

The UTILITY

Gas, Electric, Water, Clerical,
and Construction Workers



REPORTER

Official Publication of I.B.E.W. Local Union 1245, A. F. of L. 1918 Grove St., Oakland 12, Calif.

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OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 18, 1953

Members Now Voting on Terms for PGE



Here are some of the tubercular children at Weimar—excitedly awaiting their first opportunity to view a television set! The nurses were pleased, too! Little Carol, at the right, is recovering from surgical treatments to cure bone tuberculosis. She has been in a cast and strapped to her bed for many months! Yet, she still has a wonderful smile!

Unionism With a Heart —

T-V SET GIVEN TO KIDDIES

The youthful patients in the tubercular children's ward at the Weimar Sanitarium near Auburn became the proud owners of a beautiful console model television set Sept. 5.

The TV set was the gift of the members of Local 1245 and was presented to the children by Brother Robert Glasgow, executive board member from Placerville. The antenna, lead-ins and other installations were completed by members of our union who live in the Auburn area. Brothers John W. Beale, Woodrow N. Stephenson, William ("Red") Vinagre, Lyman Emerson and Al Kaznowski spent an entire Saturday at the sanitarium making the installation. Dr. William J. Lynch, assistant superintendent at Weimar, received the set on behalf of the patients in the four children's wards.

Most of the young patients, ranging in age from a few months up to 18 or 19 years, had never seen television. The excitement which prevailed while the installa-

tion was being completed must have complicated the work of the nurses and staff orderlies, but they also were excited and pleased by the gift. Mrs. Rollins, the day nurse in charge of the small children's wards, advised Brother Glasgow that installation of a television set for the children had been a dream of the hospital staff for several years.

Weimar Sanitarium is supported by tax monies from the 15 counties surrounding Auburn. Nearly 100 of its 550 beds are occupied by children—many of whom must spend years in fighting the dread disease. The hospital staff also reported that this is not the first time members of Local 1245 have brought gifts to the children. The clerical staff at the Auburn office of PGE—most of whom are union members—have been bringing gifts to the children's Christmas parties for several years—and their visits have done a great deal to cheer the children up and give them new hope for a happier tomorrow. Congratulations, girls, for your fine work—keep it up, won't you?

Committee Statement On PGE Negotiations

September 4, 1953.

Frank Gilleran, President,
IBEW Local Union 1245
1918 Grove Street
Oakland 12, California

Dear Sir and Brother:

We, the members of the Wage and Contract Negotiating Committee for Pacific Gas and Electric Company employees, having considered all of the factors involved in this set of negotiations, are of the opinion that we have secured all contract amendments, improved conditions and wage adjustments that it was possible to gain as a result of these collective bargaining sessions.

In connection with the pension proposal which is included herewith, your committee has conferred with the chairman of the union's Pension Committee, who joins us in recommending approval of this plan.

In view of this decision, we recommend that the membership of this local union accept and ratify these proposals as submitted.

Fraternally yours,

ROY D. MURRAY

Chairman

E. S. RYPINSKI

Secretary

J. A. McCAULEY

M. J. KELLY, JR.

E. T. BASINGER

Members.

Huge, 7-Week Bargaining Task is Concluded and Proposals are Put to Vote

The 1953-54 contract negotiations between Local 1245 and the PG&E were concluded late Thursday afternoon, Sept. 3rd. The tentative agreement reached by the union and company committees has been distributed to unit officers throughout the system and is now being voted on by the membership.

After carefully checking over all the issues which were agreed to, the union's committee issued a statement on September 4th giving its attitude on the proposed terms. Full text of this statement appears in the adjoining column to the left.

Under the able chairmanship of Brother Roy D. Murray of Paradise, your committee had worked diligently for more than seven weeks on this tremendous task. Hundreds of recommendations for contract changes and improved working conditions, which had been sent in by units and individuals, were carefully studied. Nearly two hundred contracts between utilities and unions all over the nation were analyzed. Conferences were held with staff representatives, policy and executive board members in the attempt to boil down the union's proposals and present only those which were of greatest importance to the majority of our members.

