

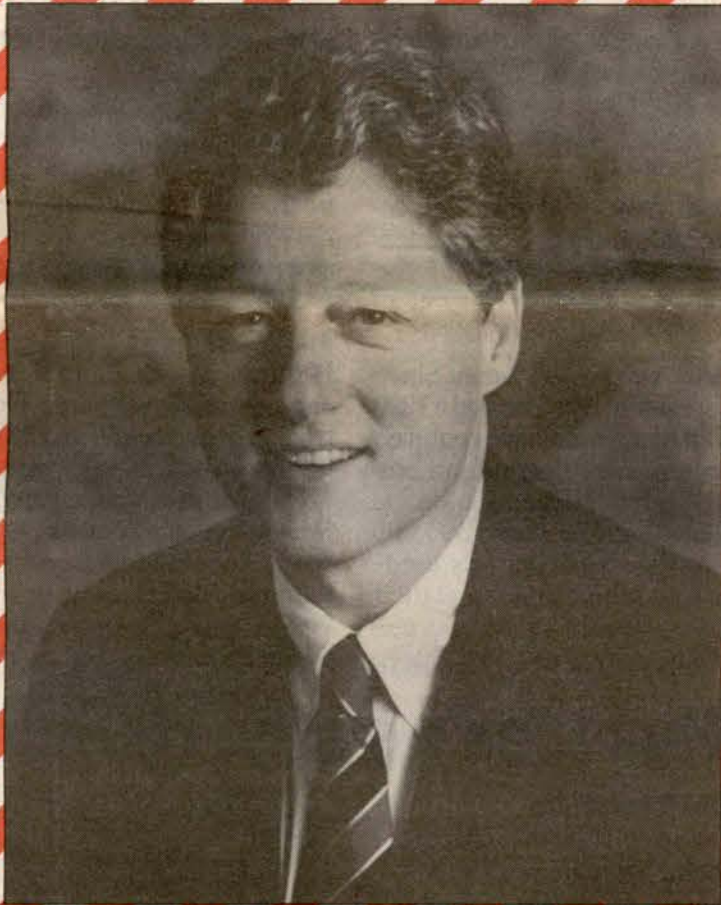
1245

International Brotherhood
Of Electrical Workers
Local 1245, AFL-CIO
October 1992
Vol. XLI No. 10

UTILITY REPORTER

VOTE!

Vote!



November 3, 1992
A New Beginning for America

Bill Clinton
President



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for Workers' Safety

CALENDAR

October 17
General Construction
Stewards Conference
Walnut Creek, Ca.

October 24-25
Unit Officers
Leadership Conference
Concord, Ca.

November 3
US GENERAL ELECTION
BE SURE TO VOTE!

November 7-8
Advisory Council
Concord, Ca.

November 7
Redwood Region
(Southern Area)
Stewards Conference



UTILITY REPORTER

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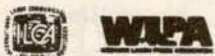
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APPOINTMENTS

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

Apprentice Equipment Mechanic Committee

Ben Leung
Jim Farmer
Landis Marttila
Gene Wallace

Commuter Check Program Committee

Gwen Wynn
Debra Lopez

COD Committee on New Technology

Arthur Viray
Carol Turk
Grace Coyle
Linda Bostic

CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS

Joint Executive Conference of Southern California Electrical Workers

Richard Dunkin
Bobby Blair

California State Association of Electrical Workers

Jack McNally
Howard Stiefer
Richard Dunkin
Art Murray
Bobby Blair

IBEW Nuclear Seminar

Darrel Mitchell
Mike Haentjens
Jeff Knisley

Coalition of Labor Union Women National Executive Board Meeting

Dorothy Fortier
Kathy Tindall
Enid Bidou
Millie Phillips

CLOC Conference

Jack McNally
Art Murray
Richard Dunkin

Inter-Union Gas Conference

Howard Stiefer
Jack McNally
Darrel Mitchell
Perry Zimmerman
Sam Tamimi
Bob Martin
Joel Ellioff
Ed Caruso
Pat Gates
Richard Bidinost
Jim Lynn
Rudy Woodford

Workers here and abroad

Rolling the union on . . .

Do As I Say, Not As I Do: Ford Motor spokesman Jack Eby recently spoke out against letting Japanese auto companies have access to Mexico's market, declaring "Our view is that you should produce where you sell." Ford, by the way, assembled 157,000 cars in Mexico last year and exported nearly 112,000 of them, mostly to the US.

Wrong-Way Frank: Former Eastern Airlines Chairman Frank Lorenzo, who destroyed the airline in his attempt to bust its unions, is still headed in the wrong direction. Lorenzo was recently arrested on drunk driving charges in Houston. Police say he was driving the wrong way on a one-way street.

Out of Work: The International Labor Organization says that 30% of the world's workers are out of work or underemployed.

Veto = Job Loss: Since President Bush vetoed a 1990 bill that would have required companies to grant job-protected family and medical leave, more than 300,000 workers with serious medical conditions have lost their jobs, according to Cornell University economist Eileen



Trzcinski. Job loss due to medical conditions decreases by 94% for managers and nearly 50% for non-managerial workers when companies provide such leave, she found.

Managers Can't Cope: Hinting it was concerned about possible sabotage, Detroit Edison locked out 200 members of Utility Workers Local 223 at the company's Fermi 2 nuclear power plant when the union's contract expired, according to Labor Notes. But the company found its managers couldn't

run the plant. After two safety-related mishaps, Detroit Edison asked Local 223 members to come back while negotiations continue.

Vicious: Galaxy Cheese left 75 workers out of work when it moved to Florida, but the company has threatened to prosecute the workers it left behind if they take jobs with Northwood Cheese, a competitor. When they were hired, Galaxy employees had to sign an agreement that they wouldn't work for a competitor for two years after leaving Galaxy.

Handcox's songs rolled the union on

By Eric Wolfe

John Handcox, the labor balladeer who inspired thousands of workers, died last month at the age of 87.

Handcox was organizing for the Southern Tenant Farmers Union in the depths of the Depression when he composed "Roll the Union

On," a song that has raised spirits on countless picketlines through the years and which provided the inspiration for the column that appears on this page each month in the Utility Reporter.

Handcox, unschooled in music, was gifted with a feel for lyrics that enabled him to produce songs and poems that outlive him, in part because they were written in such a way that people can easily add verses that tell of their own strikes and struggles.

Handcox, whose songs have been recorded by Pete Seeger for the Library of Congress, may be gone but his music will continue to "roll the union on."



John Handcox and Eric Wolfe at Labor Music Festival in Seattle in 1988.

PG&E Medical Reminder

Local 1245 members at PG&E currently covered by the **Blue Cross** medical plan who did not exercise their options during the open enrollment period will automatically be enrolled in the appropriate **Prudential** medical plan effective Jan. 1, 1993.

Local 1245 members at PG&E covered in an HMO who did not make a selection will continue to have medical coverage through the same HMO.

A feature of the **PruCare Plus** plan provides for medical services to be managed through a primary care physician. Members may **change their primary care physicians** at anytime by calling Prudential at 1-800-998-3242.

Drywallers, Hightower featured on labor TV

Labor's public television program, "We Do the Work", takes a look this month at southern California drywallers struggling for fair wages and working conditions.

In southern California's construction industry, the most backbreaking work—drywalling—is performed by legal Mexican immigrants. However, they make half of what they made a decade ago, about \$300 a week.

You can learn about their spirited campaign for justice by tuning in to "We Do the Work" on San Francisco's KQED-TV (Channel 9), Sunday, Oct. 18, at 7:30 p.m.

Also featured will be Jim Hightower, the populist Texan whom many consider the wittiest man in public life today. Hightower will talk turkey about tennis shoes: who makes them, who buys them, and where all the profits go.

In addition, October's program features a New York City blacktop repairman who finds art on the road by making photographs touting useless and unusual things to do with potholes, including fixing a Caesar salad in front of Rockefeller Center.

Coming up in November, "We Do the Work" presents a special about the growing epidemic of repetitive strain injuries.

Check it out!



YOUR TURN!

Perry Zimmerman (on the left) was given a warm welcome last summer by retiring Assistant Business Manager Orville Owen. Zimmerman, a Local 1245 business representative since 1981, took over Owen's position as Assistant Business Manager in late June. Zimmerman's responsibilities include administering union contracts in both the public and private sectors. (Photo: Eric Wolfe)

POINT OF VIEW

Put America back to work: Elect Bill Clinton on Nov. 3

Jack McNally, IBEW 1245 Business Manager

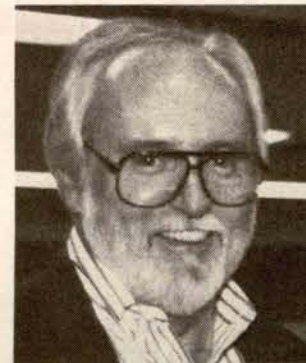
Interviews with members of our union in this issue of the Utility Reporter reveal some unhappiness with this year's candidates for President of the United States.

That's understandable. Bill Clinton, the candidate endorsed by this union and by the AFL-CIO nationwide, is far from perfect. There's the so-called "character" issues we've all heard so much about. And there's Clinton's very spotty record on labor issues as governor of Arkansas.

But let's be serious about the choices we face. Labor could hardly do worse than we've done under George Bush these last four years. On the other hand, there is plenty of evidence that Clinton is prepared to take the steps needed to revive our economy and address some of the most pressing needs of America's working middle class.

Bill Clinton has pledged to use the savings from defense to retrain the workers who are thrown out of work by this change in national priorities. Bush has ignored the plight of these workers.

Bill Clinton has pledged to enact family leave and child care legislation to help parents cope with the new realities of this generation where stay-at-home mothers are increasingly rare. Bush has vetoed every such



bill that crossed his desk.

Bill Clinton has pledged support for a national health care policy to combat the intolerable increases in insurance premiums that private companies and their employees currently face. Bush has offered a meaningless program of tax credits that completely fails to address the problem.

And most importantly, Bill Clinton has a vision for a revitalized US economy and has put forward serious proposals for putting Americans back to work. The only idea Bush has is to continue giving tax breaks to business, including tax breaks that reward companies for shutting down US plants and moving overseas.

