IBEW members employed by the City. They went into effect July 1, 1949. They were based on rates paid to IBEW members for similar work in other localities.

If, in the comparison, your own rate of pay falls short, blame the fact that the existence of two organizations on the PG&E at bargaining time has in the past made it difficult to gain objectives which were in force in contracts elsewhere on the West Coast:

Classification	Wage Rate Per Day
Armature Winder	\$16.00
Armature Winder Foreman	18.40
Power House Electrician	20.00
Power House Electrician Foreman	22.50
Electrician and Wireman	20.00
Electrician Foreman	22.50
Electrician General Foreman	25.00
Cable Splicer	22.80
Lineman Helper and Groundman	14.80
Lineman	20.00
Lineman Foreman	22.50
Lineman General Foreman	25.00
Junior Electrician Railway Shop Mechanic	12.80
Senior Electrician Railway Shop Mechanic	16.00
E.R.S.M. Sub Foreman	16.75
E.R.S.M. Foreman	18.40
E.R.S.M. General Foreman	19.00
Electric Arc Welders (shop welders)	16.75

All per diem rates are based on bona fide collective bargaining agreements with private employers in accordance with Section 151 of the City Charter, a section proposed and supported by the AFL unions of San Francisco three years ago.

Everything that has been established for these classifications is the result of the untiring efforts of IBEW Local 6 backed up by the AFL labor movement of San Francisco.

Classification	Monthly Salaries	Maximum Rate Per Month
Fire Dispatchers		\$330
Fire Dispatchers		400
Governor Man (assistant power house operator)		290
Power House Operator		350
Senior Power House Operator		400
Superintendent Power House (chief operator)		500

50 YEARS A MEMBER

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Well, sir, that sounded pretty good to me and I joined, more than half a century ago and I found out almost at once and I have continued to find out in all the long years between, that one man alone can do little, but men banded together, with one mind and purpose, can stand against any obstacles the world has to offer.

Through my union, I received better pay, shorter hours, safe working conditions, a yearly vacation, sick leave, security for myself and my family.

And when I became too old to work, my union pensioned me — \$52.50 a month for life. This with what I've saved and my social security benefits, enables me to continue to live as I've lived all my life, as no burden to anyone.

Yes, my union has meant a lot to me, not only in material values received but in the associations, the ties built up through the years. Men do not stay in an organization 30, 40 and 50 years unless there is something genuine and fine to hold them. The friendship, the comradeship, the joy and tears mean something to men who pioneer a cause.

I've been a member of the I. B. E. W. for 50 years. It's part of me!

Flanagan Urges Political Action

Dan Flanagan, above, American Federation of Labor West Coast representative of AFL President William Green, told a well attended meeting of the Contra Costa Central Labor Council last week



DAN FLANAGAN

that the Taft-Hartley law was a classical example of what can happen to labor when it stays out of politics.

He urged that all workers gird now for the 1949 election campaign to aid in turning out of office every unfriendly representative. Failure to get into politics may result in labor being legislated out of existence by a single law.

That law is already on the law books, he said in the form of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Martinez Unit 1 of Local 1324 IBEW is affiliated with the Contra Costa Central Labor Council. Gene Hastings is the Unit 1 delegate.

Hastings reports that Flanagan was present at the meeting to install Council President Hugh Caudel and Secretary Freda Roberts, who were re-elected.

A ONE-MAN JOB

"What are you doing?" demanded the foreman of a construction gang sternly of an alleged worker. "Nothing," was the reply.

"Well, there is no use both of us doing the same thing. You get busy and do something."

The average speed of the bowling ball traveling down the alley is about 30 miles an hour.

Who Won the Dues Victory?

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the contract was terminated all dues will be returned to ALL employees.

Because it has attempted to collect dues for its own selfish purposes from persons whom it has held members like prisoners, the UWUA finds itself in a legal bind. It forced these suits upon itself and it lost them both.

To try to fool its own membership, UWUA has deliberately beclouded the issue by entitling a confused article in Light's July-August issue "PG&E Locals Win Court Test." But not much light reaches into the article. UWUA seems to say that because an injunction was issued against it and because it is tied into knots by IBEW's legal order, UWUA won a victory. IBEW asked for the order; it got the order; the order ran against UWUA; the judge knocked down all the legal arguments raised by UWUA and it is UWUA money that is tied up.