The first result of all this hard work was the formulation of the union's proposals, which were delivered to the company early in July.

The regular quarterly meeting of the Central Valley Executive Conference of Electrical Workers was held in Fresno on Saturday, Sept. 12, 1953. About 30 delegates from seven local unions were in attendance. Representing Local 1245 were Bus. Mgr. Ron Weakley, Asst. Bus. Mgr. L. L. Mitchell and Reps. Charlie Massie and George L. Rice.

Delegates from the valley locals reported that work opportunities right now are fairly good—but that prospects for the future are rather dim. Numerous large construction projects previously authorized by Congress will not be undertaken due to failure of the Appropriations Committee to provide the necessary funds.

The Bakersfield local reported (Continued on Page Three)

The first negotiations session with the company committee was held on July 30th—and eight more lengthy sessions were held between then and the date of the tentative agreement, September 3rd. While there was a good deal of spirited discussion at the bargaining table, (Continued on Page Three)

C.V.P. CONTRACT AWARDED NON-UNION CONTRACTOR

The report in our last issue that a non-union line contractor MAY invade California can now be corrected. This outfit HAS effected the invasion—with the sanction of the Federal Agency involved!

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has awarded the contract for stringing wire on a transmission line from Elverta to Folsom to the Malcom W. Larsen firm, out of Denver, Colorado. The award was made despite protests of our union, which were carried all the way to the Under-Secretary of the Interior at Washington, D. C.

The union had pointed out to California congressmen and to the Interior Department that we are vitally interested in preserving peaceful labor-management relations here in our state. We are unalterably opposed to breaking down established wages and conditions—and we cannot stand by quietly and permit fair California firms to be underbid and run out of business by such non-union operators. Apparently all equipment and personnel have been imported from outside the state, as well.

The Larsen firm is reported to ignore payment of travel time, to fail to observe holidays which are customarily recognized by our fair contractors, and to reduce wages in every possible way. This threat to the stability of good relations in the industry is apparently receiving the full approval of the National Administration—because our protests were ignored!

It is significant that 11 years ago when this same firm was awarded a federal contract in California—under an administration which fostered sound, healthy industrial peace—they chose to use union craftsmen and to adhere to union conditions! Now, it appears, we see the dawn of a new era!

Suffers Relapse

Bus. Rep. Gene Hastings, San Francisco Division, reported recently that Brother Alexander Pural, a longtime Executive Board Member of Local 1245, is again hospitalized.

Brother Pural underwent a serious operation early this summer, then began convalescing at his home in San Francisco. He failed to improve as rapidly as his doctors had hoped, so he is again in Franklin Hospital in San Francisco.

Brother "Alex" is one of our most highly respected members. A charter member of Local 1245 when it was first formed in 1941, Pural has served on numerous negotiating committees, as representative of the General Construction Division.

Old friends of Brother Pural in G. C., as well as our members in the Bay Area, are urged to pay him a visit or to drop him a card or note. Certainly, a man who has led as active a life as has "Alex" must find the confinement of a hospital most tiresome. Your words of encouragement can do much to cheer him up!

Cal. AFL Meet Stresses LLPE!

(The following is a summary of the report on the California State Federation of Labor Convention submitted by Delegate Hip Gonzales of Oakland.)

The convention opened at the Civic Auditorium in San Francisco at 10 a.m. on August 10th. Jack Goldberger, president of the San Francisco Central Labor Council, welcomed the delegates and introduced state A. F. of L. President Thomas L. Pitts, who presided throughout the convention.

Many dignitaries were presented to the convention, including Acting Governor Goodwin Knight, Mayor Elmer Robinson of San Francisco, L. A. Mashburn, Under-secretary of Labor, U. S. Congressman John F. Shelley, State Assemblyman Thomas A. Maloney and Mr. Glen Slaughter, National Labor's League for Political Education official.

