



UTILITY REPORTER

OFFICIAL VOICE OF IBEW LOCAL UNION 1245 AFL-CIO

PUC CLOSES CHAPTER ON DISCOUNT INTRUSION

Local 1245's long battle to protect discounts successful

"We will not order any change in employee discounts for energy utilities ... This proceeding is terminated." With these words, the California Public Utilities Commission closed another chapter in the ongoing struggle between those who would have the government involved in collective bargaining on the one hand and those who support the principle of free collective bargaining on the other.

1981 — Investigation Ordered

In late December, 1981, the Public Utilities Commission issued an order initiating an investigation into the granting of employee discounts at California's electric, gas, telephone, and water utilities. While the Commission in the past had considered the issue of the employee discount in rate proceedings involving individual companies, the new investigation would cross company lines to embrace the discount at all utilities.

The timing of the Commission's move led many to speculate that its motives were political. "You have to remember," said Local 1245 Business Manager Jack McNally, "that this was about two weeks before the Commission granted PG&E the huge rate increases that caused so many political problems for both the Commission and PG&E for the first few months of 1982. Many of us think that the Commission came after the discount to divert some of the heat they were feeling on the rate issue."

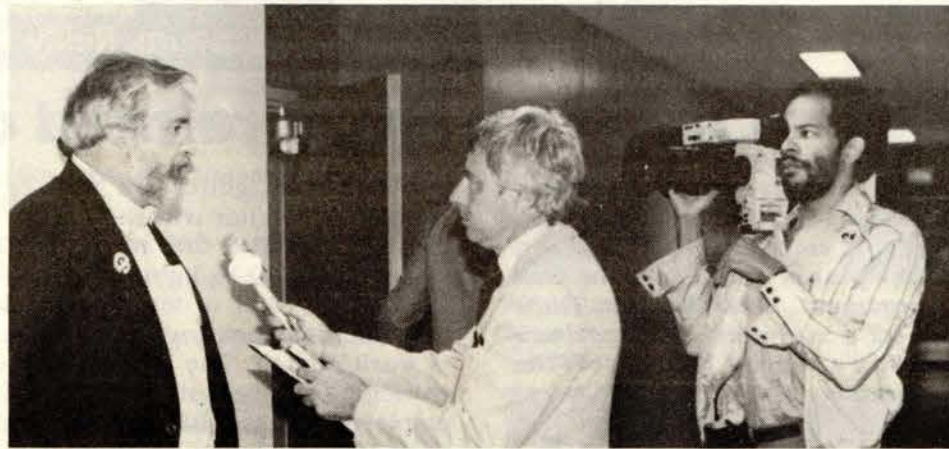


Photo: Carol Bedsole

During public hearings, IBEW Local 1245 Business Manager Jack McNally, who testified at the proceedings, detailed the union's position on employee discounts for television reporter.

1982 — Energy Utility Hearings

In the spring of 1982, the Commission's administrative law judge assigned to the case, Donald Meaney, decided to divide the investigation into separate phases and begin with the energy utilities: Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Sierra Pacific Power Company (California operations only), C.P. National, Southern California Edison, and San Diego Gas and Electric Company.

As the Public Utilities Commission geared up for hearings on the first phase of the case, Local 1245 and other unions representing utility employees in California began their own preparations. The Coalition of California Utility Workers, which had first been organized the summer before, met frequently to

map a united strategy for the Public Utilities Commission hearings. The unions pooled their ideas and all contributed to a defense fund to reimburse Local 1245 for legal expenses incurred on the Coalition's behalf in defending the discount.

Administrative law judge Meaney conducted hearings on the discount for employees of utilities providing the public with gas and/or electric service on August 9, 10, 11, 23, 24 and 25, at the State Building on McAllister Street in San Francisco, California. Local 1245 and the entire Coalition were represented each day by Local 1245 Staff Attorney Tom Dalzell. Prepared testimony was submitted by each of the Coalition unions; Business Manager McNally and Robert MacDonald of the IBEW Utility Depart-

ment in Washington both testified in support of the discount.

After the hearings were concluded, the different groups which had been involved in the hearing—the Commission staff, utilities, the unions, and several consumer groups filed written briefs with the Commission outlining their positions and what they felt the evidence had shown.

In its brief, the Coalition of California Utility Workers took the position that (1) because the employee

"our labor policy is not presently erected on a foundation of government control of the results of negotiations ..."

United States Supreme Court National Labor Relations Board vs. Insurance Agents, 1960

discount is a negotiated fringe benefit, the Public Utilities Commission is without authority to alter the discount either directly or indirectly; (2) the discount is not a discriminatory rate in violation of Section 453(a) of the Public Utilities Code; (3) the employee discount is appropriate and consistent with sound and equitable ratemaking principles; (4) the discount does not undermine the Commission's See BACK PAGE

High-flying tower

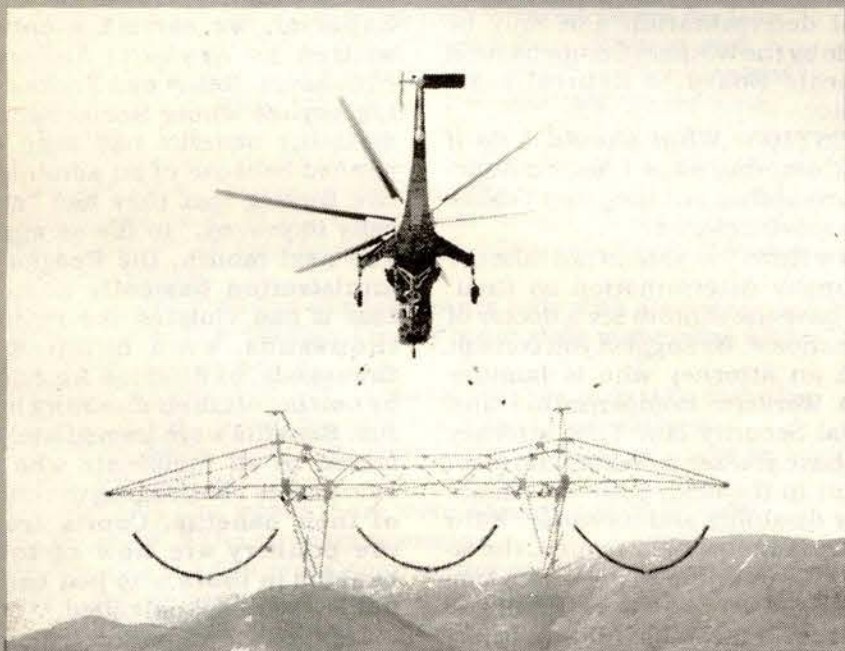


Photo: Tom Heyl

Enormous Sky Crane carries tower bridge from assembly yard to 500 Kv tower site in Southern California desert where more than 250 IBEW Local 1245 Outside Construction members worked on a 150-mile span of a new "Powerlink" for San Diego Gas and Electric Company. See pages 6-7 for an overview of the entire project which our members have just completed.

Union safeguards discount for Sierra Pacific members

Local 1245 members employed at Sierra Pacific in Nevada have long enjoyed a 50 percent employee discount as one of their fringe benefits. Sierra Pacific employees in Nevada, like their sisters and brothers in California, have had to fight to keep their discount over the years.

On May 24, 1976, the Public Service Commission of the State of Nevada issued an order immediately reducing and ultimately eliminating the employee discount for Sierra Pacific employees. The Company immediately eliminated the discount for management employees but could not with bargaining unit employees because of Local 1245's contract with the company.

Local 1245 filed a lawsuit attacking the order in federal court and Sierra Pacific filed an action in Nevada state court. On April 21, 1983, the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada issued a decision on the state court action involving the employee discount. The Supreme

Court agreed with the lower court which held that the Public Service Commission did not have the right to interfere in collective bargaining.

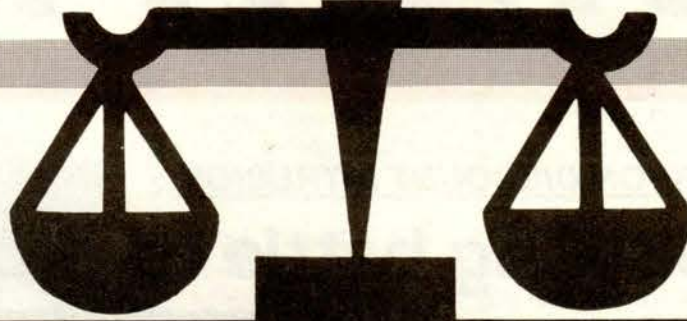
Since the Supreme Court's decision more than a year ago, there has been no action by the Nevada Public Service Commission on the discount and Local 1245 members at Sierra Pacific continue to receive the employee discount as one of their fringe benefits.

Go Votel California Primary Election June 5

Endorsements See Page 5



YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS



—Neyhart, Anderson, Nussbaum, Reilly & Freitas, P.C.

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(415) 933-6060

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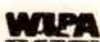
Ron Field

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Credits:

Contributing writers: Tom Dalzell, Ann Miley, Staff Attorneys; Juliann Sum, Industrial Hygienist. Joan Zoloth Foster and Frank Brass of Neyhart, Anderson, Nussbaum, Reilly and Freitas, contributed substantially to this month's "Your Legal Rights" column.

'Q & A' on work-related disabilities

PG&E has recently begun to conduct hearing tests on hundreds of employees - mostly in power plants but also in the Gas Department. Our members have asked a number of questions which we reprint below with the best answers we can give.

QUESTION: Why has the company started such a massive program of hearing tests?

Assistant Business Manager in charge of Health and Safety Ron Fitzsimmons: Under the law the company must give hearing tests to any employees who are exposed to a noise level of 85 decibels for an average of eight hours a day. This law, under the California OSHA act, went into effect in June 1983. The company has taken its testing facility to the Geysers, a number of steam plants, and to the Gas Department in several divisions. Hundreds of workers have been tested. **QUESTION: What are the test results showing?**

Assistant Business Manager Fitzsimmons: According to the company's figures, approximately one third of the employees tested are being shown to have at least partial hearing impairment.

QUESTION: Can outside factors cause the hearing impairment?

Assistant Business Manager Fitzsimmons: Theoretically yes, but probably only rarely. According to the company, about 10 percent of those who are found to have hearing impairments cannot blame their hearing loss on their work. Motorcycles, rock bands, or whatever might contribute to a hearing loss, but especially when you're talking about somebody who has worked in a power plant, the noise at work is probably a lot louder than any noise they would encounter on a regular basis away from work.

QUESTION: What is Local 1245 doing to reduce the noise level in power plants?

Assistant Business Manager Fitzsimmons: We are constantly working with the company to develop noise-reducing engineering controls (often prohibitively expensive) and better safety equipment to protect our members' hearing.

QUESTION: What rights does a worker have under the contract if he or she is found to have a hearing impairment?