Some may be tempted to pull the lever for Ross Perot as a protest vote. But the time is past for "sending a message" to Washington. It's time to send new and competent leadership to Washington.

We can do that on Nov. 3 by getting out and voting for Clinton for President.

Bill Clinton has a vision for a revitalized US economy and has put forward serious proposals for putting Americans back to work. The only idea Bush has is to continue giving tax breaks to business, including tax breaks that reward companies for shutting down US plants and moving overseas.

Bad news at the border

Outside Line Construction crews see 'Free Trade' up close at Otay Mesa

Story by Eric Wolfe
Photos by Bobby Blair

America at its best. America at its worst.

That was the kind of job it was last summer when Local 1245 Outside Line Construction crews upgraded an electric substation in Otay Mesa, a California town perched on the Mexican border a few miles south of San Diego.

The skills and expertise that union line crews bring to their work are the pride of America. You need look no farther to understand why the US has been the most productive society in history.

But something is changing. And you need look no farther than the rapidly expanding business parks at Otay Mesa and elsewhere on the US-Mexico border to see the bad news:

American jobs are heading south.

The Local 1245 line crews, on a job for L.E. Myers, got a first-hand view of this corporate flight when they spent three months building a 69KV transmission line between San Diego Gas and Electric substations in Otay Mesa and San Diego. The new line increases the power available to Otay Mesa, where several giant corporations have set up shop.

Unfortunately, these corporations have not come to Otay Mesa to construct plants that will employ American workers. They have come to set up warehouses and administrative offices to service production facilities located on the Mexican side of the border.

And they've come in droves.

"A couple of years ago, there was nothing there," observed P. R. James, a 34-

year member of Local 1245 who worked on the Myers job this summer. But there's plenty there now. Honeywell, Sanyo, Hatachi, and Casio are just some of the corporate logos emblazoned upon the huge buildings spreading out along the US side of the border in Otay Mesa.

"What everyone should understand is that anything that has to do with jobs is not going to be located on the US side," said Joe Francis, executive secretary of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Central Labor Council.

"What they've chosen to do is locate administrative offices on this side just for the sake of identification

[with] US soil. Anything that's labor intensive at all, any production, is on the other side of the border."

Moving to Mexico

The process of moving production facilities to Mexico has been going on for years. Since 1965, more than 1,800 plants employing more than 500,000 workers have been built in Mexico, mostly by US corporations seeking to take advantage of Mexico's low-wage workforce.

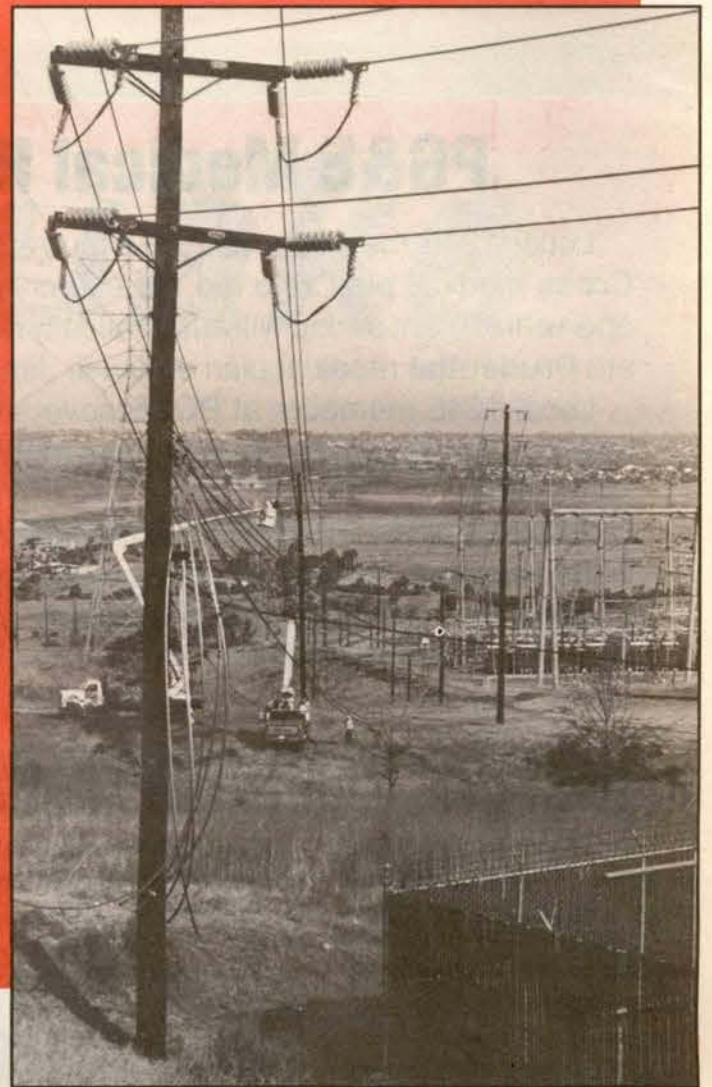
In most cases, the clothing, cars and electronics goods produced in Mexico are shipped north and sold to US consumers. Low wages paid to Mexican workers

combined with high prices paid by US consumers means fat profits for some of the world's biggest corporations.

"What everyone should understand is that anything that has to do with jobs is not going to be located on the US side" of the border, says Joe Francis of the San Diego Central Labor Council. Corporations locating in places like Otay Mesa will typically "have a US side and a Mexican side. On the US side they might have three people in an office. On the Mexican side, the operation is 3,000 production workers building [for example] television sets."



This Sanyo facility at Otay Mesa, Ca., is just one of the many US and Japanese corporations locating on the border to service production facilities in nearby Mexico.



Local 1245 members working for L.E. Myers pull in new wire during the upgrading of service to the border area.

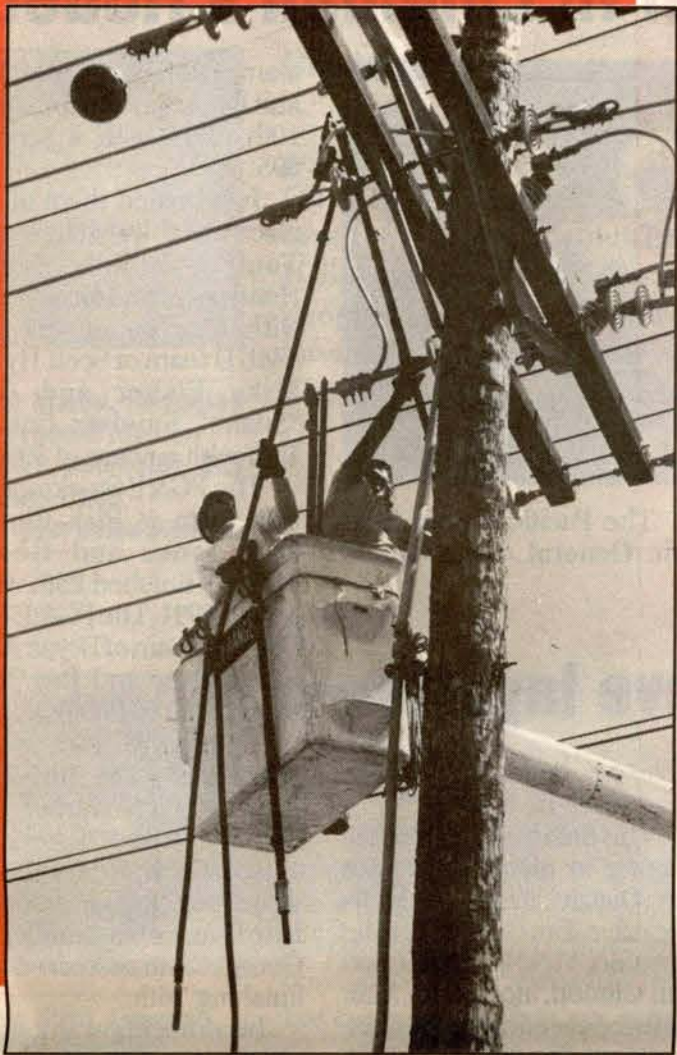
Under President Bush's proposed North American Free Trade Agreement, the number of runaway jobs is expected to swell to 800,000 by 1995.

"I think it's terrible for the American worker," said Local 1245 lineman Tube Dudley, who worked on the Myers job in Otay Mesa. And, in Dudley's opinion, what's bad for American workers in general is likely to be bad for Local 1245 linemen in particular.

Increased movement of production to Mexico, Dudley observed, "means there will be less construction in the state so they won't need us to build powerlines."

Secret deal

Even as Congress gets ready to debate the proposed Free Trade Agreement, the Bush administration is rushing ahead unilaterally to help corporations replace high-wage US jobs with low-wage Mexican jobs. In a secret deal with Mexico last year, the Bush administration agreed to pre-empt state laws governing commercial drivers licenses and make Mexican commercial drivers' licenses valid throughout the US.



Bob Sandow and Doug Schmaderer put on Am Pact tool.

This year, the US Department of Transportation (DOT) put this policy into effect by ordering all state motor vehicle agencies to honor Mexican licenses and to stop requiring Mexican truck drivers to qualify under US licensing laws. In short, Bush has said "screw you" to US truckers and paved the way for handing their jobs over to Mexican drivers.

The Teamsters union last month filed suit against the DOT, charging that Mexican drivers do not meet the same standards required of US commercial drivers. For example, Mexican commercial drivers do not have to prove their competence at caring for hazardous cargos or handling double or triple trailer rigs.

Chuck Mack, president of Teamsters Joint Council No. 7 in the Bay Area, said there was "no logic" to the government's show of favoritism to Mexican drivers. "It's just a bold economic move," Mack said.

But in fact there is a logic to the DOT order. It is the

same logic that underlies the entire corporate strategy for trade relations with Mexico: replace high-wage, high-skilled US labor with cheap Mexican labor. It is a strategy warmly embraced by the corporations' man in the

White House: George Bush.

Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton on Oct. 4 said he will support the Free Trade Agreement, but only if additional language can be negotiated to protect US workers and environmental standards.

The special treatment given to Mexican commercial drivers is like a slap in the face to hundreds of Local 1245 workers who have recently been required by the Bush administration to possess commercial licenses. Under Bush, the US Department of Transportation has tightened licensing requirements for US drivers, while easing them for Mexican drivers.