While listening to the thousands of eloquent words spoken by these men, one thought impressed itself strongly on me: the strength of a

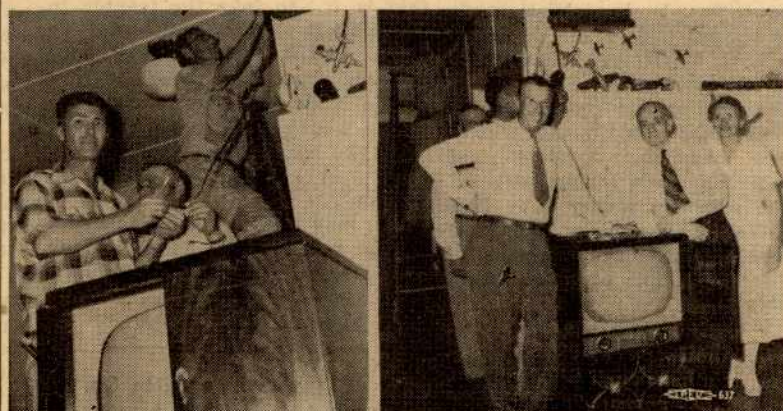
friendly legislature is vital to the success of organized labor. We do not now have enough of such strength. We do have some friendly men in some of our legislative bodies, but not enough of them to carry any pro-labor weight.

It is up to us—through political education, through full support of our Labors League for Political Education with our voice and our money, to help more men win political offices who support us, the working people of America.

A great many official policies—in the form of resolutions—were submitted to the convention. Certainly, there were too many for me to remember or digest! Some of those which were outstanding in my mind were:

Support of the Free World against Communism.

Full Employment.
(Continued on Page Three)



Left picture shows Brothers "Red" Vinagre, John Beale and Lyman Emerson completing the installation of the antenna lead-in for the T-V set given to the children of Weimar Sanitarium. At right are Executive Board Member Bob Glasgow and Dr. William J. Lynch and Nurse Robbins, who received the set on behalf of their little patients.

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The UTILITY REPORTER

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About Overtime

(Editorial by IBEW Secy. J. Scott Milne in June issue of "The Electrical Workers Journal.")

This editorial is a hard one to write. It's hard because it brings up thoughts and opinions distasteful to many of our unions. But one of our long-time members, a business agent, who has given the best years of his life to the good of our industry and our union, made a statement at a recent Progress Meeting, that forced us to write this editorial. The business agent was sad and thoughtful when he said, "I spent the best part of my younger life fighting for the eight-hour day—and now nobody wants less than a 10-hour day. It doesn't seem right."

It isn't right, Brothers! Our fathers and grand-fathers in this labor movement, fought and suffered and starved and their wives and children suffered and starved and they were blacklisted and beaten and jailed, because they believed in the eight-hour day. They believed that men and women should have eight hours for work and eight hours for sleep and eight hours for home and recreation. And they were right! And organized labor won the fight for the eight-hour day. But today what is happening? Sure a man needs money to get along and raise his family, but wages are good—they're very good—the best in all history, in spite of high cost of living, and with proper planning a man and his family can get along on eight-hour-a-day wages. But many union workmen are not willing to try. They want overtime—lots of overtime. Many an Electrical Worker's first question when applying for a job is "How much overtime?"

And where is it leading, Brothers? Oh, it can go on for a while—times are still very good—but there are signs of leveling off. And those greedy for overtime and those locals giving jobs to favored members and allowing them to pile up the overtime work, while other men are deprived of jobs, are making a terrible mistake which may someday backfire. It is not inconceivable that in bad times, anti-labor forces can say "Okay, you're working a 10-hour day, or a 12-hour day. Keep on, but there'll be no overtime." Sounds fantastic you say, in these days and times. Well, we have quite a few members who can remember back 24 years to a certain period known as the "the depression." And children cried for food and men cried for jobs and there were no jobs and when a job was available, a hungry man would have gladly worked 18 hours a day with no overtime, to put food in the mouths of his wife and children.

And then came the New Deal and a Wage and Hour Law and we were protected, but today we walk gingerly on fields mined with Taft-Hartley, and anti-labor snipers are all about us, and we must be careful.