Assistant Business Manager Manny Mederos: We've instructed the Business Representatives to handle each case on an individual

basis, but in general a worker should be familiar with his or her rights under Title 206 to transfer, under Title 110 to light duty, and under Title 000 to supplemental benefits if the hearing impairment is work related. The contract protections are much stronger for an employee who is injured on the job than an employee who is injured off the job, and so if you are one of the few employees with a hearing problem that the company says was not the result of your work we strongly urge you to consult with a competent Workers' Compensation attorney who can advise you on your legal rights. A determination in your favor on your Workers' Compensation claim will bring you more protection and more benefits under the contract.

QUESTION: What rights does a worker have under the Workers' Compensation or other laws if he or she is found to have a hearing impairment?

Neyhart, Anderson, Nussbaum, Reilly and Freitas (labor and Workers' Compensation law firm): First, you have to understand that your rights differ if the injury or impairment is caused by your work or is not work-related.

QUESTION: Who makes the determination if the disability was caused by my work? The Company?

Law firm: The Company may tell you that they think the disability wasn't caused by your work, but the final determination can only be made by the Workers Compensation Appeals Board, a neutral state agency.

QUESTION: What should I do if the Company says I have a hearing disability but they don't think it is work-related?

Law firm: You should not take the Company determination as final. You have the right to see a doctor of your choice. We suggest you consult with an attorney who is familiar with Workers' Compensation and Social Security law. That attorney will have you see a doctor who is an expert in the field, both to evaluate your disability and its cause. If the injury is industrially related, the attorney would file a Workers' Compensation claim on your behalf and fight for a favorable finding before the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

QUESTION: Do I have any rights if my disability is found not to be work-related?

Law firm: Remember that if a pre-existing problem was accelerated or aggravated by your work, you still may be entitled to Workers' Compensation benefits. If your injury is truly not work-related and you are unable to work, you may be entitled to state disability insurance benefits and/or Social Security disability benefits. Your attorney could file claims for these benefits. **QUESTION: What are my rights if my disability is determined to be work-related?**

Law firm: If the Company admits that your hearing disability was work-related, or your attorney wins a favorable ruling from the Appeals Board, you have the right to receive Workers' Compensation benefits and, if necessary vocational rehabilitation.

QUESTION: Isn't all this use of lawyers expensive?

Law firm: In the field of Workers' Compensation law and Social Security disability benefits, a worker does not pay the attorney anything unless benefits are granted, and even then attorneys' fees are limited by law.

Following legal advice pays off

In the March issue of the Utility Reporter, we carried a column written by Neyhart, Anderson, Nussbaum, Reilly and Freitas urging anyone whose Social Security disability benefits had been suspended because of an administrative finding that they had "medically improved," to file an appeal. The next month, the Reagan Administration basically admitted that it had violated the rights of thousands, even hundreds of thousands, of disabled Americans by cutting off their disability benefits. Benefits were immediately restored to all recipients who had court cases challenging the cut-off of their benefits. Courts around the country are now restoring benefits to those who just had administrative appeals filed.

This goes to show how important it is to know your rights. If you were one of the many thousands affected and you read the column and followed the advice to file an appeal, you protected your rights.

APPOINTMENTS

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

Gas Serviceman's Audit Committee

Mike Woodward

Ron Field

Robert Blakemore

Roy Moore

De Sabla Division Joint Grievance Committee

Fred E. Wannamaker

General Construction Joint Grievance Committee

Randy Abbott

Production Standards Committee — Payment Processing

Angela J. Harper

CITY OF LODI

Utility Unit Negotiating Committee

Bill Cummins, Jr.

Utility Unit Negotiating Committee

Gary Mai

Jim Porter

Bill Cummins, Jr.

PLUMAS SIERRA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

1984 Negotiating Committee

Greg Nervino

Dave Wearin

OUTSIDE LINE

Ballot Committee

Ernie Storie

Don Davis

LOCAL UNION

Safety Committee

Fara Catanzarite (Pacific Tree)

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCILS

Sacramento Central Labor Council

Peter R. Dutton

Mack Wilson

Perry Zimmerman

Robert Harper

John Beck

Butte-Glenn Counties Central Labor Council

Scott Thomas

CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS

American Industrial Hygienist Association Conference

Juliann Sum

1984 IBEW Telephone Conference

Dave Mason

Orv Owen

SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT

Interim Negotiating Committee

Robert Ruiz

Aaron Smith

Richard Felix

Larnell Gill

Gilbert Manzo

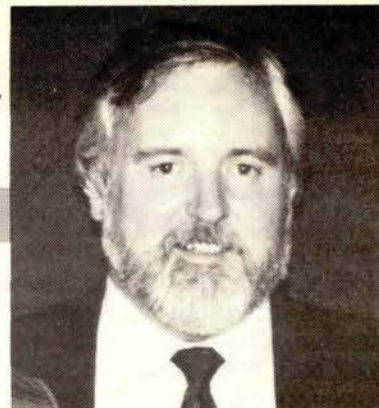
Stanley Carney

Lewis Guthrie

Wesley Duvall

Edward Cervantes

POINT OF VIEW



IBEW 1245 Business Manager

CALIFORNIA PRIMARY ELECTION

Protect democratic process with 'No' vote on Prop 24

On June 5, 1984, California will conduct its Primary Election. On the ballot will be a number of measures for the voter to consider. Proposition 24 is one of these measures.

That this ill-conceived measure even got on the ballot is hard to grasp. Proposition 24 proposes to change legislative rules and procedures that will have the effect of paralyzing the legislature. Appointment powers, committee actions, and most Assembly or Senate actions would require a two-thirds vote, and in some cases a four-fifths vote in the Senate.

Majority rule in our state would be a thing of the past. It's been pointed out that even simple items such as ordering paper clips would require a two-thirds vote.

Proposition 24's passage would give a small minority the power to dictate to the majority and cause ruinous conflict and chaos in the state government.

Two former Speakers of the Assembly, one a Democrat and one a Republican, have co-authored the arguments against Proposition 24. The State Attorney General has pointed out that Proposition 24 runs contrary to the democratic procedures followed for over 200 years by legislative bodies in the country, and that a recent attempt in Massachusetts to pass a similar proposition failed. The plan was declared unconstitutional.

Proposition 24 is an attack on the democratic process — a process that supports a government of, by, and for the people — and a government that rules by majority.

I urge you to vote "no" on Proposition 24 to protect the process that has made us a great country.

I strongly urge you to take the time and vote in the California Primary Election. Your precinct voting place is not that far from your home, and the polls open early and close late. Your vote is important.

In Unity—

Local 1245 Concord CTV committee presents proposals

On April 23, 1984, Local 1245 members Rob Powers, technician, Bud Tliemat, technician, and Julian Bustamante, installer, and Business Representative Joe Valentino presented and explained Local 1245's proposal for a new contract to management representatives from Concord Cable TV. Valentino explains that high priorities for Local 1245 in the upcoming negotiations include a fair wage increase,

cost containment for the company's health and welfare insurance, the creation of the pension plan for IBEW members, and the establishment of a long-term disability policy to protect members who are disabled and unable to continue working. The current contract will expire on May 31, which means that May will be a busy month for Valentino and his bargaining committee.

June 5 California Primary election endorsements

Go, Vote!



IBEW Local 1245 supports the endorsement actions made by 500 delegates representing California's 1.6 million AFL-CIO union members at the California Labor Federation's pre-primary endorsement convention in San Francisco on Wednesday, April 18, 1984.

We're out to return the...



FOR CONGRESS

District

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Douglas H. Bosco (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 17. Simon Lakritz (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 33. Claire K. McDonald (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 2. No Endorsement (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 18. Richard H. Lehman (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 34. Esteban E. Torres (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 3. Robert T. Matsui (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 19. Open (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 35. No Endorsement (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 4. Vic Fazio (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 20. Mike LeSage (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 36. George E. Brown, Jr. (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 5. Sala Burton (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 21. Charlie Davis (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 37. Mel Gurtov (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 6. Barbara Boxer (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 22. No Endorsement (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 38. Jerry M. Patterson (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 7. George Miller (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 23. Anthony C. Beilenson (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 39. Robert E. Ward (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 8. Ronald V. Dellums (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 24. Henry A. Waxman (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 40. Ken White (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 9. Fortney Peter Stark (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 25. Edward R. Roybal (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 41. Robert L. Simmons (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 10. Don Edwards (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 26. Howard L. Berman (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 42. Mary Lou Brophy (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 11. Tom Lantos (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 27. Mel Levine (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 43. Lois E. Humphreys (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 12. Martin Carnoy (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 28. Julian C. Dixon (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 44. Jim Bates (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 13. Norman Y. Mineta (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 29. Augustus F. Hawkins (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 45. David W. Guthrie (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 14. Open (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 30. Matthew G. Martinez (D)
No Endorsement (R) | |
| 15. Tony Coelho (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 31. Mervyn M. Dymally (D)
No Endorsement (R) | |
| 16. Leon E. Panetta (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 32. Glenn M. Anderson (D)
No Endorsement (R) | |

FOR STATE SENATE

District

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. No Endorsement (D)
No Endorsement (R)
No Endorsement (L) | 15. No Endorsement (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 29. Open (D)
Open (R) |
| 3. No Endorsement (D)
Milton Marks (R) | 17. Henry J. Mello (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 31. Open (D)
Open (R) |
| 5. John Garamendi (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 19. Open (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 33. Paul B. Carpenter (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 7. Daniel F. Boatwright (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 21. Open (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 35. Open (D)
Open (R) |
| 9. Nicholas C. Petris (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 23. David Roberti (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 37. Open (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 11. Arlen Gregorio (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 25. Diana Monaghan (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 39. Daniel W. Finnigan (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 13. Alfred E. Alquist (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 27. Bill Greene (D)
No Endorsement (R) | |

