

# UTILITY REPORTER

ELECTION GUIDE  
SEE PAGES 5-12

## Hard bargaining on health, retirement

## Union negotiators fight to preserve benefits

**L**ife without benefits. Can you imagine it? What would your life be like without the benefits your union has negotiated for you?

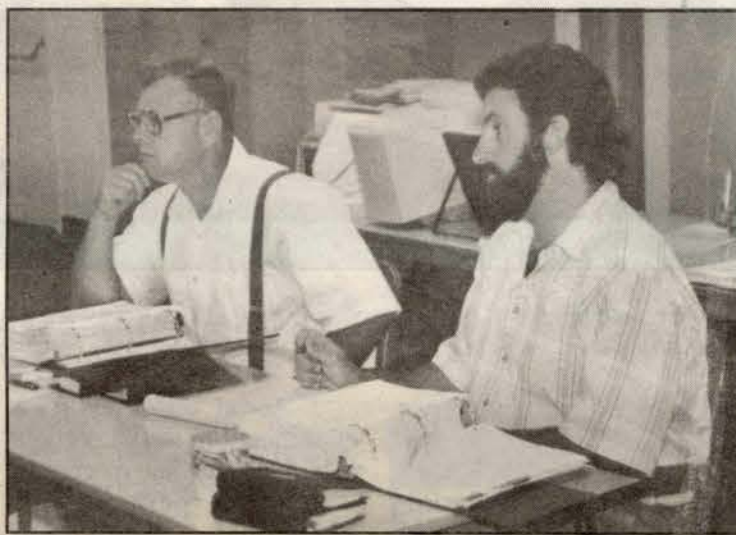
It's not an academic question. Benefits have been secured through decades of collective bargaining. In current negotiations with Pacific Gas & Electric, members' benefits are on the table. Or, it would be perhaps more accurate to say, on the chopping block.

Sure, everyone would like a good wage increase. But how much good will a wage increase do you if you lose benefits?

Protecting benefits is a top priority for union negotiators, who have been meeting with PG&E representatives throughout September to hammer out a new contract. The deeper they go into the bargaining process, the more aware they become that the real fight this year is over the benefits package.

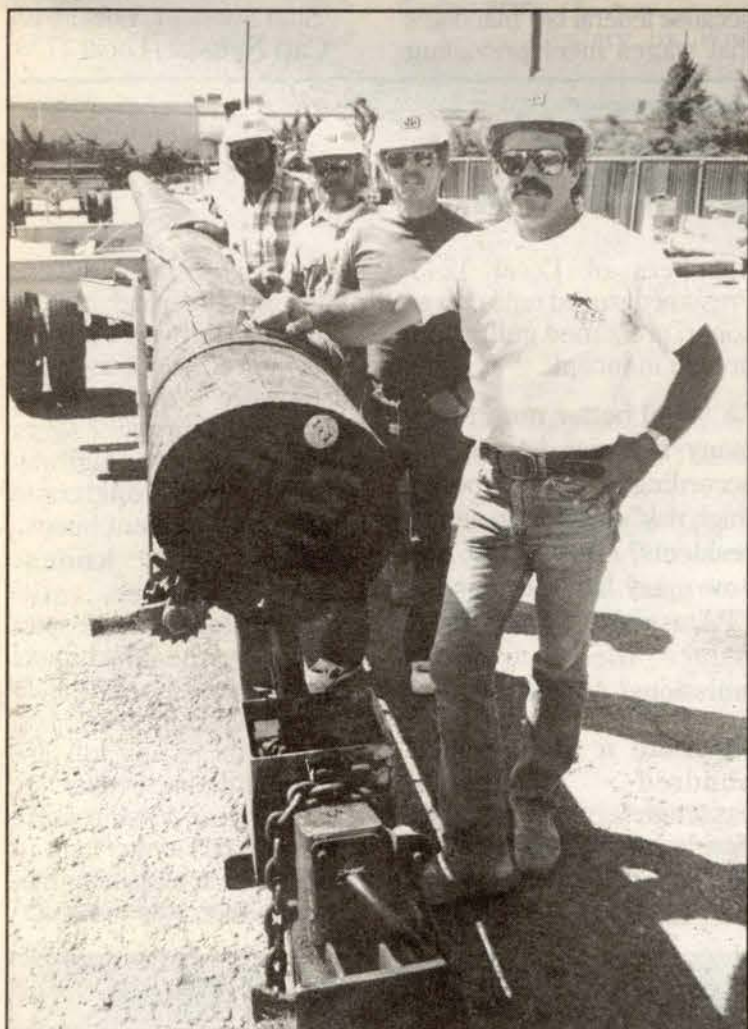
"Being a single parent I have responsibility for two children at home," says union negotiator Veronica Parker. "Without medical insurance, I'd have to deal with their colds, earaches, broken legs, mumps, chicken pox—and where would I go? What would I do? How could I pay

See PAGE THIRTEEN



### BENEFITS IN JEOPARDY

Union negotiators Robert Olsen (left) and Michael Brocchini listen to PG&E proposals that would cut back health and retirement benefits for employees. (Photo: Eric Wolfe)



Sierra Pacific linemen (from left) Mike Faggard and Joe Donahoe, and foreman Dan Clancy (right) are joined for a photo by foreman Frank Davis as the crew prepares to take a pole to Mt. Rose substation near Reno. (Photo: Eric Wolfe)

## Sierra Pacific crew maintains the system

**W**ill things ever settle down at Sierra Pacific Power?

Local 1245 members in the maintenance department hope so. And when the dust clears, they hope their department has the resources to maintain the system that feeds power to customers throughout northern Nevada.

In an environment where the weather can get fierce, maintenance "is a never-ending kind of thing," says Mike Faggard, a 17-year union member. "One crew's not enough to keep ahead of everything."

But one crew is currently all that is assigned to maintenance. In part, the

department is a victim of its own success.

There was a time when an 80 or 90 mile-per-hour wind would wreak enough havoc it would take two or three days to get the system fully restored. But preventative maintenance now takes care of a lot of problems before they occur.

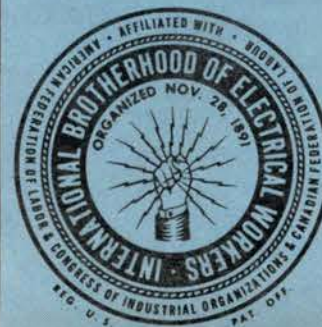
"We finally got the system so it stays together in bad weather," notes Dan Clancy, a foreman with 20 years in the union. Clancy doesn't mince words about how the system got that way, either. Maintenance personnel, he says, "did a hell of a job getting on top of the situation."

And that's the way they want to keep it. Nobody likes

See PAGE SIXTEEN

**"We finally got the system so it stays together in bad weather."**

*Dan Clancy, foreman*



### INSIDE

GCC No. 1 contract ratified Page 2

Davey Tree Surgery agreement Page 3

AFL-CIO tackles health care crisis Page 4

SPECIAL SECTION:  
1990 ELECTION GUIDE  
Pgs. 5-12

Organizing against plant closure Page 14

IBEW 'Founders Scholarships' Page 15

### CALENDAR

Oct. 9 - Deadline for Registering to Vote

Oct. 20 - Public Sector Shop Steward Conference-Sacramento

Oct. 26 - Golden Gate Region Pin Dinner

Oct. 27 - Golden Gate Region Shop Steward Conference

Oct. 27 - East Bay Region Shop Steward Conference-Walnut Creek

Nov. 6 - Election Day



UTILITY  
REPORTER

October 1990  
Volume XXXIX  
Number 10  
Circulation: 24,500

(415) 933-6060

**Business Manager  
& Executive Editor**

Jack McNally

**President**

Howard Stiefer

**Executive Board**

Jim McCauley  
Ron Blakemore  
Barbara Symons  
Michael J. Davis  
Kathy F. Tindall  
Andrew G. Dudley

**Treasurer**

E. L. "Ed" Mallory

**Communications Director**

Eric Wolfe

Published monthly at 3063  
Citrus Circle, Walnut Creek,  
California 94598. Official publi-  
cation of Local Union 1245,  
International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO,  
P.O. Box 4790, Walnut Creek,  
CA 94596.

Second Class postage paid at  
Walnut Creek and at additional  
mailing offices. USPS No.  
654640, ISSN No. 0190-4965.

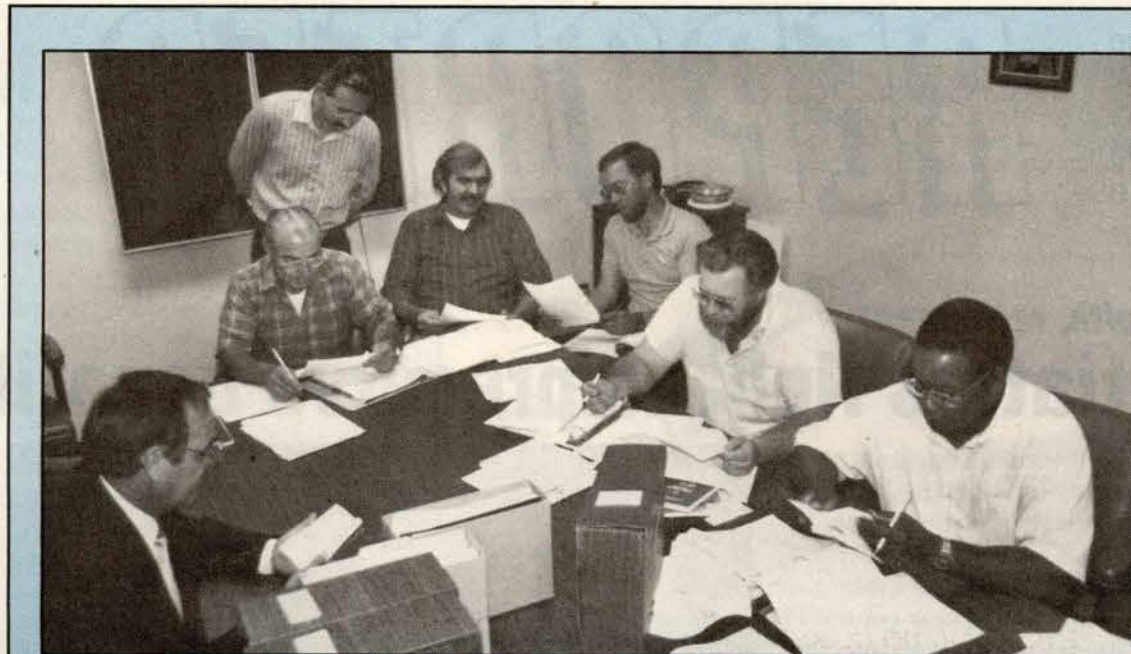
**POSTMASTER:** Please send  
Form 3579, Change of Address,  
and all correspondence to Util-  
ity Reporter, P.O. Box 4790,  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

Single copies 10 cents, sub-  
scription \$1.20 annually.

Have you moved lately? If so,  
please send your complete new  
address and your social secu-  
rity number to the Utility Re-  
porter, P.O. Box 4790, Walnut  
Creek, CA 94596.



WAPA

**SMUD TALKS**

Local 1245 negotiating team prepares for talks with Sacramento Municipal Utility District. Union team consists of: Ike Williams, Jerry Heitman, Don Hurdle, Gary Hanson, Ramon Smith, and Business Rep. Perry Zimmerman. Also on the team but not pictured is Art Torres. At the initial meeting with the district, held Sept. 11, SMUD General Manager S. David Freeman described the union's proposal as an "excellent package."

## Members ratify new agreement with WAPA

**F**ederal workers employed by the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) have ratified a new three-year agreement.

The new pact, which covers nearly 400 employees, including 27 members of Local 1245, makes changes in 22 sections of the old contract, according to Business Representative Richard Hafner, who serves as chairman of Government Coordinating Council No. 1, the official bargaining agent. Hafner called the agreement the "best package" he had ever helped negotiate with WAPA.

A principal achievement of the new agreement is tying down wages for a three-year period. Previous contracts, according to Hafner, have specified wage re-openers during the contract term. The new agreement, however, specifies wage increases of 3.5 percent annually in 1990, 1991, and 1992, to take effect in October of each year. In addition, the parties negotiated a wage schedule for 1993, which will be based on a journeyman rate to be determined through a future wage survey.