And so I say to you, Brothers and Sisters—Think! Don't be so greedy for overtime and the almighty dollar that you rob a Brother member of his right to work, and don't rob your families of precious time you could spend with them, lost by working long hours, leaving you tired and short-tempered.

Organized labor once made a heroic, bitter fight for a sound principle. God forbid that that same organized labor, through shortsightedness and greed should throw it away. Think it over, Brothers!

PG&E Committees Worked Like Beavers, Deserve Praise

When reviewing the activities of our members who have served on the various negotiating committees during recent months, one cannot help but be impressed with the tremendous work that has been performed!

The PG&E Negotiating Committee composed of Brothers Roy Murray, Everett Rypinski, Joe McCauley, Everett Basinger, Milt Kelly and Frank Quadros worked like the proverbial beavers for two months. 18 and 19 hour work days were the rule for these fine men. They devoted themselves to the tasks of studying, sifting, and analyzing hundreds of recommendations with real seriousness. And during the actual negotiations, they left no stone unturned in their endeavors to improve the wages and conditions of the thousands of employees they represented. Even though you may not agree with all details of the settlement, these men deserve our sincere appreciation for the devotion they have shown throughout these proceedings.

The Union's Pension Committee, which has had numerous sessions during the past eighteen months, has also performed a noteworthy service for our entire membership. Brothers Don Hardie, Jesse Jordan and Al Schoof, starting literally from scratch, have become self-educated "pension experts" during

the long months of their studies and negotiations. Their contribution to the success of the union's pension negotiations is a noteworthy one.

Our pension committee also had much invaluable help and advice from Brother Glenn Wall, the Pension Analyst for our International Union. Brother Wall made three special trips from Washington, D. C. to the headquarters of Local 1245 during the course of our pension studies. His knowledge and abilities have contributed greatly to the successful conclusion of these negotiations. Incidentally, all of the expenses incurred by Brother Wall were paid by the International Office—the assistance of Brother Wall has cost our union nothing!

One thing is for sure: The bosses just love to have you miss union meetings!

Protect your eyes! The compensation award for loss of eyesight is pitifully small.

STRAWS IN THE WIND

By The Onlooker

With most of our major negotiations nearly wound up for the year—and with summer all gone, it seems as though we should take stock of just what is going on around us.

Certainly, we should recognize the signs of a general "tightening-up" around the country. Unemployment is rising here and there. Detroit, one of the barometers of heavy industry, is hit badly. The textile industry is in poor economic condition. Cut-backs are here in gasoline stocks due to the heavy quantities of refined products now in storage. Used car lots are loaded—and prices have tumbled. Hotels, restaurants, resorts and kindred service industries report that business is off.

Without viewing these indications with undue alarm, we must study the ominous signs of a possible recession. Some people in management circles or highly placed public officials, advocate this "return to normalcy" which we heard much of just prior to the great depression. This kind of thinking is not conducive to the best interests of a fast-growing population such as ours. We must continue to develop an expanding economy—or we're in for a rough time!

A so-called "leveling off" of wage patterns seems evident if one takes the trouble to look around. A number of important industries have undergone shut-downs brought on by industrial unrest. In others, settlements of a very few cents per hour have been agreed to, and in many areas contracts have been renewed with no upward wage adjustments. All of these union-management negotiations have been accompanied by loud wailings from some profit-swollen big time industrial groups. Who's kidding whom?

We know by this time that a false economy developed by wars and threats of wars has no healthy base. An adjustment to a peacetime economy, with a realistic development of adequate national defense, is a prime requisite if we are ever to consider our governmental budgets as something other than a scrap of paper.

To establish badly needed industrial shock absorbers, we have old Taft-Hartley, "Right to Starve" legislation, emasculation of unemployment insurance laws, and other little gimmicks which fit into a master plan designed to knock hell out of labor.

Our farmers are singing the blues now—and, with much fanfare, are predicting dire economic consequences as a result of present and projected farm policies—or, should we say, the lack of such policies? These reactions are a far cry from the chant of last year—"It's time for a change!"