FOR STATE ASSEMBLY

District

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. No Endorsement (R) | 42. Open (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 2. Dan Hauser (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 43. Gray Davis (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 3. No Endorsement (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 44. Tom Hayden (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 4. Thomas M. Hannigan (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 45. Burt Margolin (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 5. Jean Moorhead (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 46. Mike Roos (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 6. Lloyd G. Connelly (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 47. Teresa P. Hughes (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 7. No Endorsement (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 48. Maxine Waters (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 8. Gary J. Passarino (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 49. Gwen Moore (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 9. Paul C. Chignell (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 50. Curtis R. Tucker (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 10. Phillip Isenberg (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 51. Open (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 11. Robert J. Campbell (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 52. Dan Arguello (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 12. Tom Bates (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 53. Richard E. (Dick) Floyd (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 13. Elihu M. Harris (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 54. Frank Vicencia (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 14. Johan Klehs (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 55. Richard Alatorre (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 15. John Bauer (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 56. Gloria Molina (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 16. Art Agnos (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 57. Dave Elder (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 17. Willie L. Brown, Jr. (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 58. Open (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 18. No Endorsement (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 59. Charles M. Calderon (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 19. Louis J. Papan (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 60. Sally Tanner (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 20. Arthur Lepore (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 61. Dolores Miles Kossman (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 21. Byron D. Sher (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 62. Richard (Dick) Santell (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 22. Gloria Rose-Ott (D)
(write-in candidate)
No Endorsement (R) | 63. Marshall H. Story (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 23. John Vasconcellos (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 64. Mary Bruns Capdevielle (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 24. Dominic L. (Dom) Cortese (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 65. Harold A. Jackson, Jr. (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 25. No Endorsement (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 66. Terry Goggin (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 26. Patick Johnston (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 67. Ray Anderson (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 27. No Endorsement (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 68. No Endorsement (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 28. Sam Farr (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 69. Howard Gensler (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 29. No Endorsement (R)
No Endorsement (D) | 70. Steven Feldman (D)
Merl T. (Ted) Doty (R) |
| 30. No Endorsement (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 71. John Kanel (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 31. No Endorsement (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 72. Richard Robinson (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 32. Robert Dahlstedt (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 73. S.R. (Al) Lopez (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 33. Gene Tackett (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 74. Gene R. Ramos (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 34. Open (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 75. Richard Wildman (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 35. Jack O'Connell (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 76. Open (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 36. No Endorsement (R)
No Endorsement (R) | 77. No Endorsement (R) |
| 37. No Endorsement (R)
Linda Nelson (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 78. Lucy Killea (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 38. No Endorsement (R)
No Endorsement (R) | 79. Pete Chacon (D)
No Endorsement (R) |
| 39. Richard Katz (D)
No Endorsement (R) | 80. No Endorsement (D) |
| 40. Tom Bane (D)
No Endorsement (R) | |
| 41. Open (D)
No Endorsement (R) | |

Local fights for protections as state continues cutbacks

In the past month representatives of the Union have taken part in several conferences and hearings on various aspects of safety and health.

On April 5, Staff Attorney Ann Miley attended a hearing of the California State Senate Finance Subcommittee, which began consideration of the 1984-85 budget for the Department of Industrial Relations. Under close questioning by Chairman Bill Greene and Senator John Garamendi, information regarding the many vacant positions and lack of work-place inspections, public education and health and safety enforcement was elicited from Acting Director of the Department, Ronald Rinaldi, and Chief of the Division of Occupational Safety, David Valoff.

Over the course of four legislative hearings attended by the Union over the past five months, a pattern of cutbacks and layoffs by the Deukmejian administration has emerged. The cutbacks have severely crippled the Department in general and Cal/OSHA in particular. Serious accident cases have gone uninvestigated for lack of staff. Cal/OSHA citations have been defended against legal attacks on appeal by Safety Engineers for lack of attorneys, expert testimony and regulatory expertise have been unavailable due to layoffs of doctors, nurses, and industrial hygienists. Though the Department has recently lifted the hiring freeze on 67 positions, much experience and expertise is already lost to the Department.

In addition, the Department made clear its intention to maintain an 11 percent "vacancy rate" in the Cal/OSHA program. This artificial vacancy rate means keeping that percentage of positions unfilled to generate "salary savings" which are not required by any legislative mandate, a position questioned by the senators. Continuation of the budget hearings is set for May 7.

On April 16, Ann Miley attended an Advisory Committee meeting to consider Title 9, Section 3326 of the General Industry Safety Orders regulating the servicing of single-piece and multi-piece rim wheels. A few compliance people from Cal/OSHA attended, as well as many representatives from the garage and wheel manufacturing concerns. The orders were reviewed and discussed for clarity, conformity with Federal requirements and adequate safety for workers. After the changes recommended by the Advisory Committee are incorporated, the Cal/OSHA Standards Board will adopt the revised regulations.

On April 19, the Cal/OSHA Standards Board monthly meeting was held in Sacramento. Part of the agenda were the proposed changes

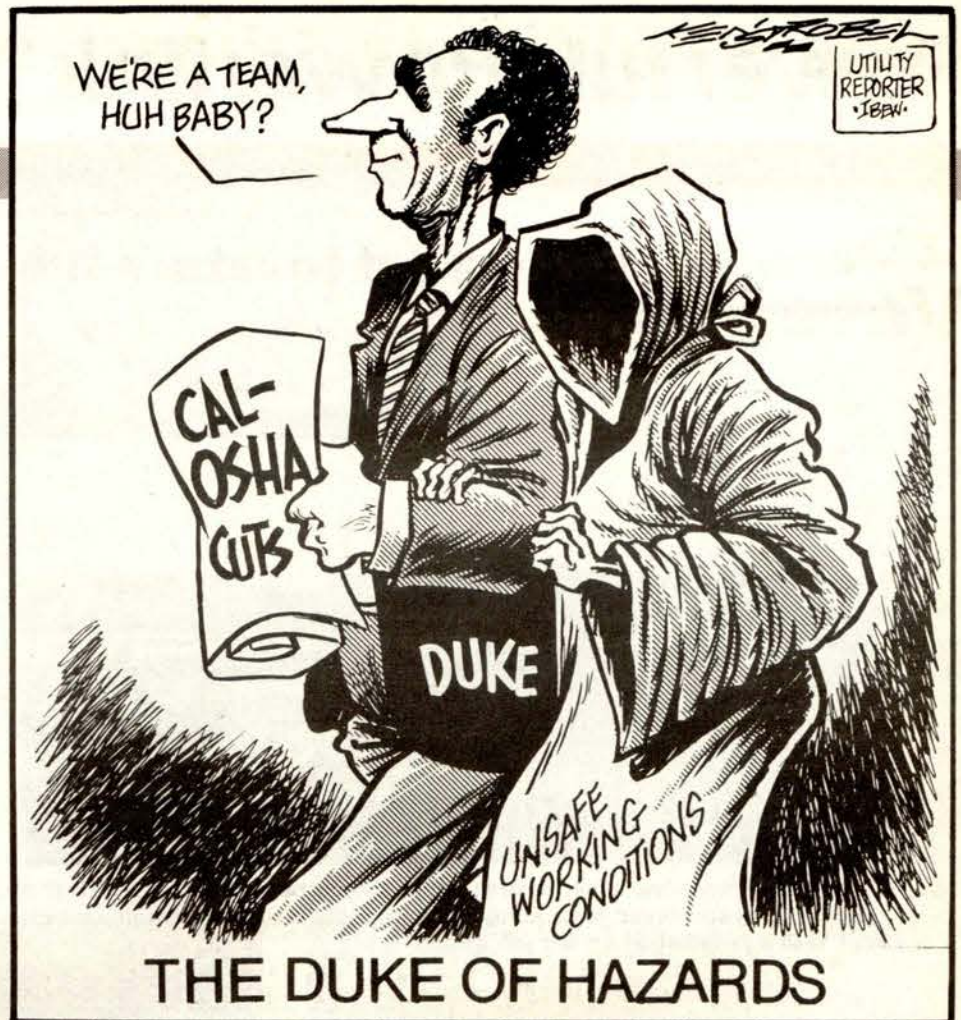
in Chapter 35 of the Construction Safety Orders regulating helicopter operations. Miley testified in opposition to some of the proposed changes which appear to somewhat diminish worker protection, asked for the record to remain open, and submitted written comments to supplement her remarks.

On April 27, Miley attended a hearing of the Industrial Welfare Commission for the State, at which the Commission considered whether to permit employees to work four, ten-hour-days per week for the duration of the Olympics and whether to convene a wage board to consider raising the minimum wage. The Commission declined the former and took testimony on the wage board question.

Many speakers from the "Hospitality Industry" (motels, theater and theme parks), private institutions for the mentally handicapped, and representatives of the apparel industry and small businesses testified that an increase in the minimum wage would force business out of California and ultimately cost many workers their jobs. Representatives from Labor, on the other hand, pointed out that employers had been making the same dire predictions without a parallel result since the first 25-cent minimum wage was debated and adopted in 1936, and that minimum wage at present could not support even a single person living in San Francisco. One speaker pointed out that for workers to gain the same purchasing power that they had in 1965 with a minimum wage of \$1.65/hour, the present minimum wage would have to be raised to \$4.79/hour in 1984, based on IWC figures, and that two-thirds of the workers presently earning minimum wage are women, the balance constituted by teen-aged males.

Little definitive action is expected from the Commission, however, as the present four-member panel is often deadlocked in two-to-two votes. The tie-breaking fifth position is a Labor appointment which has been unfilled for almost a year since Deukmejian withdrew his appointee in the face of heavy Labor opposition.

Finally, on April 30, Miley attended a hearing on the proposed changes to the definition of advance notice of inspections, and citation and penalty procedures of Cal/OSHA regulations. The statutory increases in penalty and licensing amounts were incorporated into the Rules and Regulations, along with some other licensing inspection rate increases which will cover Cal/OSHA's costs in boiler and elevator inspections.



Poison Oak — treatment, prevention highlighted

By Juliann Sum, Industrial Hygienist

Poison oak is a common cause of occupational dermatitis for our members who work outdoors. The chemical agent which causes the skin reaction is contained in the oily resin which is produced in the leaves, stems, and fruit. Dermatitis can result from:

- 1) direct contact with the plant
- 2) exposure to smoke from the burning plant
- 3) contact with other persons, pets, clothing, or other items which have previously been in contact with poison oak.

The variety of poison oak which is found west of the Rockies is usually a small shrub but can grow into large clumps or long vines. The leaves appear in groups of 3 oval or roundish leaflets.

A. Skin reaction

The severity of a person's reaction to poison oak depends upon that person's individual sensitivity. Initial contacts with poison oak do not result in symptoms but do sensitize a person so that later contacts will result in dermatitis. Therefore, immunity on one occasion does not guarantee that the person will be immune in the future.

The dermatitis appears 1 to 3 days after contact. The skin becomes red, swollen, itchy, and blistered. For most people, the symptoms last 1 week or less.

B. First aid

Any part of the body which has contacted the oily resin of poison oak should ideally be washed with soap and water within 10 minutes of contact to prevent skin absorp-

tion. The affected areas should be washed 5 to 6 times, followed by the use of rubbing alcohol and rinsing in clear water. Vigorous scrubbing or rubbing should be avoided, since this can spread the dermatitis. (The same holds true for scratching of itchy skin areas.) Skin medications such as calamine lotion should be dabbed on. Severe cases should be seen by a physician.

C. Prevention

1) plant extracts

Although some companies distribute poison oak extracts to be taken orally to prevent dermatitis, the Local Union recommends that any use be monitored by a physician. The extracts are temporary in their effect, are often not effective, and often have side effects of rash and itching.

Under no circumstances should anyone eat the plant leaves in order to acquire immunity. Fatalities have resulted from this practice.

