

ACC CEB/16/2

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POLICY
FEB. - MAY 1944

A.A.I.
CENTRAL ELECTRICAL BOARD
APO 400

REF: CEB/13/1

31 May 1944

SUBJECT:- Minutes of C.E.B. Meetings.

TO:- CE HQ AAI.

1. Ref your 2550/3/RE dated 29 May 44, para 3.
2. Enclosed herewith please find draft copy of the minutes of the Sixth meeting of the Central Electrical Board for approval by the Chairman. After approval, may the draft please be endorsed and returned to this office for necessary distribution to be made.

JAMES P. CROWDON,
COLONEL CE,
Vice Chairman, AAI - C.E.B.

SUBJECT:- Central Electrical Board Procedure

The Vice Chairman,
C.E.B.

Headquarters,
A. A. I.

2550/3/RE

29 May 1944

The following instructions are issued with a view to standardising the procedure of the Board.

1. The prior approval of the Chairman is necessary before a meeting of the Board is called.
2. A copy of the Agenda for the meeting will be sent to all members so as to reach them not less than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting. This is essential to enable members to ascertain the extent to which the agencies they represent can be committed to new projects.
3. Minutes of all meetings will be approved by the Chairman and issued to members as promptly as possible.
4. The allocation of work will be dealt with as follows :
 - (a) On receipt of the minutes, members are expected to initiate executive action through Staff or Command Channels without any further action by the Board, informing the Board of any difficulties.
 - (b) To enable the board's intentions to be transmitted in detail, the Vice Chairman will send to members of the Board concerned, a technical directive in sufficient detail to enable engineer instructions to be prepared. These will be addressed to Heads of Services represented on the Board and will form the basis of their action through Engineer channels.

Copy to: D. Wks, A. A. I.

The Engineer, P.B.S.

HQ, A.C.C. Public Works and Utilities
Sub Commission.

Major General,
Chief Engineer.

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A. A. I.

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The Engineer, P.B.S.
HQ, A.C.C. Public Works and Utilities
Sub Commission.

Major General,
Chief Engineer.

30/5/44

100

RESTRICTED.

URGENT

Subject :- Labour Disputes - Electric Power Companies.

Headquarters,
Allied Armies in Italy,
(Administrative Section).
C.M.F.

2059/5/22.

4 Apr. 44.

Chief Commissioner,
Allied Control Commission.

With reference to discussions which have taken place between us on this subject, the general question of pay and conditions of work for civil labour is being discussed at a meeting of the Labour Committee of the Local Resources Board today.

The question of the Electric Power Companies is so serious that I suggest it merits special discussion. I should be grateful if you would agree to attend or to be represented at a special meeting of the Local Resources Board. I shall be glad to know whether 1100 hours on Thursday, 6th April would be convenient to you. The points which I think we might discuss at this meeting are the following :-

- (a) Pay and feeding of employees of Electric Power Companies.
- (b) Control of the operation of Electric Power Companies.
- (c) Provision of staff for Central Electrical Board.

In addition to yourself or your representative, you would, no doubt, like to have at this meeting those officers on your staff who are particularly concerned in the above subjects. **182**

The meeting will also be able to consider the recommendations of the Labour Committee on the general question referred to in para 1 above.

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The meeting will also be able to consider the recommendations of the Labour Committee on the General question referred to in para 1 above.

BHR/cmb.

SD: B. H. ROBERTSON

Major-General,
Chief Administrative Officer,

Copies to:- Chief Engineer, A.A.I.
Vice Chairman, Central Electrical Board. -
D/S.A.O.
Local Resources Section.

*Note Meeting changed to Monday 10 April 1944
Drafts from Col. Fulton - 5 April 1944*

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COPYSUBJECT: - Electricity SupplyAFHQ ADV ADM ECHOLON
G.M.F.59/8/02.21 Feb 44.

To: - Allied Control Commission.
 No 2 District.
 No 3 District.
 CG, Peninsular Base Section.

1. The ACMF Central Electrical Board was set up in this IM Administrative Instruction No 27 dated 8 Feb. 44, and it has now been agreed that it is desirable to restrict the number of people and organizations having direct dealings with the Societa Meridionale di Elettricità.

2. In future therefore, direct contact with SME will only be made with the prior approval of the board, except in those cases covered by para 6 (b) of Adm Inst. No. 27.

3. In these cases, an Officer will be appointed to deal directly with the SME, wherever such direct contact is necessary.

(sgd) W.T. RITCHIE,
 for Major General
 Deputy Chief Administrative Officer.

Copy to : - G-4
 ACMF CMB
 DDW

(2)

A.A.I.
CENTRAL ELECTRICAL BOARD
A.P.O. 400.

Ref: CEB/16/2

2 April 1944.

SUBJECT:- Policy.

TO:- Chief Engineer, HQ A.A.I.

