

UTILITY REPORTER

OFFICIAL VOICE OF IBEW LOCAL UNION 1245 AFL-CIO

Discount supported at PUC Hearing

By Tom Dalzell, Staff Counsel

It was standing-room only when nearly one hundred IBEW, ESC, and CWA members filled a PUC hearing room to kick off the first week of hearings by the Public Utilities Commission in its investigation of the employee discount at all of California's utilities, including three under contract with Local 1245 — Pacific Gas and Electric Company, CP National, and Sierra Pacific Power Company.

The first witness was Olga Ramirez, a Local 1245 Shop Steward who works as a Customer Service Representative in Stockton. After an eloquent and impassioned presentation which included a most detailed statistical analysis of employee energy use, Ramirez received a rousing round of applause from the union members in the audience, who were soon joined by the company attorneys.

For the next three days witnesses from the various utilities involved took the stand to refute arguments of the discount's critics and to defend the right of utilities to bargain with their employees over fringe benefits such as the employee discount free from interference by governmental agencies such as the Public Utilities Commission. As the week progressed, one by one the arguments against the discount began to wither. No consumer group had submitted evidence against the discount, and it is the Commission staff alone which has introduced any testimony against the discount. By the end of the week



Member Russell Foxe shows KRON-TV reporter Linda Yee the big drop in his PG&E bill following extensive home insulation.



Business Manager Jack McNally tells KTVU-TV reporter Vern Hawkins, Local 1245's position on discount.

Photos by Carol Bedsole

of testimony by utility witnesses, even the die-hards among the Commission staff looked discouraged.

The hearing started up again on Monday, August 23 with more IBEW members taking the stand. Business Manager Jack McNally testified on Tuesday, August 24, as did Robert MacDonald, Director of the IBEW's Utility Department in Washington D.C. who agreed to come to California at McNally's request to help Local 1245 with its case. At the end of the week, attorneys for Local 1245 and the utilities cross-examined witnesses from the Public Utilities Commission, and details of this cross-examination will be reported in future issues of the *Utility Reporter*.

Briefs will be filed after conclusion of testimony, with a final decision by the Commission itself not expected until the late fall at the earliest.

SEE Pages 6-7.



Member Ed Caruso tells TV reporters how he thinks the state should stay out of collective bargaining issues, and leave the discount alone.

Fitzsimmons assigned new Local 1245 position

Ron Fitzsimmons was appointed to the position of Assistant Business Manager at IBEW Local 1245 by Business Manager Jack McNally early in July.

The former Business Representative will continue to have his primary area of responsibility focused on Health, Safety and Training.

Additionally, Fitzsimmons will be



Ron Fitzsimmons, new Assistant Business Manager.

responsible for administration of clerical operations at Local Union headquarters, including Local Union 29 negotiation and grievance activities.

Fitzsimmons has been a member of Local 1245 for 17 years. During that time he served as Local Union president from 1978 until 1981 when he came on staff as a Business Representative in charge of Health, Safety and Training.

He has served on dozens of key Union committees and has extensive experience in dealing with numerous local, state and federal regulatory agencies.

Fitzsimmons also served as Local Union Vice President, 1977-78 and was active in his San Francisco Unit where he was Chairman. He previously was a Shop Steward in Electrical T & D, San Francisco. Most recently he was elected as a delegate to represent IBEW Local 1245 at the IBEW International Convention in Los Angeles this month.

Your labor vote counts... only if you're registered

This is a critical election year.

A time to let those in power know how you feel about what's going on in the United States — and in your home town.

Election day is nearing and your vote can count this November only if you are a registered voter.

In California you must be registered by October 4 in order to vote in the November general election.

Registration is easy. You can sign voter registration cards at all fire stations and can obtain cards at most Real Estate offices, county libraries, or at City or County offices. You can also call your County Voter Registration Office and request a registration card which will be mailed to you for completion.

In addressing the recent Advisory Council meeting, Business Manager Jack McNally stressed the importance of our members registering to vote, and voting to support the friends of labor in the coming election. Labor candidates will pro-

test Reagan administration efforts to slash Social Security and unemployment insurance benefits.

Local 1245's Executive Board will be considering endorsements for

SEE Page 12

Contract proposals exchanged

IBEW Local 1245 and PG&E have exchanged proposals for General Negotiations covering wages, hours, working conditions and benefits. The current contract expires 12/31/1982. Complete Local Union and Company proposals will be included in the next issue of the *Utility Reporter*.



YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

By Frank Brass, Neyhart, Anderson, Nussbaum, Reilly & Freitas, P.C.

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Credit

Contributing writer:
Tom Dalzell, staff Counsel

SECOND IN A SERIES

You — and Worker's Compensation... what may qualify as industrial injuries

An industrial injury is any trauma or illness which is related to work or working conditions.

Most injuries are suffered as a result of strains incidental to activity or as a result of violent contact with objects.

Injuries of traumatic origin vary from a simple bruise to catastrophic accidents causing dismemberment, blindness or death.

The injury may occur without the application of physical force.

Diseases such as asbestosis, lead poisoning, tuberculosis, pneumonia, cancer or San Joaquin Valley fever, which result from occupational exposure, are industrial injuries.

An injury may arise from the accumulated effects of strain extending over a period of time.

The concept was best explained by Judge Matthew Tobriner in the leading case of *Beveridge vs. Industrial Accident Commission* when he stated:

"We think the proposition irrefutable that while a succession of slight injuries in the course of employment may not in themselves be disabling, their cumulative effect in work effort may become a destructive force. The fact that a single but slight work strain may not be disabling does not destroy its causative effect, if in combination with other strains, it produces a subsequent disability. The single strand, entwined with others, makes up the rope of causation.

The fragmentation of injury, the splintering of symptoms, into small pieces, the atomization of pain into minor twinges, the piecemeal contribution of work/effort to final collapse, does not negate injury. The injury is still there, even if manifested in disintegrated rather than in total, single impact. In

reality the only moment when such injury can be visualized as taking compensative form is the date of last exposure, when the cumulative effect causes disability."

Cardiovascular disease, which is aggravated by the stress of work activities, is compensable.

Mental illness, which is caused or aggravated by job tension, constitutes an industrial injury.

The employer must provide all treatment reasonably necessary to cure or relieve from the effects of the industrial injury.

Medical care may include the services of physicians, surgeons, chiropractors, nurses and physical therapists.

The cost of hospitalization, medication, X-Rays, laboratory studies and medical appliances must be paid by the employer or its insurance carrier. There are no deductibles.

The employee is entitled to be reimbursed for the reasonable expense of transportation to obtain treatment.

If the employer is advised in writing before the injury occurs,

the employee may be treated by his or her personal physician.

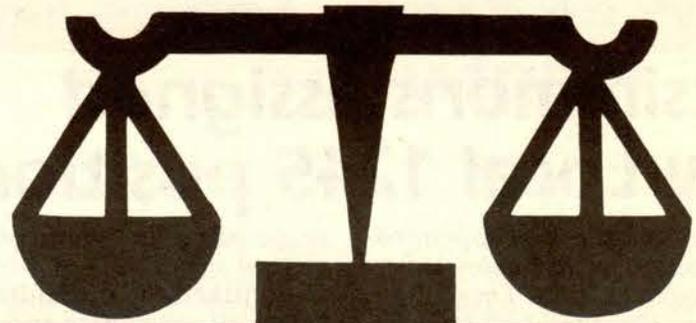
If care is required after 30 days from the date the injury was reported, the employee has the right to be treated by a physician of his or her choice. Prompt notice (within five days) to the employer or its insurance carrier by the employee and the selected physician is mandatory.

Remember that you are not obligated to accept the treating physician's opinion of the cause of your disability or need for care.

An injured employee, upon request, has the right to the services of a consulting physician at the expense of the employer.