2) barrier creams

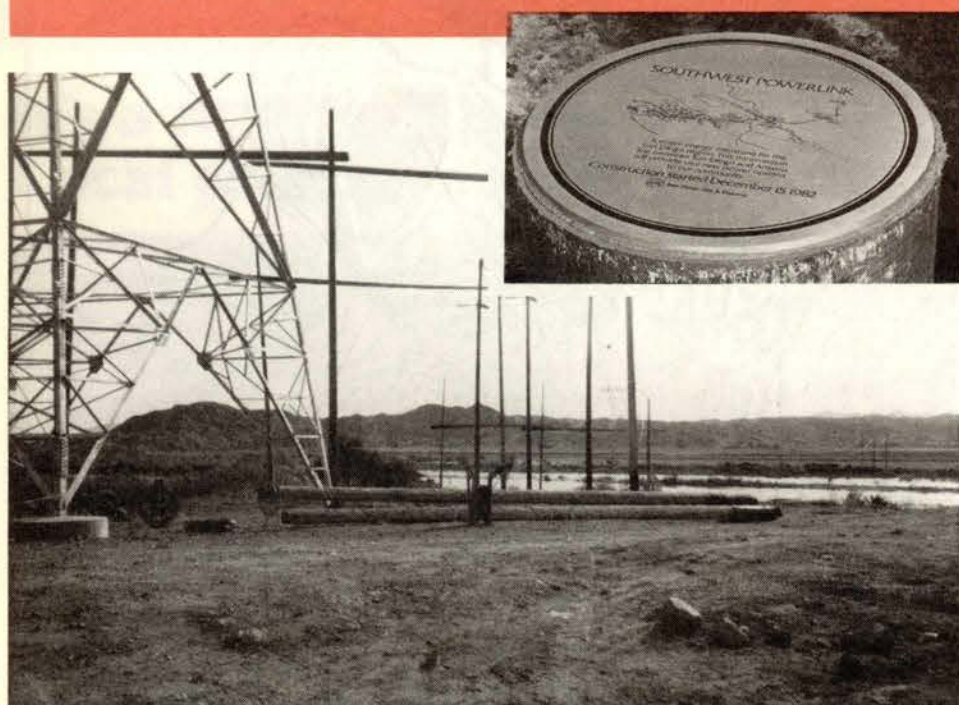
Protective barrier creams can help prevent contact but are not always completely effective. The cream should be applied at the beginning of the workshift and after any washing of the hands or other body parts.

3) protective clothing

The best method of preventing direct skin contact is the use of protective clothing. For heavily exposed parts of the body, leather gear such as gloves and leggings should be used.

Contaminated clothing should be dry cleaned, because soap and water are not always effective. The dry cleaner should be warned about the poison oak contamination.

Powerful 'Powerlink' crews; job well done!



Above right, commemorative tower footing set in December 1982 to mark start of project. Above, Colorado River separating California and Arizona indicates where IBEW Local 1245's jurisdiction on the job began.



Overview of Miguel Substation in San Diego County which our members helped build.



Outside Construction members are to be congratulated on a job "well done" in Local 1245's recently expanded Outside Line jurisdiction covering Southern California.

With their high-level expertise and know-how a 250-member work force helped bring in the recently completed 160-mile, 500 Kv transmission line from Yuma, Arizona to San Diego for San Diego Gas and Electric Company, for \$119 million under budget, at a cost of \$207 million, instead of the originally projected \$326-million figure. Additionally, work was completed well under schedule.

It was reported that San Diego Gas and Electric was very satisfied with all areas of our operations.

Dispatched out of the Local's Claremont office, our members completed the tower assembly, erection and wire-stringing over a one-year period on the "Southwest Powerlink" line that ran through farming valleys, desert, and rugged mountain terrain. For long periods of time crews worked under extreme weather conditions with temperatures rising to a boiling 125-130 degrees.

Tower steel was sizzling hot and gloves were a must for Linemen and Groundmen. Special provisions were made to provide all crews with extra water coolers while the intense heat persisted during the summer months.

Linemen coming off the job said that, "some of us adjusted to the temperatures quick ... and some didn't ... it was just something you had to put up with."

Prior to start up, the Southwest Powerlink underwent extensive planning, and revision on routing and construction proposals beginning in the late 1970s. Ground Breaking ceremonies were finally held in December 1982 after planners met stringent environmental requirements including consideration of visual impact of the towers. The PUC held 39 public hearings in one year alone before granting construction approval.

The project, which was the largest in the 100-year history of San Diego Gas and Electric, was designed to bring low cost coal-fired,

See PAGE EIGHT



Above, Business Representative Tommy Heyl meets with members during break at Substation. Below left, center, and right, IBEW members at work constructing Substation.



job well done!

Photos: Business Representative Tom Heyl, Utiliti

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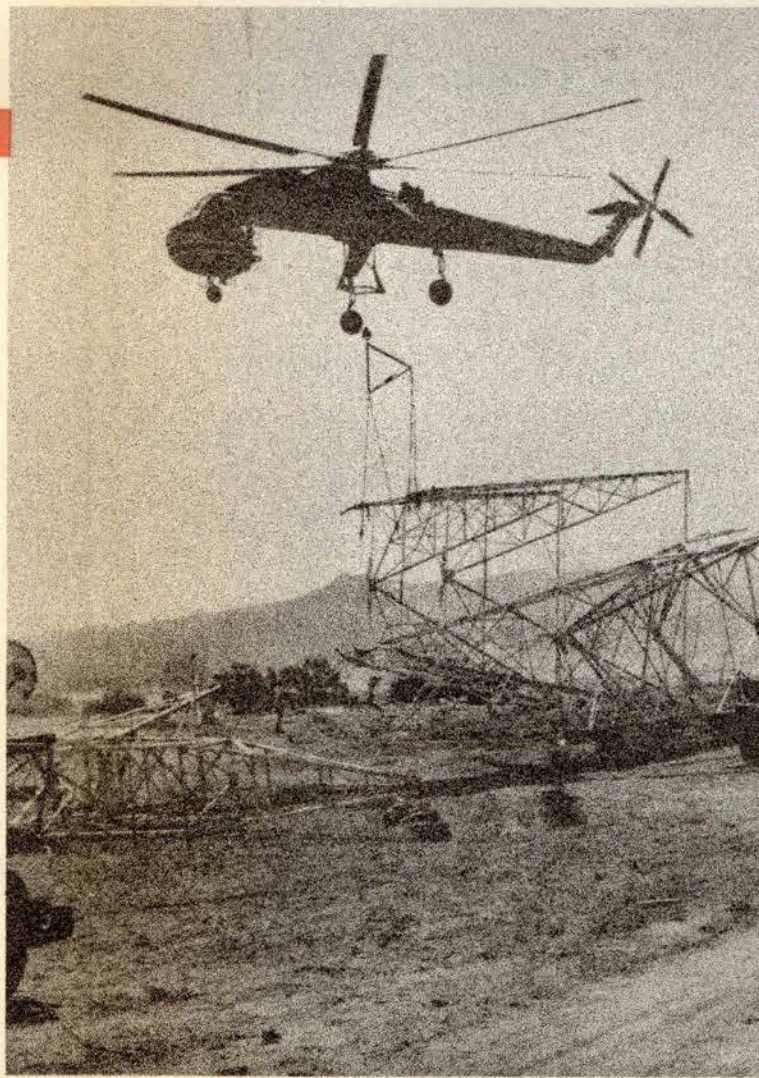
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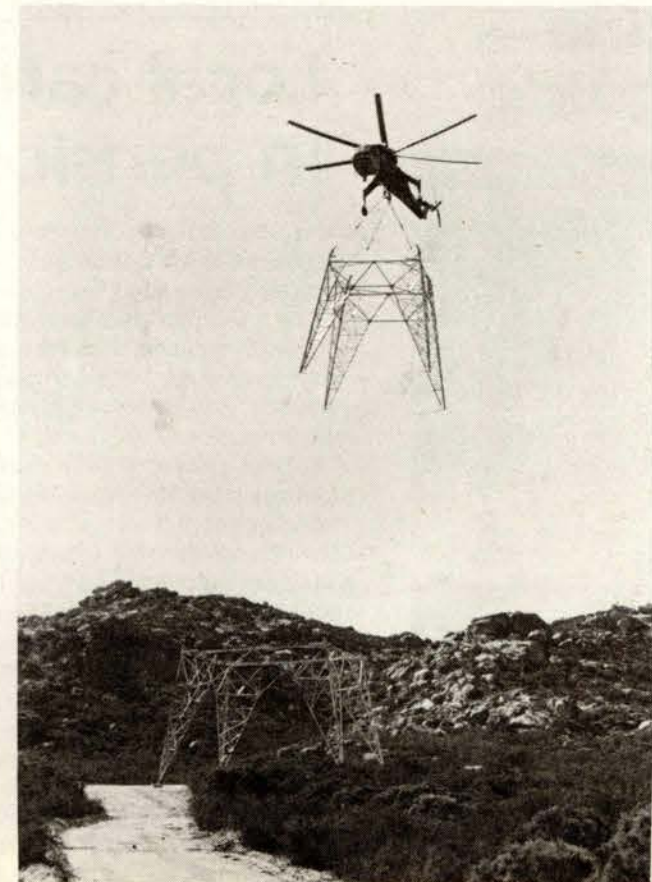
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Sky Crane lifts seven-ton tower section.



Flying steel.



