



MEMBERS VOTE DUES RAISE OF \$1

Although membership attendance at Unit meetings was somewhat disappointing, the proposed By-Law Amendment to increase our monthly dues was adopted by a majority of slightly more than 7 to 1.

Of the 78 Units voting between November 11th and December 6th, 64 voted in favor, 9 were in opposition, 2 units conducted their voting improperly so their votes were declared invalid and 3 units lacked a quorum for voting.

The popular vote resulted in 1030 members in favor, 324 opposed, and 50 votes challenged and declared invalid.

With the majority of the units voting in favor of the proposed change, Article XIII, Section 2 of the By-Laws will read as follows:

"The monthly dues of Local Union 1245 shall be in accordance with the following dues schedule:

- (1) "A" Members
All Classifications\$9.00*
- (2) "BA" Members
All Classifications4.50
*(Including 10c Military Assessment).

This affirmative action taken by the membership will allow your union to continue its service to the membership, provide broader membership participation, and embark on new programs essential for adequate representation in our vast jurisdiction.

Already the wheels are in motion to secure additional Staff Representatives, in order to provide greater membership service.

Your Officers extend a sincere "thank you" to the membership for their displaying a vote of confidence in the Union's past performance and proposed future program.

Motor vehicles in America covered 605,000,000,000 miles in 1956.

WEAKLEY, GILLERAN AT ATLANTIC CITY

AFL-CIO Hits Restrictive Labor Law Proposals

Local 1245's Business Manager Ronald T. Weakley and President Frank Gilleran were among the delegates and visitors to the AFL-CIO 2nd Constitutional Convention in Atlantic City, commencing on December 5.

Prior to the AFL-CIO Convention, the Building Trades Department held their 50th anniversary convention. In his opening speech before this group, Building Trades President Richard J.

Gray proposed that the building trades and allied unions declare a moratorium on wage boosts during 1958 as a means of spurring a recovery in the construction industry.

Quick to seize on this plan, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Phillip M. Taft lauded Gray publicly and termed the proposal as "striking at the root of the current inflationary problem."

The day after Gray had made his "hold-the-line" proposal, AFL-CIO President George Meany blasted the plan as being out of step with Union economists and one which echoed the U.S. Chamber of Commerce position. The economic problem of today is no longer one of inflation, Meany stated, but one of a "downturn." This cannot be cured—in fact, it can be made worse—by holding wages down, he said.

"There is no reason to conclude that a wage freeze, from the things I see in the economy, at this time, would be advantageous to anyone but the employers," he emphasized.

JURISDICTION

Judisdictional disputes, between the building trades and industrial unions was another issue on which President Meany made definite statements. He implied that the building trades had been responsible for forcing the issue into one which threatened the unity of labor. Unity, not civil war, is the proper solution, Meany warned.

Addressing the convention, Secretary of Labor James Mitchell outlined the Eisenhower Administration's recommendation to Congress—a sweeping set of new labor laws requiring disclosure of Union funds, constitutions and financial dealings. Mitchell made it clear that there would be no seeking of restrictive legislation, such as placing unions under antitrust laws, enactment of a national "right-to-work" law or choking off Union political contributions.

However, the administration will propose the prohibition of any secondary boycott if it coerces an employer directly, or induces individual employees to refuse to perform services in order to coerce an employer to cease doing business with others.

The administration would further propose changes in the Taft-Hartley Act to eliminate the prohibition against economic strikers voting in representation elections, and the dropping of the non-Communist affidavit requirement.

(Continued on Page 3)



AFL-CIO President Meany



Secretary of Labor Mitchell

Season's Greetings!

The Officers, Staff and Office Girls of Local 1245 wish to extend our very best wishes to each of you and your families during this



Holiday Season. May you enjoy Christmas and the coming New Year to the fullest.

Intl. Journal Wins Labor Press Honor

Our IBEW Electrical Workers' Journal won two first prizes in the 1957 Journalistic Awards Contest of the International Labor Press Association, an organization of more than 300 AFL-CIO publications. The two awards, made at the ILPA convention banquet in Atlantic City on December 3rd, were for editorial excellence in publications with magazine formats and the best feature article in an international union publication.

Three California papers were among nine local council publications winning prizes in various categories. The Vallejo-Napa Labor Journal was the only local council paper in the country to win a top award. The Union Gazette of San Mateo County won an award for the best community project—its feature and picture campaign for United Crusade giving. The Sacramento Valley Union Labor Bulletin also won a top award in the community project category.

Other California winners included the Southern California Teamster for the best feature article and The Engineers News-Record for the best single editorial.

Judged first in the contest among local union publications for the best feature article was IBEW Local 3's Electrical Union World.

Grand prize winner was the Toledo Union Journal, which was entered in contests for both state and local central bodies and publications of local unions. It was judged tops in editorial excellence in both categories, best single editorial in both categories, and best front page, best regular column and best community project in one category.

(Continued on Page 4)

NEWS OF OTHER LOCALS

CAL. ELECT. PACT

Word has just been received that IBEW Local 543 and the California Electric Power Co. have signed a new 18 month agreement effective December 1st.