If you have any questions about a claim, please seek help immediately from your Union Representative.

The workers' compensation laws contain time limits on commencing proceedings. In general, the limitation is one year from the date of injury, although the time is extended if medical care or disability payments were provided.



IBEW Local 1245 Legal Plan

To use the plan call:

In California: 800-652-1569

In Nevada: 702-358-1086

APPOINTMENTS

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCILS

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

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Wayne Johnson
Jim Mitchell

MERCED-MARIPOSA COUNTIES

Michael Higgins

MONTEREY PENINSULA TV CABLE

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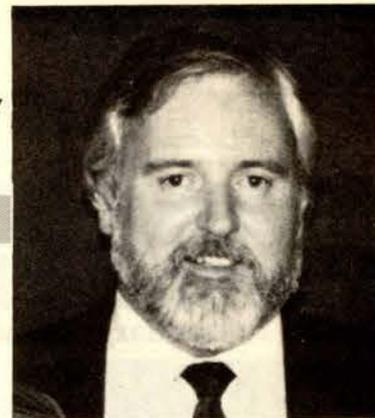
JOINT GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Zenobia Donahue

POINT OF VIEW

By Jack McNally

IBEW 1245 Business Manager



BACKBONE OF UNION

Shop Stewards honored... Local 1245 extends thanks

The National AFL-CIO, in recognition of the vital role which shop stewards play in achieving justice on the job, declared the first week of September, coinciding with Labor Day, to be National Shop Stewards Week.

The AFL-CIO called on the Congress of the United States and on state and local government to join in celebrating the contributions of Union shop stewards and to endorse the recognition of shop stewards.

In my opinion this is a well-deserved recognition, especially for Local 1245's shop stewards. Our shop stewards play a very active role in the day to day resolution of grievances, complaints, and questions on the job.

They are called upon constantly by our members to answer questions, discuss work-related problems, and to participate in the investigation and settlement of grievances.

The active shop steward in Local 1245 spends many hours of his or her own time serving the members. They communicate on-the-job conditions to Business Representatives and attend Unit meetings, special meetings, and training meetings on Saturdays three to four times a year — all for the purpose to better serve the members.

Shop stewards play a very big role in the operation of your Union and the enforcement of your contract. Without their active participation as stewards, while also serving on other committees, our Union wouldn't be here today. It has often been said that the shop steward is the backbone of the Union, and in the case of Local 1245, it is true.

Too often, however, the shop steward is taken for granted and does not get the recognition or thanks that he or she really deserves. I think the recognition bestowed by the National AFL-CIO on all the shop stewards across this country is well deserved.

In a show of unity I think it would be appropriate for members to take time out to commemorate the national recognition of shop stewards and shake hands with the shop steward in the work place as a demonstration of appreciation and thanks.

I would like to express my personal appreciation and recognition to all Local 1245 shop stewards for a job well done.

In Unity— *Jack McNally*

Delegates off to convention



Los Angeles bound . . . IBEW Local 1245's elected delegates to the IBEW International Convention are travelling south this month as the convention gets underway mid-September in L.A.

Members learn CPR

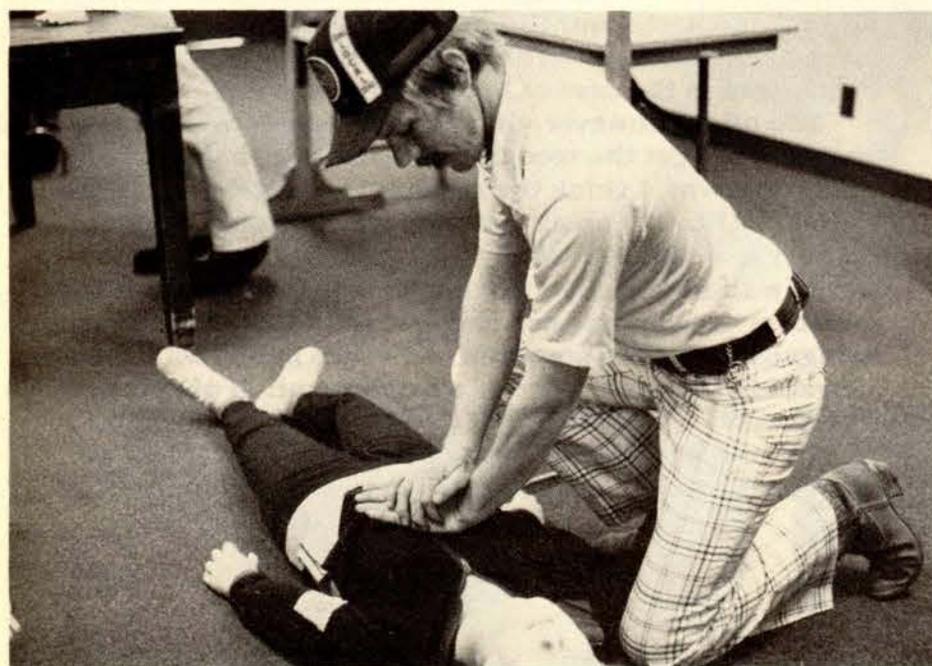
Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation



Member practices mouth-to-mouth breathing.



Davey Tree members participate in CPR demonstration at Local 1245 hearing.



Here member practices cardiac massage.

Photos by Jan Cannon

Hazard alert...

At the July 13, 1982 meeting of the Joint Health and Safety Committee, PG&E agreed to eliminate "NAPKO" meter gray paint from the system. They did not agree to conduct a survey for glycol ethers in all products used by PG&E.

Local prepares fact sheet on PCBs for physicians

By Marjorie Winter, Health Education Intern

Here is the fact sheet many of you have been asking for. It was designed specifically to provide your personal physician with the latest recommendations on diagnosis and medical care for workers who are exposed to PCBs on the job.

Familiarize yourself with this information which is written in the technical language used by physicians. Then clip out the fact sheet and have it available for your doctor as questions arise over your health care regarding PCB exposures.

For years many members have been concerned with the health risks which may result from PCB exposure. The discovery of major environmental contamination with PCBs and the ensuing public concern led to the passage of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) in 1976, which made PCBs the first substance ever banned by Congress. By 1977, the EPA developed regulations which banned the further manufacture of PCBs and strictly controlled the handling, storage and disposal of existing PCBs.

Despite this ban, many workers have been or are still being exposed to PCBs. This fact sheet

was prepared to provide you with the best options available today concerning medical care.

While the Local Union continues in its efforts to prevent future PCB exposure, it is important for you to keep records of your past and current exposures. This information, along with your own personal records of your medical history, may have an impact on your medical care and legal rights.

At the present time, medical tests, including measurements of PCB blood levels, cannot predict whether adverse health effects will result from PCB exposure. After reading the physician's PCB fact sheet, you may want a blood level test. You may need to consider both its cost and its medical and legal usefulness. Generally a single PCB blood level test costs over \$100. The fact sheet points out the scientific limitations of both laboratory tests and medical treatment.

A team of physicians who specialize in occupational medicine provided this fact sheet for Local 1245 members. Hopefully this latest information will play a part in protecting your health.

Glossary of terms...

