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\$1.20 a Year

The 'Pen' Is Sentenced to Death

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECREES AUGUST ISSUE WILL BE THE FINAL EDITION

The Executive Board of the Illinois Union of Telephone Workers recently voted that after the August 1947 issue, the PEN shall discontinue to exist.

This action is expected (Editor's opinion) to raise a huge cry of protest throughout the union membership. Especially in suburban and downstate members, a majority of whom have only the union newspaper as a means of following their union's functions, are expected to protest discontinuation of the PEN. It is presumed that a desire to cut expense was the reason for the Executive Board action. To date the Editor has been given no reason for the decision and for that reason the members also must assume that financial arrangements of the new IBEW Local do not allow for further issues of the PEN.

Since the Editor has been given no reasons for discontinuing the PEN he believes it is his duty to acquaint the members with the financial status of the PEN. The PEN budget is created by deducting 60¢ from the yearly dues of each member. Under present membership records that

The Editor is well aware that many union members do not read the PEN. Many more do not agree with the policy of the PEN. However, there are hundreds who appreciate the opportunity of receiving a monthly report of their union's activities and news items from other labor fronts. At a cost of 5¢ per member a month this information is undoubtedly well worth the cost. It is the Editor's opinion that this cost could be cut to 4¢ per month per member. It is inconceivable that this amount should worry the presidents of the new IBEW locals.

Congressmen's Blind Spot

It seems that Congressmen don't think there is any danger of Fascism in America.

After weeks of prodding by Rep. Patman (D, Texas), the House Administration Committee will meet June 3 to hear the Congressman tell why it should authorize publication of the report on Fascism prepared by the Library of Congress at Patman's request.

After sitting on this report for several weeks a subcommittee had reported out the document without any recommendation. Rep. John McDowell (R, Pa.) and Rep. Richard Vail (R, Ill.) of the subcommittee on Fascism of the House un-American Activities Committee this week said that although they had given little study to Fascism, they saw no danger of it in the U. S.

Company Adds to High Cost of Living by Raising Prices in Cafeterias

In the so-called "not for profit" Company operated cafeterias the prices for food have been steadily raised.

The latest instance is the increase of a half pint bottle of milk from 8 cents to 10 cents, an increase of 25 per cent.

According to a famous Company statement to wit, "A simple arithmetical calculation," this brings the price of milk to \$1.60 a gallon!

Using the same formula, a pound of butter at two cents a pat brings in another \$1.60 using the standard restaurant cut of 80 pats to the pound.

Reservations for 1947 Convention Cancelled

The 1947 IUTW Convention was to have been held during October at the Bismark Hotel in Chicago. The recent IBEW affiliation and dissolution of the IUTW made it necessary to cancel convention arrangements. All deposits have been refunded and the Convention Committee dismissed.

TELEPHONE COMPANY'S INITIAL WAGE OFFER IS REJECTED AS INADEQUATE

The first counter-proposal offered the Joint Board of Telephone Locals, IBEW, by the Illinois-Bell Telephone Company was forth coming on Friday, June 20, 1947. All members have been chief-concerned with the sort of wage offer the company might make. The wage offer has been deemed highly inadequate by Joint Board.

There is no need to inform members that the company's first offer was expected to be below demands and below the price which will finally be secured to. Negotiations are progressing with daily meetings of the Bargaining Committee of the Joint Board of Telephone Locals and Company representatives. Union representatives are determined to negotiate contract which all Plant telephone Union members will be proud of the final fruits of their efforts.

It is impossible to name the date on which a contract will be ready for membership vote. Bargaining unforeseen difficulties, however, the business should be completed within two weeks. There are many items to be bargained besides wage increases. Other items also mean money to many employees, such as, wage progression, reclassification, retro-active dates, etc.

Bargaining a contract is no small problem and union members are asked to be patient. Your Joint Board is working diligently on the problem and you will all be proud of the final fruits of their efforts.

Affiliation Completed

July 1, 1947, was the date established for the newly formed I.B.E.W. (A.F. of L.) Locals to begin functioning. The Joint Board, which is made up of the Presidents of the various telephone locals, began functioning on the same date.

Charters authorizing operations have been received in the International Office. The following numbers have been assigned to the various locals.

IUTW LOCAL NO.	IBEW LOCAL NO.
1	BA315
2	BA371
3	BA381
4	BA368
5	BA336
6	BA399

In addition to the above is Local 134 which brings to the number of locals in this telephone unit. A representative of Local 134 plus the presidents of the six locals above shall make up the Joint Board.

The following active membership tabulation of June 947, will be used to establish a basis for division of the assets on a per capita basis among the six newly formed locals.

Local	Members
1	778
2	1517
3	1075
4	661
5	1502
6	1379

Petitions on NLRB Violations Are Increasing

Union officers are being petitioned to turn in any Pioneer on Pensions they may be forwarding to the Theological Chapter—Telephone Workers of America. The company warns that the petitions be turned in immediately. Purpose of the petitions start a movement among pioneers to attempt to increase Telephone employees' increased pensions are of great interest to pioneers they are all telephone employees with long service records. A great many of them are AT&T stockholders and are able to cast a vote in increased pensions.

New Contract Patterns (Taken from Midwest Labor Digest)

New trends in collective bargaining are to be found in many recent contracts negotiated recently by AFL, CIO and unaffiliated unions. There is an increased emphasis upon such types of benefits as:

Retirement Programs: Increasing in number are contracts that include contributory and non-contributory pension systems providing retirement benefits to supplement Federal Old Age Security.

Rest Periods: More union pacts provide for stated rest periods during the first and second halves of the work day.

Vacations With Pay: One week pay for one year of employment. Two weeks with pay for workers with five years of service. These are the most frequent vacation clauses. In some cases workers have obtained three weeks vacations for 10 years of employment while in other cases the five year period for two weeks vacations has been reduced to three years.

Holidays: Almost all current contracts now provide for from five to seven paid holidays. "Health Clauses: There is increased attention being paid to "security" provisions with Hospital and Surgical benefits being provided for families and dependents. For example, New York restaurants are now being provided with Life Insurance, Hospitalization, Weekly Accident and Sick Benefits plus Special Medical Service.

IBEW Telephone Locals will recognize that they enjoy most of these contract improvements at the present time. Some further advantages are yet desired but there is every indication that labor-management contracts throughout the country are being negotiated with an eye to the comfort and health of union members in ever increasing numbers.

Mr. Mitchell Home From Hospital Stay

Mr. C. E. Mitchell, who all remember as the man who was a most capable leader, as President of the Illinois Union of Telephone Workers, recently returned home from a short stay in Alexian Brothers Hospital.

Mr. Mitchell entered the hospital for observation and a complete check up. Possibly his condition was not the best due to the strain of efforts expended as Union President. During the past few months especially, his work has been greatly increased due to the IBEW affiliation.

Doctors have ordered Mr. Mitchell to take a rest from union and telephone duties. All union members join in hoping Mr. Mitchell enjoys a rapid and complete recovery of his health.

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