Well, boys and girls, you'd better tighten up this organization by getting non-members into the fold. And—while we're doing this, let's take a long look at the guy who is supposed to represent you in the State Assembly and Senate, U.S. Congress and Senate, and State and National Administrations. These are the guys whom your dues—in the form of taxes—keep in office. If they don't give you a fair shake—you can wind up and pitch them out on their fannies come next election time. You can, that is, if you take the trouble to REGISTER TO VOTE—and to CAST YOUR BALLOT on every election day. Of course, if you prefer NOT to register—and vote—you will just have to sit tight and take whatever your representatives in government choose to dish out.

You may think "The Onlooker" is kidding you. He hopes not—but his pipe is fresh out of that stuff which is extracted from beautiful Chinese poppies!

To elect your friends in '54, Your dollar is needed as ne'er before.

After reading this paper, pass it on to a non-member.

Here They Are— Your Wage and Contract Terms

The following is a digest of all the adjustments which were agreed to by the Union and company committees for the 1953-54 PG&E Contract.

1. Adjustments in 70 classifications: 58 granted wage increases; 7 new classifications; and 5 discontinued. In addition, apprentice rates have been standardized; in classifications which have apprentices, single rates for journeymen have been established. The elimination of overlaps between groundman-helper and apprentices and in the Clerk-Driver H.D., Truck and Tractor Driver, H.D. classifications was provided for.

2. These adjustments effective as of September 1, 1953, and applied to wage rates of the 1952-53 schedules.

3. General wage increase of 3 1/2 per cent, effective as of September 1st, for all physical and clerical employees. (Applicable to the adjusted rates for the 58 classifications which receive inequity adjustments.)

4. Rounding off of all weekly wage rates to the next higher five cents.

5. Inclusion of System Dispatchers in our agreement, with negotiations for conditions of employment to follow.

6. Amendments to the following sections of the Physical agreement:

(a) Addition of 207.7 and 307.3—to provide greater protection for personally owned tools.

(b) Amendment of 208.11 and 308.14 to provide for paid rest period after long hours, when such rest period overlaps normal duty hours.

(c) Addition of 208.19(a)—clarifies "transfer."

(d) Amendment of 305.1—eliminates 3-year bar on bidding by G. C. employees.

(e) Amendment of 301.3(d) and addition of 301.3(e)—clarifies travel expense during inclement weather period.

(g) Deletion of Title 307, and Sections 207.1 and 207.6. Adds title 107, entitled Miscellaneous—which incorporates prior understandings.

(h) Amendment of 311.1—provides for less stringent vacation requirements from G.C. employees.

(i) List of classifications of shift employees is appended to the agreement, pursuant to 202.6.

(j) List of classifications of service employees is appended to the agreement, pursuant to 202.7.

(k) Classifications of resident employees appended to the agreement.

7. Provision for execution of a UNION PENSION CONTRACT to which will be appended the "Amended Retirement Plan."

8. Amendments to the Retirement Plan, as follows:

(a) Regular employees eligible after 1 year of service if under 64 1/2 years of age.

(b) Employee contribution—3 per cent of first \$3600 and 5 per cent of annual earnings in excess. Company contribution—increased to maintain present relationship (slightly more than 2 for 1).

(c) Provision for 2 per cent interest on all employee contributions made under the amended plan.

(d) Annual retirement income set at one half of employee's total contribution.

(e) Normal retirement date (men and women) employees who join plan AFTER date of amendment to be first of month following 65th birthday.

(f) Optional retirement, with company consent, with discount at rate of 4 per cent per year.

(g) Minimum retirement income of \$125, including Social Security Benefits and Past Service Credits, for employees having at least 5 years participation in plan.

(h) Provision to continue employment of women who joined OLD plan to age 65, at option of company, with deferment of retirement income, and payment of interest at rate of 2 per cent.

(i) Optional retirement date

provided for those who terminate and elect to leave contributions in plan.

(j) Leave of absence for Union business extended to 24 months.

(k) Death benefit to beneficiary of woman retained beyond age 60 who dies—now calculated on the alternative which will provide the higher payment.

(l) Amended plan to become effective Jan. 1, 1954, provided requirements of Internal Revenue Department met.