The new agreement provides, among other things:

\* Added maximum accrual for purchase of boots.

\* Double-time for all call-out and after 12 hours.

\* Aerial observer (new classification) at 104 percent of high-voltage line mechanic.

\* 106 percent for Electronic Equipment Mechanics and Meter and Relay Mechanics, as of 1993 (up from 105 percent).

In addition, the union will file a negotiability appeal for benefits that WAPA maintains are non-negotiable, such as

sick leave, vacation time, 401K plan, and hospitalization. According to Hafner, bargaining unit employees are about 10 percent behind prevailing standards for benefits because the government has refused to bargain over these items.

The union maintains that because federal law mandates that wages meet prevailing

standards, benefits should come up to prevailing standards as well.

Serving on the union negotiating team, along with Hafner, were:

Rich Perry, Local 1245  
Tom Shearer, Local 2159  
Brian Pieper, Local 1959  
Stan Spencer, Local 640  
Carl Nyquist, Local 1759

**Workers here and abroad**

## Rolling the union on...

**Sorry, guys:** OGE Drilling Inc. of Houston has fired six workers trapped in Kuwait and Iraq by the Persian Gulf crisis. The jobs of the company's 16 workers in Kuwait were terminated retroactively to Aug. 2, the day that Iraqi forces invaded. "There is nothing that we can do," said a company spokesman.

**Presumed stoned:** The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals last month approved random drug testing for 116,000 pipeline workers nationwide, despite admitting that no significant drug problem exists in the industry. "It is not fatal to [the government's] argument that it cannot demonstrate that the pipeline industry has a specific drug problem," said the Court in giving the OK to invade the privacy of innocent workers, including many

members of Local 1245. Presumed stoned until proven sober; presumed guilty until proven innocent.

**Feel better now?:** How many factories in the US, according to the EPA, pose a "high risk" of cancer to nearby residents? Answer: 149. And how many factories has the EPA asked to "voluntarily" reduce their hazardous emissions? Answer: 12.

**Take a hike:** Several hundred Greyhound passengers were stranded beside Interstate 5 for three to four hours recently when scab-operated buses flunked

safety inspections and were pulled off the road by the California Highway Patrol at San Onofre. About a dozen buses were ordered out of service, leaving passengers stranded beside the highway until Greyhound could come up with replacement buses.

**On their knees:** Eastern Airlines, still struggling to operate despite a strike by the Machinists union, has gotten so desperate for passengers it has promising refunds to any full-fare passenger dissatisfied for any reason. *Labor Notes* reports that one passenger got a refund after complaining that the ice cream was too soft.

## New meeting time in Reno

Unit 3311, Reno, Nevada, has a new meeting time. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. The old meeting time was 7:30 p.m. The meeting will still be located at the IBEW hall, 2713 E. 4th St.



**DAVEY TREE BARGAINING COMMITTEE**

Negotiating the Davey Tree contract are union members (seated, from left) Paul Mendes, Frank Graft, Dan McMillon, Local 1245 Asst. Business Manager Orv Owen, along with Davey Tree Vice President and General Manager Howard Bowles; (standing, from left) union members John Kenny, Ken Bissmeyer, Alan Finnochio, along with Davey Tree Safety Supervisor George Mays. (Photo: Eric Wolfe)

**Bargaining roundup****Local 1245, Davey Tree renew contract**

Local 1245 and Davey Tree Surgery Co. have concluded a new collective bargaining agreement.

The contract provides wage hikes of 4.2 percent for work performed by Davey under contract with PG&E in the Mission Trail/Golden Gate Region (effective Nov. 1, 1990), the San Joaquin Valley Region (effective Aug. 1, 1990), and East Bay Region (effective Sept. 1, 1990). In the Redwood Region, the contract provides for a 4.1 percent increase, effective Jan. 1, 1990.

Serving on the union negotiating committee in talks with Davey were: Kenneth Bissmeyer, Alan Finnochio, John Kenney, Dan McMillon, Frank Graft, and Local 1245 Assistant Business Manager Orv Owen.

Local 1245 and the City of Fallon moved closer to an agreement during the month of September. According to Owen, the two sides had achieved virtual agreement on all non-economic issues by mid-September.

As the *Utility Reporter* went to press in late September, the parties were preparing to meet on economic issues. Owen expressed hope that those meetings would produce an agreement.

The union bargaining

committee consists of: Charles Gomes, Jerry Mayfield, Brent Newman, Shelley Rae Rakushim, Ron Shuey, John Stralla, and Owen.

Owen also reported progress in contract talks with Multivision Cable. Bargaining on Sept. 12 brought the

company and union close to agreement on a "majority of non-economic issues," Owen said. Negotiations were slated to resume in early October.

Serving on the union negotiating committee in talks with Multivision are: Tom Hagler, Kevin Sullivan, Larry Pierce and Owen.

**APPOINTMENTS****PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY****Northern Pipeline Operations Labor-Management Committee**

Peggy Daniel  
Steve Alexander  
Samuel Leroy Adams

**Santa Cruz Labor-Management Committee**

Richard Selberg  
Avery J. Wilfong

**CLEAR CREEK COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

**Clear Creek Community Services District Negotiating Committee**  
Richard L. Ordway

**TRUCKEE PUD****Truckee PUD Negotiating Committee**

Paul Rose  
Beverly Johnson  
Michael McGovern

**CENTRAL LABOR COUNCILS****San Francisco Labor Council**

Enid Bidou  
Ed Caruso

**CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS**

**Joint Executive Conference of Northern California Electrical Workers**  
Art Murray

**Coalition of Labor Union Women**  
Dorothy Fortier  
Kathy Tindall

**POINT OF VIEW****Election Day 1990: a time to speak up**

Jack McNally, IBEW 1245 Business Manager

November 6 is Election Day 1990. Can you vote on election day? Will you vote on election day?

You cannot vote on Election Day if you are not registered. All you have to do to get registered is fill out a voter registration card and mail it in.

It's a post card with no postage necessary. Very easy. You can get this voter registration card by contacting a shop steward or a business representative.

The last day for registration is Tuesday, Oct. 9, 1990.

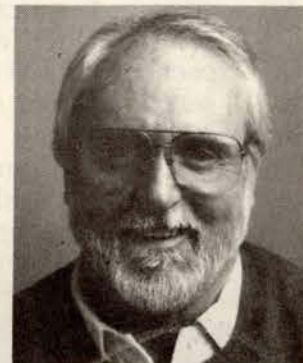
Between now and Election Day television and radio will carry loads of campaign advertising for numerous candidates and issues. Much of it is to attract attention to single issues that usually don't mean much in terms of the job that needs to be done.

That's one reason why organized labor keeps records on incumbent candidates and interviews non-incumbent candidates to determine their program and priorities. Organized labor endorses a candidate on the basis of his or her record and program - those who will go to bat for working people and families on issues that hit closest to home for us.

It means that the candidate makes the priorities of working families his or her priorities.

It means that the candidate cares about our jobs, our families' security, our children's opportunity, our share of the future.

So, for instance, what kinds of issues are these



union-endorsed candidates going to help us with?

\*Protecting our jobs

\*Training for the jobs of the future

\*Keeping control of America's economic destiny

\*Better schools for our children

\*A healthy environment where we work and where we live

\*Quality health care for all

\*Affordable housing

\*Child care and family leave

\*Improved workers compensation and unemployment benefits

\*Tax fairness

\*Workers rights and union rights

The point is, whether we're talking about state issues, local issues, or national issues, union-endorsed candidates are in our corner.

Let's be in theirs. Vote union-endorsed candidates on November 6.



Public hearings Oct. 3

## Labor demands action on health care crisis

**T**here is a health care crisis in America. Not a matter of concern, not just a serious problem. A crisis.

Today 37 million Americans have no health insurance. For the most part these are workers and their families. Millions more workers who presently enjoy health insurance through union-negotiated benefits plans are watching their benefits shrink, even as their out-of-pocket expenses go up.

Local unions around the US and Canada, including IBEW Local 1245, have mounted vigorous campaigns to defend hard-won health benefits for their members. But the US health care crisis has become too big for any single union or any single employer. It is a crisis of national dimensions that cries out for a national solution.

### Kirkland in San Francisco

This month organized labor will attempt to focus the nation's attention on the crisis in health care through a series of public hearings around the nation, including a hearing at City Hall in San Francisco on Oct. 3. Leading the hearings will be AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, joined by the presidents of three international unions. Among those offering testimony will be San

Francisco Mayor Art Agnos, Contra Costa County Supervisor Sunne McPeak, and Margaret Taylor, director of San Mateo County Health Care Services.

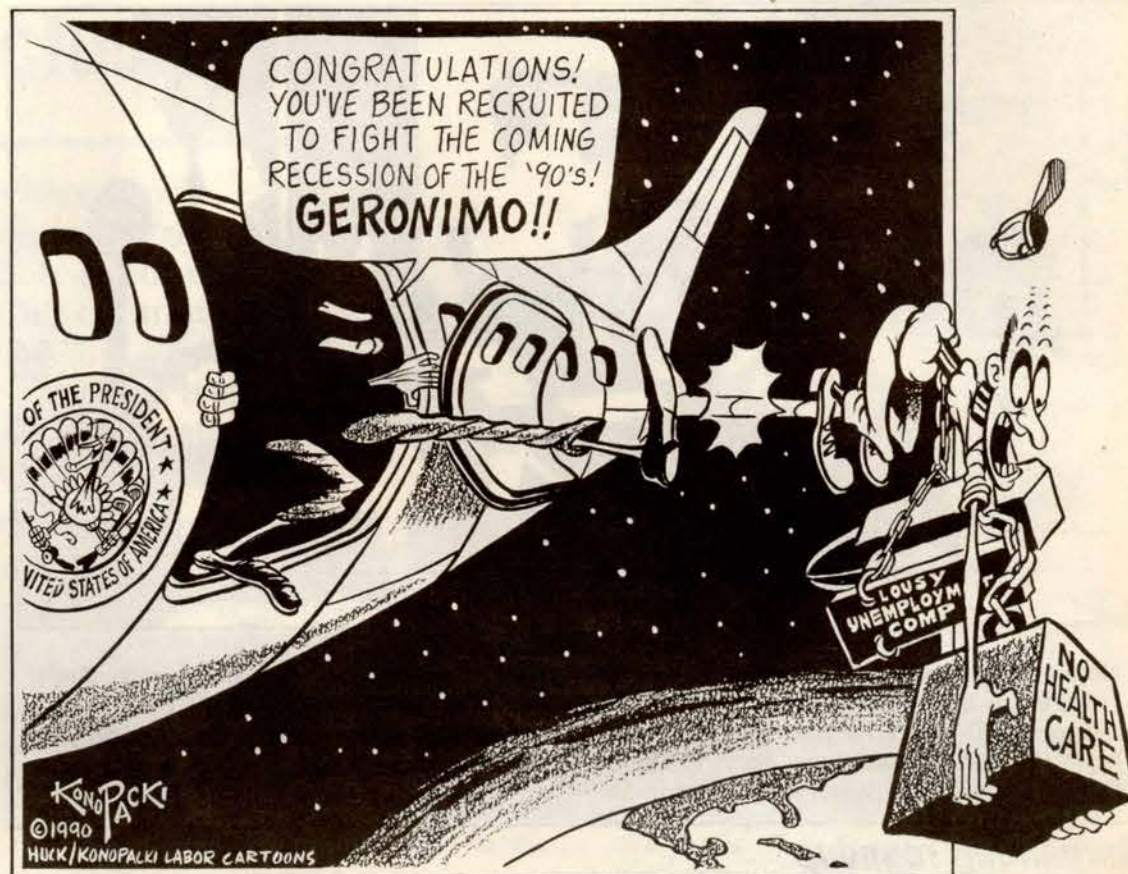
Testimony will also be presented by representatives of health care advocacy groups and by rank and file workers who have suffered at the hands of the current health care system. The public is invited to attend the hearings, which run from 9:30 to noon. A rally has been tentatively scheduled later that afternoon in Union Square.

It's no accident that organized labor is stepping into the vacuum left by the silence of Congress on this issue. Throughout this century unions have been instrumental in advancing the rights of workers, playing an important role in establishing universal public education, Social Security, and Medicare health services for the elderly.