A Glossary of Medical Terms Included in the Fact Sheet

- Acute** — relating to an exposure which occurs in a single incident, or to health effects which occur a short time after exposure.
- Bioaccumulation** — the gradual accumulation of a substance in humans and other animals.
- Bioassay** — laboratory tests to determine the health effects of a substance.
- Biphenyls** — a family of chemicals which includes PCBs.
- Carcinogenic** — denoting a substance which may cause cancer.
- Chronic** — relating to exposures which occur over a long period of time, or to delayed or long-term health effects.
- Comedo** — blackhead, skin eruption.
- Derm** — pertaining to the skin.
- Dibenzodioxins** — a family of chemicals related in chemical structure to dibenzofurans.
- Dibenzofurans** — a family of chemicals which includes highly toxic contaminants found in PCB fluids and other substances.
- Endocrine** — hormonal.
- Endogenous** — originating from within the body.
- Enzyme** — a chemical produced in the body which causes or accelerates reactions necessary for body function.
- Exogenous** — originating outside the body.
- Halogenated** — denoting a chemical which contains a halogen, such as chlorine.
- Hepato** — pertaining to the liver.
- Histological** — pertaining to the microscopic structure and function of tissues.
- Immunosuppressants** — agents which reduce the immune response of the body.
- LFT** — liver function test.
- Morphologic** — pertaining to the form and structure of an organism.
- Mutagenicity** — the potential to change or damage genes, which are the basic units of heredity.
- Ocular** — pertaining to the eye.
- Refractory** — not readily yielding to treatment.
- Teratogenic** — denoting a substance which may cause malformation in the embryo or fetus.
- Transplacental** — crossing through the placenta, thus being transferred from the pregnant mother to the unborn offspring.

Physician's PCB fact sheet

Prepared by a team of physicians specializing in occupational medicine, representing the Occupational Health Clinic, San Francisco General Hospital, with assistance from medical staffs of the Hazard Evaluation System and Information Service (HESIS), State of California, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and

Health (NIOSH), Region IX. This document is not intended to serve as a comprehensive guide for diagnosis and treatment, but to be used as an up-to-date guide summarizing the literature in this area.

PCBs have low acute toxicity but are of broader concern because of their environmental persistence, bioaccumulation, and high potential for chronic or delayed toxicity.

I. Chemistry and Industrial Uses

PCBs belong to the class of halogenated aromatic hydrocarbons, all of which are foreign to biologic systems. Commercial PCB products are always mixtures of various chlorinated biphenyls. Common trade names for PCB compounds are "Aroclor" and "Askarel." In addition, all commercial products are contaminated with polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs). This is of particular concern because the toxicity of PCDFs is much greater than PCBs in comparative animal studies, and because they are structurally similar to the highly toxic dibenzodioxins.

PCBs were introduced into industry in 1929, and have been used widely since then, primarily as heat exchange and dielectric fluids in electrical equipment. Utility workers, electricians, appliance service workers, and fire fighters are the occupational categories at highest risk for continued exposure to PCBs.

II. Environmental Contamination

Because PCBs are resistant to metabolic transformation, they persist in the environment and bioaccumulate in fish, wildlife, and humans. Trace amounts of PCBs, have been found in human blood, fat, and milk in over 50% of people sampled in all geographic areas of the United States.

III. Human Toxicology and Epidemiology

PCBs are absorbed well by all routes: skin, gastrointestinal, inhalation. Distribution is primarily into fat, and excretion is quite slow so that bioaccumulation occurs even at low exposure levels. The secretion of PCBs into human milk may be an important source of exposure to newborns.

The health effects are summarized below:

Carcinogenicity — Several PCB mixtures are clearly carcinogenic in a number of rodent bioassays, producing hepatocellular carcinomas. None of the PCB mixtures are active in short-term tests for mutagenicity, a finding that holds true for most heavily chlorinated carcinogens. Yet substantial confirming evidence for carcinogenicity is provided by positive cell transformation assays using these same PCB mixtures.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Environmental Pro-

tection Agency have concluded that based on available animal data, PCBs should be considered as potential human carcinogens. No threshold or "no-effect level" is known for PCBs or any other carcinogens.

Liver Damage — Abnormal liver function tests have been reported in a number of occupational studies, and clinical hepatitis was observed after accidental ingestion in the 1968 "Yusho" epidemic, a poisoning epidemic caused by ingestion of cooking oil contaminated with PCBs and PCDFs in Japan. Although some studies have reported negative results, in a recent cross-sectional study abnormal LFTs were observed and found to be correlated with serum PCB levels; the only other abnormal signs, symptoms, or laboratory tests in these workers were a few cases of chloracne.

Liver damage is the most consistent histological finding among the many laboratory animal species tested. However, because many other factors may cause abnormal liver function tests, such initial findings in humans must be regarded as non-specific. In addition, normal LFTs do not rule out the possibility of significant damage over time.

Reproductive Effects — The Yusho incident was important because it clearly documented the potential for reproductive and transplacental effects in humans. Stillbirths, abnormal skin pigmentation, lower birth weights, and ocular discharge at birth were observed; follow-up of these children has revealed no persistent morphologic or behavioral abnormalities. Adverse reproductive effects of PCBs have been found in many mammalian and avian species, primarily in lowered fertility, birth weight, or postnatal survival rather than specific teratogenic effects. Transplacental effects have been well documented.

Dermatologic Effects — Exposure to PCBs, dibenzofurans, and dibenzodioxins have been associated with a specific skin rash known as *chloracne*. Although it may resemble typical adolescent acne, there are certain distinctive features: the most distinctive lesion is cystic, skin colored and measures from 1-10 mm; the other prominent lesion is the comedo. The comedoes and cysts can become inflamed and secondarily infected, resulting in large pustules. Unlike adolescent acne, chloracne may occur at any age and may involve trunk, arms and legs as well as face, neck and back. It can be very persistent and refractory to treatment. Chloracne may result from external contact or from systemic absorption of PCBs;

onset is within days to weeks after a single large exposure, and at varying lengths of time after the beginning of chronic exposures. Threshold blood levels for the development of chloracne have not been established.

Other — The principle biochemical effect of PCBs is the stimulation and induction of certain enzyme systems, primarily in the liver. This has potential for altering the incidence of disease secondary to increased metabolism of endogenous or exogenous substances, and for interference with medical therapy due to increased metabolism of administered drugs. PCBs have also been reported as immunosuppressants and to have endocrine effects in animals.

IV. Medical Surveillance of Exposed Populations

Occupational Populations at Risk — Because no threshold or "no-effect level" for carcinogenicity has been determined for PCB exposure, and because almost nothing is known of the dose-response relationships between PCBs and health effects, any occupational exposure to PCBs should be viewed with concern. Exposure is primarily dermal, with a secondary risk of inhalation.

Medical Surveillance — Medical surveillance and biologic monitoring are of limited usefulness in predicting health hazards if dose-response relationships are not known, as is the case with PCBs. A large percentage of non-occupationally exposed people have measurable PCB levels in body fat, blood, and milk. We do not know how much of an increase in these levels is required to cause the signs and symptoms discussed above. In the absence of such signs and symptoms, we have no reason to believe that the risk of long-term effects will be negligible.

Background levels of PCBs in the general population are usually below 20 to 30 ppb, depending on the laboratory methods and standards used. Because PCBs bioaccumulate, levels above this reflect prior excessive exposure without indicating when it occurred, the total dose, or past peak serum levels. Although in general terms elevated PCB levels are definitely undesirable, no statements can be made at present about the clinical significance of a given level in a certain individual.

A practical approach to the continuing care of a potentially exposed patient should first include documentation in the medical records of the patient's exposure to PCBs. *Note: This is important in case the patient seeks financial compensation or future treatment for PCB-related health problems, particu-*

larly since new associations between PCBs and certain health problems may be revealed or confirmed through ongoing studies. In addition, because PCBs are potentially carcinogenic, this documentation may later be used in further epidemiologic research on cancer.

A thorough baseline medical examination should then be conducted, including a skin exam, LFTs and a history emphasizing reproductive and skin problems.

Upon the request of the patient and/or for purposes of financial compensation in the future, establishment of pre-employment serum PCB levels and re-determination after potentially significant exposure may be desirable.

The history, examination, and liver function tests outlined above should be repeated as excessive PCB exposures or signs and symptoms of PCB toxicity occur or recur. The main reason to determine serum PCB levels would be for medico-legal purposes, to confirm that an excessive exposure has occurred; increased levels will not provide information which would change the clinical management of the patient.

