A TWO-FRONT BATTLE

No American labor union has fought more consistently for fair employment practices than the International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (IUE). Nor has any union done a better job at exposing the Communists' cynical exploitation of discrimination issues, at home and abroad.

IUE was born in 1949, in rebellion against the capture of the United Electrical Workers (UE) by the Communists. A group of democratic unionists tried vainly to re-establish democracy in UE. When they realized this was impossible, they formed a new union—IUE, which rapidly won over a majority of the workers.

IUE frequently has had to out-maneuver the disruptive tactics of white and Negro Communists to combat racial and religious discrimination at the hiring gate and in the plant. In the New York metropolitan area, for example, IUE's District No. 4 has managed to increase the chances of promotion for Negro and Puerto Rican workers despite Communist efforts to exploit the grievances of these workers.

At one time, the Communist faction in the union actually ran a job and promotion racket for its favorites. That's what happened at the Federal Telephone and Radio plant in Nutley, N. J., until a rank and file slate finally routed the pro-Communist leadership at the plant's Local 447. During the election campaign the Communists won over many Negro members by claiming that they alone could be depended upon to protect the Negroes' promotional rights.

The Negro workers soon learned otherwise. When the victorious anti-Communist administration took office, its first act was to look into the situation of Negroes in the plant. In spite of the anti-discrimination clause in the union contract, few Negroes had ever gotten a crack at the skilled jobs. The Communists had used promotions as patronage.

Job openings were never posted. Instead, when a promotion opened up, word was passed privately to the shop stewards handpicked by the Communist-controlled administration. Favoritism was rampant.

With the cooperation of the New Jersey CIO Council's civil rights director, Local 447's new officers began posting job opportunities in a daily notice circulated to *all* shop stewards, and shown to *every* worker on the line. The notice also listed the names and seniority status of workers bidding for these jobs. Soon Negroes were employed as electronic