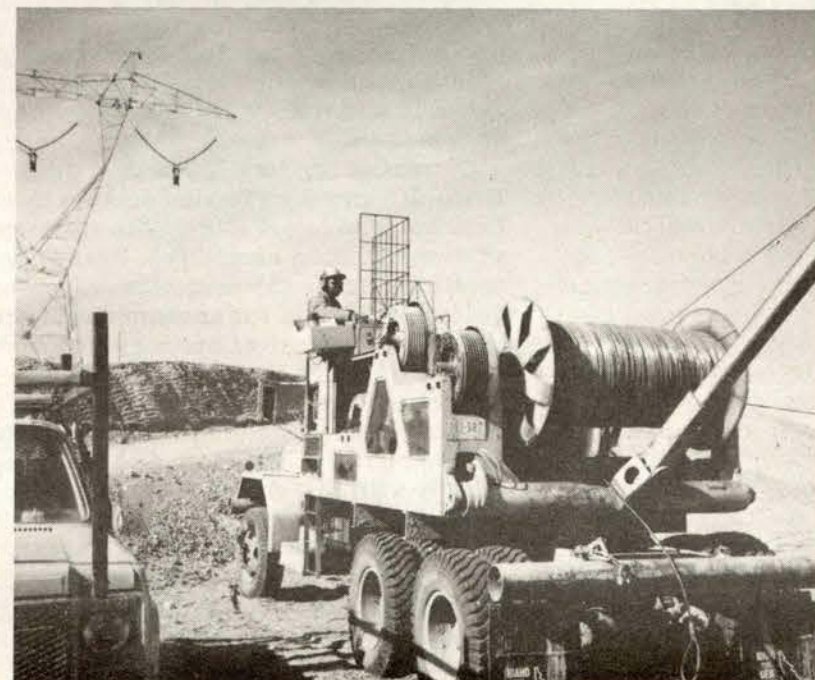
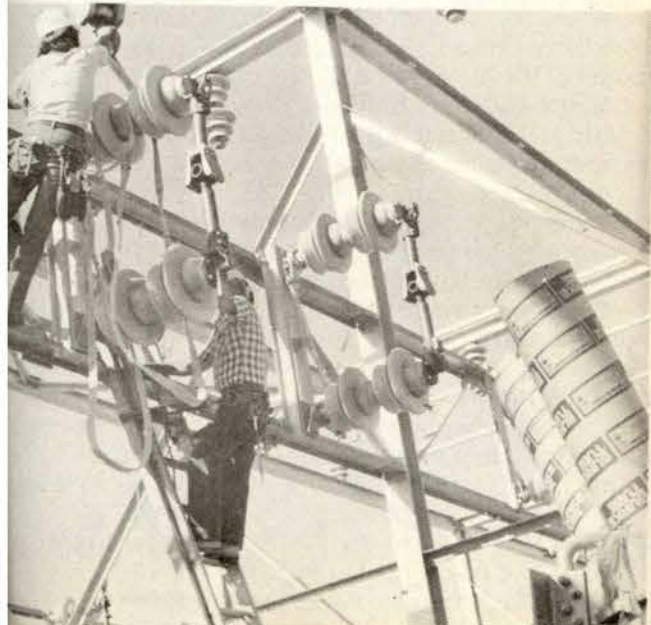
representative Tommy Heyl meets with members during break t, center, and right, IBEW members at work construct-



Sky Crane flies tower bridge.

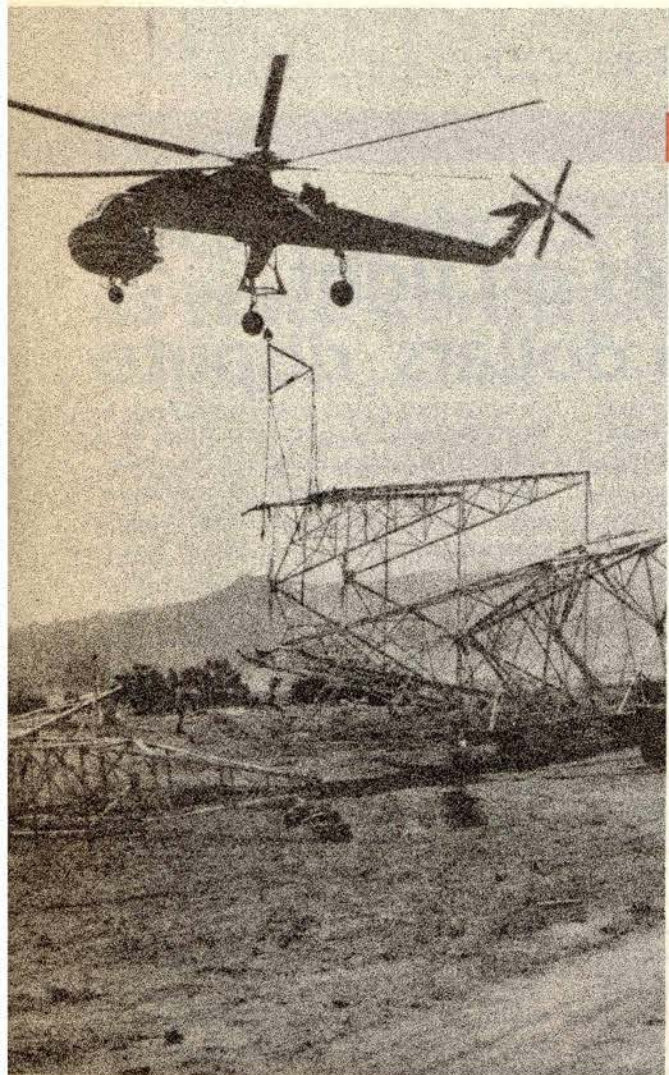


Lineman rigging insulators for insulation by helicopter.



Triple drum puller equipment used in wire stringing.

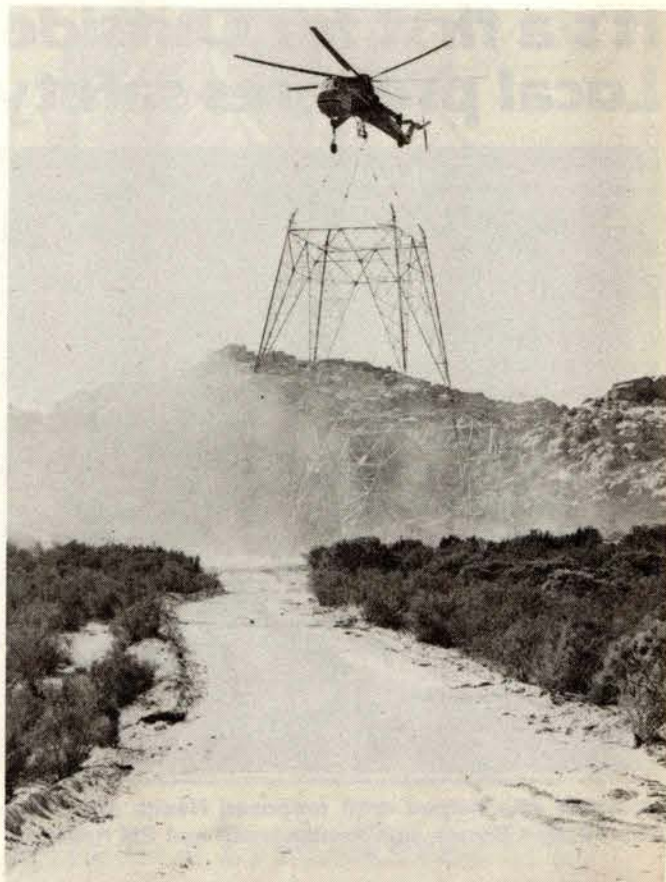
Photos: Business Representative Tom Heyl, Utility Reporter Managing Editor Carol Bedsole.



Helicopter lifts seven-ton tower section.



Flying steel.



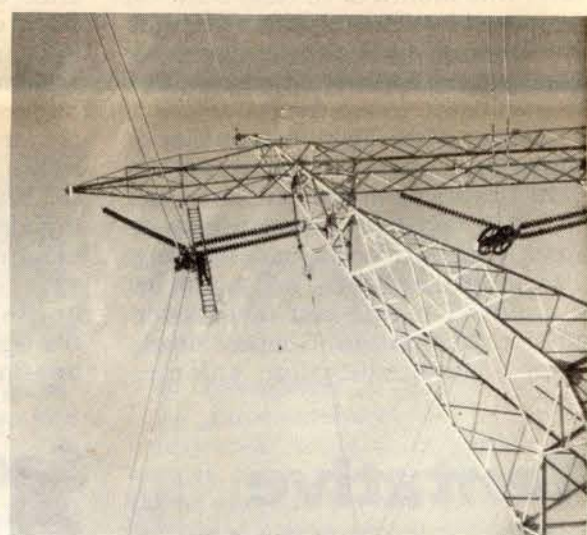
Sky Crane setting steel.



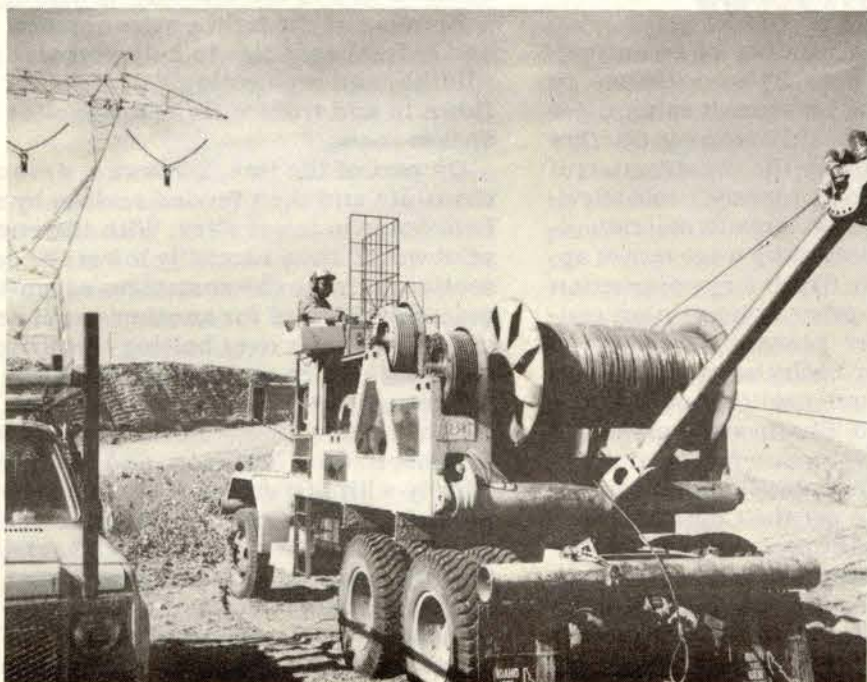
Helicopter flies tower bridge.



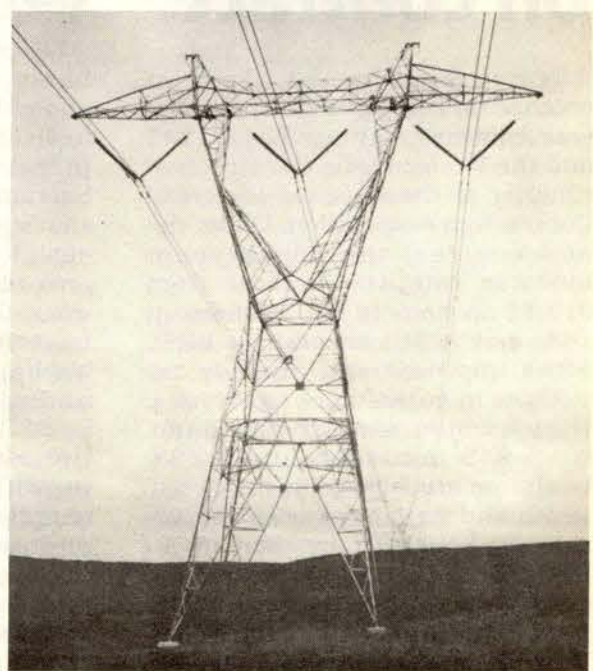
Lineman rigging insulators for insulation by helicopter.



Tiny dot on ladder is a barely visible Lineman clipping wire.



Triple drum puller equipment used in wire stringing.



An IBEW work of art — a completed tower near Miguel Substation.