(2A)

1. Enclosed for your information please find copy of letter dated 30 Mar 44 from Lt-Col. Ch. POLETTI, Regional Commissioner, to the S.M.E.

2. Also enclosed are two copy translations from the Italian newspaper, "L'Unità" which express the current opinion with respect to the electric power situation due to the confused policy at present obtaining, and which, in my opinion, will grow worse unless this policy is amended.

JAMES P. GROWDON,
COLONEL CE,
Vice Chairman, AAI - C.E.B.

Copies of Encls. (2D) + (2B) also forwarded.

TRANSLATION LS/BDF

(2A)

March 30th 1944

TO : S.M.E.

TO : Gen. Confederation of Labour

Following articles set forth our agreement of this morning:

- 1) The sums of money advanced until now to the workmen by supplying foodstuffs to them shall not be reimbursed to the Company till further orders.
- 2) The Company will grant a two thousand lire loan to each workman. The Company will supply foodstuffs to its dependents up to the said amount, at any time within the period from April 1st to May 31st inst. These sums shall not be reimbursed to the Company till further orders.
- 3) No further loan, money advance or credit of any kind shall be granted. The foregoing agreement for an advance of 1.000 L. to married men and of 500 L. to unmarried ones to draw foodstuffs through the Cooperative is rescinded.
- 4) Any strike or stoppage whatever in work is forbidden.

Sign.: Ch. Poletti

Lt. Colonel

Regional Commissioner

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Lt. Colonel

Regional Commissioner

2B

Translated from the newspaper "L'Unità" of March 26.1944

S.M.E. TEACHING

In spite of the agitation which has been reigning for a long time among the S.M.E. dependents, the Management of the Company had, so far, refused to grant the requested adjustment of salaries and wages. In order to make the representatives of the stock holders change

their minds the workmen had to make them feel how strong and united they are stopping, all together, their work.

So they have, at last, obtained:

- 1) The delay until the end of the war of the reimbursement of the sums they owe the Company for the foodstuffs distributed by the latter in November 1944.
- 2) A foodstuffs allotment to equal 2000 Lire in value, in order to improve the present unbearable situation.
- 3) That the necessity of adjusting the salaries and wages has been taken into consideration. Said adjustment will be discussed at once.

The S.M.E. agitation evidences the truth of what we always stood for:

The workmen want to work, they are willing to share with all their energies in the war effort, they ask therefore to be given the possibility to work and to contribute to that effort. Now, very often, the present standard of the wages makes it sheer impossible for the workmen to restore their physical strength abated by the working effort. The standard of the pay has therefore to be raised, if ~~we~~¹⁷⁸ not want similar agitations to spread all over the country, which would certainly

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We must cut the nails of the "sharks" who are only eager to profit on their own account and ^{are} fully indifferent to the interests of the Country.

All this calls again for the solution of those serious political problems that are:

The clearing of the ranks of industry of those fascists still holding leading situations and jeopardizing the efficiency of the

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industry itself; to start the production again for a larger contribution to the war side by side with the Allied Forces; the reorganisation of the Country on the basis of new, true anti-fascist principles.

Translation: LS/BDF

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(2C)

WHY DO WE LACK ELECTRIC POWER ?

Life in Naples becomes more and more difficult every day, the population has to undergo the hardest sacrifices. This town, inhabited by more than one million people badly needs to go back to normal life again.

That of transportation is one of the heaviest problems - the lack of means of conveyance is a great hindrance to the supply of foodstuffs to the town and helps the black market to bloom.

And transportation is scarce because of the lack of electric power.

Technicians and qualified people tell us that many suburban tramway lines could be run again, in spite of the intense traffic to and from the front, if only electric power could be supplied for them.

Therefore: transportation, normality in trade, the starting again of the work in many industries and the consequential re-employment of much labour - in one word the whole life of the town going back to normality - all depends, to a great extent on an increase of the available amounts of electric power.

Power is wanting because the "Vulturno" Co is not working at all at present, as a consequence of the destruction of some of its generating stations.

Why the Vulturno has not yet tried to rebuild its plants ?

The reasons that account for that are not merely technical ones: many workmen comrades assure us that the production of power could already have been much greater than it is now - had the Vulturno also availed itself of mere emergency means. On the other side - and though we are no technical people - we judge that the Vulturno managers could have done something more during the last 6 months if only they had earnestly taken care of the interest of their concern.

On the contrary nothing has been done, and this for another reason: the state of "Vulturno" business

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On the contrary nothing has been done, and this for another reason: the financial groups want the state of "Voluturno" business to become even worse than it is now.

The private power Companies are given now too good a chance, for them to miss it, to lay hands, at a very moderate-price, on this electrical Company which can well compete with them and, however, damage the interests of the S.M.E. stock holders.