Wage-wise the employees will receive an increase of 4c an hour plus 3½ per cent. In addition there will be a 1c an hour increase every 13 weeks plus a 1c an hour cost-of-living increase for each ½ point of consumer price index increase—to be reviewed every 13 weeks also.

S.C. EDISON VOTING

Local 47, having completed negotiations with the Southern California Edison Co., are presently voting on the new one year agreement.

The package includes a 5 per cent general wage increase and improved vacation provisions of 3 weeks after 10 years of service.

So. Calif. IBEW Execs Gird For Battle on Open Shop Laws

A large delegation from the affiliates of the Southern California Joint Executive Conference of the IBEW convened at the Disneyland Hotel on November 23, 1957. The host Local, Santa Ana Local 441, manned the Disneyland job and the project is a real testimony to the skill of Local 441's wiremen.

Local 1710, Electrical Manufacturing Local of Los Angeles, which also covers Orange County, was co-host.

A heavy agenda was handled with efficiency by Chairman Mory Collins, Business Manager of San Diego Local 569, with the help of Secretary Jack Bell of Los Angeles Local 11.

Highlights included Attorney Al Brundage's talk on the growing legal attacks upon Unions and sound advice as to proper procedures with respect to these NLRB rulings and court decisions.

Jack Carney, President of the California State Association of Electrical Workers, pounded home some facts and figures designed to wake up Union officers and members to the threat

of Compulsory Open Shop legislation in California.

Most of the delegates who spoke hit the anti-labor legislation problem and all concerned felt that the IBEW is taking off the gloves, shelving relatively unimportant issues and squabbles, in order to give the proper leadership in the coming fight.

Ron Weakley, Business Manager of Local 1245 and Chairman of the State Association's subcommittee to fight Compulsory Open Shop legislation, gave a financial report and outlined future program of the committee.

This included stepping up the financial program, issuance of a news release plus a membership bulletin, and a meeting of the State Committee on December 18th in Fresno, where the program will be kicked off.

Scott Wadsworth, of Local 1245 and chairman of the Central Valley Joint Executive Conference of the IBEW, was also in attendance.

Veteran officials of the locals and the International remarked upon the serious note of the meetings and considered this the most productive conference in years.



The UTILITY REPORTER



RONALD T. WEAKLEY Editor
L. L. MITCHELL Assistant Editor
M. A. WALTERS Assistant Editor
ELMER B. BUSHBY Assistant Editor
Executive Board: Frank D. Gilleran, President; Marvin C. Brooks, Milton Shaw, Thomas F. Kerin, Walter R. Glasgow, Joseph S. Kreins, Marvin P. Wagner, Everett T. Basinger.

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2 Out of 3 Don't Know

In order to obtain an up-to-date sampling of attitudes regarding the controversial "right-to-work" law, trained interviewers of the California Poll (an impartial research organization) personally interviewed a cross section of people throughout California and asked them questions designed to discover what understanding the voters have of the proposed law.

One of these questions was:

"As you probably know, one of the issues in the upcoming campaign for Governor will be the proposed "right-to-work" law. As far as you understand it, what is this law all about? What would it provide for? Anything else?"

The answers to this question show that at present 67 per cent of the voters do not have any clear understanding of the issues at stake. The remaining 33 per cent gave an answer which indicated some familiarity with the issue.

Imagine! Not more than one voter in three knows what this Union busting legislation means, what it will do or provide.

If this is true—and we have every reason to believe that it is—those of us who do understand had better get busy and inform those who don't.

Let's face it, the misnamed atrocity called "right-to-work" is being sold to a great many unsuspecting workers—even good union men and women who can be fooled by the words themselves: "right-to-work."

But even former Congressman Fred Hartley, co-author of the Taft-Hartley Law, which permits passage of "right-to-work" legislation in the States, stated recently, "The term 'right-to-work' is a bit misleading."

Therefore, let's nail the meaning of the term and call it by its true name—COMPULSORY OPEN SHOP.

And a rotten egg by any other name smells just as putrid. "Voluntary unionism" also means COMPULSORY OPEN SHOP.

Undisputed, unequivocal evidence supports the fact that compulsory open shop—"right-to-work"—"voluntary unionism"—legislation has as its prime purpose the **REDUCTION OF WAGES.**

PROOF:

Statement on April 12, 1957, of Delaware State Representative Charles West, sponsor of a "right-to-work" bill in Delaware:

"A lot of people are getting too much money for their work and a lot of these unions are controlled by foreigners. I don't say the law would cut the salaries of all working men but in some cases such as **Electricians'** salaries, they are away out of proportion. If you had a "right-to-work" law here, there'd be more competition for those jobs and salaries would be more in line with what the work is worth."

Excerpt from a letter, dated June 10, 1954, from the Mayor of Pelahatchie, Mississippi (a right-to-work state) addressed to the president of H. B. Ives Co., New Haven, Conn., during an organization campaign of the Ives employes by the Machinists:

"Greetings; Mr. Hendricks, as we cordially invite you to visit our beautiful community. We want your company to have the harmonious and highly successful experience of operating in a veritable industrial paradise, and see how our whole-hearted cooperation will do it for you.