You don't need to be Albert Einstein to see there's something wrong with this equation.

Corporate "front"

Ironically, opening US highways to Mexican commercial drivers will probably lessen the need for warehouses at border locations like Otay Mesa. If you can use Mexican drivers to truck your goods from your Mexican factory directly to the US market, there's no need to warehouse it on the border.

"It seems the only purpose of the Otay Mesa business development would be for administrative activities," said Francis, the San Diego Central Labor Council offi-

cial. These administrative offices really amount to little more than "a front", Francis said, putting a US face on an enterprise whose real activity is in Mexico.

"They have a US side and a Mexican side. On the US side they might have three people in an office. On the Mexican side, the operation is 3,000 production workers building [for example] television sets," said Francis.

"Most of the managers are US residents," Francis added. "They reside in the US and they commute each day across into Mexico to the maquiladora plant." Maquiladora is the name given to US and Japanese plants located on the Mexican side of the US border.

Local 1245's Tube Dudley says there was a time when US workers weren't too concerned about competition from Mexican workers.

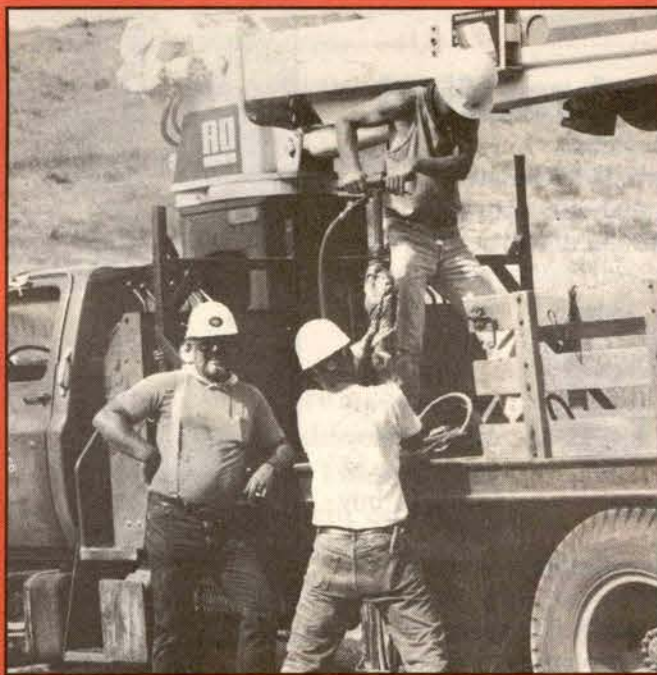
"It used to be when you

heard about Mexicans taking jobs, it was migrant workers taking jobs up here nobody wanted. But now they're taking desirable jobs to Mexico."

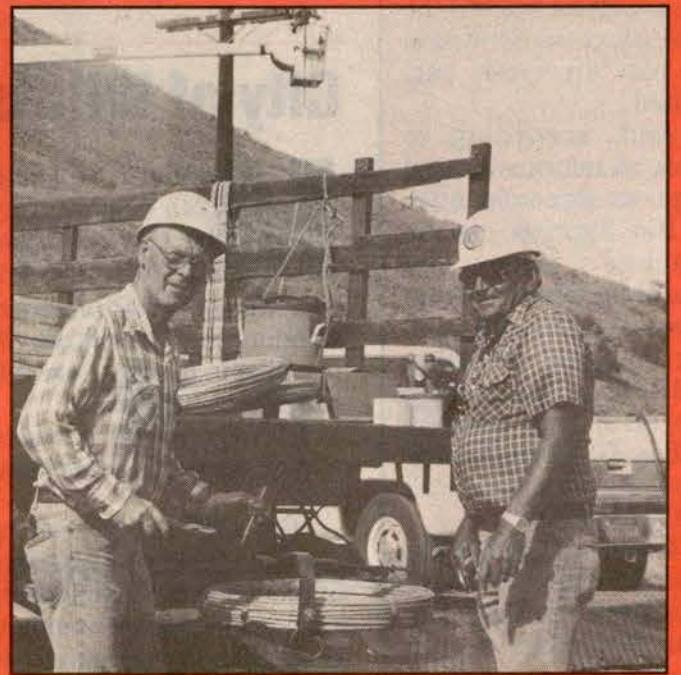
Not many kids in the US want to be migrant workers, Dudley said, but some of them are getting training to assemble electronics equipment and TVs. The training won't do them much good, however, if all those jobs have moved to Mexico.

Think of the rapid growth of business parks in Otay Mesa as a window on the future: a future in which there is no room for the American worker.

"Our brothers will do the work, they'll build that line," said Local 1245 Business Representative Bobby Blair after visiting the union line crews working on the line to the Otay Mesa substation. "But they don't like the reason for it."



Mike Robinson, Bill Reed, and Richard Truett on ground rod and anchor crew.



Cline Hogg, a 34-year union member, and Norm Stout, a 25-year member, on materials haul.

PG&E offers 'Bid Express' job bidding

Beginning Sept. 29, Local 1245 members at PG&E can use Bid Express for more than just accessing information. The phone-in job bidding system will now accept new and renewed bids, according to PG&E's Karen Silva.

Phase II of Bid Express is an enhanced version of the current job bidding system, but will not replace the existing mail-in system. With Phase II, employees will have the option of continuing to mail in bids through company or US mail or submit bids or transfers by telephone.

When calling, employees will need their social security and personal identification numbers (PIN). This is the same PIN used for the Savings Fund Plan and benefits phone system. They will also need the bid or transfer code(s) of the job(s) they are interested in bidding for or transferring to.

Once the employee has entered the appropriate identification numbers, a voice will prompt them through the process. Callers will still be able to access information on bids previously submitted.

And, according to Silva, all information and requests are confidential.

Bid Express can be reached from any touchtone phone system seven days a week by calling company extension 223-4243 or from inside the (415) area code by calling 973-4243. Outside the (415) area code, call 1-800-238-4243.

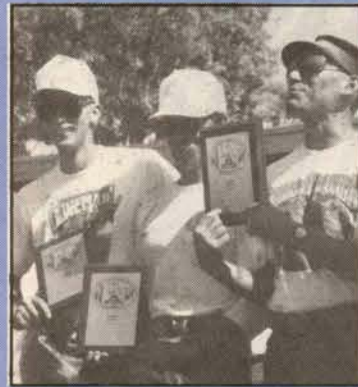
Copies of the Bid Express brochure are available from the local Human Resources department.

SMUD, PG&E teams excel in Lineman's Rodeo

Local 1245 members turned in outstanding performances at the Ninth Annual Lineman's Rodeo in Kansas City last month.

A Sacramento Municipal Utility District team consisting of Max Fuentes, Gerald Mankins and Jerry Tittle scored a perfect 700 for the seven events, finishing second out of 184 teams. (Speed in performing the events is not a factor in scoring, but is

A perfect 700 was scored by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District team of Max Fuentes, Gerald Mankins, and Jerry Tittle during the national competition in Kansas City. At right, they display the trophy they received during the regional competition in Sacramento in July,



used to determine the winner in case of tie scores).

The Pacific Gas & Electric General Construction

team of Rob Harty, Scott Rose and Evan Slaydon finished in 10th place with a score of 695.

Just behind them in 12th place was the SMUD team of Tom Mullally, Pete Henderson and Brian Perry, with a score of 694. The SMUD team of Scott Hylton, Mike Fisher and Greg "Snake" Smelser finished 19th with a score of 692.

The PG&E Stockton Division team of Rick Bimson, Tom Jones and George McNeill finished 25th with a score of 691. The PG&E Kern Division team of Bryan Allen, Curtis Doty and Roy Truitt scored 689 to finish 35th.

Coming in 40th with a score of 687 was the SMUD team of Rich Harper, Ron Young and Ted Warner.

A PG&E General Construction team consisting of Eric Dau, Robert Sholler and George Soares scored 681, finishing 76th.

In competition among apprentices, SMUD's Greg Smelser finished 4th out of 95 contestants.

Merced Irrigation District

Local 1245 prepares to grieve layoffs

Grievances will be filed in connection with the layoffs of 23 bargaining unit employees in the Construction/Maintenance Department at Merced Irrigation District.

The layoffs, prompted by state budget cuts, also affected employees in the Water Division and Park Division through bumping. The 23 layoffs represents one-quarter of the entire bargaining unit, according to Local 1245 Business Representative Gary Mai.

"We recognize that the district has the right to determine the size of the workforce, but we object strongly to the manner in which they implemented the layoffs," said Mai. "They re-

tained one employee who had been a permanent employee for two days and laid off an employee who was hired in June of 1979 and had 13 years of seniority."

According to Mai, the District failed to comply with contract language when implementing the layoffs.

"We are not in agreement with what the hell they've done," Mai said.

Demotions also grieved

In addition to the layoffs, 15 bargaining unit members were demoted as a result of the District's reorganization in the wake of the budget cutbacks.

"Higher people were brought down to fill vacated classifications," said Mai.

"The grievances will include that problem, too."

The union committee engaging in discussions with the District over the layoffs included Tim Goodson, John Rosshirt, Vicki Bergman, and Jim Clinton, along with Mai. In three meetings with management the union committee was unsuccessful in persuading the District to take a different course.

City of Willits pact ratified

Members of Local 1245 employed by the City of Willits ratified a new two-year Memorandum of Understanding that provides a 3% pay hike in the first year retroactive to June 1.

The agreement provides a wage opener in the second year.

The City has agreed to continue paying the full costs of medical and dental insurance despite higher premium costs. Standby pay and meals are increased by the new agreement, according to Local 1245 Business Represent-

tative Bob Choate.