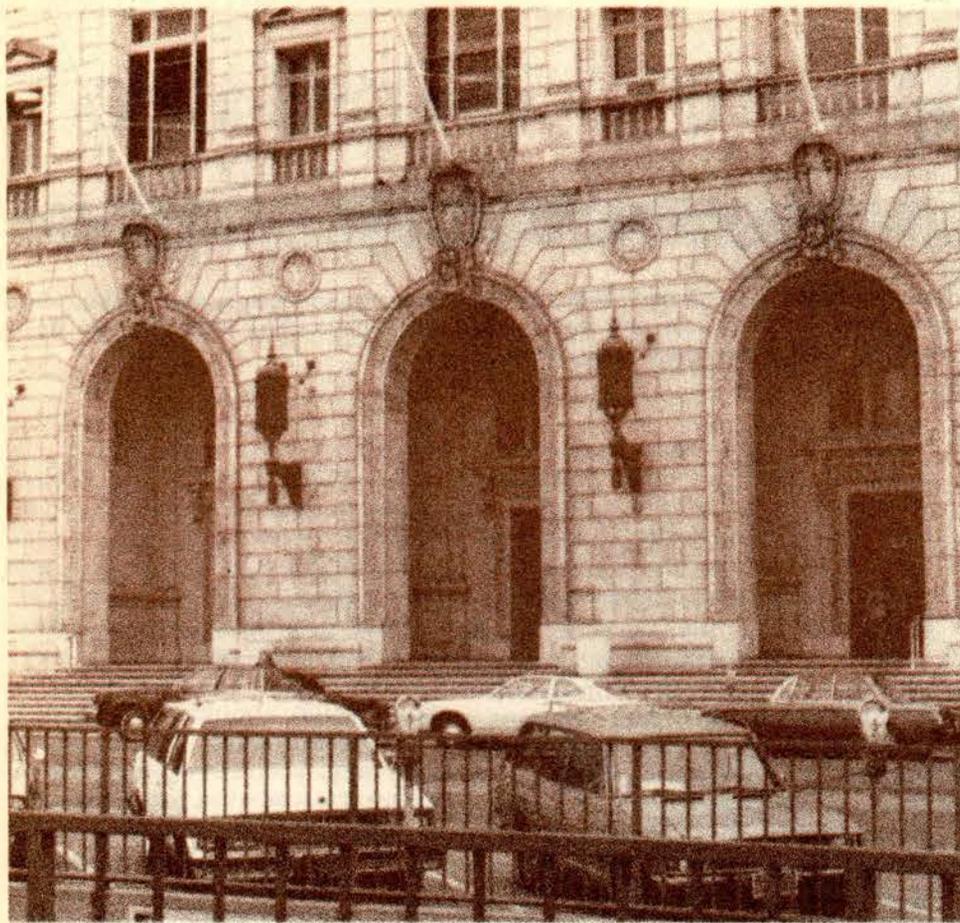
The above approach is designed for the medical care of patients/workers potentially exposed to small amounts of PCBs in a single incident or over a long period of time. Symptoms are unlikely to result from exposure to PCBs in most occupational settings. Even in cases of massive exposure, symptoms are usually minimal but may include upper respiratory and dermal irritation.

In cases of massive recent exposure, such as full body contamination with PCB containing capacitor fluid, the primary focus of care should be on the thorough decontamination of the patient. In such cases it may be advisable to seek consultation with the HESIS program.

V. Resources for Further Information

The State of California Hazard Evaluation System and Information Service will provide a literature review of PCB toxicology upon request. In addition, HESIS and the Occupational Health Clinic of the San Francisco General Hospital have physician/toxicologists on staff who will consult with practicing physicians in the community regarding the diagnosis and treatment of patients potentially exposed to PCBs. Here is the contact information:

HESIS, 2151 Berkeley Way; Berkeley, CA 94704; 415-540-3014 (in California call collect). Occupational Health Clinic, San Francisco General Hospital, Building 9, San Francisco, CA 94110; 415-821-5087.



State Building in San Francisco where hearings were held.

Local 1245 members crowd as testimony opens on emp



Presiding over PUC Hearing, Administrative Law Judge, Donald Meaney.



Business Manager Jack McNally was on stand for lengthy questioning and cross examination.



Faces in the crowd in the packed standing-room-only hearing room.



'Speak not of rights, but of justice;' Steward tells judge

Excerpt from testimony by Olga Ramirez, Customer Service Representative & Shop Steward, Stockton.

"And I am here this morning to speak not of rights, but rather to speak of justice.

I believe that you are here this morning to contemplate and consider the removal of the employee discounts. And with all my respect to the public, and I do want to emphasize with all my respect to the public, I believe that their motives are selfish, and I believe that they are based not in facts, but merely in theories.

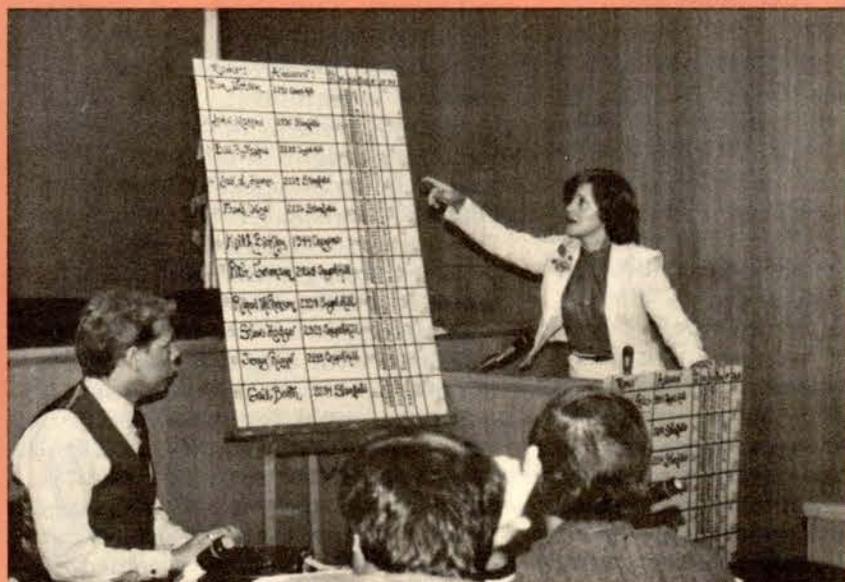
Now, you may ask me why do I believe that they are selfish? And I would like to reply that the reason that they are asking for the removal of the PG&E employee discount is because they do not like their bills.

I would like to say that first of all, I am not here in my own behalf. I am here on the behalf of my fellow employees, and especially of the retired employees that live in a fixed income. And in fact, if this discount is removed, they would have no benefit in replacement.

I am speaking of those elderly individuals that have worked for PG&E not 10 years, not 20 years, but 30, 40, 50 years, and they have earned their benefits.

I would like to say that first of all, I am not here in my own behalf. I am here on the behalf of my fellow employees, and especially of the retired employees that live on a fixed income. And in fact, if this discount is removed, they would have no benefit in replacement.

they are going to affect innocent individuals that are just trying to



Olga Ramirez points to figures showing employee energy use.

earn their living just like you and me.

I have spoken of justice, and I would like to say, your Honor, that the majority does not make justice. And I hope that you may exercise the authority that has been invested upon you, knowing truly and sincerely what it means to speak of justice, and the difference between right and wrong.



Retired former berry and his

PUC hearing room in San Francisco

Employee discount

Photos: Carol Bedsole



Local 1245 Staff Counsel, Tom Dalzell, center, presented union's case during the PUC Hearing.



Robert McDonald, who heads IBEW International's Utility Department traveled from Washington, D.C. to testify at hearing.