9. The Union Pension Contract will contain the following subjects:

(a) Obligation of company to continue retirement plan for duration of the contract.

(b) Retirement benefits to be purchased for veterans who entered military service after June 26, 1950.

(c) Election for retirement on 65th birthday for men—in such cases where normal retirement date would occur before or after such birthday.

(d) Past Service Benefits to include Social Security benefits frozen at rate applicable December 1, 1945.

(e) Total and permanent disability recognized as reason for granting optional retirement.

(f) Term of Union Pension Contract to cover a period of five years from Jan. 1, 1954.

10. Illustrations of the effect the Amended Retirement Plan will have on incomes of various classifications with varying years of service will be prepared and distributed throughout the system in the immediate future.

For the complete details of all items which have been negotiated, see your Unit Chairman and Recorder. Copies of the complete text of the changes, totaling 27 printed pages, have been furnished them for your detailed study.

Oakland— Key Strike Snagged In Its Third Month

As we go to press, the KEY System Transit Strike has been in progress for two months—and there is no apparent willingness on the part of the management to give any consideration to the demands of the Bay Bridge Train and East Bay Bus Operators.

All public transportation which normally service the entire East Bay area and the Bay Bridge commuters has been completely shut down. More than 125,000 persons who normally ride this system every day have been forced to form car pools and devise substitute means of transportation. The management of the Key System has adopted a "don't give a damn" attitude from the beginning of the negotiations—and the public suffers, along with the striking workers.

Our brothers of Local 1245, who man the Electric Department for this transit system, have, of course, been unemployed during this entire period. They report that they are happy to support the demands of the members of the Carmen's Union—but they are becoming increasingly angered at the stubborn attitude of the management.

Our loyal members are deserving of all our commendation for their fine trade union spirit in supporting their brothers in another A. F. of L. Union. They recognized the justice of the Carmen's demands—and they report they will continue to support them until a satisfactory settlement is reached. After two months of respecting picket lines—this is, indeed, a fine expression from a group of darned good, sincere union members!

Members Are Now Voting On PGE Contract Proposals

(Continued from Page One)
the "old-timers" in attendance stated that the attitude which prevailed were the best they had ever seen. There were disagreements on both sides—at times stated in bitter language—but at all times the desire of the committees to continue bargaining until agreement was reached was plainly evident.

While the settlement fell short of what your committee had hoped to achieve, there were several significant gains. The added wage increases granted to 58 classifications of employees, mainly in the gas and water departments, mean greater recognition of the important services these workers perform. The correction of many of the inequities in these departments culminates more than two years of constant effort on the part of Local 1245 to bring these classifications closer into line.

TOWARD ONE CONTRACT

In line with the policy of the union of having one contract with equal conditions for all employees, another step forward has been made. The 3-year bar on bidding rights of General Construction members has been removed.

Several contract changes, such as provision for a rest period after long hours of overtime and other issues which have caused many grievances, have been agreed to. These improvements should serve to make our agreement more workable and understandable.

The long-awaited proposal of the company on the pension plan amendments also marks a significant forward step. In addition to providing for substantial gains in retirement income, the plan now is strengthened by joint recognition through a Union Pension Contract. Company officials claim the amended plan will increase the company contributions by approximately one and three-quarter million per year!

"THE MAXIMUM"

The wage settlement was a disappointment to the union negotiators. Despite the presentation by the union of detailed economic data which we feel amply substantiated our demands the company

committee held that the adjustments of numerous wage rates, the large cost of an improved pension plan, together with the 3 1/2 per cent which equalized rates with other major California utilities was the maximum cost they would be willing to assume this year.

The increase negotiated this year is not based to any great extent on higher cost of living, since the official U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has measured a bare 1 per cent increase during the year ending June 30, 1953. Rather, this is a negotiated wage increase, arrived at through the collective bargaining process between the union and company committees.