An hours provision in the agreement will permit "compressed" workweeks, such as

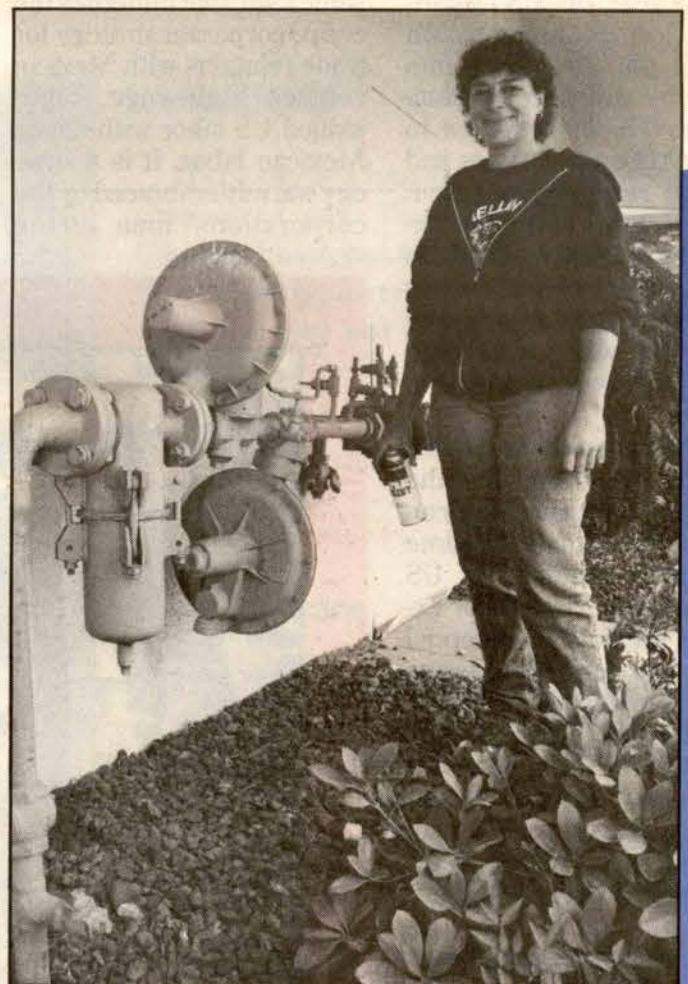
four 10-hour days.

Under the new agreement employees will be allowed to buy back sick leave. Employees will also be able to use their sick leave for family illnesses.

Negotiating for the union, along with Choate, were J.C. England, Jerry Campbell, and Lee Oberdorf.



Choate



Lorrie Changaris, a Measurement and Control employee in PG&E's Coast Valleys Division and a 12-year union member, finishes up a differential meter test in King City, Ca., last spring.

IBEW LOCAL 1245

VOTERS' GUIDE

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Dear Local 1245 member,

You have the power to make important changes happen in this country.

You can help make the economy grow again.

You can restore fairness to our tax structure.

You can protect the rights and the living standards of working people.

You can't do it by yourself. But you can do it by acting in unity with your fellow union members to elect leaders who share these goals.

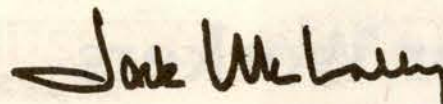
Our union by-laws require the Local 1245 Executive Board to evaluate candidates for office and recommend the ones who would best represent our interests as working people.

The candidates for state and national office endorsed in this "Voters' Guide" may not be perfect on every issue, but they share many of our concerns and will work for many of our important goals. Electing all of these labor-endorsed candidates will create an overwhelming mandate for change.

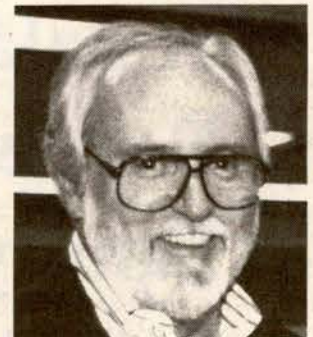
The economic wreckage of the Reagan-Bush years is all around us: massive unemployment, spiraling health costs, collapsed banks and failing schools. We all know that change is badly needed.

We have the power to make it happen. Now is the time to show we have the will.

In Unity,



Jack McNally
Business Manager



Make Our Voice Heard.

Vote November 3rd.

Make Your Voice Heard November 3rd!

Albani: let's put people back to work

Kay Albani believes we need to help California businesses survive and grow in order to rejuvenate the state's economy.

"California needs to stimulate the economy, to create jobs and put people back to work," said Albani, a candidate for the California Assembly in the 10th District.

"For businesses that create substantial employment opportunities and for those who invest heavily in California, we should provide tax credits and incentives," she said in a prepared statement.

Targeting waste in all areas is a top priority for Albani.

Albani proposes merging the Franchise Tax Board and the Board of Equalization, a move she claims would save over \$140 million. She questions the prudence of spending \$70 million to recover \$17 million in welfare fraud.

There are other savings to be found in the area of welfare, she believes.



✓ *Endorsed
By Your Union!*



Kay Albani
California Assembly
10th District

"Twenty-five cents out of every welfare dollar goes to administration," said Albani. "We should cut that first before we eliminate services for truly needy people."

Albani criticized Gov. Pete Wilson's proposed "welfare reform" initiative (Proposition 165) because it doesn't deal with the problem of administrative costs.

Albani, who served on the Elk Grove school board and was elected president of the

California School Board Association, believes there is also waste to be found in the state's education system. She is committed to eliminating it, and "using the savings to improve instruction."

Albani supports Proposition 98, which voters passed in 1990 to assure adequate funding levels for schools.

Albani, who is mother of five children, is endorsed by Local 1245 and the California Labor Federation.

Hauser pushes health insurance reform

Providing a program of universally accessible medical insurance has become a front-burner issue in California politics. Assembly-member Dan Hauser helped put it there.

During the 1980s, Hauser repeatedly introduced bills to create a universally acces-

sible and comprehensive medical insurance program for California.

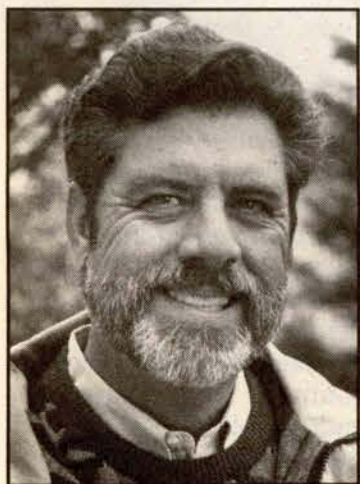
"We are a strong and compassionate society faced with a seemingly insurmountable challenge," Hauser once said in support of his proposed legislation. "Extending adequate health care is no easy task, but I know we can meet

this challenge and eventually all Californians will be guaranteed health care when they need it."

Hauser, who lives in Arcata and has represented the Second District in the California Assembly since his election in 1982, has been a consistent advocate of public education. When then-Gov. George Deukmejian targeted public schools for budget cuts, Hauser worked to bring together parents, site councils, and teacher groups to fight the cuts.

Hauser has also introduced or facilitated legislation in the Assembly that addresses the housing needs of mobilehome residents, seniors, farmworkers, and citizens hoping to become firsttime homeowners.

Hauser is endorsed by Local 1245 and the California Labor Federation.



✓ *Endorsed
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Dan Hauser
California Assembly
2nd District



✓ *Endorsed
By Your Union!*



Valerie Brown
California Assembly
7th District

Brown's priorities clear

Valerie Brown, the candidate endorsed by Local 1245 and the California Labor Federation for the California Assembly in the Seventh District, makes her priorities very clear:

- Make California #1 in education.
- Revitalize the economy.
- Guarantee quality health care for all Californians.
- Fight the Wilson cuts in education, services and public employee wages.
- Preserve the environment.

In 1990, Valerie Brown was the top vote-getter in the Sonoma Council election and was chosen mayor. She is an educator and founder of the Sonoma Valley Educational Center serving K-12 students needing supplemental help to their public educations.

Her work on the Sonoma City Council has earned her a reputation as an effective leader for North Bay regional cooperation and preservation of agricultural lands.



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By Your Union!*



Sal Cannella
California Assembly
26th District

Union endorses Cannella

As an Assemblymember representing the 27th District, Sal Cannella has devoted his energies to issues of concern to the Central Valley, such as growth, transportation, air pollution, crime and drugs, and the concerns of the agriculture community.

As a result of redistricting, Cannella's home in Ceres places him in the 26th District, where he now seeks reelection.

Cannella is endorsed by Local 1245 and the California Labor Federation.

Make Your Voice Heard November 3rd!



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Mike Machado
California Assembly
17th District

Machado: create jobs, reform health care

People need work," says Mike Machado, candidate for the California Assembly in the 17th District.

"In 1991, the state lost 600,000 jobs. The exodus of industry from California must be stopped. Our state should lead the nation in electronics, research, transportation, technology and agriculture," Machado declared.

Machado advocates health care reform.

"Five million Californians shouldn't be without health care. As a state we are paying more than \$60 billion for health care. Health care must be made available and affordable to all Californians," said Machado.

"In our business," said Machado, who is a family farmer, "there's accountability. If we don't produce, we go broke. It's that simple. So we watch our costs, work hard, and get things done."

According to Machado, the incumbent assemblymember "hasn't produced. Nothing on health care. Nothing on jobs. Nothing on education."

"California is in trouble," said Machado. "I'd like to try and make a difference."

Machado is endorsed by Local 1245 and the California Labor Federation.

"Our state should lead the nation in electronics, research, transportation, technology and agriculture."

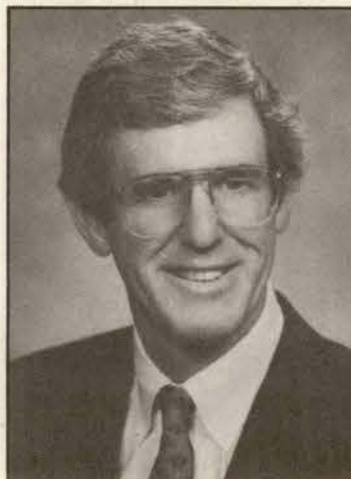
Tom Hannigan: honest, hardworking

Tom Hannigan has developed a reputation as a thoughtful, honest and hardworking legislator ... He is considered among the straight-arrows in the Capitol."

Those words from the California Political Almanac (1991-1992) are high praise in a year when many voters have grown suspicious of the values and motives of their elected representatives.

As Majority Floor Leader in the California Assembly, Hannigan opposed Gov. Wilson's attempt last year to suspend Proposition 98, which provides a basic level of funding for our public schools. He authored the compromise bill that the governor eventually signed into law.