Now organized labor is again leading the charge in demanding a national solution to the health care crisis.

It is a crisis in both the cost and the quality of care.

Despite spending more than any nation on earth for health care, Americans get less. The US trails 23 other nations in the percentage of babies born with an inadequate birth weight. The US ranks 22nd in the rate of



**Health care in the US has become an expensive, inefficient and irrational system that has lost sight of its central mission: maintaining the health of the citizenry. Political action will come only when American workers make a united stand and demand a national solution to the crisis.**

infant mortality, behind such countries as East Germany, Spain and Singapore. In the US life expectancy is lower than in Canada and Europe.

Even as services deteriorate, the cost to workers is going up. Employers, who now routinely spend \$3000 annually to cover each employee, are shifting those costs onto workers by making them pay a greater share of the premium and a larger portion of their medical expenses through higher deductibles and copayments.

Some firms have tried to reduce their insurance bill by refusing to cover preexisting health conditions for new employees, which means that some workers now find they can't obtain insurance at any price.

Health care in the US has become an expensive, inefficient and irrational system that has lost sight of its central mission:

maintaining the health of the citizenry. Billions of dollars are wasted on administrative and marketing costs, billions more on unnecessary tests and operations.

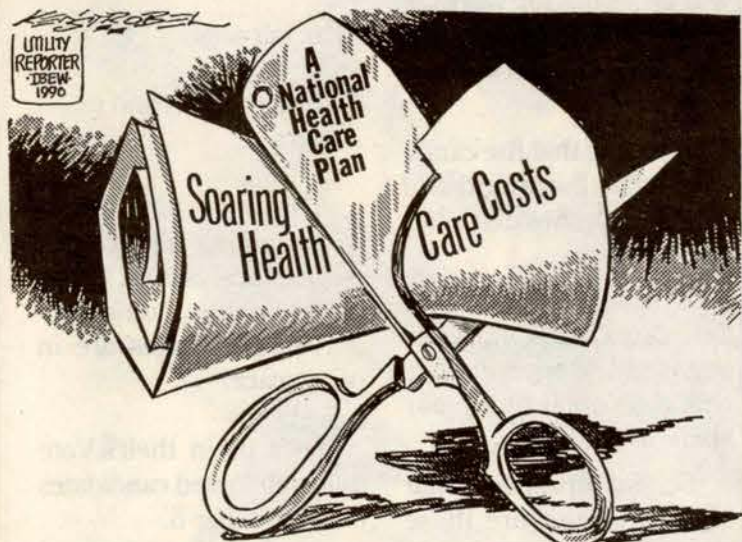
### Universal coverage

America, if it is to remain healthy as a nation, must have a health care system whose primary function is to maintain healthy citizens. Such a system would guarantee universal coverage—coverage for all, regardless of the individual's ability to pay. It would also guarantee cost effective, quality care that protects people from

unnecessary treatment.

The AFL-CIO will make its case for a national system of health care during public hearings this fall in eight American cities, including the Oct. 3 San Francisco hearing. In addition, the AFL-CIO has launched a fall media campaign featuring public service announcements from noted celebrities urging action on the health care crisis.

But these efforts, in the final analysis, will produce political action only if American workers make a united stand and demand a national solution to the health care crisis.



**THE TIME HAS ARRIVED FOR CUTS!**

## Hear ye! Year ye! Public Hearing

San Francisco City Hall  
400 Van Ness Ave.  
Oct. 3 9:30 a.m.



**IBEW Local 1245**

# **ELECTION GUIDE**

**PAGES 5-12**

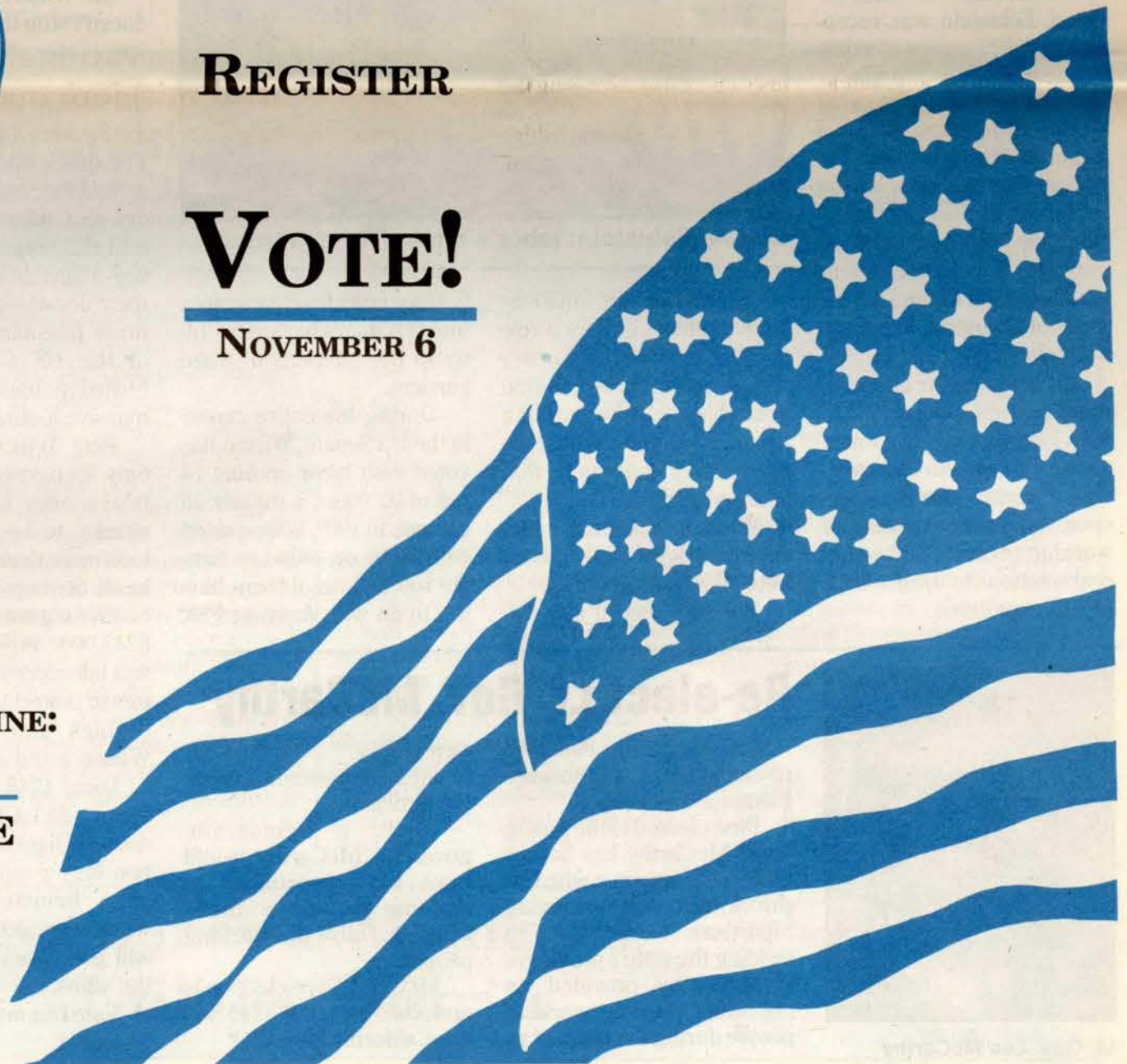
**SHOW THE WORLD THAT AMERICAN  
DEMOCRACY STILL WORKS.**



**STAND UP  
BE COUNTED  
REGISTER**

**VOTE!**  
**NOVEMBER 6**

**CALIFORNIA  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE:  
OCTOBER 9  
CALL 1-800-VOTE**



**COMPLETE LIST OF ENDORSEMENTS FOR CALIFORNIA & NEVADA - PAGE 12**



## Feinstein pledges to give workers a voice

**S**ome political commentators have played down the differences between Dianne Feinstein, Democratic candidate for governor, and her Republican opponent, Senator Pete Wilson.

But for working people, there is a fundamental difference: Dianne Feinstein has pledged to give wage earners a voice in state government, while Pete Wilson has dedicated his entire political career to aiding big business at the expense of those who draw a paycheck.

Feinstein, it must be noted, was not labor's top choice to be governor. Justice for workers has never been her top priority.

But as Mayor of San Francisco, Feinstein was receptive to the concerns of working people. If elected governor, she has pledged to give working men and women a major role in her administration, including a labor liaison in the top ranks of her staff. She has also promised to consult with labor about appointments to the Department of Industrial Relations and other key posts.

In accepting the endorsement of the California AFL-CIO, Feinstein said she wants a state government that cares about worker safety, is responsive to the needs of working parents, that seeks real solutions to the growing health care crisis.



**Dianne Feinstein: labor's choice for governor**

These are not small issues. Feinstein offers a reasonable hope that California's prosperity will be shared equitably with the working men and women whose labors have generated that prosperity.

What, on the other hand, could workers expect from Pete Wilson as governor?

Wilson's record as a US

Senator provides clear insight into this man's blatant hostility to the interests of wage earners.

During his entire career in the US Senate, Wilson has voted with labor on only 14 out of 91 votes, a measly 15 percent. In 1989, Wilson sided with labor on only two Senate votes, both of them having to do with denying FSX

aircraft technology to Japan. On *every other* labor vote, Wilson sided with the corporations:

- \* Wilson sided with union buster Frank Lorenzo in voting no on two Senate votes calling for a blue ribbon panel to seek a settlement of the Eastern Airlines strike..

- \* On a bill to raise the minimum wage, Wilson voted no.

- \* On two bills designed to weaken Davis-Bacon prevailing wage protections, Wilson sided with those who want to beat back wage standards.

- \* Wilson supported efforts to give the richest Americans yet another tax break by lowering capital gains taxes.

- \* Wilson voted against the child care bill.

But Wilson's sorry record doesn't stop there. The man was center stage during the greatest taxpayer rip-off in the history of the republic: the Savings and Loan fiasco. The quick buck artists who sucked the Savings and Loans dry—and who are going to cost the taxpayers \$500 billion—didn't do it on their own: their decade-long party was made possible by members of the US Congress who turned a blind eye to the massive looting.

Pete Wilson wasn't the only Congress member to take money from the S&L sharks, to be sure. But he took more than anybody else: in all, Savings and Loan executives gave Pete Wilson \$243,000. When legislation was introduced to add inspectors to protect taxpayers from Savings and Loan fraud, Wilson voted against it.

Local 1245 and the California AFL-CIO have endorsed Dianne Feinstein for two very good reasons: Dianne Feinstein will give workers a voice. Pete Wilson will give workers a kick in the shins.

Vote Dianne Feinstein for governor.

## Vetos kill important labor bills

**G**ov. George Deukmejian showed how Republicans celebrate Labor Day when he vetoed two important labor bills before taking his Labor Day weekend.

The governor killed Assembly Bill 3930, which would have curbed the rampant spread of garment industry sweatshops by making manufacturers jointly liable for violations of worker protection laws committed by the subcontractors they employ.

He also killed AB 4006, which would have increased fines imposed for violations of Cal-OSHA health and safety standards. Currently such violations bring an average fine of only \$121 per offense.

The vetoes provide trade unionists with stark examples of why it is important to end the Republican reign in Sacramento.

"These measures involve nothing more than simple justice in the workplace," said California AFL-CIO Executive Secretary Jack Henning. "We cannot rely upon obtaining simple justice through the legislative process unless we can elect Dianne Feinstein governor."

In vetoing the legislation to expand the legal liability of manufacturers in the garment industry, Deukmejian declared that regulation of the industry is "more properly" a government responsibility. However, Deukmejian at the same time took steps to thwart government regulation of the industry.



**Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy**

## Re-elect Lt. Gov. McCarthy

Leo McCarthy deserves re-election as California's Lieutenant Governor.

First elected to the post in 1982, McCarthy has been a good administrator who has the knack for achieving bipartisan cooperation in tackling the state's problems.

McCarthy provided an important voice for working people during the reign of an

extremely anti-labor Republican governor, George Deukmejian.

Under a Democratic governor, McCarthy would have the opportunity to become an even more valuable ally of working people.

McCarthy's re-election is endorsed by Local 1245 and the California AFL-CIO.

**Back candidates who will back you!**



## Brown for treasurer

In 1979 the auditor general for California had what he thought was a bright idea for saving money: abolish Cal-OSHA.