OUTSIDE LINE

It's a first for Outside Line— Local prepares safety guide



Members who helped draft proposed Health and Safety manual are, L-R, Tom Conrad, Don Brown, Ron Pendergrass and Bill Paynter.

Local 1245 is about to make history again with the presentation later this month or in early June of proposed health and safety manual for Outside Line Construction to the National Electrical Contractors' Association. Assistant Business Manager Ron Fitzsimmons and Outside Construction members Don Brown, Tom Conrad, and Ron Pendergrass have already put in many long hard hours in developing the proposal which will soon be submitted to the contractors for their consideration. Chapter headings include education, enforce-

ment, emergencies, governmental safety standards, care in performance of duties, qualifications for duty, clothing, intoxicants, smoking, first aid, what to do when an accident occurs, sight protection, protection from dusts, fumes, vapors or gases, poisons, explosives, lights, gasoline, fire protection, welding, compressed gases, warning signs, use of safety devices, removing safeguards, safety belts, safe supports, ladders, tools, housekeeping, lifting, packing, transportation, cranes, tailboard briefings, and clearances.

Tentative agreement on contract

Tentative agreement has been reached on the terms of a new two-year contract between Local 1245 and the Western Line Constructors Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association. Under the new contract the Journeyman Lineman rate will increase from \$19.72 an hour to \$20 an hour in 1984 and to \$21 an hour in 1985. Other improvements include an increase in subsistence pay from a \$10 minimum and \$30 maximum to an \$18 minimum and a \$38 maximum and a possible increased health and welfare payment of .25 cents an hour effective January 1, 1985. If the increase is not necessary for the health and welfare premium, the subsistence pay will increase again to a \$20 minimum and a \$40 maximum. Additionally, aircraft insurance will increase from \$50,000 to \$250,000.

Sacramento CTV fight continues

Despite a number of recent setbacks, Local 1245 continues to apply all the pressure it can muster in an effort to aid union contractors in their bids for the construction of Sacramento's proposed cable television system. As a result of a ridiculously low prevailing wage rate of approximately \$7.00 for construction work, a number of non-union contractors are presently finalists in bidding for both the overhead and underground portions of the job. Local 1245 Business Representative Jerry Robinson has been working with the Cable Commission, attempting to get the Commission to reconsider the process by which the unrealistically low prevailing wage rate was established. Unless the prevailing rate is adjusted to reflect a more realistic figure, it will be only non-union contractors paying wages far below scale who can afford to bid on the jobs.

Local 1245 vs. Commonwealth

Local carries on fight in pension dollars' dispute

On May 21, attorneys for Local 1245 and Commonwealth Electric Company were due in federal court in San Diego in an ongoing dispute over more than \$100,000 in past pension contributions to employees who worked on the San Diego Powerlink Project.

The beef started last June when pension contributions under Local 1245's contract with the Western Line Constructors Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association rose from \$1.75 an hour to \$2.50 an hour. Commonwealth and Power City Constructors, two of the four contractors on the San Diego Powerlink project, refused to pay the increased contributions.

Local 1245 filed a grievance which was eventually heard by the Council for Industrial Relations in the Electrical Contracting Industry in

Washington D.C. on February 20, 1984. The Council, which is made up of equal numbers of employer and union representatives, voted unanimously the same day in favor of Local 1245 and ordered Commonwealth and Power City to pay the increased pension rate effective June 1, 1983.

Power City immediately complied with the Council's order, which under the contract is final and binding. Commonwealth, however, refused to obey the order and instead filed a suit in United States District Court to set aside the Council's decision. Local 1245 immediately filed a counter-suit to enforce the Council decision and set the case for hearing on May 21.

The Court's decision will be reported in a future edition of this newspaper.

New Nevada REA agreement

In an effort to attract work for union line construction contractors, Local 1245 recently reached agreement on a new agreement for outside construction work for Rural Electrification Agencies in Nevada. Modeled after an IBEW agreement for REA construction projects in Colorado, the contract calls for

\$15.88-an-hour total wage and fringe benefits for Linemen. In recent years, much of this work has gone to non-union contractors. It is hoped that this new agreement will enable union contractors to bid more competitively with the result or more union jobs.

Powerful 'Powerlink' crews

FROM Page Six

and geothermal energy to the county, resulting in an estimated annual savings of \$60 million, as well as reducing oil dependency by three to five million barrels through 1990.

Because of the tight environmental regulations imposed by state and federal agencies to help preserve protected plant and animal wildlife, and archaeological sites, our members and materials were flown to and from various tower sites by helicopter to avoid cutting access roads.

On part of the line, 26 towers were assembled in yards along the route and then ferried section by section by a large Sky Crane helicopter to tower sites. With the enormous craft hovering, the pilot would then carefully lower the section into guides, fit the section, release the sometime-seven-ton load, and return to an assembly fly yard for another tower section. At the tower sites crews then took over bolting the structures which when completed stand as high as an 18-story building.

Throughout the duration of the job, Business Manager Jack McNally, and Outside Line Business Representatives Jerry Robinson, Curt Peterson, and San Diego-based Tom Heyl, worked closely with our group of contractors: H.P. Foley, Interstate Electric, Power City and Commonwealth, to assure constant safeguards against any potential safety hazards particularly since this job required a lot of flying in and out of work sites, as well as rigging of steel tower sections for the Sky Crane liftoffs.

Close attention to safety paid off — no serious injury accidents were recorded among our members in the flying operations on a job that required hundreds of thousands of hours of work under extremely rigorous working conditions — it's truly a fine job, one we're all extremely proud of.

Dutton to D.C.

Dutton to Washington: Business Representative Pete Dutton recently traveled to Washington D.C. where he testified in favor of the Ponderosa Project proposed by the Modesto and Turlock irrigation districts on the Tuolumne River and where he was scheduled to meet with Congressman Mike Synar (Democrat — Oklahoma) of the House Subcommittee on Governmental Operations to discuss the increasing problems being caused by the Reagan administration's reliance on the A-76 program to contract out to the low bidder work normally performed by federal employees. A full report on Pete's trip will be carried in next month's issue of this paper.

Biggs-Gridley

Organizing Drive at Biggs-Gridley: Business Representatives Jack Osburn and Pete Dutton recently completed an organizing

drive among the employees of the Biggs-West Gridley Water District. On May 1, Business Manager Jack McNally wrote Merrill Orme, general manager of the district, demanding that the district recognize Local 1245 as the bargaining representative of its employees. Authorization cards were gathered from virtually every employee in the district after several organizational meetings headed up by Osburn and Dutton.

Roseville

City of Roseville — Inclement Weather: Business Representative Mack Wilson reports that he was recently able to convince the City of Roseville's Electric Department to discontinue its practice of using tents to perform underground work during inclement weather. The tents, similar to those used by the telephone company and recently experimented with by Pacific Gas and Electric company in Sacramento, do not provide full protection from the elements. Although

the City of Roseville may use the tents to provide shade in the summer, they will not be used in winter months.

WAPA

WAPA Settlement: As this issue of the Utility Reporter went to press Business Representative Rich Hafner had just returned from Denver where Government Coordinating Council #1, including Local 1245, negotiated an agreement with the Western Area Power Administration which calls for a 1.7 percent general wage increase. According to Hafner, there are a large number of unresolved issues, many of which he blames on the intransigence of the agency. Details of the settlement, the problems, and Local 1245's action to resolve the problems will all be covered in future issues of the Utility Reporter.

Negotiations

Ongoing Negotiations: Negotiations continue between Local 1245

and the **City of Chico** and the **City of Redding**, and have just begun with the **City of Oakland** and the **City of Healdsburg**. Additionally, a number of interim negotiations have gotten underway or are about to get underway with Sacramento Regional Transit District. Settlements will be reported as they are reached.

USBR

United States Bureau of Reclamation: Business Representative Pete Dutton reports that in addition to a possible A-76 contracting out of canal maintenance work, Local 1245 is facing several major issues at the United States Bureau of Reclamation. First, the Bureau is proposing that electricians climb when necessary to disconnect switches in the yard. Secondly, the Bureau has proposed that electricians, C & I mechanics, and plant mechanics perform their own switching.

Activity on going at Sierra Pac

Sierra Pacific Update: Business Representative John Stralla, Assistant Business Manager Orv Owen, and various negotiating committee members at Sierra Pacific have been busy over the past few months, even though the company and union contract has another year to run. After a 4.9 percent pre-negotiated wage increase went into effect on May 1, a number of issues were still pending.

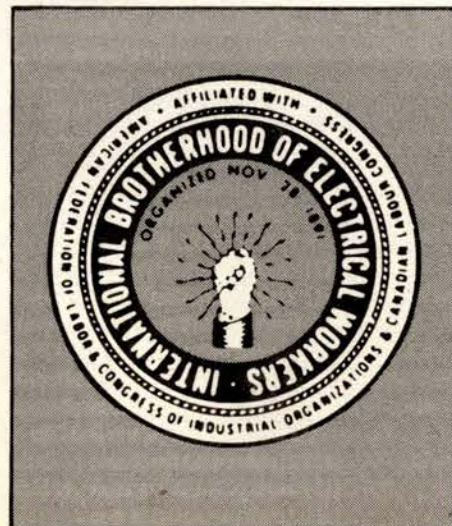
The Public Service Commission of the State of Nevada had not, as this issue of the Utility Reporter went to press, considered Sierra's planned *corporate restructuring*. The matter was tentatively scheduled to be heard by the Commission on May 7, with the stockholders considering the possible reorganization at their annual meeting on May 21.

Meanwhile, interim negotiations have concluded in the transmission department and negotiations continue for welders. The major issue in the transmission negotiations was a company proposal to create, in essence, two classes of Lineman, one for transmission and one for distribution. Local 1245 did not accept this concept.

Lastly, Sierra Pacific members of Local 1245 in Reno or Carson City may now elect medical coverage through a health maintenance organization, Health Plan of Nevada. With lower costs, the Health Plan of Nevada is seen as an encouraging new option for Sierra employees.

Contract ok'd at CP National, So. Lake Tahoe

C.P. National/South Lake Tahoe Contract: Local 1245 members employed by C.P. National at South Lake Tahoe voted unanimously on April 23 to accept a two-year contract, the highlights of which include a staggered 4 percent wage increase each year and standby pay of \$1.40 an hour, a .30 cents an hour increase. According to Business Representative John Stralla, who together with Local 1245 members Robert Hansen and Robert J. Robinette negotiated the agreement, the members strongly supported the agreement. "It was basically a brand new contract" said Stralla, "and given the economic conditions in the South Lake Tahoe area I'd say that our committee did a fine job."



Focus: Shop Steward

Glenn Hurdle in Sacramento

My five years as a Shop Steward at Sacramento Municipal Utility District began when I saw that some employee problems were not handled well by management and complained to two fellow workers. The co-workers told me that if I wanted changes in the existing system, I should get involved and then I'd have nothing to complain about.