Hannigan has taken creative approaches to the issue of health care. He was instrumental in securing funds for



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Tom Hannigan
California Assembly
4th District

a pilot project in Solano County to provide health care for the poor, setting up a creative model for helping thousands of working people who do not have health insurance.

He played a leadership role on transportation and agricultural issues, as well as education reform, tax issues and local government ser-

vices.

Hannigan has represented the 4th Assembly District, including all of Solano County and the Davis and West Sacramento portions of Yolo County, since November 1978.

He is endorsed by Local 1245 and by the California Labor Federation.

Creating jobs: Hatamiya's top priority

Creating new jobs for the rural Third Assembly District in California will be a top priority for Lon Hatamiya.

Born to a third generation Yuba County farming family, Hatamiya believes it is important to fight to retain existing jobs in the agricultural, timber and service industries in the Northern Sacramento Valley area.

But he also supports developing the necessary infrastructure that will attract additional businesses to the area.

Hatamiya is committed to improving the condition of California's schools and the quality of public education. He opposes any type of voucher system that would unnecessarily create a two-tiered educational system in California.

Recognizing the need for health care reform, Hatamiya says he is dedicated to creating a statewide universal



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Lon Hatamiya
California Assembly
3rd District

healthcare system that provides adequate and affordable coverage for all.

Hatamiya says he will work to protect retirement benefits for those on a fixed income and will support other services for seniors, including adequate healthcare, transportation, and in-home support services.

Hatamiya holds a BA in economics from Harvard and a law degree from UCLA. His

experience in the family farming business recently won him an appointment to the Rural Economic Development Infrastructure Program, which directs financial assistance to rural communities.

Hatamiya, who lives in southern Butte County, is endorsed by Local 1245 and the California Labor Federation. He is married and has a one-year-old child.

Make Your Voice Heard November 3rd!

Sher has proved his support for labor

Throughout my service in public office, I have demonstrated my support for the causes advocated by organized labor," says Assemblymember Byron Sher.

Sher, who is endorsed in his bid for re-election by Local 1245 and the California Labor Federation, has been a positive force for working people in the California Assembly, where he represents the 21st District.

Sher understands the importance of health care reform to the working men and women of California. He favors establishing "a statewide health care program that would provide accessible and affordable health care for all."

Such a program, he says, "must include full universal and timely access to health services, preventative care, and cost control."

In this year's budget battle, Sher fought to prevent drastic cuts in education.

"There is no better investment than in our children and, thus, our future," says



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Byron Sher
California Assembly
21st District

Sher supports a statewide health care program that would provide "full universal and timely access to health services, preventative care, and cost control."

Sher. "I plan to continue working in the future to make education improve, not decline, for all Californians."

Sher, who stresses the

importance of fair and just treatment of employees and the preservation of benefits, has been a valuable labor ally in the California Assembly.

Snyder fights for California's kids

Fighting for our kids—California's future!" is Margaret Snyder's battlecry in her effort

to win election to the California State Assembly in the 25th District, which includes all or part of Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, Stanislaus, and Fresno Counties.

Snyder, currently serving her second term as a member of the Modesto City Schools Board of Education, has a distinguished history of community service. That service includes the League of Women Voters, the American Red Cross Board of Directors, and the City of Modesto International Friendship Committee.

This year she was named a "Woman of Distinction" by the Soroptimist International of Modesto for her work in



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Margaret Snyder
California Assembly
25th District

"international relations and good will" and as a "Woman of the Year" by the Stanislaus County Commission for Women.

She has been married for

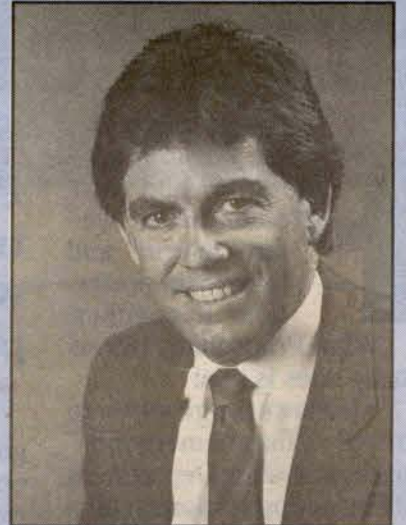
34 years and has 3 adult children, all of them teachers in the area's public schools.

Snyder is endorsed by Local 1245 and the California Labor Federation.

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By Your Union!*



Rusty Areias
California Assembly
28th District



Areias defends consumers

As a five-term member of the California Assembly, Rusty Areias has made an important difference in the lives of Californians—even though they may not be aware of it.

As chairman of the Assembly Consumer Protection Committee, Areias authored a bill that requires financial institutions to disclose the rates and charges related to credit cards, protecting millions of consumers from hidden charges.

As a result of Areias' legislation, credit card users no longer have to divulge such personal information as home phone number, home address, or social security number.

After serving the 25th District in the Assembly for 10 years, the redistricting process has now made Areias a candidate in the 28th District.

Consumer protection is not the only area where Areias has made his mark. As chairman of the Committee on Earthquake Preparedness and Natural Disasters, he directed the Assembly response to the Loma Prieta earthquake. And as chairman of the Assembly Agriculture Committee, Areias plays a key role in how rural California responds to uncontrolled urbanization and free trade.

Areias has authored innovative legislation to help medical students. His bill would establish a student loan assumption for OB/GYN physicians who maintain a 40% Medi-Cal base. This would not only "encourage doctors to take their services to the underserved members of the population," Areias says, but would also "make medical school affordable for many who would otherwise not be able to attend."

Areias is endorsed by Local 1245 and the California Labor Federation.

Rusty Areias has made an important difference in the lives of Californians—even though they may not be aware of it.

Make Your Voice Heard November 3rd!

'No' on Proposition 165

Stop Pete Wilson's naked power grab

Pete Wilson is trying to sell Proposition 165 as "welfare reform" and "taxpayer protection." It is neither.

What Proposition 165 actually does is this:

- It allows the governor to create a "fiscal emergency" just by adjusting Department of Finance projections or simply not signing the budget.
- Once he has created the "fiscal emergency" the governor can cut virtually any state program he wants by whatever amount he wants.
- Proposition 165 prohibits our elected legislators from reviewing or overriding the governor's decisions on the budget.

Proposition 165 "contains no job training, no incentives to get off welfare, and no child care for the parent who gets a job."

"Proposition 165 gives this governor and all future governors the ability to cut vital state services like schools, health care, law enforcement or environmental protection," says California State PTA President Gloria Blackwell. "To put it simply, no politician should have that much power to hurt our students or anyone else."

Erwin Chemerinsky, a constitutional law professor at the University of Southern

California said Proposition 165 gives a governor "potential dictatorial powers to dictate spending..."

The governor wants us to believe that Proposition 165 is "welfare reform." But it isn't.

It contains no job training, no incentives to get off welfare, and no child care for the parent who gets a job. It simply slashes benefits to a level that will leave 170,000 more children hungry and

leave 95,000 more families homeless on our streets.

Proposition 165 is not the solution to California's budget problems. The total Aid to Families with Dependent Children (welfare) program is only 6% of the state budget, and has been at that level for most of the last decade.

By exaggerating the impact of welfare on the budget

the governor and his allies are trying to provide cover for his attempt to completely control the budget process so he can cut whatever programs he wants.

We need *genuine* welfare reform. We *don't* need a law that turns the governor into a virtual dictator.

Vote "No" on Proposition 165.

'Yes' on Proposition 167

Support economic recovery, tax relief

Why are taxes going up while schools and other public services are being cut back?

Because we've given away billions of dollars in special interest tax breaks benefitting the super-rich and multi-national corporations.

If you ever griped about your taxes being too high, Proposition 167 gives you an opportunity to do something about it.

Proposition 167, "The Economic Recovery and Tax Relief Act", closes loopholes, increases taxes on the super-rich, provides sales tax relief for ordinary taxpayers, and provides funding for schools and vital public services.

Wealthy special interests use scare tactics to defend their tax breaks, claiming that closing their tax loopholes will drive business and jobs out of California. Corporations say they need tax "incentives" to encourage them to invest and create jobs.

But there are three reasons why this argument doesn't hold water:

First, giving tax breaks doesn't automatically lead to new jobs. When corporations gain extra revenue through tax breaks, they can—and often do—use that revenue to boost shareholder profits, finance takeovers of other companies, or engage in other corporate maneuvers that create *no* jobs.

Second, many companies now say that having an *educated workforce* is their top concern. By raising money to improve education, Proposition 167 will strengthen our economy far more than continued tax giveaways to corporations and the super-rich.

Third, Proposition 167 is specifically designed to *benefit* companies who locate their plants and jobs in California, while increasing the burden on those who sell heavily in California but do not locate here.

Proposition 167 does *not* raise taxes on ordinary taxpayers. In fact, it *cuts* the sales

tax, which will help ordinary citizens as well as helping small businesses. Proposition 167 also repeals the tax on snacks, candy, bottled water, newspapers and magazines. In all, Proposition 167 will provide over \$1 billion in tax relief to hard-working Californians every year, while restoring funds cut from education, health care, public safety and other services.

The banks, insurance companies, multinational corporations and oil companies that have benefited from tax loopholes will cry bloody murder over Proposition 167. They'll do everything they can to protect their loopholes.

With Proposition 167, the middle class has a chance to stand up for tax fairness and to put California on the road to economic recovery.

Proposition 167 is endorsed by the California Labor Federation, the California PTA, the California Council of Churches, and a wide array of local unions.

Vote "Yes" on Proposition 167.

'No' on Proposition 166

Phony health reform

Almost everybody agrees that California's health care system needs to be reformed. And everybody except the doctors agree that Proposition 166 is *not* the way to do it.

The measure, sponsored by the California Medical Association, has two big flaws: it doesn't extend coverage to all who need it, and it doesn't control costs.

According to the California Labor Federation, Proposition 166 does not ensure access to affordable health care for all Californians. Many parttime workers, the poor and the unemployed would be left without coverage.

Working Californians may find that their health benefits are reduced while they pay higher deductibles and co-payments. Improving the coverage offered by Proposition 166 would require a 4/5 vote of the legislature, an unlikely event.