Who won the victory?

NOTICE

Don't forget the special meeting of Local 1324 August 29 in Oakland.

A Scot was engaged in an argument with a conductor as to whether the fare was 25 cents or 30 cents. Finally the disgusted conductor picked up the Scot's suitcase and tossed it off the train just as they passed over a bridge.

"Mon!" screamed the Scot. "It isn't enough to try to overcharge me, but now you try to drown my little boy!"

* * *

The colored soldier had been peeling potatoes until his hands ached. Turning to a fellow K. P. he said: "What dat sargeant mean when he cal dis K. P.?"

"Ah, dunno," replied his co-worker, "but from de look on his face, Ah thinks he meant 'Keep Peelin'."

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Oakland Unit 7

Members of Unit No. 7, at our meeting Aug. 3, welcomed the offer of our sister Local No. 1245 to assist in our efforts to put one organization—the IBEW—on the PG&E System. We believe that the whole-hearted support that Local No. 1245 is giving Local 1324 should dispel any notion of a 'cold war' existing between the two locals.

Reports have reached us of intimidation by UWUA officials of employees who have signed up with the IBEW. After the election has been held and the votes counted the UWUA will have realized that these and other tactics of the UWUA leadership didn't pay off.

Another subject we hear a great deal about is loyalty to the UWUA. The UWUA leadership would have the membership believe that because he is stuck with the payment of dues through the check-off to the UWUA he is duty-bound to remain loyal to that union. As time goes on a larger and larger number of employees are realizing that as American citizens they have a right to change their union affiliation and are signing check-off revocation cards. The obligation which members of UWUA locals took was to a union with certain avowed principles. When that union became dominated by the Consolidated Edison Union in the East and hand-picked representatives, by the President of that organization, completely changed the policies of the Union on the PG&E System, then, the course of free people became clear.

We of Unit No. 7, Oakland, are certain the apparent strength of UWUA in this area will not be reflected by votes for that union in the election.

ED WHITE,
Member Unit 7, IBEW

Richmond Unit 6

The attendance at our last meeting, though not too large, was ample proof that the campaign for one organization on the PG&E system is jelling rapidly and the cooperation of Local Union 1245 has brought new faces out to get the facts. Our meetings are run on a strict businesslike basis to give the information to the members as to the progress of their campaign and get them home as quickly as possible.

The members are showing a keen interest in the broad economic program that has been presented by Local Union 1324's Executive Board. We feel that this program is a step in the right direction for the betterment of all PG&E employees and it was voted unanimously to concur in the action of the Board.

Representative Drew reported on the progress of all phases of the campaign and then in turn asked for reports from the membership. Many interesting facts were

brought out and discussed. At the hour of 10:00 the meeting adjourned.

Respectively,
E. A. ANDERSON,
Recording Secretary.

* * *

Ukiah Unit No. 5

At our meeting August 10 the important business passed on was the Economic Program of the Union, as recommended by Local No. 1324 Executive Board, and voting to send a letter of appreciation to our sister local 1245, IBEW, for their offer to assist in our drive to put one organization on the PG&E system.

Eros. Drew and White were in attendance to explain points in the Union's Economic Program and to report on organizing activity of the Union in other sections of the four Bay Area Divisions.

In this area we fully realize the need for many points of the Economic Program being written into a contract. We are hopeful that the election will be called soon for we are sure that the results will spell unity which will put us in a bargaining position to discuss these points with the company across the conference table.

The UWUA, conspicuous by its absence in past years, is now coming around. We think it is a little late, however, for their representatives from the East to try to show any real interest in us now.

WILLIE F. TOWE,
Chairman, Unit 5

* * *

Redwood Unit No. 2

Unit No. 2 held its regular meeting on Aug. 8, 1949 at 8 p.m. Bro. Lou Musante was elected chairman pro tem in the absence of Bro. Mert Walters who is on vacation. Bro. Musante deserves credit for handling the meeting in a very capable manner. Bus. Mgr. C. W. Mason of L. U. 1245 IBEW attended this meeting in response to an invitation from Unit No. 2 a short time ago. Also in attendance were Assistant Business Managers Kelly and Smith from the same local. L. U. 1245 representatives gave a very interesting talk on organizational work done by the IBEW in those divisions now under the jurisdiction of L. U. No. 1245.