Discount costs only pennies

COST OF THE EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT

During the Public Utilities Commission hearings on August 9 through 11, cross-examination by Local 1245 attorney Tom Dalzell revealed that the loss of revenues associated with the employee discount are assigned to all classes of ratepayers, not just residential ratepayers as had previously been believed.

As a result, the following figures show the total annual cost of the employee discount to the average residential customer:

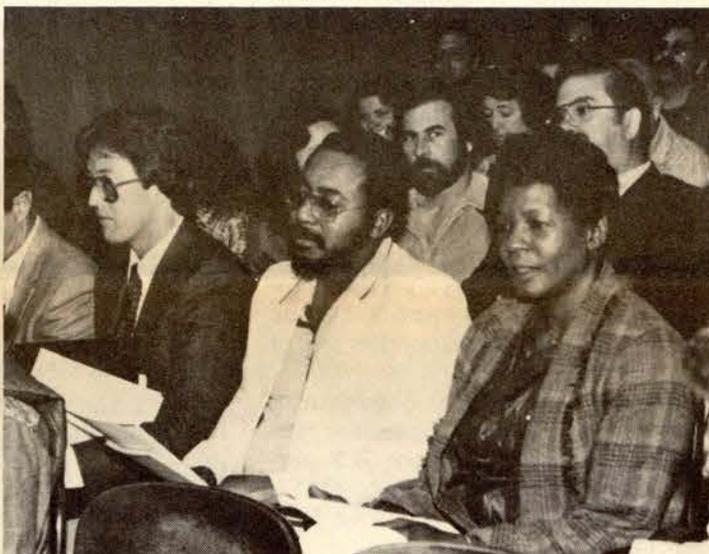
ELECTRIC DISCOUNT

PG&E	\$.29
So. California Edison	\$.14
San Diego Gas & Elec.	\$.36
Sierra Pacific Power	\$.39

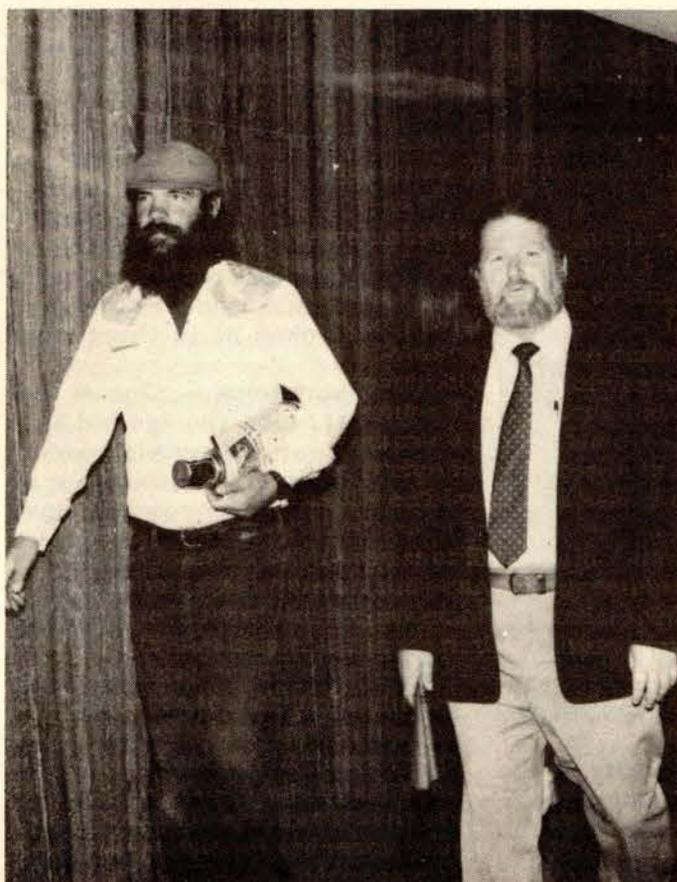
GAS DISCOUNT

PG&E	\$.18
San Diego Gas & Elec.	\$.21
CP National	\$.52

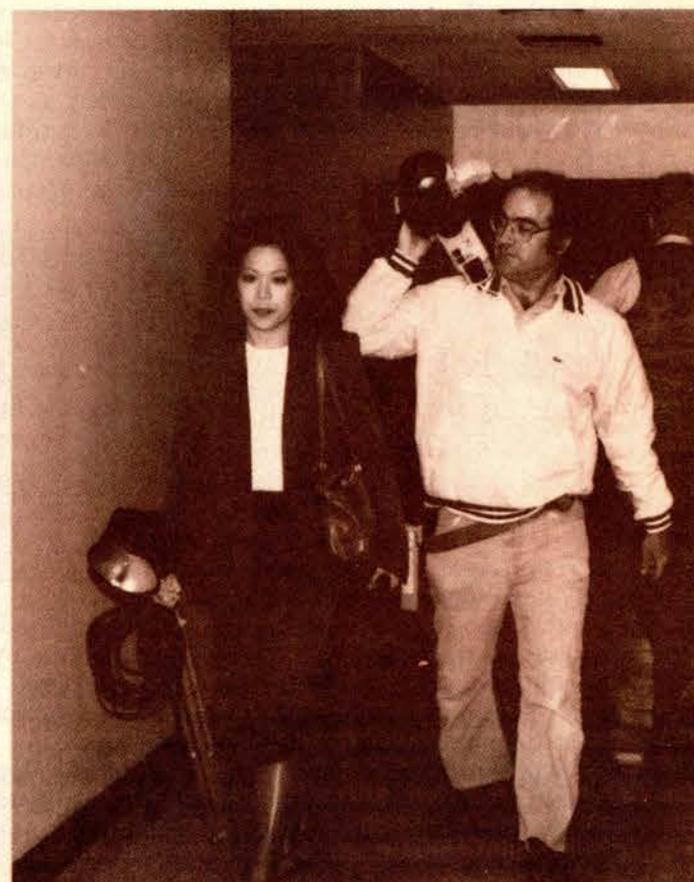
In light of the above, it is difficult to imagine why the Public Utilities Commission is spending thousands of tax dollars investigating such an inexpensive fringe benefit.



Executive Board member, C.P. 'Red' Hennefe Rosie attended the hearing.



On their way to hearing room are member Dean Gurke, Lineman, San Francisco, left, and Business Representative Frank Saxsenmeier.



Reporter hurries down hall to hearing room.

Social Security — the facts vs. the scare tactics

By RICHARD SPOHN, Editor, International Woodworkers

The following reprinted article tells you what you need to know to understand that the Social Security program is not in such dire straits as the Reagan administration and certain corporate officials would like to lead you to believe. It explains the four separate Social Security trust funds, how they are financed, and why Social Security

is "the best value money can buy." It also urges you to write to both of your U.S. Senators and your Representative in Congress to urge them to oppose any cuts in Social Security and to urge them to: (1) extend interfund borrowing; (2) remove Social Security from the unified budget; (3) provide for the use of general fund revenues in So-

cial Security; and (4) set up an independent bi-partisan board to run Social Security. The article was written by Richard Spohn, editor of the International Woodworker, the official publication of the International Woodworkers of America, AFL-CIO-CLC.

Attacks by the Reagan Administration and other right-wing ideologues on Social Security have frightened and confused many Americans, particularly those now drawing benefits or those close to retirement.

Fear that the system is "going broke" is fostered and confusion over just what Social Security is, is cultivated.

(Just such tactics were evidenced this week when Reagan's Social Security Administrator John Svahn told a meeting of hospital personnel administrators in Baltimore that: "Either you're going to have to start paying an awful lot more now . . . up to 25 percent . . . or we're going to have to expect less." That is scare talk.)

Overcoming that fear and confusion requires facts and the truth.

This article was prepared from material gathered from many sources and presented by experts such as Robert M. Ball, Senior Consultant to the Study Group on Social Security and U.S. Commissioner of Social Security under Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon, and Bert Seidman, Director of the AFL-CIO Department of Social Security. Seidman also served as chairman of the Technical Committee on Retirement Income for the 1981 White House Conference on Aging.