"Then our wonderful labor, 98 per cent native born; mostly high school graduates, will lower average hourly industrial wage rates 6c to 49c below other Southern States, and from 50c to 95c below Northern States."

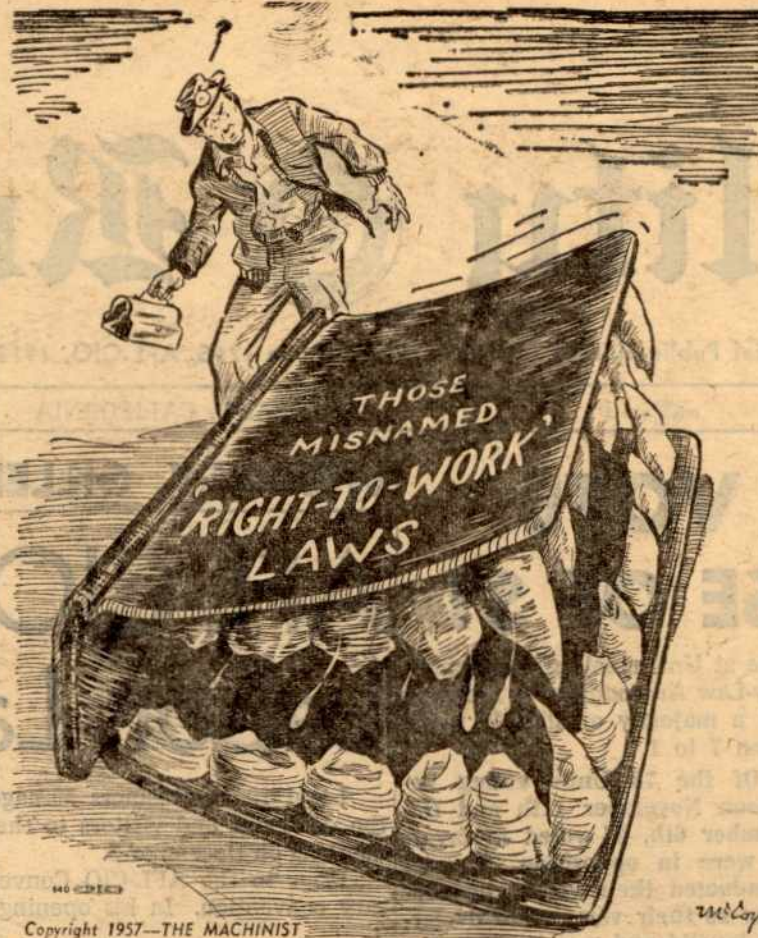
Statement of Michigan's Governor G. Mennen Williams, regarding the move of the Daisy Air Rifle Co. from Plymouth, Michigan to Arkansas (a "right-to-work" state):

"Cass Hough, Daisy's executive vice-president, in announcing the move, stated that he intends to hire workers in Arkansas at **\$1 an hour less than he pays in Plymouth (Mich.) and get 20 per cent more work out of them.**"

TIME MAGAZINE, April 11, 1955:

"The (right-to-work) laws' supporters are management groups and Chambers of Commerce eager to attract new industry."

There are many, many more examples which could be



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S.F. CONFERENCE EYES FAIR EMPLOYMENT LAWS

A conference on equal employment opportunity at the Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco on Dec. 11, saw labor well represented including Local 1245 Business Representatives Dan McPeak and "Spike" Ensley.

Mayor Christopher was scheduled to give the welcoming address but was unable to attend so Dr. Arthur M. Ross, Director of the Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California read the mayor's address.

Dr. Ross introduced Judge C. J. Goodell, Chairman of the San Francisco Commission on Equal Employment Opportunity. He related some of the problems in connection with the adoption of the FEPC ordinance and stated that it was like "a canoe going upstream against the current." He stated further that approximately 70 persons appeared before the Board of Supervisors to present pros and cons on the proposed legislation. He pointed out that Bakersfield had passed an FEP ordinance since the adoption of the San Francisco ordinance and that Richmond had passed a similar law earlier but that it covered only those employees who worked for the City of Richmond.

The judge then made a brief outline of the ordinance covering the content of the individual sections of the law and stated that about 12 cases had been handled by the San Francisco Commission in the four months since adoption of the ordinance. **PHILADELPHIA**

George Schermer, Executive Director of the Committee on Human Relations from Philadelphia, Pa., spoke on the history of the Committee in Philadelphia. An FEPC ordinance was adopted in that city in 1948 and amendments were made to broaden the scope of the law in 1952. Mr. Schermer stated that "only one-third of the work of the Committee was on fair employment practices and the remainder on other problems of human relationship." There are 25 people on the staff of the Philadelphia committee, where

the San Francisco Commission has no staff at present.

"The purpose of the FEP law is to declare that the doors of opportunity are open to all, and to insure that the public is aware that such doors are open," stated Mr. Schermer and further that "organized labor was behind adoption of the ordinance."

The Philadelphia Committee may file its own complaints, or it will receive complaints from organizations representing aggrieved persons. The Committee has never had to resort to public hearings yet, he stated, having settled all of the complaints by conciliation. Research has borne out that in Philadelphia a colored high school graduate took three times as long to find a job as an equally qualified white graduate.