Other workers may discover that their hours are cut back to below 17.5 hours/week by employers seeking to avoid the law.

"Proposition 166 won't control spiraling health care costs," argues Mary Foley, president of the California Nurses Association. "It doesn't stop physicians from

referring patients to specialty clinics they own. It doesn't stop the practice of billing grossly inflated prices for aspirin or other simple services."

California Labor Federation Executive Secretary John Henning says that "Real health care reform would cap doctors' fees, prescription and hospital costs. Real reform would stop the proliferation of expensive, needless technology and end the red tape that eats up 23 cents of every health care dollar."

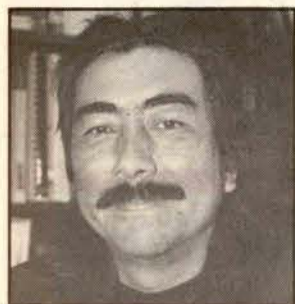
Proposition 166 masquerades as health care reform when in fact it offers less coverage than what most insured people have currently. The amount of coverage offered by Proposition 166 "wouldn't see a family through one serious illness," said Henning.

Proposition 166 is opposed by Local 1245, the American Association of Retired Persons, Consumers Union, California Nurses Association, National Federation of Independent Business, California Hotel and Motel Association, and California Farm Bureau.

Send a message to the doctors: we don't want phony health care reform, we want the real thing.

Vote "No" on Proposition 166.

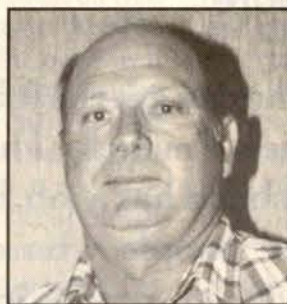
Who Do You Support for President?



- Leo Mares, Radiation & Process Monitor
- PG&E Humboldt Bay Power Plant
- 12-year union member

Clinton/Gore

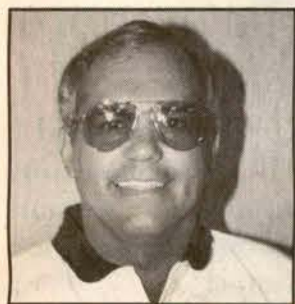
"Bush has failed in his economic program. He has Quayle's old lady attack Clinton. He goes after everything except the real issue, which is the economy. [Clinton] seems serious about putting people back to work. The Republicans have been against the labor movement. They've been busting unions."



- Dewayne Felkins, Elect. Crew Foreman
- PG&E (Auburn)
- 27-year union member

Clinton/Gore

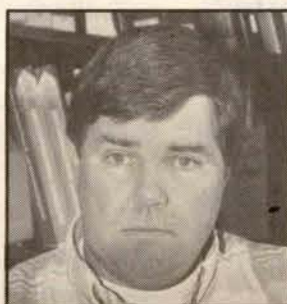
"I'm voting for Clinton. First because of the union's endorsement. We don't have a damn thing to lose anyway. The Bush and Reagan administrations' attitude toward labor has been very negative since Day One. The loss of jobs to Mexico--this has just escalated [under Reagan/Bush]."



- Don Silva, Lineman
- PG&E (Oroville)
- 21-year union member

Clinton/Gore

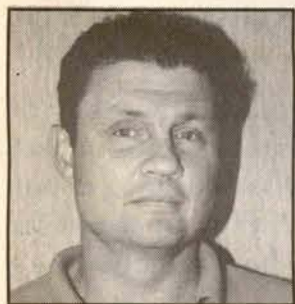
"I like Bill Clinton, especially what he's done for education in Arkansas. [I'm concerned about] the issue of jobs. Good-paying jobs with good benefits, which in turn will help the economy. It's going to take tax strategies to reward companies that provide jobs and penalize companies that go overseas."



- Steve Gable, Machinist
- PG&E Humboldt Bay Power Plant
- 21-year union member

Bush/Quayle (leaning)

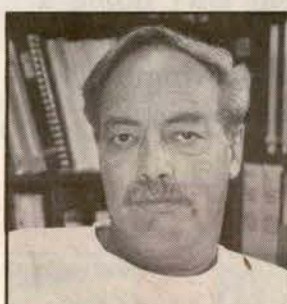
"Known quantities seem to be a good thing. I know what to expect from [Bush] and I don't know about this other guy. I don't know if you can blame [the economy] on one guy. It's like a football coach--if the team doesn't win you blame it on the coach."



- John Harper, Troubleman
- PG&E (Red Bluff)
- 26-year union member

Undecided

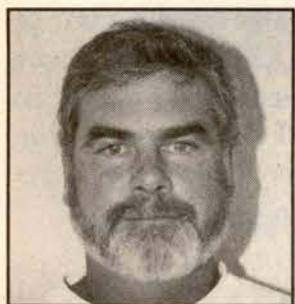
"I might vote for Perot. I don't care for either one of those gentlemen. Clinton's a draft dodger. Bush has done a terrible job with the economy because he's caved in to liberal philosophy. I think labor and the Democratic Party would flourish if they had a conservative wing, if they wouldn't support every stinking program that comes along. Somebody has to address the national debt."



- Jack Collings, Machinist
- PG&E Humboldt Bay Power Plant
- 29-year union member

Clinton/Gore

"I usually vote Democratic. This year I definitely will. I think we've got to take care of the working person. Bush's policies are for upper income people and the businesses."



- Bob Levett, Lineman
- PG&E (Chico)
- 22-year union member

Clinton/Gore (leaning)

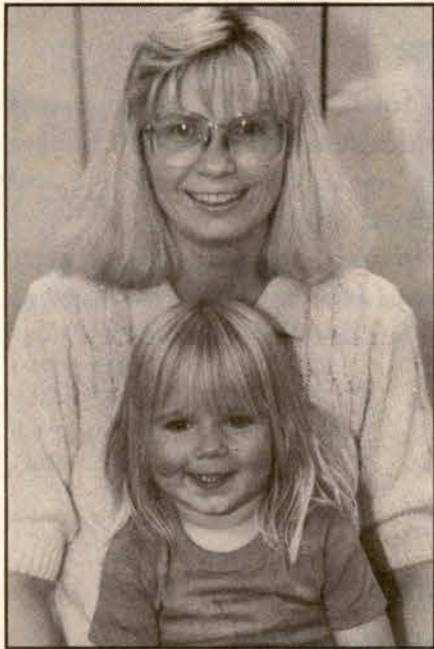
"I'm dispirited at the entire process. The big issue that has to be addressed is the debt, the national deficit. The interest [on that debt] could be spent on any number of good causes instead of going down the toilet. To address that issue is going to have to take some sacrifice from everybody. Of the two candidates, I think Clinton is the one who could best get the message across that the system is in need of change."



Members Speak Out

Pacific Gas and Electric Co.

Who Do You Support for President?



Clinton/Gore

"I think he can get the job market back in place. I'm lucky I have a job and my husband has a job, but there are a lot of people who don't, or don't have decent-paying jobs. With Bush, it's going to go down the tubes. With this Mexican trade bill you're going to see more people out of work, you're going to see crime go sky-high. This country is going to be the pits."

- Marlene Peterson, Customer Service Rep
- SPP (Carson City)
- 2-year union member



Members Speak Out

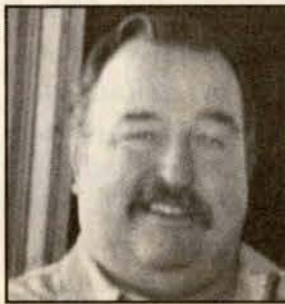
Sierra Pacific Power Co.



None of the Above

"I'm not happy with any of them. I think I'm going to vote for "None of the Above" (which is permitted in Nevada). The federal government isn't doing a thing. They say they want more jobs, but why are all these places closing down? You don't see any places opening."

- Gloria Miller, Clerical Rep.
- SPP (Reno)
- 30-year union member



Clinton/Gore

"Why? Because I'm a Democrat and I don't vote Republican. Bush has lost a lot of jobs. He's anti-union, him and Reagan both. I'd like to see Clinton get some jobs back into the United States."

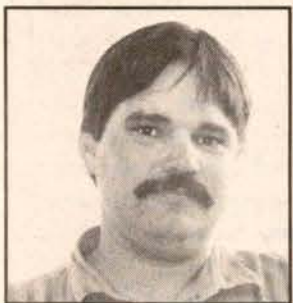
- Don Moler, Electric Inspector
- SPP (Reno)
- 39-year union member, unit chair



Undecided

"I try to get a handle on whether they're sincere or not. There's something about Clinton I like, but there's something about him I don't quite trust. I think Bush means well, I'm just not sure how effective he's been."

- Brenda Coulson, Clerical Rep.
- SPP (Reno)
- 2-month union member



Clinton/Gore

"Between him and Bush, there's no choice. And I like Gore. He has a good environmental point of view, but he realizes jobs are important, too. Clinton and Gore have young families and understand the problems that families face today. Bush is living in the past."

- Scott Downs, Line Working Foreman
- SPP (Carson City)
- 14-year union member

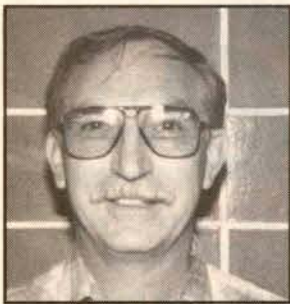


Clinton/Gore

"I feel the country really needs a change of leadership. I think Clinton has some good ideas. I think he could do better in terms of the economy. I think he's willing to look at things differently and try to get jobs established back in this country."

- Stephanie Baber, Lead Customer Service Rep.
- SPP (Reno)
- 13-year union member, unit recorder

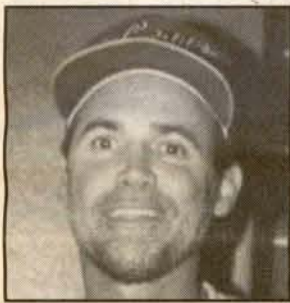
Who Do You Support for President?



Undecided

"[The country needs] somebody who's going to do what they say they're going to do. I want somebody with some answers on how they're going to put people back to work. And how are we going to get out of debt? Are we going to leave that for our kids? [Bush] has done a poor job. He said he was going to create 30 million jobs and he probably ended up losing more than he created."