For a first step I contacted then Business Representative Hank Lucas and told him that I wanted to become a Shop Steward to help the Union and to better the working conditions of SMUD employees. Hank Lucas said no problem and signed me up. Before I started I got a copy of the Standard District Procedures and then went right to work.

I can't remember exactly what it was like as a new Shop Steward. Before getting any formal Shop Steward training, I handled a number of grievances, two of which went all the way to the three-person Appeals panel.

Since those early days I've gone to two Shop Steward training sessions and handled many more grievances. The Steward job takes an average 8-hours per week, which often includes two to three hours of my own time.

Being a Steward has its headaches, of course; calls between 2



Glenn Hurdle

and 4 a.m. until I had my number unlisted, and the occasionally not-so-subtle suggestions by supervisors that any problems on the job might be occurring because of my Union activities. But, as management got used to me and supervision became less antagonistic to the Union, some problems lessened. And the satisfaction I get from being a spokesman for employees who can't or won't speak up on their own behalf is what keeps me being a Steward. It's worth it to me to make sure that management gives an employee a fair shake and to speak up when it comes to righting a wrong.

Clerical members evaluate new training procedures

As a result of the 1980 Clerical Contract, Local 1245 and Pacific Gas and Electric Company last summer executed a Letter of Agreement establishing training and testing procedures for promotional eligibility to all senior clerical classifications. The Letter of Agreement, which was executed on October 21, 1983, provides for 48-hours of classroom training on key references for performing customer services procedures, meter reading activities and procedures, residential lifeline rates, customer records, credit and collection, new business principles, and commercial, industrial, agricultural and time-of-use rates; the classroom training includes a full-day of testing, successful completion of which will mean that the employee has met the senior service representative I and II promotional eligibility requirements.

Assistant Business Manager Manny Mederos and committee members Enid Bidou, Concord, and Jack Hill, Cupertino, expressed

concern that the Company's program was overly ambitious and that the amount of material included in the test could not be adequately covered in five days of training.

To make sure that the material could be covered, both Bidou and Hill attended the Company's first training session in Danville on April 23 through 27. The seven employees who participated in the Company's first-ever training were George Allan, San Rafael; Carl Makela, Cupertino; Mary Woodard, Willow Creek; Roger Warren, San Francisco; Tim Brodden, Grass Valley, and David Garcia, Coast Valleys.

As the company plans to expand the training to approximately 168 candidates for promotion, the Union Bargaining Committee met to discuss their evaluation of the five-day training which they attended in Danville. After a thorough consideration of the program's successes and problems, the committee will make suggested changes to the company.

Meter Reader arbitration set for June 18 in S.F.

Arbitrator Robert Burns will hear arbitration case 119 at PG&E's headquarters in San Francisco on June 18, 1984. The case involves the discharge of a San Francisco Meter Reader in 1983. According to Staff Attorney Tom Dalzell, who will be handling the case for Local 1245, "It's basically a question of credibility. The company claims that the Meter Reader assaulted a supervisor who was conducting a field audit on the Meter Reader. According to the Meter Reader and a Gas Serviceman who was driving by at the time that the incident took place, the super-

visor and not the Meter Reader provoked the incident and grabbed the Meter Reader from behind when the Meter Reader did not give the supervisor his meter book. Discussions with other Meter Readers in the San Francisco office reveal a long-standing animosity between the supervisor and the Meter Reader." Dalzell concluded "We believe the Meter Reader, and we think that Arbitrator Burns will too." Future editions of the Utility Reporter will carry follow-up stories on this arbitration.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Business Manager McNally:

I wish to thank you, and my Union Brothers for the opportunity of sponsoring a fine young man at the San Francisco Bay Boy Scout Council Eagle Banquet.

I would like to say that our Union and Local was the only one sponsoring a boy at the banquet, and this makes me very proud that we have not forgotten our children and future Brothers.

On the personal level the occasion renews one's faith in the younger generation that will follow us, and also inspires me to be a better Scout Master for my Troop.

Thank you for allowing me to serve our Union.

Robert Stark

AROUND THE SYSTEM —PG&E

Interviews underway in clerical jobs' study

For the past two weeks, the consultants jointly retained by Local 1245 and Pacific Gas and Electric have been conducting interviews with bargaining unit clerical employees and their supervisors in the San Francisco office as a first step to familiarize themselves with the jobs and to develop the job information questionnaire.

Assistant Business Manager Roger Stalcup explained the selection of employees for the interviews: "We have prepared a list together with the Company of employees and supervisors to be interviewed. Interviews will last from 45 minutes to an hour and will be conducted dur-

ing work hours in a private location in the work place."

The interview process has recently moved to customer service and operating offices in the field, and it is hoped that the interviews will be completed by early June.

After completing the interviews, Hamilton and Associates will present the results to the union-company committee and then will work with the committee on the final identification of compensable factors and the final development of a questionnaire which will then be sent to all clerical employees covered by the evaluation process.

Morale problems cited at Diablo Canyon plant

As this edition of the paper headed to the presses, Assistant Business Manager Manny Mederos was packing his bags for another trip to Diablo Canyon for a meeting on May 14. Earlier meetings turned out to be disappointing.

"Know it or not, the Company's got one big morale problem at Diablo Canyon. There's nothing we'd like to see better than to have morale pick up, but this can't happen until the company really admits

there's a problem" explained Mederos.

Local 1245 submitted a proposal on what Mederos has come to refer to as the "morale issues", but the company has so far only promised to respond to the proposal.

Mederos was optimistic despite the definite lack of progress to date — "I think that if the Company comes to the table ready to talk we can wrap things up in a day." The outcome of the May 14 meeting will be reported in the next issue of the Utility Reporter.

Switching proposals considered

After months of waiting for a proposal from the Company, Assistant Business Manager Ron Fitzsimmons and the Local 1245 Switching Committee will be meeting with PG&E on June 8 to discuss the recent Company proposal. According to Fitzsimmons, the Company proposes that Electrical Technicians, Cablemen, Cable Splicers, Electricians, and Linemen perform switching. "The Company proposal doesn't include any economic offer to compensate for the proposed additional duties, but we've told them on several occasions that we will expect economic adjustments to any classifications where duties change" said Fitzsimmons. "On June 8 we'll explore the actual changes proposed by the Company in the job descriptions and see if they've heard what we've been saying about economics."

Gas audit committee formed

Assistant Business Manager Ron Fitzsimmons, back on the job following heart surgery, and performing at his normal full-speed-ahead pace, will be heading up a committee to discuss with PG&E the Company's audit procedures with Gas Servicemen. Serving on the committee with Fitzsimmons will be Ron Field, San Jose; Mike Woodward, San Francisco; Roy Morris, Stockton, and Robert Blakemore, Bakersfield. In addition, there will be six "advisory" members of the committee who will be summoned to Walnut Creek from time to time to broaden the committee's base of experience. The first meeting with the company was scheduled for May 25. Details will be covered in the next issue.

CARIBOU WIPE OUT

Steward reports on landslide



Plant Operator Dave Ostrander.



Shop Stewards Mike Vrooman and Dave Armstrong.

By Mike Vrooman, Shop Steward, Water System Sub-foreman

What happens when you're the lone Operator in a power house — and the world around you comes crashing down?

In the early morning hours of February 24, Caribou Power House Operator Dave Ostrander was in just such a fix.

He vividly recalls alarms sounding — loud noises, twisting metal — and looking out the power house window to see flaming oil circuit breakers flying by.

All this — and Dave says he wasn't even finished with his lunch when an enormous landslide wiped out an adjacent power house.

With camp phones dead, Ostrander called a friend in Quincy on Pacific Bell lines and then got on the radio and alerted Rock Creek Power House, and Chico A Substation.

I received a call at Rock Crest Camp at approximately 1:55 A.M. and was told that there was a fire at Caribou #2 Yard, and that it was spreading to #1 Yard and plant. Hurrying to get dressed, and on the road, I arrived at Caribou at 2:30 A.M.

That was the start of a huge cleanup and rebuilding job. As dawn came on that morning, we saw the awesome destruction that had occurred as the result of the massive landslide. The mountain that #1 Power House penstock is on had slipped approximately one foot, apparently causing the penstock to break. The rock and water came down into the back of the #2 Plant, completely destroying the switchyard. There were 12 oil circuit breakers that contained 5000 gallons of oil each that were wiped out. Five or six of them were dumped into the river. The water put the fire out almost as quickly as it had started. The landslide halved the #2 Plant and knocked the control room out into the middle of the road. All of the steel tower work that was behind and beside the #2 Plant was toppled over like spaghetti. It looked like a giant erector set that had been laid over on its side and smashed.

But that wasn't the most awesome display of raw power evidenced by the landslide. There used to be a large, 120 ton crane that was on tracks and traveled over the top of #2 Power House, that had been picked up, turned 180°, and deposited in the middle of the river.

That night men responded to the call from Rock Crest Camp first and then from all the outlying areas such as Chico, Oroville, Paradise, Quincy, and Greenville.

Approximately 13,000 customers were without power for less than one hour, as Line Crews from Canyon Dam, Quincy, and Paradise responded to restore power. Also called in were General Construction Line Crews from Chico, and Gas T&D Crews from Paradise.

Contractors worked on oil cleanup, and underwater retrieval of the crane and other apparatus from the river.

General Construction Civil Hydro came in with heavy equipment and approximately 15 men to relieve tired Division Crews in the massive cleanup job.

Cleanup was restricted to daylight hours only with a permanent person watching the mountain for any more slide movement while the men worked underneath.

California Fish and Game Department was there to take tests for PCB content in the oil and monitor the cleanup operations.

All the news media in the area flew in the first day or drove in to take pictures and get a story.

During the first two weeks there were approximately 80-100 persons involved in the cleanup operation.

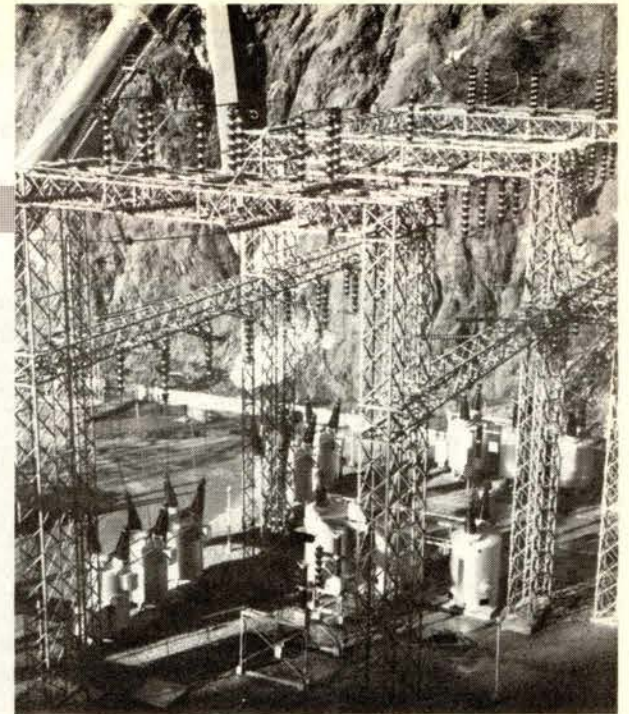
PG&E brought the General Construction cook in from Helms Creek and opened the cookhouse and clubhouse at Caribou to feed and house a large bulk of the workers.