NEW YORK

Elmer A. Carter, Commissioner of New York State Commission Against Discrimination was the after dinner speaker. His remarks had to do with the problems in New York. He stated that out of 4,620 complaints filed in 12 years, three-quarters of them did not go beyond the initial investigation, and only 5 cases had gone to a public hearing. He spoke of the fears that employers had prior to the hiring of minority groups—fears that business would suffer, that customers would resent being waited on by them, etc. He said that these fears were unfounded and the facts had borne out that employees in minority groups worked well with others.



quoted, but these should give you an idea of just what exactly is motivating those who are mouthing such sweet talk as "right-to-work" and "voluntary unionism."

The voters in California resoundingly defeated this same vicious anti-union legislation in 1944. **We can do it again—but only if the voters know what they're voting on.**

TELL YOUR FAMILY, TELL YOUR FRIENDS, TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS, TELL ANYONE WHO WILL LISTEN —"RIGHT-TO-WORK" IS A FRAUD.

INDIANA RESORTS TO THE USUAL "SCAB" APPEAL

Indiana, primarily an industrial state, enacted in its legislature this year, a "right-to-work" law despite mass protests from the rank and file union members in that state.

Quick to seize on this legislation as a medium to attract further industry into the state, we note in the November issue of Fortune magazine a full page ad by the Indiana State Development Board titled "Why So Much Industry Prefers to Locate in Debt-Free Indiana."

We have no quarrel with Indiana's Development Board in its attempt to attract industry into the State—this is competition and is an important factor in our economy—but we do quarrel with their prominent displaying among the reasons why industry should locate in Indiana the following insidious statement:

"Indiana's "Right-to-Work" law is the first enacted by a major industrial state."

Once again the "right-to-scab" boys have tipped their hand! Why would an employer consider "right-to-work" legislation in considering a move to Indiana if the law doesn't serve an economic purpose? **And we don't mean that such purpose serves an Indiana wage earner.**

Based on statistics provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Indiana wage earners will lose in the neighborhood of \$7,800,000 per week if this state follows the pattern established in other "right-to-work" states in the past five years.

And that pattern is being established.

STAY SAFE OFF-THE-JOB, TOO



If you think "Pop" is performing a parlor trick, you're wrong. He's trying to land without breaking his neck.

We hope he has luck, but his chances aren't too good.

The National Safety Council tells us that about 30,000 persons are killed in home accidents each year.

These men, women and children are killed in many ways, but half of the deaths are caused by falls. Falls, like many home accidents, are often the fault of somebody besides the victim.

Children must be taught to pick up their playthings when they are through playing with them. Adults can set a good example by leaving nothing around, particularly on stairs and steps, that might cause someone to fall.

Falls are caused by grease or milk or water not wiped up from the kitchen floor, soap in bathtubs, icy walks, broken steps, porches without handrails, dark hallways, makeshift ladders, unanchored rugs and poorly lighted stairs cluttered with mops, buckets, or rubbish.

AFL-CIO Blasts Union-Busting Laws

(Continued from Page 1)

Secretary Mitchell said there would be a request for the registration, reporting and public disclosure of the operations of all health, welfare and pension plans. All unions would be required to file annual reports, copies of their constitutions and by-laws, and proof that local officials are elected by secret ballot, with national officers elected either directly or indirectly by a secret vote. Employers will be asked to report payments made to worker representatives "which run contrary to the rights and welfare of individual union members and are prohibited by law."

INNOCENT BEGINNING

In analyzing the Mitchell proposals, key AFL-CIO attorneys believe that they are only a bargaining beginning and will be altered by Congress, and particularly by Secretary of Commerce Weeks, for the worse. Furthermore, they feel there is an increasing uneasiness that government is not only getting its "nose in the tent" of internal union affairs, but is beginning to "push the Arab" out in the sand.

In his keynote address before the Convention, President George Meany maintained that Labor must help alert the country to the need of a military posture sufficient to deter aggression. It must press, he added, for a better education system and scientific progress, for the elimination of discrimination and colonialism, and intelligent aid to underdeveloped countries.

The fight against corruption, he stated, is a major responsibility of trade unionists within their own movement and he pointed out that corrupt unions form only a very small minority within the AFL-CIO.

On the corruption issue, Meany denied any deal having been made which would permit the Teamsters to remain in the AFL-CIO. "The only thing we have is the decision of the Council which will come to this Convention for consideration and disposition," he stated.

Expulsion of the big Teamsters International came on a rollcall vote after a three-hour debate. A two-thirds majority was required for expulsion, and the vote far exceeded the requirement—10,458,598 for and 2,226,497 votes against.

The Bakery Workers, also found to have corrupt influences in their union, were given an ultimatum to eliminate the corrupt elements in their union or face expulsion.