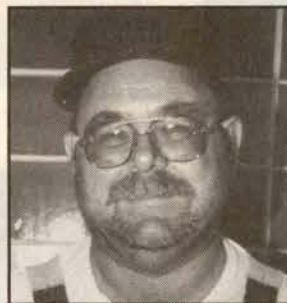
- John Platz, Building Maintenance Mechanic Subforeman
- SMUD
- 10-year union member



Clinton/Gore (leaning)

"Today I would vote for Clinton. I could change. I'm not really impressed with the state of our country right now and think we need some kind of change."

- Al Seyford, Building Maintenance Mechanic
- SMUD
- 10-year union member



Bush/Quayle

"He's the lesser of two evils. I think Bush has done all right. I don't think he's hurt labor. I don't know if he's helped it but he hasn't hurt it. I'd like to see the next president balance the budget and shrink the government."

- Gary Stoefer, Building Maintenance Mechanic
- SMUD
- 9-year union member



Clinton/Gore (leaning)

"I'm ready for a change because I'm not real happy with what's going on now. I've always been on the Republican side and this is the first time I'm thinking of voting for somebody else. I think [Bush] is targetting the wrong areas instead of targetting the areas where people have problems."

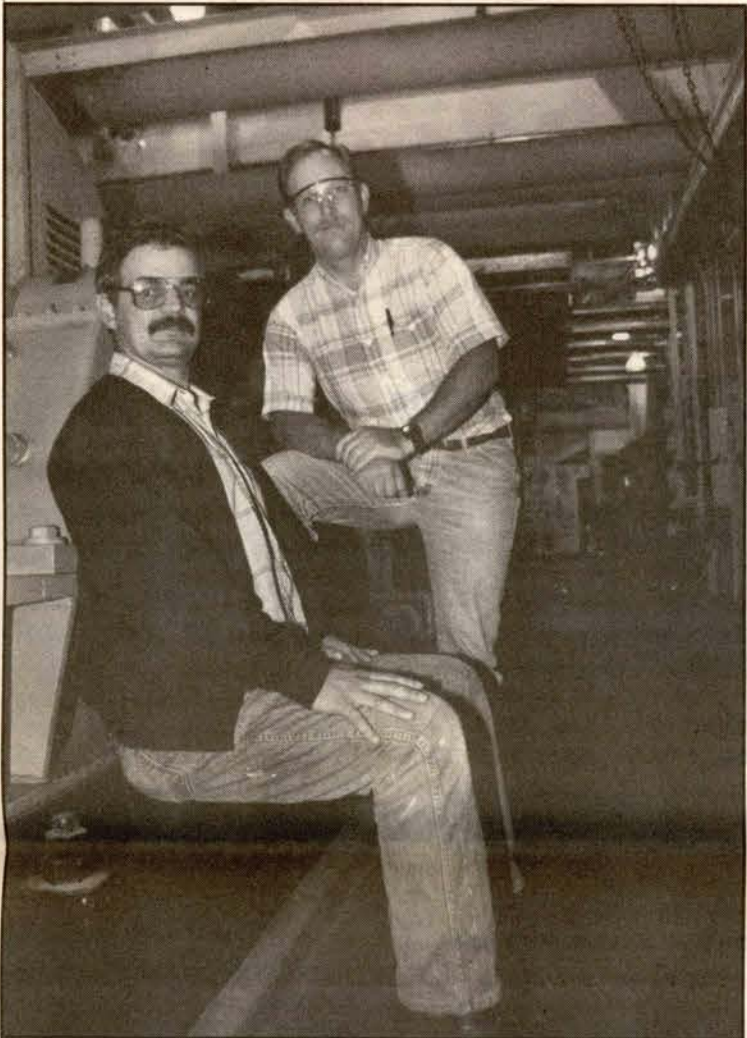
- Gwen Diregolo, Utility Worker/Landscape Maintenance
- SMUD
- 13-year union member



Members Speak Out

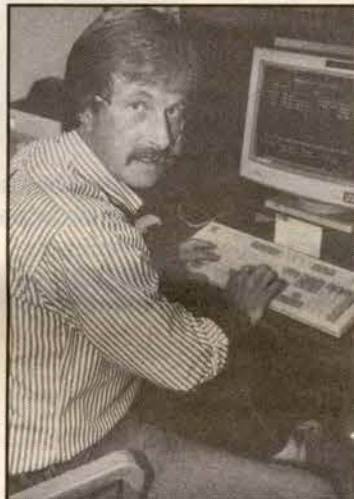
Sacramento Municipal
Utility District

Earthquake



Assistant Control Operators Dave Hicks (left) and Dan Savage in the plant's control area.

When three earthquakes hit northern California last spring, a worried community flooded the Humboldt Bay Power Plant with phone calls. Union workers at the plant moved swiftly to check for damage, but mostly they just carried on doing what they always do: providing a reliable source of power to Eureka and the surrounding area.



Andy Connor, a Materials Lead Man, was recently rehired.

When three powerful earthquakes rocked PG & E's Humboldt

Bay Power Plant within a period of hours last April, the place seemed to be coming apart.

"Pipes were swinging. Stuff was moving and slamming like crazy," recalls Dan Savage, an assistant control operator on duty at the time. "This metal ladder went slam-bang! Alarms were going off."

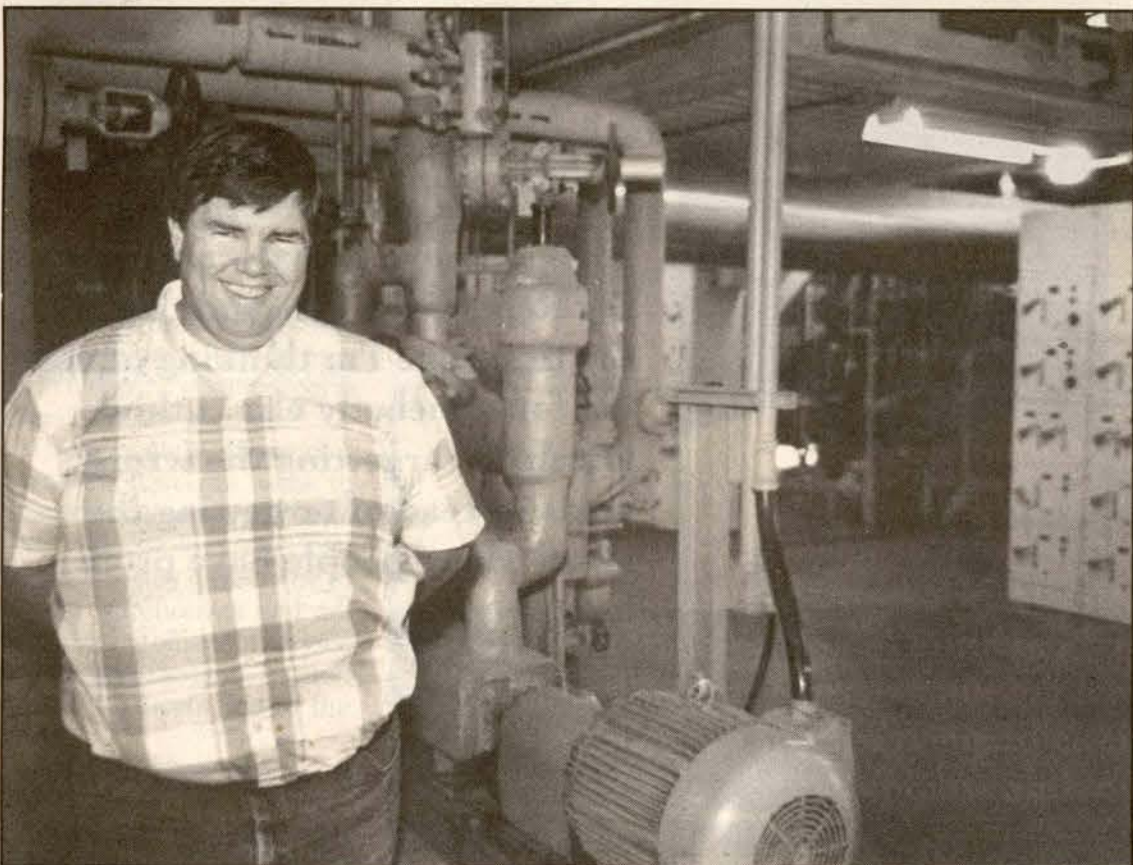
A large earthquake is a

serious event most anyplace. At a power plant, it can be catastrophic.

The earthquakes last April sent operators racing to the control boards, where plant operations are monitored.

"You have to determine for sure that nothing serious is wrong," said Savage. And because the monitoring systems themselves may not be operating properly, "You have to double-check that what you're seeing is right."

In the minutes immediately following the earthquake, job classifications

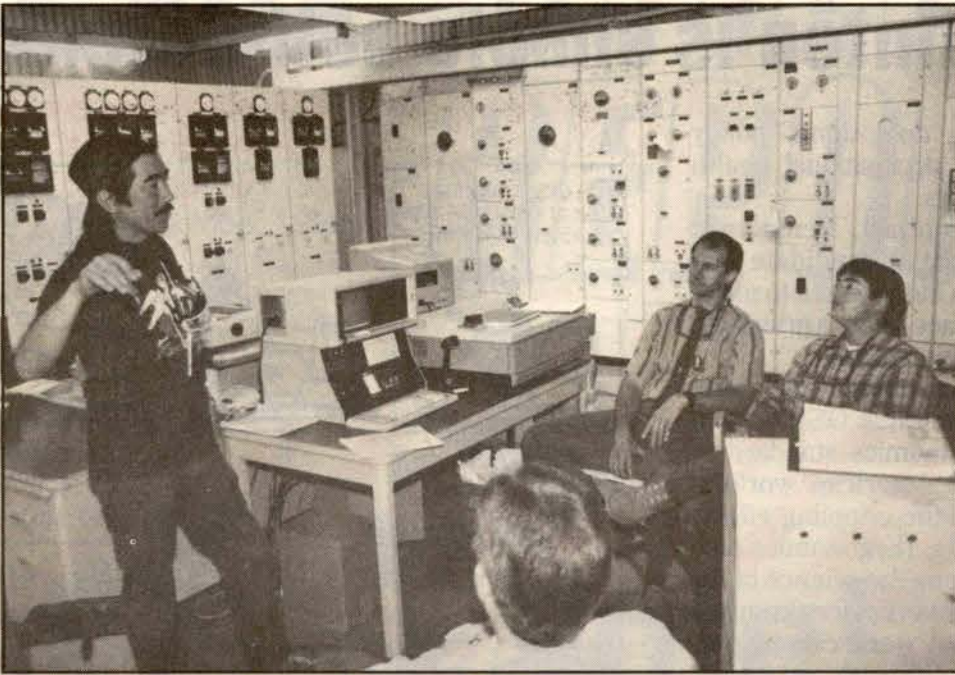


Steve Gable, a Machinist at Humboldt Bay Power Plant is a 21-year union member.