But these latter should not presume too much; the Voluturno Workmen Commission are already active; they will prevent this industry from being taken over by the private industry. They will stop any kind of sabotage; by their work they will make it possible for the "Voluturno" to start its full activity again.

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The political parties - first of all our party - will support by all means the work of these Commissions. The Volturno Co. must start again and as soon as possible its production of electric power - which is indispensable.

Translated from the newspaper "L'Unità" of March 26, 1944.

LS/BDF

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THE SLIP-KNOT

(25)

A Law passed in 1906, in the frame of the program for industrial development of Naples, and with the definite aim to speed up the increase of small artisan industries by keeping down the price of electric power, gave birth the the Ente Autonomo Volturno, with capitals supplied by the "Cassa Depositi e Prestiti" (a governmental financial office) on the warranty of the Municipality, and with the concession of perpetual free use of the River Volturno's waters.

Operation began in 1906 and answered honourably to the expectations of public utility which were in program : it is realised indeed that - precisely for its braking effect on the capitalistic competition - the price of energy in Naples was lower than that in any other district.

But the fascist regimen - through the action of a Prefect obviously in the hands of a capitalistic band - lost no time in tying a slip knot intended to paralyze and suffocate the development, the activity and the convention, requested by S.M.E. and inflicted to E.A.V., by which a common tariff was introduced for any power supply.

It will be easily appreciated how, by this brigand act, the development of E.A.V. came to a stand still , as they didn't have any reserve maney on account of their being devoid of any speculative im, whereas the capitalistic companies grew prosperous.

As if that weren't enough, E.A.V. was conferred the operation of the " Azienda Tranvieria del Comune di Napoli" (Naples Municipal Tramways) which alone brought about a loss of as much as 80 million lire in threese years.

And it will be necessary to remark how a great part of the enormous loss of the Tramways was due to the fact that in this branch very many people who were considered " well deserving" for fascist activities had found comfortable refuge, such as employees ~~174~~ without

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And it will be necessary to remark how a great part of the enormous loss of the Tramways was due to the fact that in this branch very many people who were considered "well deserving" for fascist activities had found comfortable refuge, such as employees without any duty and handsomely paid in their homes.

To day the circle is closed and S.M.E. think that time is ripe for a complete absorption of E.A.V. who, after the destruction of Colli Volturno power stations, is reduced to retail the power obtained from S.M.E.

Be it known that an action is being performed, by which 60% of E.A.V.'s staff will be dismissed: threehundred families go to beggary because this is the will of the capitalistic Moloch.

Be it known that the absorption of E.A.V. would mean a theft and a wrong to Neapolitans.

It is necessary that E.A.V. remain and that it be replaced in the independent position that warranted its function of public benefit, restricting and opposing the inextinguishable thirst of capitalism.

Translated from "Avanti" of the 26th February 1944

ROBBERIES

As we have already said, the Southern Electric Company as now almost completely carried out its plans for the absorption of the "Ente Volturno"

The uniform rates, ordered by the fascist regime exclusively to the advantage of the Capitalistic Company S.M.E. were absolutely detrimental to the Neapolitan people, and were the treacherous stroke that checked the development of the "Volturno" and its regulating action of the market. Afterwards, due to war occurrences, the destruction of the "Colli Volturno" generating stations turned into an advantage for the S.M.E. The latter, in effect, by supplying the "Volturno" with energy, is now absolutely free to modify prices and rates.

Such a system of robbery of the Volturno's property has been, perfected by requisitions. This system is a very plain one indeed. The S.M.E. affirms to have no materials available for the restoration of energy supplies of more or less military interest, and requests, consequently, the requisition of the "Volturno's" materials stocks, which were to be employed for the development of its distribution networks. One can say that the S.M.E. kills two birds with one stone through this system. On one hand, it makes, in effect, very good bargains. It buys at requisition prices a great deal of materials and, therefore, not consuming its own, can sell them to consumers at black market prices. On the other hand, the Volturno is deprived of the means of competing with the S.M.E., which concurrences being to the advantage of the people.

Thus, the Volturno has to give in, day by day, to the requests of the S.M.E., and, is compelled to sell to the latter electric cables, special fittings and transmission lines. It is to be pointed out that towers are being removed to be used by the S.M.E. And what the so called authorities say? Of course, the keep still, as the interest of the capitalistic class are affected.

But will the Neapolitan people keep still too?

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Translated : from the "Avanti" of March 4th, 1944

DRAFT

AFHQ ADV ADM SECTION
C.M.F.

Feb 44

Cmdr 2 District
Cmdr 3 District
C.G., F.B.S.
F.O. Western Italy.

1. You are authorized advised that it is considered that the rehabilitation of the Electric Power Supply in ITALY is a military necessity.
2. It is therefore considered that you should give such assistance to this work as may be required and is available from your resources of labour and material.

Major General
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

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