He made the suggestion despite acknowledging that abolishing Cal/OSHA would result in fewer inspectors to enforce health and safety standards, lesser criminal penalties for health and safety violations, and reduced job security for employees who blow the whistle on violators.

Today that auditor general, Tom Hayes, serves as state treasurer, appointed to the position by Gov. George Deukmejian. Kathleen Brown says the people of California deserve better.

Brown, a Democrat, is daughter of former Gov. Edmund "Pat" Brown, one of the most popular pro-worker leaders in California's history.

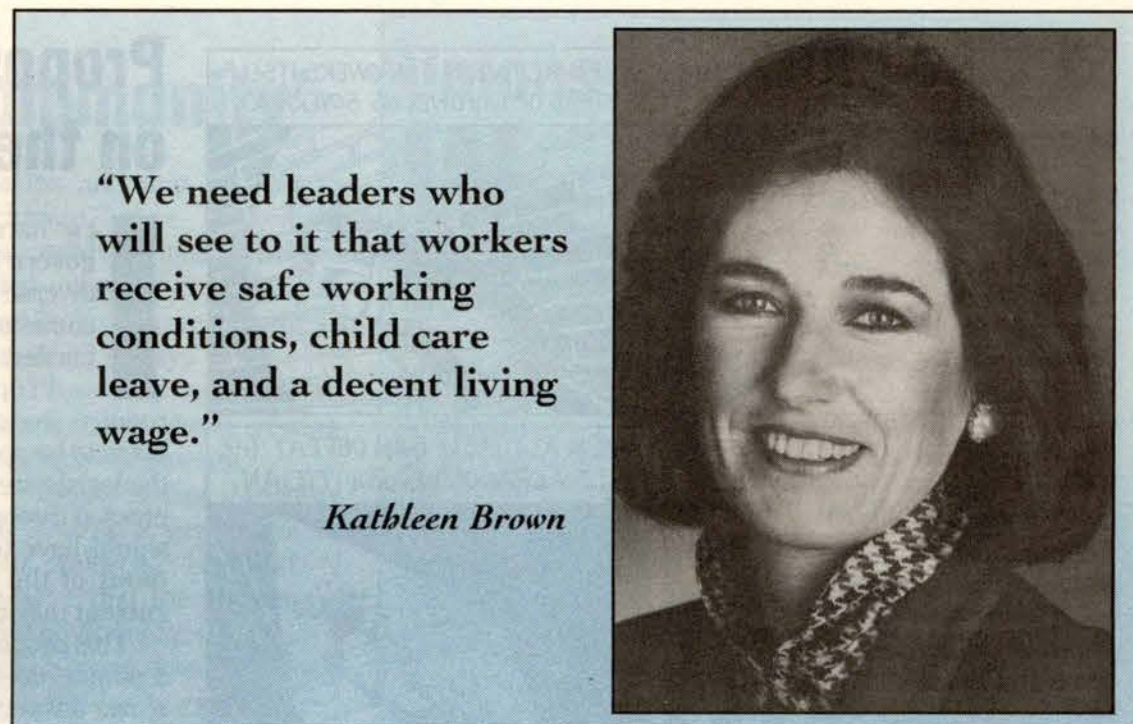
"We need leaders who will see to it that workers receive safe working conditions, child care leave, and a decent living wage," said Brown in a prepared statement. "As

treasurer, I will support workers' rights in all areas in which the treasurer has authority."

The *Wall Street Journal* has called her "the most exciting Democrat to come along in California" since the 1970s. But more important than that, Brown is a Democrat who can deliver important benefits to working people.

For example, Brown has said she would support legislation to include prevailing wage provisions in bond statutes. And as a voting member of the California Public Employees Retirement System, Brown would have a direct voice in important corporate policy decisions affecting workers.

Consider the case of General Motors, which not long ago decided to nearly double the pensions of thousands of top GM executives even though the company's workers pension fund remains underfunded by almost \$2 billion and management is considering



"We need leaders who will see to it that workers receive safe working conditions, child care leave, and a decent living wage."

*Kathleen Brown*

a shutdown of its Van Nuys auto manufacturing plant. As a voting member of CalPERS, which owns 6.2 million shares of GM stock, the current treasurer was in a perfect position to oppose GM's maneuver to line the pockets of management at the expense of workers. But he didn't. CalPERS voted in favor of management's plan.

"I can think of far better uses for this money," said

Brown, "such as ensuring that the GM plant in Van Nuys is retooled to make other vehicles, saving the thousands of jobs it provides. As treasurer and member of the CalPERS board, I will vigorously oppose corporate policies that squander company resources and neglect the interest of California's retirees."

Brown, a corporate and public finance attorney, has

served on the Los Angeles Board of Education and as Commissioner of the Los Angeles Board of Public Works. Her experience and her clear support of working people has won Brown widespread backing from California's labor unions, including Local 1245 and the California AFL-CIO. But it will be up to the voters to put this friend of labor in a position to really help working people.

### Vote 'NO' on Proposition 139

## Prison labor ballot initiative: false promises, real dangers

Proposition 139 looks good on paper: put prison inmates to work to help defray the cost of their incarceration. Most of us believe that it would be beneficial to have prisoners work.

However, Proposition 139 is a sham: it is a maneuver by business interests to obtain a supply of cheap labor that will be subsidized by the taxpayers. When examined closely, every promise made by the backers of Proposition 139 turns out to be utterly false.

They say that Proposition 139 will save the taxpayers money by making prisoners "earn their keep." However, a comparable inmate work program at the California Youth Administration actually costs the taxpayers \$3 for every

one dollar returned to the state by the inmates.

Proponents say Proposition 139 will help prepare inmates for the job market after they are released, certainly a worthy goal. But in fact the program makes no provision for imparting skills to the inmates. They would merely serve as low-wage labor for business, without the skills needed to find real employment upon their release from prison.

If anything, Proposition 139 would provide an excuse for putting off real training programs for inmates, something that is desperately needed.

### Threat to safety

Proposition 139 poses a significant threat to the safety of the general public. The state's legislative analyst in

February warned that the employment of lawbreakers in the California Youth Administration program would "compromise the security of thousands of Californians." The State Legislature's independent fiscal analyst said that the program did not contain enough safeguards to prevent the inmates from having access to a wealth of personal information on members of the public.

Under Proposition 139, insurance companies, banks, realtors, or any other form of business could qualify for the use of inmate labor. This means that citizens' home addresses, telephone numbers, social security numbers, trips away from home and other confidential affairs could routinely fall into the hands of convicted criminals.

**Under Proposition 139, citizens' home addresses, telephone numbers, social security numbers, trips away from home and other confidential affairs could routinely fall into the hands of convicted criminals.**

There are other safety considerations. Under Proposition 139, counties would be permitted to enact ordinances to allow inmates to work outside of prison walls. Prisoners convicted of serious crimes could end up working in the neighborhoods where children are walking home from school.

There's a real temptation to say, "Put prisoners to work,

make them earn their keep." The businesses who stand to gain from a captive supply of cheap labor are counting on those sentiments to get Proposition 139 passed. The big losers will be the working men and women of California.

Convict labor was prohibited by the state constitution in 1879. Local 1245 and the California AFL-CIO believe it should be kept that way.

**Vote November 6**



IT'S THE ONE THING POLITICIANS  
FEAR THE MOST.



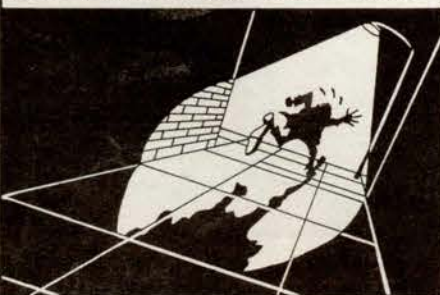
WHEN ACTIVE, IT EMPOWERS ITSELF  
INSTEAD OF EMPOWERING GOVERNMENT.



WHEN ACTIVE, IT PREVENTS LAW-  
MAKERS FROM PANDERING TO A  
FEW WEALTHY SPECIAL INTERESTS.



WHEN ACTIVE, IT CAN DEFEAT THE  
SELF-AGRANIZING POLITICIAN.



WHAT, IN HEAVEN'S NAME IS  
THIS HORRIBLE THING?



A SWARM OF  
INFORMED UNION  
VOTERS!



## Proposition 136: a sneak attack on the principle of majority rule

It's hard enough already to govern a state as large and as diverse as California. But now somebody wants to make it harder.

Proposition 136 would require any new or increased state taxes to be approved by *two-thirds* of the legislature. Any state special taxes enacted through the initiative process would have to be approved by *two-thirds* of the voters, instead of the current majority vote requirement.

This proposition masquerades as a simple tax-fighting measure. But closer inspection shows it to be a highly anti-democratic measure that could paralyze state government and prevent the delivery of basic services to the people of the state.

If Proposition 136 was already in effect, the historic transportation package approved in June (Propositions 111 and 108) would have been defeated despite the fact that the majority of voters voted in favor of them.

If Proposition 136 was already in effect, the Victims Bill of Rights would have failed. The Safe Drinking Water/Toxics initiative would have failed.

Even Proposition 13—the famous property tax cut—would have failed.

Proposition 136 would give one-third of the voters the right to dictate to the other two-thirds on matters of tax policy. Even if 65 percent of the voters supported an initiative concerning taxes, they would lose; the remaining 35 percent would get their way. That's not democracy—it's a formula for disaster.

Proposition 136 would nullify any other measure on the November ballot that enacts any tax, that employs a method of tax computation, or that contains a rate not authorized by Proposition 136. "Big Green", for example, could get 65 percent of the vote but still be defeated.

Opponents of Proposition 136 have correctly called this measure a "virus" because it infects other propositions on the ballot and destroys them. The ultimate victims of this deadly virus would be the democratic process itself, with its time-honored principle of majority rule.

The California AFL-CIO urges union members to keep this virus out of the body politic by voting NO on Proposition 136.

### Vote 'NO' on Propositions 131 and 140

## 'Term limit' initiatives threaten voters' right to choose

Two propositions on the November ballot seek to limit the number of terms that state politicians can remain in office: Propositions 131 and 140.

Both propositions reflect growing voter unhappiness with "entrenched" politicians and with the influence that money exerts on the democratic process. However, neither proposition would insulate the political process from the influence of money. And each of the two propositions would limit voters' freedom to vote for whom they please, thus undermining a fundamental tenet of a democracy.

Local 1245 and the California AFL-CIO oppose both propositions.

Of the two, Proposition 140 poses the largest threat to the rights of citizens. It would impose dramatic cuts in the operating budget of the Legislature. Using the formulas mandated by Proposition 140, the next state budget would be reduced from \$191.7 million to \$114 million, a cut of 40 percent.

What would the people lose?

For starters, entire units of the Legislature would probably have to be eliminated, possibly including various legislative commissions, citizens advisory boards, select committees, research offices and other offices whose function is to analyze proposed legislation or review the performance of other agencies of government.

These and other operational cuts would be accompanied by reduction in professional staff, those who perform the legwork in providing services to constituents. Professional staff also provide important points of access for constituents who wish to make their opinions known to their elected representatives.

Proposition 140 would not be cutting a bloated bureaucracy; it would be hobbling the democratic process itself.

Both Proposition 140 and 131 would impose limits on the number of terms our elected representatives could serve.

Proposition 140 would limit most state officials to two terms, or eight years, in office. Assembly members

would be limited to three two-year terms, a total of six years.

Proposition 131 would also limit most officials to two four-year terms, or eight years. However, it would permit members of the Board of Equalization and the Senate to serve three four-year terms, while Assembly members could serve six two-year terms. Proposition 131 would permit elected officials to return to their former offices after sitting out one full term.

The framers of the US Constitution rejected limits on terms of office. They reasoned that the prospect of always having to face the voters again would motivate elected officials to perform their duties responsibly. They also worried that limits on terms could motivate some officials to seek quick personal

gain while the gaining was good.

Proposition 131 would impose some restrictions on conduct by elected officials that many voters might find appealing. It would reduce the amount of gifts that state elected officials could accept from a single source in a calendar year. It would also establish a Special Investigation and Prosecution Unit within the Office of the Attorney General to coordinate investigation and prosecution of elected and non-elected state officials.