827 Workers Killed On Job; Leave 1708 Dependents

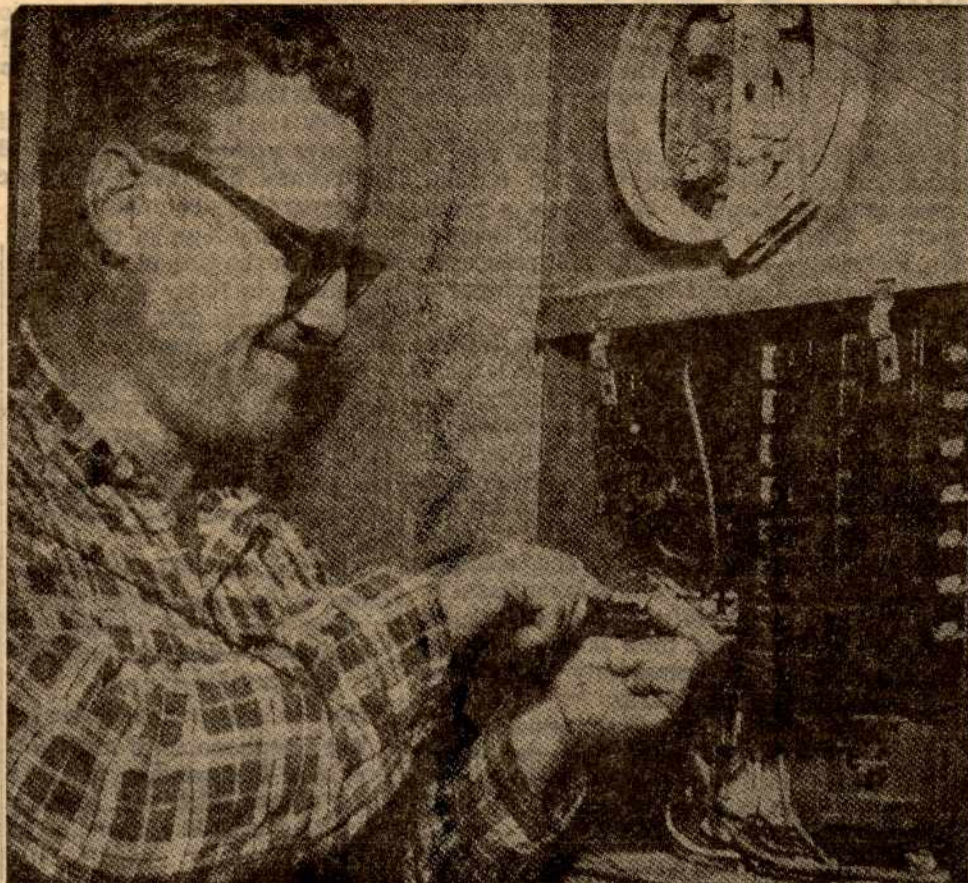
One thousand, seven hundred and eight family members were deprived of their breadwinner's earnings through job fatalities in California in 1956, as reported by the Division of Labor Statistics and Research of the State Department of Industrial Relations.

Almost 90 per cent of the 827 Californians killed while at work in 1956 left dependents. Six hundred and fifty-one wives were widowed and 966 minor children lost the head of their family.

Ninety-four per cent of the 966 minors were under 18 years of age, and totally dependent. Median age of the children was 8 years and 8 months.

DON'T YOU BE A 1957 STATISTIC.

Blindness No Handicap To This Electrician



Brother Jack Polston, blinded electrician, is shown here completing installation of a circuit breaking panel in a newly constructed home. Read his story in adjoining column.

Before he was blinded in an accident, Bro. Jack Polston of Costa Mesa, near Santa Ana, Calif., was a skilled electrician.

That was two years ago.

Today, he's working as an electrician again and what's more, he's more than holding his own in this highly technical job.

At the age of eight, Jack lost the sight of his right eye through an accident with a BB gun. However, he became an electrician in 1942 and worked at the trade for 13 years. In December, 1955, while working at home, a grinding wheel shattered and a fragment flew into his one good eye—his left one—and blinded him instantly.

After a period of hospitalization, Brother Polston attended the orientation school for the blind in Oakland for 17 months. While there, he learned to read Braille, how to operate various machines such as the lathe, drill press, punch press, etc., to equip him with the skills normally taught to blind persons. When he left school he had very little luck convincing anyone that he could do a useful job and, being an electrician by trade, he yearned for work in his chosen field.

Determined to follow his trade, he asked for work out of IBEW Local 441 in Santa Ana. Business Manager W. A. Ferguson, at first, was naturally skeptical of a blind man's ability to wire a house. After seriously considering the possibility, however, Ferguson was convinced that perhaps it could be done.

After discussions with the contractors in the area, Ferguson convinced them that such an unheard of thing was possible, so it was agreed to give Brother Polston a chance.

The problem of getting to work and home again, of course, required help, so he hired a high school girl to drive him to and from work.

A special level—a necessary wireman's tool—has been devised from a piece of chrome plated channel-iron with a ball bearing in it. Leveling becomes merely a matter of feel. He has a special drill with a clutch which throws out if he should strike a nail. Distinguishing the colors of Romex was easily accomplished, thanks to standards of manufacturers. They all put the cable in the box in the same manner—white on top, black on bottom. Again, simply a matter of feel. Local 441 has given Brother Jack an electronic device, powered by a pin-light flashlight battery, which emits a frequency impulse for the different colors of wire—the brighter the color, the higher the pitch of the impulse. In this case we find the ear substituting for the eye.