They pointed out some of the conditions that had been prevalent on the PG&E System prior to union organizational activities and of the gains made since that time relative to hours, wages and conditions. All of these gains have been extremely beneficial to the PGE workers. Unit No. 2 members were told by the representatives of L. U. No. 1245 that they and their entire membership of 7000 were solidly behind L. U. 1324 in its fight against the UWUA and have instructed all their units to assist in every possible way in order to put one organization, the IBEW, on the system. Local 1245 representatives were then excused after having

been thanked by Unit No. 2 membership for their support.

A report was given by International Representative Snyder concerning the present status of the IBEW campaign and of the progress being made.

A general discussion ensued relative to the economic program as proposed by all units and of a special meeting to be held on Aug. 29 for further detailed discussion of this program. Further discussion will be held by Unit No. 2 at its next meeting on Aug. 22 and plans made to send a large delegation to the special meeting. Organizational work is still going on in this area and good results are being obtained. Everybody down this way is anxious to have the election as soon as possible in order to put "one organization on the system."

Don't forget your next meeting—A MUST.

Fraternally,
RUSSEL PLACE,
Secretary, Unit No. 2.

* * *

San Francisco Unit 3

Unit 3's executive committee instructed Bro. Bill Kennedy to send letters to all shop stewards, contact men and Unit 3 officers concerning all future Executive Committee meetings. It was felt this action would help enlarge attendance at the fall meetings which in turn would step up our organizational efforts. It would also keep these people more closely informed on day to day progress which they could pass on to their co-workers on the job.

All members of Unit 3 are urged to attend the Local 1324 special meeting of committees from all units to be held in Oakland at 1918 Grove street on Monday, August 29 at 8 p.m. Make plans now to attend this important meeting. Don't forget the date. Every effort is being made to have full representation at this meeting.

Announcement of this important meeting was received through a letter from Lester Glasson, Local 1324's President. Many important and vital matters of interest to PG&E workers will be taken up.

The 18-point economic and social welfare program which was adopted recently by our membership, will be discussed. As the program stands at present, only the highlights of the 18 points have been outlined and one of the tasks will be to gather ideas and information for broadening and detailing each of these.

Ways and means of increasing our membership among PG&E workers is on the agenda. We urge

you to attend and present your ideas. Don't think that what you have to offer is unimportant. We need the participation and ideas of everyone.

Another especially important subject for discussion will be plans to coordinate joint efforts between Local 1324 and Local 1245. Joint meetings between the two locals will be arranged. This is a pressing need at the present time in order to bind the membership of both locals on a more unified fraternal basis.

Please keep this meeting in mind Brothers. Be sure to attend!

Now that most PG&E workers who had wanted to get off the UWUA dues check-off have had that opportunity due to the June 30th expiration date, a number of them have joined our IBEW unit. We are very glad to have them with us. They explained that they had wanted to join us sooner but had been compelled to put it off because they couldn't afford to pay dues to two unions at the same time. We are making every effort to contact all PG&E workers who dropped out of the UWUA. We must convince them that the IBEW is the union which will most effectively represent their interests and protect their jobs. This is a job all of us must do. If any of your co-workers have left UWUA—be sure to talk to them—ask them to attend our meetings—get them to sign a membership card in the IBEW.

—Unit 3's Publicity Committee.

GRIN AND GROAN

The sweet young thing turned to a young man from the office who was showing her through the plant, and, pointing, asked, "What's that big thing over there?"

"That's the locomotive boiler," the young man replied.

She puckered her brows, "And what do they boil locomotives for?"

"To make the locomotives tender," and the young man from the office never batted an eyelash.

* * *

A general and a colonel were walking down the street. They met many privates, and each time the colonel would salute he would mutter, "The same to you."

The general's curiosity was soon aroused and he asked, "Why do you always say that when you salute a private?"

The colonel answered, "I was once a private and I know what they are thinking."

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