However, both propositions are based on a fundamentally undemocratic premise: that voters should not be permitted to elect whomever they please to represent them in government.

**Back candidates who will back you!**



## Labor endorses East Bay activist

## Lee envisions 'healthy community'

In her bid to become the Assembly Member from California's 13th District, Barbara Lee pledged to run a positive, issue-oriented campaign.

In an era of mud-slinging campaigns, that's an impressive promise. It's the sort of promise you can only make if you understand the issues and are not afraid to



Barbara Lee

take a stand on them.

With 20 years of legislative, political and community-based experience, Lee has demonstrated she both understands and cares about issues that affect working people. She is endorsed by Local 1245 and the California AFL-CIO.

Lee, who served as an advisor to Congressman Ron Dellums and to former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, has made the creation of a "healthy community" the cornerstone of her campaign. Affordable health care tops her list of concerns.

"For too long, affordable health care has not been an issue addressed by the Legislature in an aggressive

fashion and that has got to change," Lee said in a prepared statement. "I believe that everyone is entitled to quality health care, regardless of ability to pay."

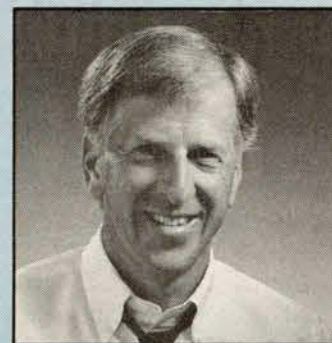
Drugs are one of the principal obstacles to creating a health community.

"Crack cocaine threatens to destroy a generation of our children," Lee said. "I believe that the state must establish budget priorities which target resources to job training and employment programs, substance abuse prevention, education, and recovery programs in order to tackle the devastating problems of drug abuse and drug-related crimes."

Lee operates Lee Associates, a research and development company.

## Unions back Thompson

Working people will gain a new friend in the California legislature if Democrat Mike Thompson succeeds in his bid to represent northern California in the State Senate.



Mike Thompson

Thompson, a native of St. Helena, is endorsed by Local 1245, and the California AFL-CIO.

"Working conditions and workers' safety and workers' salaries are extremely important to me," Thompson told *Utility Reporter* during his primary election campaign. "Having come from the working community I identify closely with working men and women and understand through my own experiences what working men and women face on a day to day basis."

Even though it will be his first term in office, Thompson comes to Sacramento with plenty of experience under his belt. As chief of staff for Assembly Members Jackie Speier and Louis Papan, two close friends of labor, Thompson worked on bills to reform campaign practices, to ban off-shore oil drilling and to place tough restrictions on the underground storage of hazardous materials.

## 'Big Green': new game plan for cleaning up California

It used to be said you can't have jobs and a clean environment both. Labor and the environment were considered to be on opposite sides of the fence.

But no more. Today an overwhelming majority of Americans believe that preserving the environment

is critical for our survival. Polluters still trot out the tired old argument that environmental regulations cost jobs. But more and more Americans, Republicans and Democrats alike, now understand that it is possible to create jobs without poisoning our air, our water, and our food supply.

Proposition 128, the "Big Green" initiative, is a carefully crafted ballot measure designed to help make California a cleaner and healthier place to live. Proposition 128 would:

- \* Phase out chemicals that destroy the ozone layer.
- \* Phase out the use of cancer-causing pesticides on

our food.

\* Protect our drinking water and coastal waters from toxic chemical contamination.

\* Require oil companies to establish an oil spill clean-up and prevention fund.

\* Create the position of Environmental Advocate with the power to crack down on polluters.

The pesticide and chemical industries say that cleaning up the environment will cost too much money, that California can't afford a clean environment. But the fact is, we can no longer afford polluting the environment. In Southern California alone, pollution costs \$9 billion each year in extra sick days and medical bills caused by air pollution. According to a 1985 study by the National Center for Health Statistics, the overall medical cost for treating cancer in California is over \$7 billion annually.

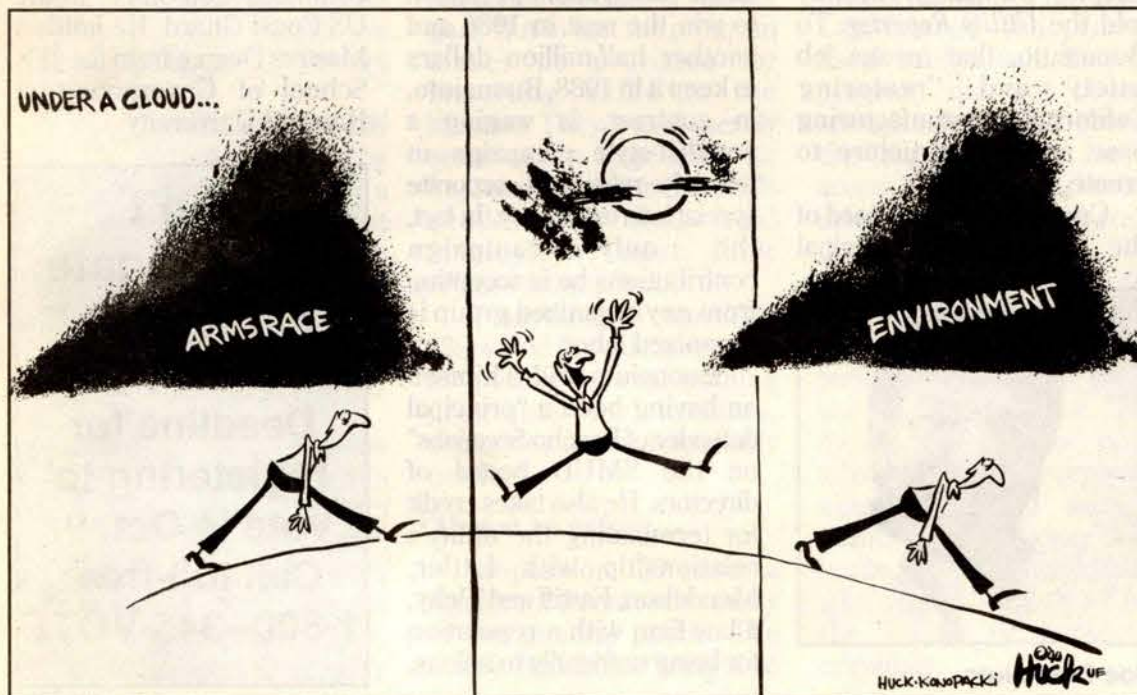
There is a direct correlation between these costs and pollution. Pesticides

have contaminated more than 3,000 drinking water wells throughout the state. Sewage and toxic waste are pumped into the oceans, and fish and marine life are contaminated by toxic chemicals. The growing hole in the ozone threatens to unleash an epidemic of skin cancer.

Opponents try to portray Proposition 128 as too ambitious, too unwieldy, as simply too much. But in reality we have done far too little to protect the environment on which all of us ultimately depend for our livelihoods and our lives.

Proposition 128 was designed to give industry time to develop and phase in alternatives. It's a responsible program for tackling some very serious problems today, so that we won't leave an even bigger environmental problem for our children.

Proposition 128 ("Big Green") is backed by gubernatorial candidate Dianne Feinstein and the California AFL-CIO.



Vote November 6



## Lempert leads fight for legislative ethics

**W**hen Ted Lempert ran for the State Assembly in 1988, he promised to push for tough new ethics legislation.

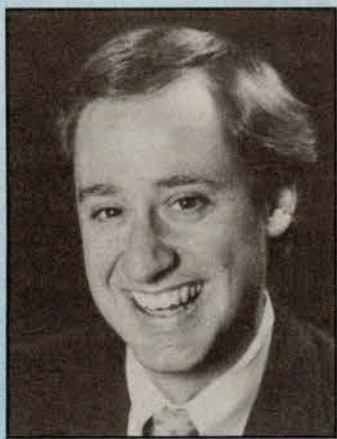
In the wake of recent scandals at the California Legislature, Lempert blew in like a gust of fresh air. On his first day in office he introduced the Political Reform Act, which included a five-point ethics plan. Before his first term in office was completed, four of his five points had become law. Thanks to Lempert's leadership, legislation has been enacted to:

- \* Prevent ex-legislators from lobbying.
- \* Make it possible to prosecute legislators for conflict of interest violations.
- \* Make it illegal for members of the Board of Equalization to vote on a tax break if they've accepted a campaign contribution from that taxpayer.
- \* Ban honoraria, cocktail party "fees" and other sources of "free" money for legislators

Lempert clearly deserves the gratitude of all Californians for his leadership on ethics at the legislature. But he isn't content to rest on his laurels, which helps explain why Local 1245 and the California AFL-CIO support Lempert for re-election.

"Now that the Political Reform Act has passed," Lempert declared recently, "it's time we make serious improvements in other areas affecting Californians--education, transportation, the environment, crime--as well as fight for further ethics reform."

Lempert pledges to introduce The Teacher Incentive Act of 1991 "to help attract our brightest students into the education profession, so that there is a standard of excellence in every classroom."



Ted Lempert

Lempert also pledges "to protect our precious coastal environment and economy from oil and gas development in the three-mile state water zone," a follow-up to a bill he authored this year to prevent major oil spills and establish a first-rate response capability.

Fighting crime is high on Lempert's agenda. During his first term, Lempert authored several bills supported by law enforcement groups. Next year he plans to go after a new class of criminal: Savings and Loan cheaters. Lempert promises to push legislation to expand jail sentences for Savings and Loan officials who commit fraud, and to tighten up state rules to protect investors from shady practices.

Lempert has not forgotten his earlier promises on legislative ethics. He has already won four out of the five ethics provisions he promised in his 1988 campaign. Next year he's going to try again on that fifth promise:

"On my first day of the legislative session next year," he pledges, "I will introduce a bill to limit campaign spending in legislative races and challenge the Supreme Court case which prohibits spending limits."

Lempert knows how to fight for the broad public interest. He deserves voters' support.

## Re-elect Barry Keene

## Keene takes on the tough issues

**D**uring his 18 years in the California State Legislature, Senator Barry Keene has tackled some tough issues.

His 1976 Natural Death Act enabled patients to authorize discontinuation of hopeless medical treatment. It was the first law of its kind in the world.

Keene's Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act was the nation's first comprehensive law on medical malpractice.

His ability to take leadership has won Keene the respect of his constituents, who have returned him to Sacramento every election since 1972. It has won him the respect of his fellow legislators, who elected him Senate Majority Leader in 1985. And it has won him the endorsement of Local 1245 and the California AFL-CIO.

Keene, who teaches public policy at Stanford University when the Legislature is out of session, has written a host of environmental laws, including measures to save water, create recreational trails, prevent wildland fires, stimulate aquaculture, safeguard endangered species, promote alternative energy, and protect the coastline from catastrophic oil spills.

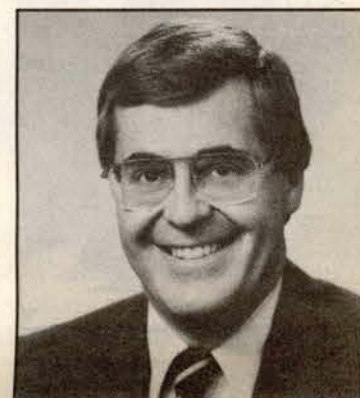
He played a leading role in drafting Proposition 111, the massive transportation initiative approved by voters last June.

He was a principal co-author of the package of bills on legislative ethics.

Keene's generic drug bill, a national first at the time he introduced it, saves consumers millions of dollars a year by allowing pharmacists to substitute lower-cost medication for more expensive brand names.

Keene, whose Senate District 2 reaches east into the Sacramento Valley and north to the Oregon border, has helped obtain funding for distressed rural counties and introduced legislation to further aid counties facing budget shortfalls.

Keene is a creative legislator who is not afraid to innovate when innovation is needed. He's also a solid performer who knows how to deliver for his constituents.



Barry Keene

## Elect Joe Buonaiuto

## Buonaiuto gives priority to workers

**J**oe Buonaiuto has put workers at the center of his campaign to represent the 5th District in the California State Assembly.

"My priorities are working people," Buonaiuto recently told the *Utility Reporter*. To Buonaiuto, that means job safety and "restoring California's manufacturing base and infrastructure to create jobs."