NOT MISSED A DAY

Since starting to work, he hasn't missed a day and his foreman has stated, "At first I thought we'd have to carry him, but it didn't happen. There are a few minor things he can't do, but outside of that, he does as much as any other man."

Brother Polston believes too many people—including many blind persons—think that blindness means helplessness, but if ever that myth has been exploded, Jack Polston has done it.

He has been reluctant to receive any publicity about his unusual accomplishment and states, "Most of the stories you read about blind people are pretty maudlin, but maybe this will help other blind persons who run into a stone wall when they look for work."

"We don't need sympathy and we don't need charity."

"All we need is a chance." Our hats are off to Brother Jack Polston for his display of rare courage and determination, and to Local 441 and the contractors in that area for recognizing a problem and doing something about it.

Dual-beam headlamps for automobiles, which provided upper and lower beams, first appeared in 1925.

Observe Safety Rules!

Bay Area Building Spurt Due to Aid from IBEW

The national program of the IBEW, through which it is investing its pension funds in financing home building, has already had a notable effect on the lagging home building industry in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Since the first of this year, the IBEW has made available between \$5 million and \$6 million for new home financing in Calif., with 90 percent of that sum going to finance some 300 homes in the Bay Area.

After the tight money policies of the Eisenhower Administration choked off financing, slowed home building and idled building craftsmen, the Bay Area was selected by the IBEW as the "kick-off" area.

Since some of the pension money has gone into financing of home building, union jobs for

HERE IT IS!

THE BEST AGREEMENT YET

Many of Local 1245's members, particularly in the Bay Area, will remember Mr. Choi En Wha from Korea. He spent many hours in our Business Office and with Business Representatives in the field learning how our Union operates.

Mr. Choi En Wha, Director of International Relations for the Korean National Electrical Workers in Seoul, our counterpart in Korea, sent an excellent report of their progress to the IBEW International Office in Washington and his story was reported in the September, 1957 issue of the Electrical Worker's Journal.

building craftsmen have picked up.

It is estimated that IBEW investments in California building will reach \$8 million during next year.

What You Don't See In the Public Press:

LABOR LEADER IS LEADING CITIZEN

Leon B. Thompson, secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles Division of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters has been named the leading citizen of Los Angeles in a poll conducted by the Old Charter Distillery Company.

Attorney General Edmund G. (Pat) Brown, who has thrown his hat into the ring for the Democratic nomination for governor, was principal speaker at the annual presentation of the award. He recounted Thompson's active interest in youth work, philanthropy among underprivileged children and social and civic betterment.

Mr. Thompson reflects high credit, not only upon his own race and community, but upon all Southern California," Brown said. The award is a four-year

LABOR LEADER IS LAYMAN OF YEAR

John G. Ramsey, United Steelworkers International Representative in charge of Community Relations, was named Layman of the Year by the National Capital Council of Churches in Washington, D.C.

He is the first labor leader to receive the award in its 20-year history.

The citation, presented to him by a group of leading Protestant laymen and government officials, hailed Mr. Ramsey as "an apostle of goodwill and brotherhood among men."

"As labor union official, church member and good citizen," it said, "John Ramsey's motivating principle is love of God and man and from this principle he never swerves."

scholarship to college in the name of the winner.

Missing from the account of the Korean Electrical Worker's story were some interesting clauses from the contract recently negotiated with the Seoul Electric Company.

Although these might give some Utility Companies in this country the "screaming meemies," we will report them as solutions to many problems of the American Utility Worker.

1. All employees of the Seoul Electric Co. must be union members and the company must hire new workers through the union.

2. All workers shall receive automatic promotions once a year.

3. The company may not fire or suspend a union member, change his assignment or take other disciplinary action against him "without a prior agreement with the union."

4. There can be no pay cuts under any circumstances.

5. There will be 10 paid holidays, including Arbor Day.

6. The company must provide all work clothes.

7. Men required to work at jobs at an altitude of 23 feet or more must receive premium pay.

8. Union members are entitled to special paid leave for the following: Marriage—7 days; marriage of sons or daughters—2 days; 60th birthday of parents or grandparents—2 days; first and second anniversaries of the funeral of parents or wife or husband—2 days.

9. The company is required to provide union members the following without cost: two athletic meets per year, a barber-shop, library, boarding house and entertainment hall.

The full text of Article XXIX of the new contract reads as follows: "Pregnant female workers shall be granted two months of paid holiday before and after the childbirth, and all the women members shall be granted one day physiological leave per month. Women workers who have babies of 1 year old or younger shall be given paid lactation time twice or more per day."

Who says South Korean workers are backward?

YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN

By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

Looking back over the year 1957, we find a good record of accomplishment for our members in all classifications in our vast jurisdiction. Wages and conditions have been improved for all. Labor-Management relations have improved in all companies under contract with Local Union 1245.

Our position has been advanced in the general community and within Organized Labor.

The membership, in spite of the inroads of mechanization, automation, economy and efficiency programs, has held up numerically. Constant organizing efforts in existing contractual groups plus new contracts, have kept us from slipping in total membership.

Our financial picture shows that we have made efforts to effect certain economies but that future needed expenditures and rising operating costs create a need for increased operating income. This problem has been met by the membership in the recently-voted dues increase.