Subsequent testing by PG&E has found there were varying PCB content levels in all the oils tested, some over 50 ppm in the transformer bushings.

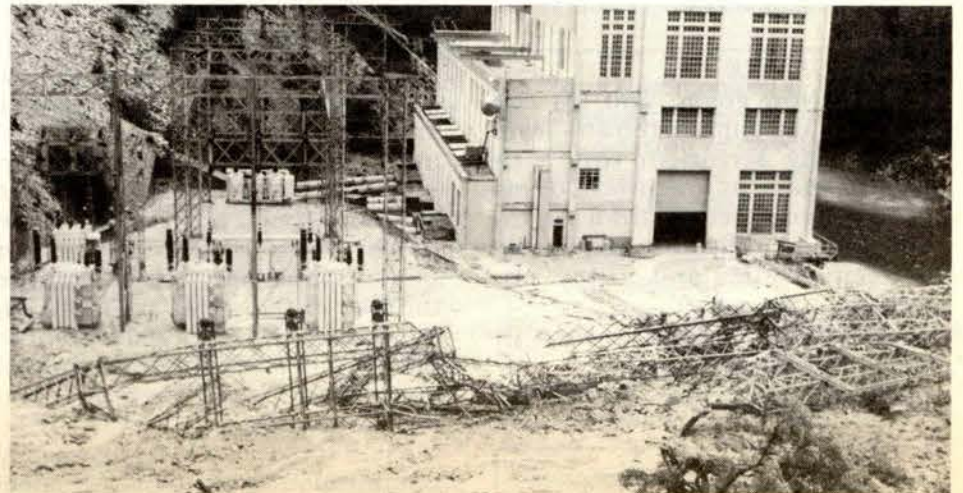
PG&E has established a restoration project headquarters and staff at Caribou Camp and is turning all major rebuilding work over to contractors.



Photographer Andrea Stewart, Cook's Helper, Caribou.



Caribou Plant #2 Switchyard before landslide.



Caribou Plant #2 Switchyard after massive landslide. Above right is control room where Operator Ostrander was during landslide.

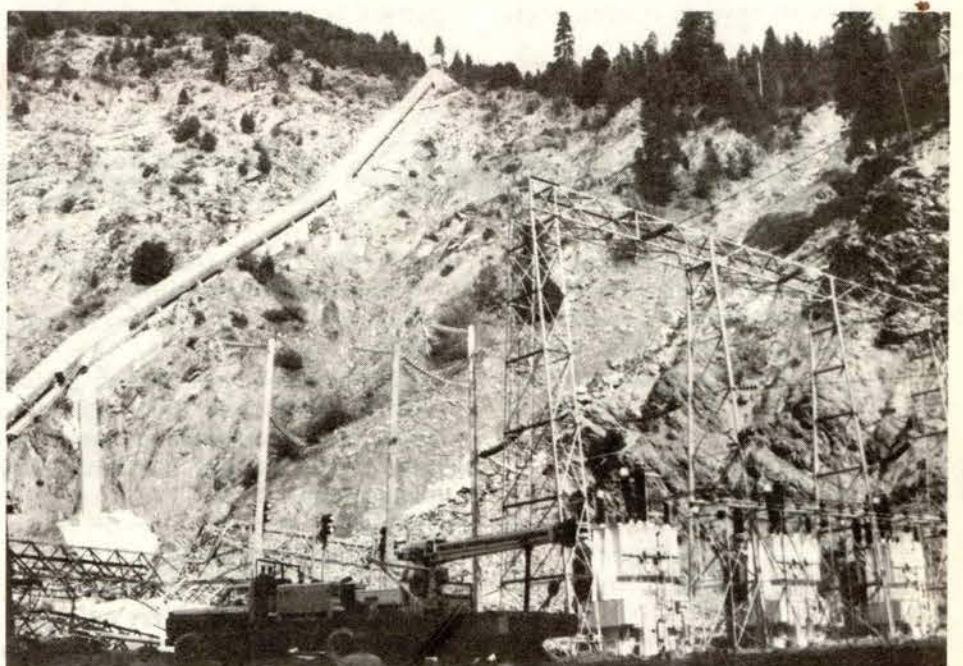


Downed switchyard towers and crushed electrical apparatus.



Severely damaged unmanned Caribou #2 Power House, right.

Other photographers: Business Representative Scott Thomas, Shop Steward Mike Vrooman.



Following landslide two penstocks remained. Photo above shows existing penstock just west of landslide area. Most easterly penstock is being removed because of unsafe mountain conditions. A new site for penstock construction is under consideration.

Local 1245's long battle to protect discounts successful

From PAGE ONE

Photo: Carol Bedsole



IBEW Local 1245 Staff Attorney Tom Dalzell questioned witnesses at PUC Public Hearing.

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conservation goals; and (5) the Commission should refrain from taking any action in this area and announce in unequivocal terms its intention to refrain from any interference in collective bargaining between utilities and utility employees.

1983 & 1984 — Waiting, then finally a decision

Although briefs were filed and the official record was closed in late

"The object of the National Labor Relations Act was not to allow governmental regulation of the terms and conditions of employment ... It was never intended that the Government would ... become a party to the negotiations and impose its own views of a desirable settlement."

**United States Supreme Court
H.K. Porter vs. National Labor Relations Board,
1970**

1982, 1983 came and went without a decision from the Commission. The terms of several commission-

ers, including the leading opponent of the employee discount, expired, and new appointments were made. In his last month in office, Governor Brown appointed Don Vial, a long-time friend of organized labor, to the Commission; Governor Deukmejian's first appointment to the Commission was William Bagley, a moderate Republican with a philosophical inclination against government interference in collective bargaining.

As the players changed, several Commission hearings were scheduled to announce a decision, only to be cancelled at the last minute. Alliances among various Commission members were temporarily forged and then disbanded.

Finally, on April 4, 1984, the Commission reached a consensus and issued its final decision in the case by a unanimous vote.

The Good News

First, the good news. In its findings of fact, the Commission agreed with virtually every argument put forward by the Coalition at the hearing and in its brief. Specifically, the Commission found as follows:

- The cost of the discount has "not increased out of proportion to expenses generally"

Employee discount — a chronology

December 15, 1981: Public Utilities Commission of State of California files Order Instituting Investigation into employee discount at investor-owned gas, electric, water and communications utilities.

May 7, 1982: Public Utilities Commission administrative law judge Donald C. Meaney divides investigation into separate phases and schedules hearings for gas and electric utilities.

August 1982: Six days of hearings before the Public Utilities Commission in San Francisco. Local 1245 and Coalition of California Utility Workers represent interests of utility employees.

October 8, 1982: Coalition files brief with Public Utilities Commission supporting employee discount.

April 4, 1984: Commission issues order terminating investigation of employee discounts without ordering reduction or elimination of discount.

- "Revenue gains from eliminating discounts are negligible"

- "The effect of employee discounts on conservation ... is either negligible or nonexistent"

Staff Attorney Tom Dalzell commented on the findings. "The Commission agreed with our evidence and our arguments. Utility employees are as energy conscious as their neighbors and simply aren't the 'energy hogs' some of the consumer groups paint them to be. Secondly, when you look at the cost of the discount compared to the company's total costs you can see that you are talking about very, very small potatoes."

Based on the evidence, the Commission found that "the evidence and findings do not support action on our part in terminating or reducing discounts at this time." For this reason, the investigation into discounts at all utilities — gas, electric, water and telephone — was terminated.

The Bad News

Now for the bad news. The only argument made by the Coalition which the Commission rejected was the argument that the Commission should not interfere with the collective bargaining process. As it has

done in the past, the Commission stated in its decision that it believed it would have the right to interfere if it had chosen to, but that it simply did not choose to. Additionally, the 50 percent discounts offered to Sierra Pacific and C.P. National employees, less than 150 between the two companies in California, will be examined in the rate proceedings involving those particular companies.

A Preview of What's To Come

"Although we're proud of the work we did and think that the Commission's decision is on the whole a good decision, we aren't naive enough to think that we've won the war" said Business Manager McNally as he reflected on the Commission's decision. "Utility employees all over the country are taking the heat. The discount is in trouble in Washington and Oregon, and I don't think it's a dead issue in California. We prevailed this time, but there will be a next time. With the continued support of our membership and the cooperation of the other members of the Coalition, we'll prevail next time too. It's just a fight that will be with us for years to come."

Las Vegas strike continues

After weeks of negotiations Culinary Workers of Union Local 226 continue their strike against Las Vegas' major hotels. Las Vegas, bringing in millions of dollars each day, can afford to pay, yet hotels are asking workers to take:

- A 4-year wage freeze.
- No job security.
- Takeaways that eliminate current benefits.

The workers affected are food servers, room cleaners, bartenders, bussers and bellmen who have been employed by these hotels for years. They are asking for:

- A moderate wage increase.

- A medical plan that provides for them and their families.
- Maintain a guaranteed work week.

Listed below are Union Hotels that at press time have agreed to settle with their workers, and appreciate the years of hard work they have put in.

PLEASE

PATRONIZE UNION HOTELS

Riviera, El Rancho, Nevada Hotel, Maxim, Landmark, Jerry's Nugget, Sahara Country Club, Golden Nugget, Aladdin, Slots-a-Fun, Sundance, Dunes, Silver City, Silver Nugget, Horseshoe, Royal Las Vegas, Circus Circus, Fre-

mont, El Dorado, Barbary Coast, Stardust, Rainbow, Sahara, Hacienda, Flamingo Hilton, Las Vegas Hilton.

DO NOT PATRONIZE

Caesars Palace, Silver Slipper, El Cortez, Golden Gate, Sam's Town, Holiday International, Treasury, L & W Inc., Imperial Palace, Castaways, Frontier Hotel, MGM Grand, Tropicana, Four Queens, Las Vegas Club, Showboat, Paddle Wheel, Hotel Continental, Palace Station, Desert Inn, Holiday Inn Hotel, Sands, California Hotel, Marina, Mint Hotel, Union Plaza, Holiday Inn South, Western, Westward Ho, Vegas World.

Slo-pitch

Next month meet the winners of the Local 1245 Slo-pitch Softball Tournament

•••

Golf Tourney

Register for the Local 1245 Sept. 8 Golf Tournament by the July 9 deadline. Fee \$25.

Contact Lou Anzaldo,
35524 Cleremont Dr.,
Newark, CA 94560,
(415) 793-0677