"Pipes were swinging. Stuff was moving and slamming like crazy. This metal ladder went slam-bang! Alarms were going off."

Dan Savage

PG&E HUMBOLDT BAY POWER PLANT



Clockwise from left: Leo Mares, a Radiation and Process Monitor, leads training session attended by Roy Willis, Assistant Plant Superintendent; Rowdy Shaw, Utility Worker; and Paul Morris, Environmental Coordinator.

tended to be temporarily suspended as maintenance personnel pitched in to help operations get a handle on the status of the plants.

"As more people showed up, they could take control of particular areas," said Savage, but until then, "those on the scene were in charge."

No need to be called

And people did show up, management and bargaining unit alike. No need to be called: as soon as the quake hit they knew where they needed to be.

One pressing task was to reassure a worried public, who flooded the plant with phone calls in the immediate aftermath of the quakes.

Fortunately, none of the power generating systems at Humboldt Bay Power Plant were seriously damaged. These units include two 55-megawatt fossil fuel units, which primarily burn natural gas, two 15,000 kilowatt mobile gas turbine generators, available mainly to meet peak demands or to restore power in an emergency, and a 65-megawatt nuclear unit.

The nuclear unit, although inactive since 1976, continues to house highly radioactive spent fuel. Plant employees are responsible for monitoring the spent fuel until the federal government devises a permanent high-level nuclear waste repository.

The fossil fuel units are the workhorses of Humboldt Bay Power Plant. Fuel for the units comes primarily from Humboldt County's Tompkins Hill gas field and from gas transmission lines.

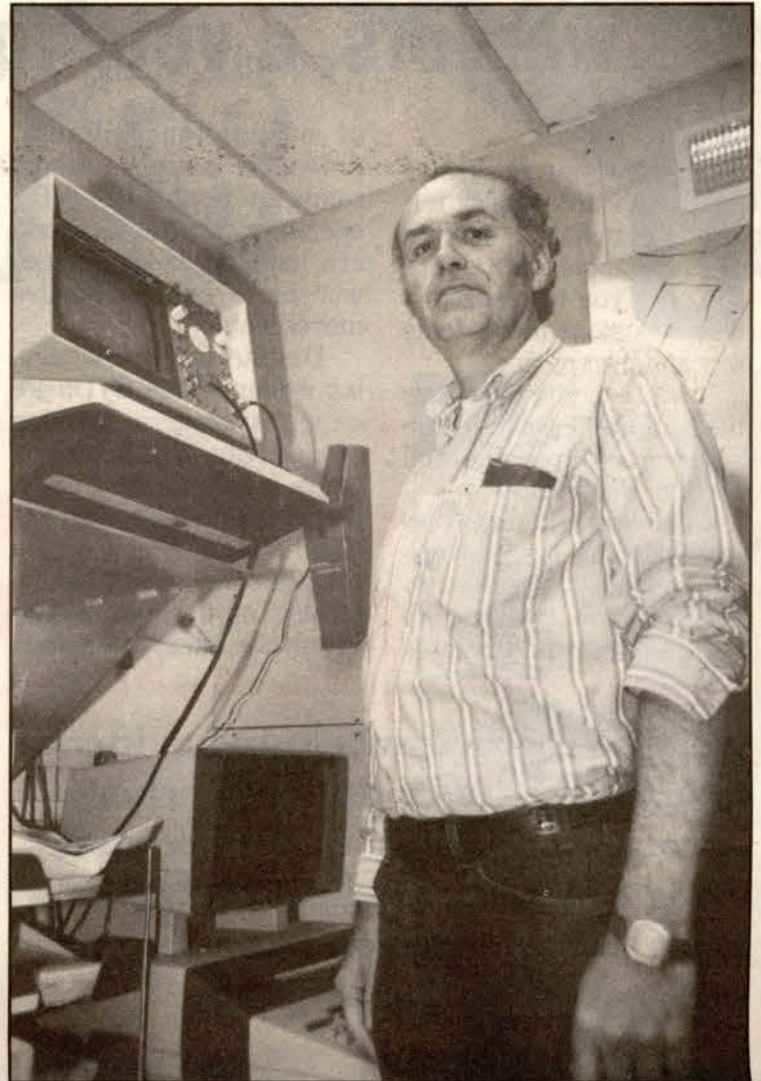
In an era where some local industries in the Eureka area have turned to their own co-generation plants for power, the earthquake underscored the importance of the Humboldt Bay plant as a source of backup power. When the earthquakes knocked the co-gens off-line, the Humboldt Bay facility picked up the load.

"We're the reliability of the system," said Dave Hicks, on temporary upgrade to control operator.

Plant employees understandably believe Humboldt Bay Power Plant has a continuing role to play in meeting the power needs of the area. But to them, the plant isn't just an energy source. It's a good place to work.

Andy Connor, a materials lead man who was laid off in 1986 and rehired this year, gladly described how it felt to be working at the plant:

"Can you comprehend the word 'elation'? I'm very very glad to be back."



Harold Connerley, a 19-year union member, is a Radiation and Process Monitor.



Auxillary Operator Jim Atchley is a 9-year union member.



Linda Marchetti (right) is a routine plant clerk with 3 years in the union. Sue Adams (below right) is a first plant clerk and 8-year union member. Sheryl Silva (below) is a senior plant clerk and 9-year member of Local 1245.



For workers, a vote for Clinton is simple self-defense

By Eric Wolfe

Do you work at a video display terminal or operate tools that require you to repeat the same movements over and over again?

If so, then you may have much more at stake in the November 3 presidential election than you realize.

Cumulative trauma disorders have become an epidemic in the American workplace, accounting for nearly half of all new reported cases

of occupational illness. Among the hundreds of thousands of victims are VDT operators, construction workers, and other employees whose jobs require repetitive movements.

Despite the overwhelming evidence that CTDs are crippling workers, harming productivity, and contributing to higher medical costs, the Bush administration has failed to take action on the problem. This year's "moratorium" on new regulations is only the latest example in

Bush's "do-nothing" policy toward occupational health problems.

In contrast, Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton has pledged to make workplace safety a priority in his administration.

Labor unions have long advocated that OSHA adopt an ergonomics standard to protect American workers against the crippling effects of CTDs. (Ergonomics simply means the science of designing workplaces in such a way that work can be performed efficiently and safely.) Although a few fines have been levied against employers for CTD-related injuries to workers, most occupational health experts agree that a separate ergonomics standard is needed to combat the CTD epidemic.

Bush's inaction at the federal level has set a highly visible example for state regulators, like those at



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California's occupational safety and health administration, Cal-OSHA.

While a Cal-OSHA advisory committee has supposedly been working on an ergonomics standard for California workplaces, labor insiders say business interests

have prevented any forward progress.

Ultimately any California standard would have to be approved by the Republican-dominated Standards Board. The chances of that happening are similar to a snowball's chance in hell.

Unless, that is, there is a change at the top.

If Bill Clinton is elected president next month, some political observers predict that a national ergonomics standard will be put into effect within a matter of months. With the prospect of a federal standard staring them in the face, California businesses would have a powerful new incentive to get off the dime and seriously negotiate a state ergonomics standard.

An ergonomics standard is not the only occupational health issue at stake in next month's election, of course. Organized labor has recently proposed sweeping changes to the national Occupational Safety and Health Act, including the creation of mandatory worksite safety committees with genuine worker representation. Bush will veto the bill if he gets the chance.

Clinton, on the other hand, has pledged to support labor's efforts to improve occupational safety and health.

When the issue is our health and safety on the job, the choice on Nov. 3 is clear.

Vote for Clinton. It's simple self-defense.

'Pro-family' Bush ignores workplace child abuse

We've come a long ways since the days when children slaved away in factories. The abolition of child labor has assured that kids can divide their time between school and play rather than risking life and limb on the production line.

Well, not exactly.

The reality is that children in the US suffered 71,660 job-related injuries in 1990, according to the National Safe

Workplace Institute.

Sure there are laws that sharply restrict the use of child labor. The problem is, those laws are routinely ignored because federal watchdogs are few and far between, and their number is shrinking.

The US Department of Labor has slashed the number of child labor investigators by one-third.

Child labor is especially common in agriculture and in the garment industry. In Florida, one social worker

found a five-year-old boy with scabs on his hands who had been beaten while working in an orange grove. The social worker said she'd been involved with child labor issues for seven years but had never seen anyone from the Labor Department.

Despite all the talk about "family values" at the Republican national convention in August, the Bush administration has resisted congressional efforts to strengthen American families.

Bush abandoned families when he vetoed family leave and child care legislation during his first term in office. But even more appalling was Bush's failure to protect children from workplace abuse.

Bush's labor secretary, Lynn Martin, opposed a bill

in Congress that would put an end to child labor. Martin said American businesses shouldn't be buried with regulations.

To make sure businesses aren't "buried" by regulation, Bush put Vice President Dan Quayle in charge of his so-called Competitiveness Council to strip away regulations that protect consumers as well as workers.

Early this year, Bush took his crusade a step further by imposing a moratorium on all new federal regulations to further insure that business isn't "buried." Meanwhile American workers, including thousands of children, are injured or killed in the workplace every year.

Easier to bury the children?

Bush abandoned families when he vetoed family leave and child care legislation during his first term in office. But even more appalling was Bush's failure to protect children from workplace abuse.