New vistas in such matters as atomic fission and fusion power production, labor legislation, safety concepts, training and worker security needs appear on the horizon as we view the future.

The economic picture in our country is one of uncertainty. Plant investment, defense needs, fiscal and monetary policies are changing, leaving our union in a position of trying to adapt our programs and policies to new governmental and industrial economic trends.

We have endeavored to watch these trends carefully, prepare tentative programs to meet them and to inform our members, through meetings and our newspaper, of what appears to be in store for us.

Efforts have been made to improve the position of all utility workers in matters such as better communications, industry-wide programs, research on wages and conditions, automation, atomic power, safety and skill development. Local 1245 has been one of the leaders in these efforts.

All of the foregoing takes time and work and lots of it. The members of our administrative and field staff have worked hard during this past year. We are never satisfied with the results because our sights are set high and will continue to be so.

In all of this, we detect one very important deficiency. That is membership interest and participation in the affairs of this

Union. Apathy, the enemy of democracy and vitality is in our midst.

Those who would destroy us stalk the land, armed with money, excellent communication facilities and their most potent ally, membership apathy. The barrage of anti-union material and propaganda invades our homes, schools, social groups, churches, fraternal organizations and veterans' organizations.

The misdeeds of a handful of traitors to the labor movement, along with peddlers of "strike insurance," "sweetheart contracts," etc., are paraded daily before us along with disclosures of employer collaboration in these unsavory activities. "There ought to be a law" becomes the catch-phrase of both the anti-union and even of some working people and their wives.

In the face of all of this, it is appalling that even an organization such as ours, which has made available at great cost and hard work the means for democratic participation, suffers from lack of participation. Our Union, while steadily advancing the concept of broader and broader extension of the democratic process, suffers from the cancer of indifference and membership irresponsibility.

The habit of hard work and the dedication to union principle is so ingrained in the local leadership that it will not shirk its responsibilities, even in the face of the discouraging picture of membership apathy. However, the efforts of officers, staff, stewards, faithful meeting goers and those who approve but "let George do it," are not the ingredients through which we can best advance and protect the interests of our members and their families. Everyone is needed.

This indifference, apathy and irresponsibility is not confined to just our members or the members of other unions. It has become a growing national pastime in all walks of American life. Edmund Burke once said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

The rude shock of Soviet accomplishment in the scientific and arms race should have a sobering effect among our people. New policies in the field of international relations are being forced upon us due to our failure to unite and to sacrifice and to resolve comparatively petty differences.

Our economic and social problems must be met and we must understand the gravity of the world situation. An economic collapse would place our country in a precarious position. Social disunity would do likewise.

Successful major attacks on the free American Labor Movement would engender economic

and political strife to the satisfaction of those who proclaim that Communism is superior to our way of life. Workers will not take the backward road to sub-standard wages, housing, education, health and a reduction in the standard of living in a land of wealth and prosperity. A means must be employed to avoid this.

In order to maintain the free institution of organized labor, it must have active members. Members who understand its role, members who will sacrifice a few hours a month from home and play, members who are willing to fight for their rights when necessary, and members who believe that labor has a responsibility not only to its members and their families but also to the community and the nation as a whole.

The foregoing remarks are sincerely offered by one who is seriously concerned by the lack of concern by many of his brothers and sisters. Perhaps the Yuletide Season can make us all reflect upon the benefits we enjoy and how the simple application of Brotherhood accomplished all of this.

In that spirit, on behalf of our Officers and Staff, I extend our best wishes for a happy, safe, Holiday Season to all of our members, their families and the readers of the Utility Reporter.

VAN ARSDALE IS NAMED N.Y. TRADES CHIEF

Harry Van Arsdale, Business Manager of IBEW Local 3 in New York City, has been selected as President of the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York.

His selection as head of the three-quarter million member body was made at a special meeting of the Council executive board. Announcement of the council's selection was made at a joint meeting of the AFL and CIO city councils called as a memorial to the late Martin C. Lacey, whom Van Arsdale succeeds.

Brother Van Arsdale has been Business Manager of Local 3, which has 30,000 members, for 23 years. His local is regarded as a model of clean unionism and has received national recognition in its fight against exploitation of Puerto Rican workers in New York City.

Under his leadership, Local 3 has pioneered in sponsoring cooperative, low-cost housing developments, free scholarships for children of Union members, anti-discrimination measures in many areas where Unions are interested, and a wide range of benefits for members of his Union.

Labor Press Honors

(Continued from Page 1)

More than 500 entries were submitted in the contest, the largest number ever entered. Although the UTILITY REPORTER was entered in two different categories and won no awards, your Editors are not disheartened. We're just going to try harder.

In attendance at the Labor Press Convention held in conjunction with the AFL-CIO 2nd Constitutional Convention in Atlantic City, were Local 1245's Business Manager Ronald T. Weakley and President Frank Gilleran.

What Are Racket Papers?

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By ALEXANDER UHL

(This is the first of a series of articles prepared for the International Labor Press Assn. The UTILITY REPORTER is publishing this series in an effort to inform and protect businessmen in this area against the meanest racket in the world. Union members are requested to bring this article to the attention of every fair employer they deal with.)