First: Social Security is a compact between generations. It is an extension of the American custom of the young and vigorous aiding their elders. Yet it allows older people to maintain their independence and dignity by providing an income floor in their retirement years. It removes the specter of the Poorhouse when productive years are over. And that specter was real and terrifying in the "good old days" that Ronald Reagan and his friends yearn to see re-created. Years when the elderly depended on the charity of Lord and Lady Bountiful in the Manor House on the hill.

But Social Security is more than retirement. It is also **disability insurance** to help workers and their families if the breadwinner is physically unable to continue working.

It's a **life insurance** program, providing income for surviving spouses and young children if workers die during their productive years.

It's a **health insurance** program,

helping to meet skyrocketing hospital and medical bills which make up an enormous portion of the meager budgets of retirees and the disabled.

Social Security has four separate trust funds to provide those benefits: the Old-Age and Survivors' Insurance fund (OASI), the Disability Insurance fund (DI), the Hospital Insurance fund (HI), and the Supplemental Medical Insurance fund (SMI).

SMI benefits are financed from a combination of general revenue (75 percent of the cost) and the current premiums of beneficiaries (25 percent). Social security taxes do not finance SMI. Social security tax deductions from workers' earnings, matching payroll taxes paid by employers and tax payments by the self-employed finance the other three funds.

Workers today pay 6.7 percent of their earnings (up to a maximum of \$32,400 per year). Of the 6.7 percent, 4.575 percent goes to OASI, 0.825 percent goes to DI, and 1.30 percent to HI. Employers pay a matching amount to each of the three funds, and the self-employed pay a little less than 1-1/2 times the employee rate for OASI, 1-1/2 times the employee rate for DI, and the same rate as the employed worker for HI for a total of 9.35 percent.

By 1990, the rate for employers and employees, each will be 5.1 for

"If you don't think Social Security is a bargain, just ask any insurance company how much it would cost for a policy offering a retirement pension, health insurance and life insurance, all protected from inflation."

OASI, 1.1 for DI, and 1.45 for HI. The self-employed total rate will be 10.75 percent. There are no rate increases scheduled after 1990 in present law.

Second: Social Security is the best value money can buy. According to the non-partisan Research Institute of America, Social Security for a 35-year-old worker with a spouse and two children — the "average American family" — has a potential value of \$164,250 for re-

tirement, \$285,953 for disability, \$297,507 for surviving spouses and children. Average monthly benefits (July, 1981 figures) are shown in the accompanying table.

And those figures are at today's prices. Their values are protected from inflation so if the cost-of-living goes up, so do workers' benefits.

If you don't think Social Security is a bargain just ask any insurance company how much it would cost for a policy offering a retirement pension, health insurance and life insurance, all protected from inflation.

Third: Social Security is not "going broke." Social Security's short-term problems are manageable, and

"It is a fraud to tell the public that by cutting Social Security we can balance the budget because under the law, the trust funds can be used only to benefit the retired, the disabled and survivors of deceased workers."

once they are solved, it will remain healthy well into the next century. Predictions that it will not be able to meet its obligations in the year 2025 and beyond are exceedingly questionable and are based on assumptions about future events which are simply unknowable at the present time. The economic health of the system is evident if the program is looked at in three time frames.

The Short-term — One of the three trust funds, Old Age and Survivor's Insurance, faces a temporary deficit. The program is the victim of outside forces; the economy just hasn't performed well in recent years. Price increases have outstripped wage increases, driving up outgo. High unemployment has driven down income.

The problem will remain until about 1990. But it has nothing to do with the claim that the aging population is increasing at a rapid rate, nothing to do with President Reagan's talk about how there used to be 16 workers for every beneficiary, and that the ratio has now slipped to 3.2-to-1. In the early days of the program that ratio was 1,000-to-1, or more,

but the designers of Social Security knew the ratio would fall and planned for it.

The Middle-term — From 1990 until 2015 OASI will move into a very favorable position. The post-World War II "baby boom" generation will be paying into the system, and the number of older people will be balanced by the increase in the size of the population between 20 and 65. The scheduled 1990 tax increase will also help. The buildup in the fund will be so large, in fact, that it will be in surplus even when the "baby boom" generation begins to retire.

The Long-term — This period runs from 2025 to 2055 because actuaries make their cost estimates for a 75-year span. Whether we want to take seriously estimates that reach that far into the future is an important question.

Only Canada and the United States make estimates for that long a period. Three countries make them for 50 years. All the rest — and every industrial country has its own version of an OASI program — don't make estimates for that long, to say nothing of whether they pay any attention to such estimates in their policy determinations.

There is simply no way to know what conditions will be 50 or 75 years from now. Clearly, we will have many more older people. We can predict the size of the older population; these people are already born, and the application of reasonable mortality rates gives us a reliable picture. But when we try to balance the size of a known population of the elderly against the unknown of birth rates, scientific prediction goes out the window and we're reduced to gazing into a crystal ball.

In any event, it seems the height of folly to cut benefits and protection now on the theory that something may happen way out there tomorrow.

Yet the Administration has created a crisis atmosphere. It insists that the only way to "save" social security is to make it smaller and less adequate. The Administration's goal — announced, ironically, within days of President Reagan proclaiming "Older Americans' Month" — was to slash a staggering \$82 billion over the next five years from the benefits of retirees, crippled workers, surviving spouses and children.

Why? So the President could deliver on his promise of a "balanced budget" even though he knew full well that social security funds have nothing to do with the 'budget' of the United States. It is another Hollywood illusion, much like the President himself.

David Stockman said it very well in his Atlantic Monthly interview. He said "the social security problem is not simply one of satisfying actuaries. It's one of satisfying the here-and-now of budget requirements."

OUTSIDE LINE

By Jerry Robinson, Business Representative

HERE'S WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE:

1. Extend inter-fund borrowing. Congress has already allowed the OASI fund to borrow from the other two through 1982. OASI has a shortage, the others are in surplus. Borrowing should be extended to 1990 when OASI will have a significant surplus and social security will have clear sailing into the next century.

2. Remove social security from the unified budget. Prior to fiscal 1969, the social security trust funds had complete autonomy. Then they were swept into the unified budget where they have been subject ever since to the short-term policy

"Let your elected representative know that American workers fought for Social Security and intend to keep Social Security."

swings of elected officials and political appointees. It is a fraud to tell the public that by cutting social security we can balance the budget because under the law, the trust funds can be used only to benefit the retired, the disabled and survivors of deceased workers.

3. Infuse general revenues into social security. The concept of tripartite funding — employer, employee and government — was recommended by the founders of the program nearly 50 years ago. It is the way in which countries all over the world fund their social security programs.

4. Establish an independent board to run social security. It is a huge pension and group insurance plan and should be administered so people will be secure in the knowledge that their rights are being protected. Establishing benefits and financing should remain with Congress and the President, but the policy function should be performed by a bi-partisan board of directors with staggered terms. Social security is the peoples' program; it should be run that way.

Let your elected representatives know that American workers fought for social security, paid for social security, and intend to keep social security.

Average Monthly Amounts Paid In Major Benefits Categories (July, 1981)

Retired worker alone	\$374
Retired couple	640
Disabled worker alone	413
Disabled worker and family	812
Aged widow or widower alone	342
Young survivor family	870

Dispatch moves to Sacramento

The work picture doesn't look too great but at least there's some work coming up.

Wisner & Becker will start the switch yard at the Geysers as soon as Harker & Harker finishes the concrete work. Harker & Harker has another transmission line that will start in October-November down by Fresno.

We also have two switch yards coming up in the Fresno area. One should start within the next month and the other in November-December. There are two more switch yards at the Geysers to be built and one transmission line.