Currently on the board of the Sacramento Municipal

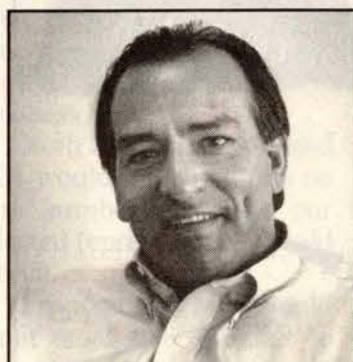
Utility District (SMUD), Buonaiuto has won the endorsements of Local 1245 and the California AFL-CIO in his bid to unseat Republican incumbent Tim Leslie in the State Assembly.

It's an uphill campaign. Leslie raised about \$1 million to win the seat in 1986 and another half-million dollars to keep it in 1988. Buonaiuto, in contrast, is waging a populist-style campaign in which he refuses all corporate special interest money. In fact, the only campaign contributions he is accepting from any organized group is organized labor.

Buonaiuto prides himself on having been a "principal defender of Rancho Seco jobs" on the SMUD board of directors. He also takes credit for terminating the utility's relationship with Littler, Mendelson, Fastiff and Tichy, a law firm with a reputation for being unfriendly to unions.

Buonaiuto favors tax reform--"roll back welfare for millionaires"--and expresses strong concern for education, long-term care for elderly people, and cleaning up legislative corruption.

Buonaiuto is a former commissioned officer in the US Coast Guard. He holds a Masters Degree from the JFK School of Government at Harvard University.



Joe Buonaiuto

**Don't procrastinate: participate!**

**Deadline for registering to vote is Oct. 9.  
Call toll-free:  
1-800--345-VOTE**

**Back candidates who will back you!**



## Re-elect Dom Cortese

## Cortese warns against prison labor

Last year Dominic "Dom" Cortese, candidate for re-election as assembly member from the 24th District, authored legislation to make it a felony to take a peace officer's firearm. Dom Cortese believes that's the way to tackle crime: head on.

Some people want to appear tough on criminals by putting prison inmates to work for private contractors. Cortese, who is endorsed for re-election by Local 1245 and the California AFL-CIO, believes that approach is just plain wrong.

Putting prisoners to work in the private sector means taking jobs away from honest, law-abiding citizens. For the unemployed and the underemployed, having to

compete with lawbreakers is more than a hardship: it's an injustice. Cortese has had the courage to speak up for working people on this emotional and widely-misunderstood issue.

Assembly Bill 2740, introduced by Cortese, would



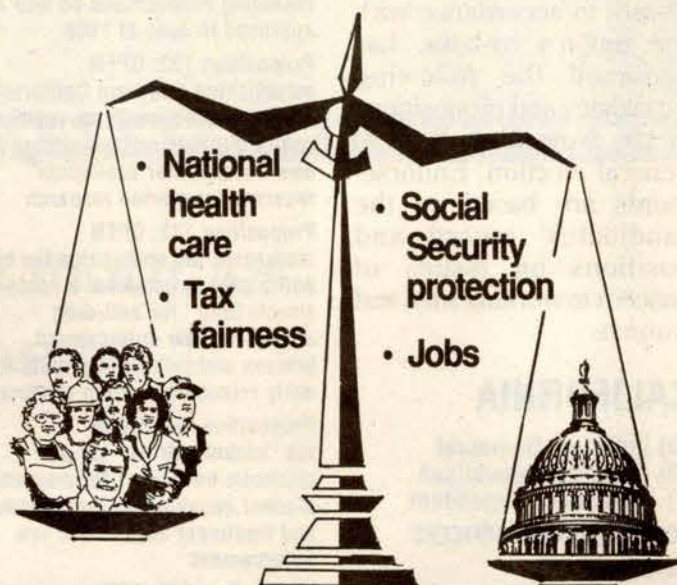
Dominic 'Dom' Cortese

allow the Santa Clara County Transit District to build and operate a child care facility at the Alma Multimodal Transit Mall, an innovative approach to a growing problem.

"Parents would be able to drop their children off at the facility and relieve themselves of the stress of then having to drive to work," Cortese explained earlier this year. "This meets the dual needs of making day care more accessible and of making public transportation more attractive."

As chairman of the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife, Cortese believes that water quality and conservation, in particular, are issues that need special attention "no matter how much rainfall occurs."

Re-elect Dom Cortese.

Stand Up November 6  
for

Vote for

Labor-Endorsed Candidates

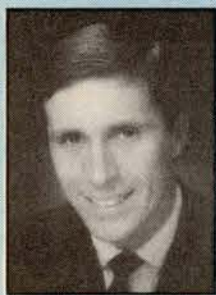
## Re-elect Ed Smeloff

## Smeloff turns SMUD around

Customer satisfaction is being restored. Employee morale is on the upswing. A new general manager with impressive credentials stands at the helm. The company has a good chance of turning its first profit in five years.

No matter how you look at it, it's been a good year for the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, one of the nation's largest publicly-owned utilities. And much of the credit belongs to SMUD's president Ed Smeloff.

Restoring SMUD's credibility has been a top priority for Smeloff, who was elected to the SMUD board in 1986 and became president in January of this year. His progress toward achieving this goal has won him the endorsement of Local 1245,



Ed Smeloff

which represents SMUD's physical workers.

"I think it is important for the employees to feel proud of the institution they work for," Smeloff recently

told the *Utility Reporter*. Boosting employee morale and restoring public confidence in the utility, Smeloff said, are among his top priorities as president.

"SMUD has had some difficult years. This is the first year since 1985 that SMUD is going to take a profit," Smeloff said. "As we recover, I think we can share the benefits of that recovery with the ratepayers and the employees."

Smeloff recruited S. David Freeman to serve as SMUD's new general manager. Freeman has moved aggressively to show that he wants to forge a cooperative relationship with the union.

Smeloff has shown valuable leadership on energy conservation and the issue of employee childcare.

Smeloff has demonstrated that he knows what it will take to put SMUD back on track after some difficult years. He deserves the chance to finish the job.

## Elect Wendy Reid

## Reid deserves seat on board

Employees and ratepayers alike have good reason to hope that Wendy Reid succeeds in her bid to win election to the board of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

As a former member and shop steward in the California Service Employees Association, Reid has firsthand experience of labor issues. She understands the concerns of union workers because she's been there herself.

As an energy consultant to the California Energy Commission, and as a consultant to ratepayer groups as well as utilities, she understands the economic and policy issues facing California's electric utilities.

"I appreciate what goes on in an electric utility. I think that I can help stabilize the [SMUD] board ... and help the board move forward into the future," Reid recently told the *Utility Reporter*.

Reid's candidacy is endorsed by Local 1245.

"I am a strong advocate of public power," Reid said. "I firmly believe in having that local access in the decision-making ... I believe SMUD has some opportunities that we need to take advantage of."

Reid, a native of Sacramento, said her priorities on the SMUD board would be to:

- \* lower SMUD bills and set rates in a fair and orderly manner;

- \* cooperate with local officials to develop energy sources to meet the area's growing needs while protecting the environment; and

- \* invest locally in conservation alternatives and clean sources of energy to promote Sacramento's economy.

The people who sit on the SMUD board can make an enormous difference in the lives of SMUD workers. Local 1245 members and their families should support Wendy Reid.



Wendy Reid

## Sacramento Municipal Utilities District

Vote November 6



Union members: take this page with you to the polling place for quick reference when voting

## Candidates & propositions officially endorsed by Local 1245

The Local 1245 Executive Board, in accordance with the union's by-laws, has endorsed the following candidates and propositions in the November 6, 1990 general election. Endorsements are based on the candidates' record and positions on issues of concern to working men and women.

### CALIFORNIA

(D) indicates Democrat  
(R) indicates Republican  
(I) indicates Independent

#### CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Governor:  
Dianne Feinstein (D)  
Lieutenant Governor:  
Leo T. McCarthy (D)  
Attorney General:  
Arlo Smith (D)  
Insurance Commissioner: John  
Garamendi (D)  
Treasurer:  
Kathleen Brown (D)  
Controller:  
Gray Davis (D)  
Secretary of State:  
March Fong Eu (D)  
Board of Equalization:  
Dist. 1: William Bennett (D)  
Dist. 2: Brad Sherman (D)  
Dist. 3: Floyd Morrow (D)  
Dist. 4: Paul Carpenter (D)

#### BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

Proposition 124: OPEN  
authorizing the Legislature to  
permit local hospitals to own  
health-care related businesses  
Proposition 125: OPEN  
authorizing use of motor vehicle  
fuel tax revenues for rail transit  
Proposition 126: OPEN  
imposing liquor excise tax and  
excise surtax for alcohol abuse  
and drug education  
Proposition 127: OPEN  
authorizing exclusion of  
earthquake repairs or damage  
prevention from "new  
construction" regulations  
Proposition 128: OPEN  
the "Big Green" environmental  
initiative  
Proposition 129: OPEN  
authorizing bonds and  
appropriations for drug  
enforcement and treatment and  
control of gang-related crime  
Proposition 130: OPEN  
the "Forests Forever" timber  
initiative  
Proposition 131: NO  
limiting state officials' tenure in  
office, establishing partial  
campaign funding for those who

agree to spending limits, and  
repealing Propositions 68 and 73  
approved in June of 1988

Proposition 132: OPEN  
establishing Southern California  
Marine Protection Zone, restricting  
use of gill nets and mandating four  
new ocean water ecological  
reserves for marine research

Proposition 133: OPEN  
increasing the state sales tax by  
half a cent to establish a "safe  
streets fund" for anti-drug  
education, law enforcement,  
prisons and jails, and prohibiting  
early release of certain criminals

Proposition 134: OPEN  
the "nickel a drink" tax on  
alcoholic beverages for drug and  
alcohol abuse prevention, recovery  
and treatment and related law  
enforcement

Proposition 135: OPEN  
the industry-sponsored pesticide  
initiative that would revise  
penalties and eliminate fees  
charged to pesticide users for  
regulatory programs

Proposition 136: OPEN  
increasing voting requirements for  
general and special taxes

Proposition 137: OPEN  
requiring voter approval of any  
statute affecting initiative or  
referendum petitions

Proposition 138: OPEN  
the industry-sponsored timber  
initiative

Proposition 139: NO  
Gov. Deukmejian's prison labor  
initiative

Proposition 140: NO  
limiting terms of office and  
accrual of pension rights for some  
state officials  
Proposition 141: YES  
applying to public agencies the  
carcinogen and reproductive toxic  
disclosure provisions of  
Proposition 65, otherwise known  
as the Safe Drinking Water/Toxics  
Act

#### UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

##### District

1. Douglas H. Bosco (D)  
2. Erwin E. (Bill) Rush (D)  
3. Robert T. Matsui (D)  
4. Vic Fazio (D)  
5. Nancy Pelosi (D)  
6. Barbara Boxer (D)  
7. George Miller (D)  
8. Ronald V. Dellums (D)  
9. Fortney Pete Stark (D)  
10. Don Edwards (D)  
11. Tom Lantos (D)  
12. Robert Palmer (D)  
13. Norman Y. Mineta (D)  
14. Patricia Malberg (D)  
15. Gary A. Condit (D)  
16. Leon E. Panetta (D)  
17. Calvin Dooley (D)  
18. Richard H. Lehman (D)

19. Anita Perez Ferguson (D)  
20. Michael A. Thomas (D)  
21. Richard D. Freiman (D)  
22. David Bayer (D)  
23. Anthoy C. Beilenson (D)  
24. Henry A. Waxman (D)  
25. Edward R. Roybal (D)  
26. Howard L. Berman (D)  
27. Mel Levine (D)  
28. Julian C. Dixon (D)  
29. Maxine Waters (D)  
30. Matthew G. Martinez (D)  
31. Mervyn M. Dymally (D)  
32. Glenn M. Anderson (D)  
33. Open (D)  
No endorsement (R)  
34. Esteban E. Torres (D)  
35. Open (D)  
No endorsement (R)  
36. George Brown, Jr. (D)  
37. Ralph Waite (D)  
38. Barbara Jackson (D)  
39. Francis X. Hoffman (D)  
40. Eugene C. Gratz (D)  
41. Dan Kripke (D)  
42. Guy C. Kimbrough (D)  
43. No endorsement  
44. Jim Bates (D)  
45. No endorsement

#### CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE

##### District

2. Barry Keene (D)  
4. Mike Thompson (D)  
6. Leroy F. Greene (D)  
8. Quentin Kopp (I)  
10. Bill Lockyer (D)  
12. Dan McCorquodale (D)  
14. No endorsement  
16. Ray Gonzales (D)  
18. Gary K. Hart (D)  
20. Alan Robbins (D)  
22. Herschel Rosenthal (D)  
24. Art Torres (D)  
26. Charles M. Calderon (D)  
28. Diane E. Watson (D)  
30. Ralph C. Dills (D)  
32. Evelyn Colon Beckett (D)  
34. Ruben S. Ayala (D)  
36. Robert Presley (D)  
38. William A. Craven (R)  
40. Wadie P. Deddeh (D)

#### CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY

##### District

1. Arlie E. Caudle (D)  
2. Dan Hauser (D)  
3. Lon S. Hatamiya (D)  
4. Thomas M. Hannigan (D)  
5. Joe Buonaiuto (D)  
6. Lloyd G. Connelly (D)  
7. Norman S. Waters (D)  
8. Bev Hansen (R)  
9. Vivien Bronshvag (D)  
10. Phillip Isenberg (D)  
11. Robert J. Campbell (D)  
12. Tom Bates (D)  
13. Barbara Lee (D)  
14. Johan Klehs (D)  
15. Wendell H. Williams (D)  
16. John L. Burton (D)  
17. Willie L. Brown, Jr. (D)  
18. Delaine Easton (D)  
19. Jackie Speier (D)

20. Ted Lempert (D)  
21. Byron D. Sher (D)  
22. Bob Levy (D)  
23. John Vasconcellos (D)  
24. Dominic L. Cortese (D)  
25. Rusty Areias (D)  
26. Patrick Johnston (D)  
27. Sal Cannella (D)  
28. Sam Farr (D)  
29. John Jay Lybarger (D)  
30. Jim Costa (D)  
31. Bruce Bronzan (D)  
32. Bernie McGoldrick (D)  
33. No endorsement  
34. No endorsement  
35. Jack O'Connell (D)  
36. Ginny Connell (D)  
37. Open (D); No endorsement (R)  
38. Irene F. Allert (D)  
39. Richard Katz (D)  
40. Tom Bane (D)  
41. Jeanette Mann (D)  
42. Open (D); No endorsement (R)  
43. Terry B. Friedman (D)  
44. Tom Hayden (D)  
45. Burt Margolin (D)  
46. Mike Roos (D)  
47. Teresa P. Hughes (D)  
48. Marguerite Archie-Hudson (D)  
49. Gwen Moore (D)  
50. Curtis R. Tucker, Jr. (D)  
51. Marilyn J. Landau (D)  
52. Gary L. Neely (D)  
53. Richard E. Floyd (D)  
54. Willard Murray, Jr. (D)  
55. Richard Polanco (D)  
56. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D)  
57. Dave Elder (D)  
58. Luanne W. Pryor (D)  
59. Xavier Becerra (D)  
60. Sally Tanner (D)  
61. No recommendation (D)  
62. Open (D);  
No endorsement (R)  
63. Bob Eppele (D)  
64. Kevin Grant Gardner (D)  
65. Bob Erwin (D)  
66. Jerry Eaves (D)  
67. Fred Smoller (D)  
68. Steve Clute (D)  
69. Jim Toledano (D)  
70. Howard Adler (D)  
71. Peter Mathews (D)  
72. Tom Umberg (D)  
73. Ray Strait (D)  
74. Gerald Franklin (D)  
75. Deirdre Alpert (D)  
76. Stephen B. Thorne (D)  
77. No recommendation  
78. Mike Gotch (D)  
79. Pete Chacon (D)  
80. Steve Peace (D)

#### SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

Board of Directors:  
Ed Smeloff  
Wendy Reid

### NEVADA

(\*) indicates Republican  
All others are Democrats

Governor: Bob Miller  
Lt. Governor: Sue Wagner\*  
Congress Dist. 1: James Bilbray  
Congress Dist. 2: Jane Wisdom  
Attorney General: Frankie Sue Del  
Papa  
State Treasurer: Ray Shaffer  
Sec. of State: James Spinello  
Controller: No endorsement  
Supreme Ct. B: Thomas Steffen  
Supreme Ct. D: Cliff Young

#### SOUTHERN NEVADA STATE SENATE

Dist. 1 No endorsement  
Dist. 2 Thomas Hickey  
Dist. 3 Bob Coffin  
Dist. 5 Thomas Kirkpatrick  
Dist. 6 Ron Cook  
Dist. 7 Nick Horn

#### SOUTHERN NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY

Dist. 1 Matt Callister  
Dist. 2 No endorsement  
Dist. 3 Saundra Krenzer  
Dist. 4 Bill Kissam  
Dist. 5 Vince Triggs  
Dist. 6 Wendell Williams  
Dist. 7 Morse Arberry, Jr.  
Dist. 8 Gene Porter  
Dist. 9 Chris Giunchigliani  
Dist. 10 Myrna Williams  
Dist. 11 Doug Bache  
Dist. 12 Jim Schofield  
Dist. 13 No endorsement  
Dist. 14 Val Garner  
Dist. 15 Charlie Wakefield  
Dist. 16 Rick Bennett  
Dist. 17 Bob Price  
Dist. 18 Bob Fay  
Dist. 19 Vonne Chowning  
Dist. 20 Jack Regan  
Dist. 21 Danny Thompson  
Dist. 22 Jack Jeffrey  
Dist. 41 Larry Spiller  
Dist. 42 Renee Diamond

#### NORTHERN NEVADA STATE SENATE

Dist. 1 Diana Glomb  
Dist. 2 Len Nevin  
Dist. 3 No endorsement  
Capital Ernie Adler

#### NORTHERN NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY

Dist. 24 Vivian Freeman  
Dist. 25 Bob Kerns\*  
Dist. 26 Paul Prengaman  
Dist. 27 Ken Haller  
Dist. 28 Joseph Johnson  
Dist. 29 John Sampaga  
Dist. 30 Jan Evans  
Dist. 31 Bernie Anderson  
Dist. 32 Bob Sader  
Dist. 33 No endorsement  
Dist. 34 No endorsement  
Dist. 35 No endorsement  
Dist. 36 Tom Benz  
Dist. 37 Gary Sheerin  
Dist. 38 Joe Dini  
Dist. 39 No endorsement  
Dist. 40 Robin Williams-Auer

**VOTE!**

Back candidates who will back you!



## Fight to preserve benefits

from PAGE ONE  
for it?"

As crucial as they are, medical insurance is not the only benefit guaranteed by the union contract, according to Local 1245 benefits specialist Wendy Bothell. Employees are also entitled to long term disability insurance, dental and vision coverage, life insurance, a savings fund plan, and a retirement plan. Retired employees, in addition to the retirement plan, receive union-negotiated medical and life insurance benefits.

"If you're comparing benefits to wages, I'm not sure everyone understands what the total benefits package really means," says Bothell. "The total paid out annually for medical, dental and vision benefits per family is \$6108."

"If you're looking at how much someone is making on an annual basis, \$6000 is a big chunk," Bothell notes.

"It would devastate your family if a major illness came up" if it were not

for medical benefits, observes union negotiator Sandra Weeks. Without medical insurance, "you couldn't afford to have kids."

"Try to have a child without benefits," agrees union negotiator Mike Brocchini. "When you go to the doctor it's the first thing they ask for."

One thing that company and union negotiators agree on is that the health care costs are an enormous problem and that "the two parties can't solve the problem by themselves," says union negotiator Bernard Smallwood. "It's a national problem and it's going to have to be dealt with on a nationwide level."

"Unfortunately," Smallwood adds, "in the meantime their solution is to pass the costs onto the employees."

Retirement benefits is a major point of disagreement in the current negotiations, according to the negotiators. One proposal put forward by the company would require retirees to pay 50 percent of their medical benefits if they retire before age 65. This policy would be retroactive to members who have already retired.

"We think that's completely outrageous. These people are already retired and having a hard time making it as it is," says Smallwood.

To Parker, retirement benefits are one of the main benefits that the union has negotiated over the years.

"By the time I retire, I'll have to have some sort of security to deal with what the future brings," she says. Without the retirement benefits guaranteed by a union contract, that future wouldn't look so bright.

The company can give any assurances that it wants to today about taking care of its employees, Parker notes, but unless benefits are contained in writing in the union contract, employees can't count on anything.

### Wage increases higher in 1990

Major collective bargaining settlements in private industry during the first 6 months of 1990 provided larger wage increases than those in the contracts they replaced, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

Settlements during the first 6 months covering 810,000 workers under major agreements provided wage rate adjustments averaging 4.2 percent in the first contract year and 3.8 percent annually over the life of the contract. Lump sum payments and COLAs are not included in these measures.



Members' benefits hang in the balance as union and PG&E negotiators square off during current bargaining at Local 1245 headquarters in Walnut Creek. (Photos: Eric Wolfe)



**"Without medical insurance, where would I go? What would I do?"**

*Veronica Parker*



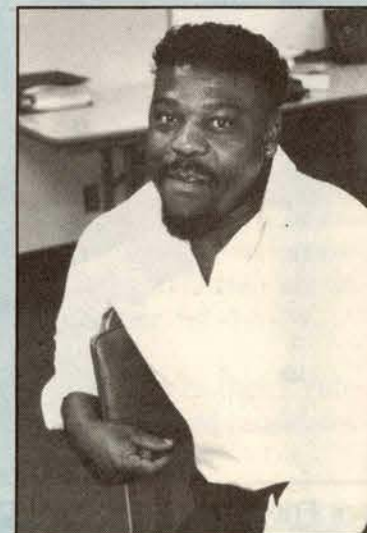
**"It would devastate your family if a major illness came up."**

*Sandra Weeks*



**"The total paid out annually for medical, dental and vision benefits per family is \$6108."**

*Wendy Bothell*



**"It's a national problem and it's going to have to be dealt with on a nationwide level. In the meantime, [PG&E's] solution is to pass the costs onto the employees."**

*Bernard Smallwood*



# Uniting against plant closures

**T**he Plant Closures Project began eight years ago in response to the massive layoffs and plant closures in the Bay Area during the recession of 1982. It continues today as a coalition of labor, religious and community activists working together to make corporations and government accountable for how their actions affect workers and communities. Mark Friedman, the project's director, talks about the plant closure issue in this Utility Reporter interview.

**UR: How does the Plant Closures Project respond to a plant closing?**

**Friedman:** The first place we get involved is reaching out to unions and workers to spot the early warning signs of a plant closure. If they're starting to sell off equipment, or if the plant is not being maintained the way it used to be, it can often be a sign that they're planning on shutting it down. If in negotiations the company seems to be a lot easier than they normally are that could be a sign that their agenda is: "It doesn't matter

if we give on a few points here because we're going to be shutting the place down anyway."

Once it becomes clear there is going to be a closure then we work with the union to access the strength of the workforce in fighting back. If there is solidarity among the rank and file and union leadership to take on the company, then we'll reach out to our traditional allies in religious groups and the community to form a coalition that will pressure the company to reconsider their ac-

tion. [One] form that this pressure takes is political pressure. We've worked with a lot of city councils, state representatives and congress people to put pressure on companies.

**UR: Give an example of a specific closure.**

**Friedman:** A Safeway warehouse burned down in Richmond two years ago. Even before the fire it looked like Safeway was making some plans to close the place down. It was a major distribution center employing 450 people who were primarily members of Teamsters Local 315. We had a good relation with the president of that local and we initiated the Honest Deal Coalition, where we brought together 200 groups from the community, including churches, environmental groups, political groups. We got very good support from the Richmond City Council, the Richmond mayor, Congressman George Miller, to put pressure on Safeway to try and reopen the plant.

Safeway finally made a decision a few months ago not to reopen the plant—they're going to reopen in Tracy, where land and labor costs are much cheaper. But we succeeded in getting the company to give a much better severance package to the employees. We got transfer rights for a lot of the employees and in general created an atmosphere where Safeway knew they weren't going to be able to operate in a vacuum.

It's often easy for a company to isolate a union and play hardball with them, but when the union comes in with ministers, politicians and community people saying, "Hey, we support the union in their struggle here because their livelihood affects our livelihood," then the companies have to pay attention.