Almost any hour of the working day in the United States the telephone is likely to ring for one of the meanest and richest rackets in the country.

It is one of the meanest because it takes the organized labor movement and perverts its high ideals into a greedy grab for money through the fraudulent sale of worthless "advertising."

And it is one of the richest because it has developed into a multi-million dollar racket that has played countless businessmen for gullible suckers.

Here is how the racket works:

The telephone rings in the office of a businessman and the voice on the other end starts a pitch that goes like this:

"Hello, Mr. X. This is the AFL-CIO paper calling. We know that you're a good friend of labor and that you hate communism and we want you to help us along on a campaign against communism that we're running. We are getting out a special anti-communist edition and we're sure that you'd like to take some advertising in it. How about a page at \$1,000?"

"You think that's too much? How about half a page at \$600? A quarter page at \$400? You know an ad like this is an awfully good way to keep the boys in the shop happy. Well, if \$400 is too much, how about \$100?"

If there's no acceptance of this, the voice gets tough.

"You have a nice contract with the government and you like to get along with the boys on the job, don't you," the voice now says sharply. "They might not like it if they thought you wouldn't support a labor paper, would they? Anyhow, I'm putting you down for \$100."

Whether the businessman fell for the line and authorized the ad or not, he probably gets a bill for it, gets dunned for it and threatened with law suits if he doesn't pay up.

Thousands of businessmen have paid these bills grudgingly rather than get into possible legal difficulties, all the while building up resentment that American "labor" newspapers should use such methods to get advertising.

Yet, the chances are 100 per cent that it wasn't a bona fide labor newspaper on the phone at all, but a racket newspaper that trades on the organized labor movement for its own money-making purposes and depends on the gullibility or timidity of its victims to pay through the nose for fake advertising.

It is "fake" advertising because it is not basically designed to attract customers to a product, but rather is designed to buy fancied goodwill or avoid ill-will. It is a form of extortion. Sometimes only the names of advertisers are published without even addresses or the product the names represent. Frequently an ad is signed simply "from a friend" or some other similar phrase that spells an anonymous "gift."

And, it is fake advertising in the sense that the racketeering paper involved does not truly represent organized labor, is not an authorized or affiliated publication. It does not reach the union man as it pretends to. Frequently only enough copies of the "paper" are published to cover the advertisers and there are cases where no paper ever

came out at all.

Broadly speaking there are two kinds of racket press, the local racket paper that pretends to represent local unions and the big time "bucket shop" operation which does most of its business on the long distance telephone.

The local racket sheet avoids the mails as too risky. It sends out solicitors who call on businessmen personally and try to sell them advertising after a hot sales talk. In other cases a phone call gets a hurried acceptance of an ad. In any event there is a fast pickup of the check to pay for the ad and more than one businessman has found himself at his checkbook within a matter of hours with a hard faced messenger waiting in his office.

In this type of operation the racketeer occasionally skips out without ever going to the trouble of producing a paper. His take is relatively small on the basis of individual ads—he will go down as low as \$10—but in the aggregate, he gets away with tidy sums.

Dealing in millions of dollars, on the other hand, are the big time "bucket shops" that annually spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on long distance telephone calls to solicit advertising from select lists of businessmen all over the country.

The "bucket shop" operates out of a central headquarters in a large city and may employ as many as eight or ten solicitors. The telephone is their handy instrument. It makes it difficult to pin a man down as to his exact relationship with organized labor; it makes it difficult to prove what promises of help or threats of trouble have been made; it blurs the exact degree of authorization for an ad that may have been given.

The bucket shop advertising solicitor is a sharp operator and he has a highly developed pitch that has worked through the years. He likes to deal with businessmen who are known to be friendly to labor and to play on that reputation. He uses this friendly pitch first. Then, if that doesn't work, he shifts into vague threats of "labor trouble" that frighten his victims.

He is skillful at the careful misrepresentation of the exact connection of his paper with the labor movement. He pretends airily that he represents the "AFL-CIO paper" without spelling out the details. Sometimes he lies outright about his credentials, but generally prefers to leave an inference of official status. One of his favorite dodges is to blow up the endorsement of his paper by some small local union and make it sound as though he had the endorsement of the millions of the entire AFL-CIO.

A ravenous gent in Japan Ordered purple plums by the van.

To the obvious question, "Won't you get indigestion?" He replied: "What I can't eat, I can."

Medical Costs Up 4% a Year

The cost of medical care, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, increased an average of 4 per cent a year between 1941, when it began its long upward climb, and 1956, according to an article in the Monthly Labor Review, published by the Labor Dept.

But some labor technicians in this area feel that the actual increase is greater than that shown in the figures prepared in the department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. At least some of the components, they claim, are unrepresentative or outmoded, and in need of re-evaluation if they are to reflect more actually what people actually pay.

The article cites BLS statistics to show that the price of medical care was 85 per cent higher in 1956 than in 1936. About two-thirds of the increase was registered in the last 10 years, an era in which union interest in costs expanded as more and more workers became covered by hospitalization and medical insurance.

SIGN UP THOSE NON-MEMBERS
HELP BUILD YOUR UNION