The cable TV work is looking better. Alameda should start in two or three months. Sacramento Cable TV hasn't been awarded yet but if a union contractor gets it, it should start around the first of the year.

There is a possibility of cable TV work in Berkeley and Davis also.

I recently attended a meeting to discuss a transmission line at the City of Alameda and will report on the outcome in a later issue.

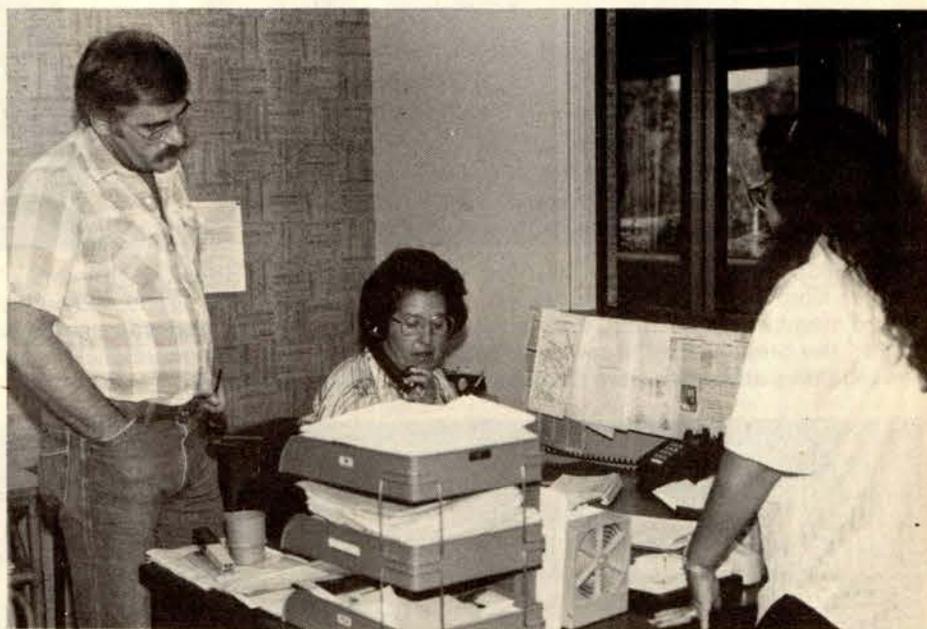
The Dispatch Office moved to Sacramento on August 23. Our hours will continue to be 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

The new dispatch phone number will be 916-446-0192 and the address is 1414 - 21st Street, upstairs at the IBEW Local 1245 Sacramento office.

Barbara Grossman will take over Walnut Creek dispatcher Esther Smith's duties at that time.

Dues will still have to be paid through the Walnut Creek office, however the receipts will be processed sooner.

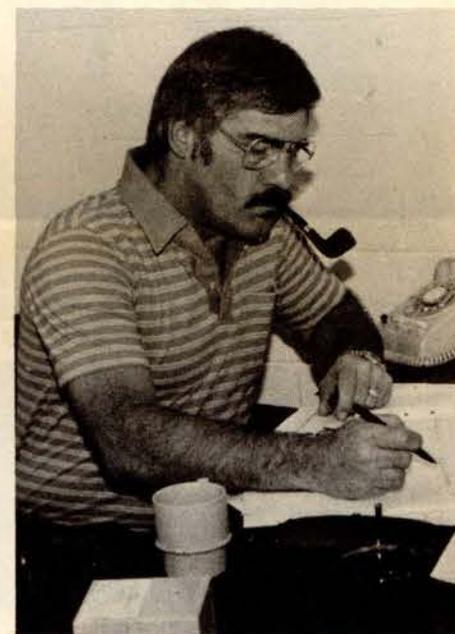
See you at the next Unit Meeting, 10 a.m., September 11 at the Sacramento office.



Esther Smith, center, details Dispatch routine for Sacramento staff, Business Representative, Jerry Robinson, and Barbara Grossman.



Grossman takes over Dispatch duties at IBEW Local 1245's Sacramento office.



Jerry Robinson at work in Sacramento.

Buy Union... it means jobs!

The AFL-CIO and its national Union Label and Service Trades Department have designated the second week in September, 1982 as national "Union Label Week." The distinctive emblems of the trade union movement — the Union Label, Shop Card, Store Card, and Service Button — are symbols of the gains made by organized labor such as: better working conditions, fair wages, increased job security, and a higher standard of living achieved through the process of collective bargaining.

The purpose of Union Label Week is to encourage all consumers to buy union-made, American-made products, make use of Union Services and to be especially aware of the insignia which designate goods and services produced by skilled, trained craftsmen. The consumer can be assured that the dollar spent for goods and services produced by union workers create and maintain jobs in the community and strengthen the economy of that community.

At a time when thousands of jobs have been lost

to imports and whole industries desimated by unfair foreign competition union members are reminded to buy American to secure American jobs!



San Francisco members attend Awards Dinner

Photos: Carol Bedsole, Bill Peitz

"Proud to be a union member, a member of IBEW Local 1245 . . . through thick and thin . . ." Those were the sentiments echoed throughout the evening at the recent recognition dinner honoring senior members in San Francisco.



Albert Motl, with his wife on his right, receives plaque in honor of 40 years of service from Joann Burton, on his left, who represented her husband, Executive Board member, Jay Burton, who is recovering from surgery, and was unable to attend the presentation. Business Representative Frank Saxsenmeier, left, extended congratulations from Business Manager, Jack McNally.



Hundreds of years of combined service among these members . . .

40 Years

Albert A. Motl

35 Years

Carl L. Jackson

30 Years

L. E. Andres
K. J. Bernhardt
R. Bradley
P. V. Bunch
Eugene J. Campedel
George Cavanaugh
Melvin G. Chiolo
Clifford D. Cochran
Bertram J. Coffey
R. W. Deboi
Primo J. Dente
Calvin J. Dickson
J. J. Durney
Lawrence Foss
Edward E. Frey
R. M. Frye
J. J. Gleeson
L. D. Greer
J. Hampton
Robert E. Hankins

J. R. Hopkins

R. L. Johnson
Martin Laguilio
A. T. Lochert
R. F. Madronich
F. R. Malone
W. D. Martin
Harvey E. Michael
Robert G. Nielsen
Frank A. Quadros
Roger J. Robles
Paul Rose
Albert J. Schroder
S. Shostar, Jr.
Arthur H. Smith
Joe Vaiasicca
R. Vittier
James E. Walker
J. D. Walkley, Jr.

25 Years

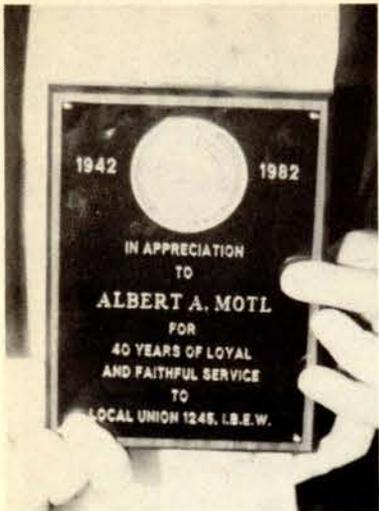
John Bauer
Michael Condon
Pat J. Feeney
M. Louise Gill
C. L. Inferrera
C. E. Johnston
D. L. Matteucci

J. S. McClintic

James Naron
Herman J. Reuther
David M. Spreckelsen
R. H. Squires
Earl Williams

20 Years

Bernice Aston
Howard Baker
P. Burke
Virginia Carter
Mary Chan
Nancy T. Elbing
P. M. Ferguson
H. J. Fernandez
Helen Gan
Richard Green
Barney I. Greenbaum
Anthony Guilfoyle
Lucy M. Leija
Peter H. Luth
D. A. Macauley
C. L. McPherson
E. C. Schultz
Ronald L. Sevier
B. T. Ware