**UR: The project got started during the 1982 recession. But now we're supposed to be in the middle of the longest economic expansion since World War II. Why would there still be a need for the Closures Project?**

**Friedman:** According to a recent article in the [San Francisco] *Examiner*, the manufacturing crisis is growing. A total of 30,000 factory jobs were lost in June 1990 alone. In the last decade the Bureau of Labor Statistics says 13.5 million workers were affected by plant closures, 1.5 million in California, 75,000 workers in the Bay Area, and 20,000 in Oakland. The problem is that manufacturing jobs traditionally paid more than other jobs, and we all know that union jobs pay better than non-union jobs. So what we've seen by the conversion from the manufacturing economy to more of a service economy is a greater gap between the rich and the poor.

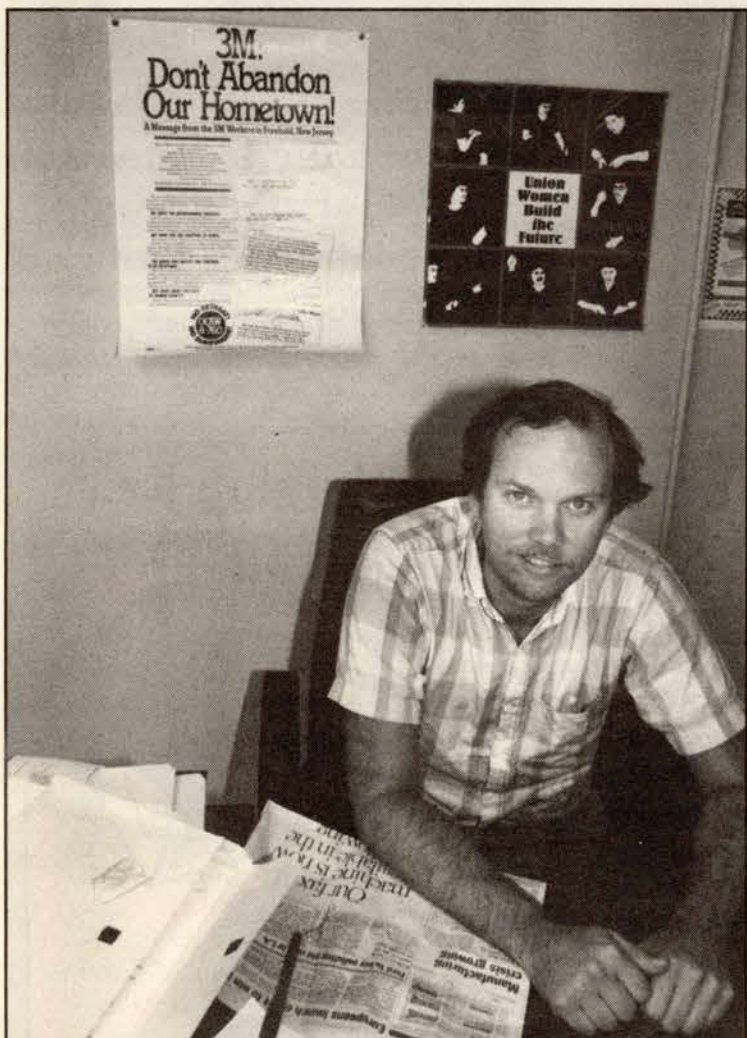
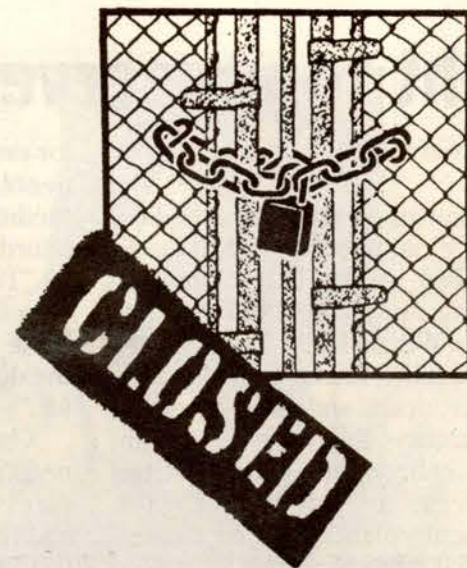
A lot of the social problems we're experiencing now in poverty, homeless, drug abuse, and crime, we feel is a direct result of the loss of manufacturing jobs. It used to be that someone who didn't

have a college education could get a job in manufacturing that had a decent standard of living, they would have the chance to eventually own their own home and live a good lifestyle. Now that we're seeing the heart being cut out of manufacturing those options are no longer available for a large percentage of our population, particularly young people of color where the unemployment rate is a disgrace.

The other thing we've seen over the last decade is more and more of a shift of production going offshore to companies that are in Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean Basin. There's a conscious strategy on the part of some corporations to take more and more jobs overseas, where wages can be as low as two or three dollars a day. This leads to the closing of many plants that are profitable plants. For instance, Levi-Strauss closed a plant in San Antonio, Texas. They had 1100 workers. They made Dockers jeans, one of the most profitable Levi items, and this plant was making a lot of money. When Levi's closed it, their rationale was, "Yeah, we're making good money, but we can make better money by taking this work to the Caribbean." And threw those people out of work. It had tremendous impacts on San Antonio and all of Texas economically.

**UR: So there's no real commitment to the community.**

**Friedman:** No commitment  
See NEXT PAGE



Mark Friedman of the Plant Closures Project: organized communities can hold corporations accountable.





#### INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN

Local 1245 members attending the Summer Institute for Women at the University of California, Berkeley, in July were: (bottom row, from left) Betty Newberry, Reno, Shirley Henry, GEO, Grace Coyle, GEO, Anna Bayless, Stockton, Susan Long, Concord; (top row, from left) Rosetta Patello, Vallejo, Joy O'Hagan, Merced, Donna Dito, Oakland, and Dee Green, Fresno.

## New TV series focuses on workers

It's been a year since the October 17 earthquake ripped through Northern California, leaving destruction and devastation in its wake.

"We Do the Work," the award winning national PBS series on workers and workplace issues, relives that day in October through the eyes of the rescue and relief workers who braved often dangerous circumstances to help others. The program, entitled "Heroes of the Quake," will be aired this month on many public television stations.

The program features sometimes startling quake footage and reveals how area workers came through for the quake's victims.

Other stories in this month's edition of "We Do the Work" include:

\* "Train Trip to the Past"-film star Danny Glover hosts a historical look at the Pullman Porters' Union.

\* Wienie Workers-sausage makers tell trade secrets and show how they do the work.

\* Commentary by Will Durst-the political humorist

asks: where have all the workers gone from TV?

"We Do the Work" is a new PBS series that seeks to inform, enlighten and entertain public television audiences on the issues, perspectives and culture in the American workplace. Air times include:

**KQED Channel 9, San Francisco, 11 p.m., Oct. 9**

**KCET Channel 28, Los Angeles, 7 p.m., Oct. 6**

**KPBS Channel 15, San Diego, 5 p.m., Oct. 7**

from PAGE FOURTEEN

at all. The California Dept. of Commerce estimates that for every job lost in manufacturing, six additional jobs are lost in the community through the ripple effect of suppliers, distributors, restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores; the whole gamut of economic activity is severely depressed by the loss of these manufacturing jobs. In the last decade there's been an economic boom, but it's been a boom for the wealthy and not a boom for working people. Real wages have declined by 15 percent over the last decade for working people at the same time that wages for corporate executives have increased 200 or 300 percent.

**UR: If the profit is going to be greater overseas isn't that a tremendous impetus for capital flight to continue? Isn't that like a**

**basic economic law, something that can't be changed?**

**Friedman:** It is an impetus, but we don't see it as the "blind wheels" of economics turning. There are conscious decisions made by government and corporations that accelerate this process. That's

why we as working people, and as community and religious activists, need to come together and say, "Wait a minute, we see what you're doing and we hold you accountable for how that's affecting us."

(Next month: Part II of "Uniting Against Plant Closures")

### Benefit Party for the . . .

## Plant Closures Project

**ILWU Local 6**  
99 Hegenberger Rd.  
Oakland, CA  
(1-880: Oakland Airport Exit)

**October 17**  
**Wednesday**  
**5 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

**(415) 763-6584**

**\$25-\$100 per person Tickets available at door**

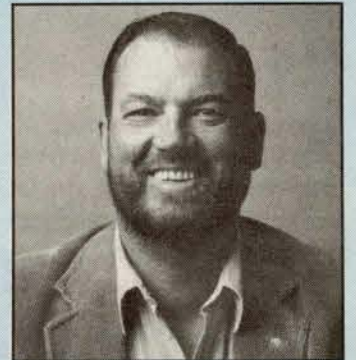
## New rep. for Outside Line

**A**rt Murray has been named Local 1245 business representative for Outside Line Construction in northern California and Nevada.

Murray, a 20-year union member, will replace Tom Heyl, whose resignation takes effect this month.

Murray has been on staff since 1985 in a wide variety of assignments. In addition to Outside Line Construction, his new assignment will include Mt. Wheeler, Wells REC, and telephone splicers for Henkels & McCoy.

Murray, 43, said he



**Art Murray**

"looks forward to the challenge" of assuming his new responsibilities. Murray lives in Fairfield, Ca., with his wife, Brenda. He has three grown children and one grandchild.

### IN MEMORIAM

**William Sinezewski**, 33, died on Aug. 27 in a job-related accident. An employee of Arbor Tree, represented by Local 1245, Sinezewski fell 80 feet to his death while cutting back trees near the Dover lines along 34-Mile Tract Road. It is believed he

inadvertently severed his safety line with the chain saw.

An ambulance from the Pollock Pines-Camino Fire Protection District arrived at the scene to find that he had no pulse. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

**Bob White**, PG&E line foreman, died August 30. White, 41, apparently lost consciousness after parking his car in front of the company yard. Efforts by his fellow employees and by paramedics failed to

revive him.

White, who lived in Merced, Ca., was initiated into Local 1245 in August 1972.

Survivors include his wife, Dorane, two children, and his parents.

## Founders' Scholarship helps members pursue education

The IBEW Founders' Scholarship Program for 1991 is now accepting applications for scholarship candidates. Each scholarship is worth up to a maximum of \$12,000 for up to eight years of undergraduate study.

Up to 12 scholarship are awarded to IBEW members annually for the attainment of an undergraduate degree at the college of each winner's choice. All application forms, student records, and other

required materials must be received by the Scholarship Administrator by Feb. 22, 1991.

For information on eligibility requirements and rules, contact:

**Scholarship Administrator**  
**IBEW**  
1125 15th St. NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 728-6029





## Sierra Pacific maintenance crew keeps system operating

from PAGE ONE  
playing catch-up.

But staying on top of everything will prove increasingly difficult, these workers feel, if maintenance is kept at one crew.

On the other hand, they welcome the company's apparent commitment to reducing management levels. Trimming fat at the top is part of a reorganization effort being orchestrated by Sierra Pacific's new chief executive officer, William L. Keepers.

Clancy thinks the company would do well to cut down on the "stockpile" of people in marketing.

"We're the ones making the money for the company down here," says Clancy, who would like to see the company deploy more resources "back down here where it belongs."

Life "back down here," as Clancy puts it, has been made complicated by the company's on-going reorganization. "We've had so many 'supes' in the last

five years, you just get used to one and they change 'em on you," he says.

"The guy running our department was never a lineman," observes Joe Donahoe, a 12-year union member. "It used to be that a lineman worked up through the ranks, so he knew the work."

"This guy seems to want to work with us but he hasn't been there," agrees Clancy.

A good example of someone who *has* "been there" is their current supervisor, Jerry Norlen, who wins high marks from all three men. Before assuming his current position, Norlen was a journeyman lineman, and an apprentice before that.

Union credentials mean a lot to these Sierra Pacific workers. Donahoe, for example, remembers when the union backed him up when he had some problems working as an apprentice.

"I'd hate to think what the conditions would be if we never had a union," says Faggard. "We'd be working for peanuts."



Sierra Pacific maintenance crew in a routine job: loading a pole up in the yard for transport to the Mt. Rose substation, where a hole will be re-dug and the pole set. (Photos: Eric Wolfe)



"I'd hate to think what the conditions would be if we never had a union. We'd be working for peanuts."

*Mike Faggard*