Honor plaque



Proud award recipients



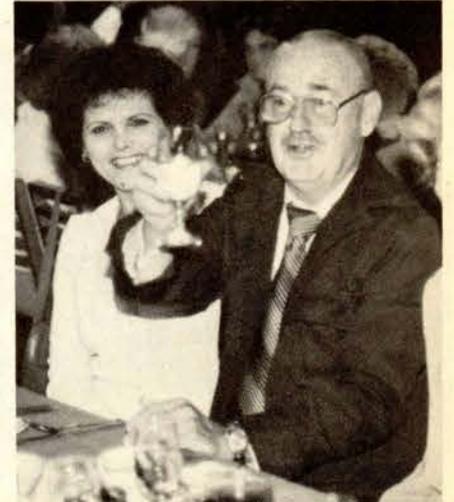
Business Representative, Dorothy Fortier



Honorees



A toast . . .



to the evening

STOCKTON AREA

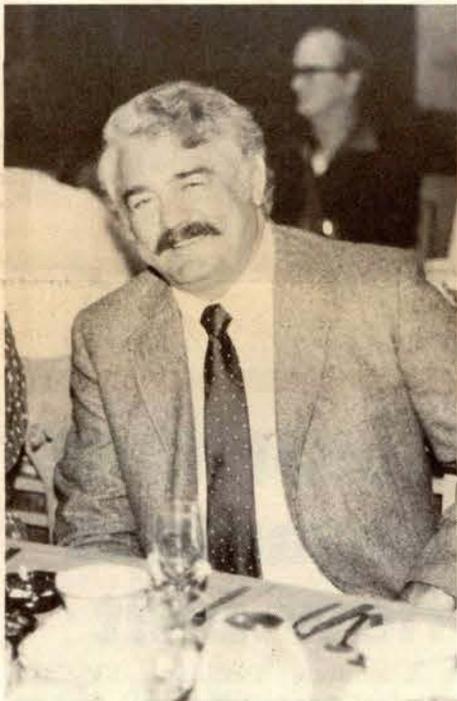
Members honored at recognition dinner



How the years fly by . . .



Representing the Executive Board, Bill Peitz, right, with his wife, Joyce.



Honoree



Looking back over the years



Congratulating Stanley Williams on 40 years of service is Business Representative Mickey Harrington, left.



Thirty-five year members, left to right, Ray Anderson and Robert White shake hands with Business Representative Harrington.



Thirty year members honored were, left to right, Jim Kane, Ken McAuley and Jack Ramsey.



Receiving recognition for 25 years of service was member Eddie Brown, left.



Twenty-year honorees included Charlie Camacho, J. E. Pence, Frank Pimentel, and Warren White.

Register... make your vote count

FROM Page One

the California election at their next meeting. Endorsements will be reported in the next issue of the Utility Reporter.

Local 1245's Nevada endorsements were reported in the last issue of the Utility Reporter. Members are reminded to get out and vote to support labor candidates in the September 14 primary election.

The latest report on voter registration in California shows that although Democrats have had the largest registration growth since January, their overall percentage of the state's registered voters remains at the lowest level that it has been in an election year since 1935 when Democrats accounted for 49.5 percent of the voters.

In contrast, Republicans are at their highest level since 1974 when they had 36 percent.

As of the May 10 close of registration for the June 2 primary election, voter registration totaled 11,080,453, including 5,846,847 Democrats (52.8 percent), 3,867,811 Republicans (34.9 percent), and 1,072,003 who declined to state a party preference (9.7 percent).

A report issued last month by the U.S. Census Bureau, however, said that there were more than 18 million potentially eligible voters in California.

Retirement time—no time for that 'ol rocking chair'

Retirement is no time to let that old rocking chair get ya—!

Just the opposite — it's a perfect time to concentrate your energies in areas you've had an interest in — but perhaps a lack of time to get involved in.

At IBEW Local 1245 the push is on to organize our retired members . . . to get them together to support areas of vital concern to the retired members of our Local and our communities.

Executive Board members Bill Peitz and Barbara Symons are busy responding to retired members who've already indicated an interest in organizing a group when they mailed in a coupon from a previous issue of the Utility Reporter asking

**THESE STRONG HANDS HELP
AMERICA MOVE FORWARD!**

LABOR DAY
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ 1982 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

for more information about retirement activities.

"I've been checking the mails daily and keeping up with the requests" Peitz recently reported.

Retirees can help play an important role in the Local by developing a very important source of political and legislative power; as well as help develop educational programs for members in retirement.

Any retired IBEW member, their spouses, widows or widowers of deceased IBEW members are encouraged to join Local 1245 Retirees' Club.

First steps are underway and as interest grows, meeting places and events will be scheduled.

Local 1245 organizes new unit

A Monterey Peninsula TV Cable clerical bargaining unit was recently organized by IBEW Local 1245.

The unit includes customer service representatives, Showtime installers, dispatchers and receptionists, including some 20 regular and part time employees in the Salinas and Monterey office.

The organizing drive was conducted over a two-month period with a representation election being held June 24 with the Union winning by a large margin. Negotiations began on July 7. Several subsequent meetings were held but no acceptable proposals have yet been sent to the membership. Serving on the negotiating committee are Rebecca Dodson and Jan Eaton.

Instrumental in organizing the unit were Business Representative Ken Ball and Jan Eaton, Rebecca Dodson, Rebekah Larsen, and a special tip of the hat goes to T. L. Linebarger, Shop Steward, from the Physical Unit.

IBEW Local 1245 also represents a physical bargaining unit on this property which is under separate contract.

Members injured in explosion

Avon Power Plant Relief Control Operator, John Aldridge, 58, at press time was in critical, unstable condition from extensive burns he suffered following an explosion in a steam line at Avon last month.

The accident claimed the life of Shift Foreman Elliott Roberts, and caused injury to Auxiliary Operator Harold Neely, 28.

Aldridge, a 29-year member of IBEW Local 1245 and Neely, a two-year member, were both injured on July 23 at the PG&E plant near Martinez.

Aldridge is hospitalized at Brookside Hospital's Burn Center where he's fighting for recovery. Neely was treated for burns on his back and leg and was released from the Burn Center.

Immediately following the accident report, Local 1245 Business Representatives Sam Tamimi, initiated an investigation along with Assistant Business Manager Ron Fitzsimmons who heads up Local Health, Safety and Training.

Subsequently the Local met with Cal OSHA and company representatives to pursue the cause of the accident. It is still under investigation. Witnesses are being interviewed, and independent laboratory tests are being conducted with results pending.

Local 1245 continues to be in close contact with the Aldridge family during this critical time. Brother Neely is home recovering from his injuries.

Mitrick, scholarship winner

Veronica Mitrick, 18, a June graduate of Irvington High School in Fremont has been awarded IBEW Local 1245's vocational trade school scholarship for 1982.

She will receive \$500-a-year for two years to assist in her education at Heald Business College, Hayward, where she will undertake a secretarial course leading to a career as either a legal or administrative secretary.

A well-rounded student, Veronica majored in Business courses in high school, was an active athlete participating in volleyball, basketball and track. She also served as treasurer of the Associated Student Body at Irvington where she was active in student government.

Her father Dan, a 22-year member of Local 1245, is a Line Subforeman out of the PG&E Fremont Service Center. He and his wife Nancy have two other children, John, 17, and Dan Jr., 16. Dan says both sons are looking forward to competing for scholarships in the Local when they are eligible in the next few years.

Contact me, I'm interested in learning more about retirement activities at IBEW Local 1245.

Name _____

Address _____

Zip Code _____

Area Code/ Phone Number _____ / _____ Birthdate _____

Spouse's First Name _____

Clip and mail to Retirement Committee, IBEW Local 1245, P.O. Box 4790, Walnut Creek 94596.