While no specific written gains have resulted from the union's proposals on Safety and Apprenticeship Training programs, these items were discussed at great length. It is the belief of your union committee that these matters are not "dead ducks" but, if persistently followed up by the union, will yet be won. As a result of these discussions the company has stated its intention of conducting a careful year-long study of all aspects of Apprenticeship Training, with a view to effecting improvements over its present inadequate system of training.

No movement was achieved on our proposal for an improved union security clause. Company officials stated again and again that they would not be a party to "forcing" anyone to join the union—that they felt it their duty to "protect" those who did not wish to join, and that the maintenance of membership clause provided ample opportunity for the stability of the union. This coldly points out the responsibility of all members to sell unionism on the job to the unorganized PG&E workers in order to get a union shop.

A summary of all gains provided for in the tentative agreement is carried elsewhere in this issue. The complete details of the proposals are being studied at special unit meetings now being held all over Northern California. Business representatives and members of our negotiating committee are attending these meetings to answer questions and discuss the proposals.

Fresno— Division Committee Wins Grievance

Another instance of effective work by a divisional Grievance Committee is reported by Charlie Massie, business representative in the San Joaquin District.

The PG&E supervisor had refused to allow overtime to an emergency relief operator when he was relieving a shift helper who was on vacation. As a result of an illness, the man on the relief job was unable to report for work, thus necessitating a six-day week for the emergency relief operator.



MASSIE

When all the facts of the case had been developed and presented to the joint Grievance Committee, it was clear that the union's position was well taken. The man was awarded the overtime pay and the grievance settled.

Bro. Massie reports that he is receiving wonderful co-operation from the members and stewards in his division in all respects. He is particularly grateful to the members for their willingness to WRITE DOWN all the facts concerning a grievance—so that it then becomes a matter of record. This kind of attention to detail is responsible, Charlie says, for the good record the Grievance Committee has established for prompt and effective settlement of the grievances which they receive.

It is good to note, also, that the reports from members in the field indicate that Bus. Rep. Massie is very well liked and respected by the members he serves! This is a real tribute to Bro. Massie, since he is a young representative, both in years and from the standpoint of experience on the job! We'd like you to know—the staff is proud of Charlie, too!

There's Still Work For 'Boomers'

If you desire a trip to the scenic Pacific Northwest—and a job that will last till snow flies—here's your chance!

Bro. "Cy" Yochem reports that steel tower assemblers and linemen are wanted for work on the Kemano Project in British Columbia. The wage scale is reported to be \$2.40 an hour, plus room and board. Double time is paid for all work above 8 1/2 feet—and the towers run from 130 feet on up! Crews are working six days, with overtime for the sixth day.

Don't just dash up there. First, please contact Bus. Mgr. Cramp-ton of IBEW Local 344, Vancouver, B. C. His telephone is Pacific 9727, or you may wire or write air mail to him for additional information. All men assigned to this job MUST be cleared by Local 344.

And, when you return this winter, bring your UTILITY REPORTER staff a good-sized chunk of that wonderful Canadian elk or caribou meat!

In the dark of night two safe-breakers entered a bank. One approached the safe, sat down on the floor, took off his shoes and socks, and started to turn the dial of the safe with his toes.

"What's the matter with you?" said his pal, "let's open this thing and get out of here."

"Naw, it'll take only a minute longer this way and we'll drive them fingerprint experts nuts."

view regarding the settlement, the unit leaders are pleased with the interest being shown by their membership. Goal of all units in this division is 100 per cent participation in all the union's activities. A wonderful goal—and one which we hope the members will do their utmost to accomplish!

Send in the dope from YOUR unit or area—the members all over the system like to know what their brothers are doing!

Attend your meetings!

Cal. AFL Meet Stresses LLPE!

(Continued from Page One)
Trade Union Security.
Modification of the Taft-Hartley Law.

Increased Minimum Wage.
Civil Rights Legislation.
Adequate Housing provisions.
Improved Social Security Legislation.

The democratic manner in which this convention was conducted was both impressive and heart-warming. Prior to each daily session clergymen of many sects gave the invocation.

This democracy held true also with regard to speakers who are political office holders. Both Republicans and Democrats were invited to address the convention. And men of both parties were publicly thanked and commended for introducing and supporting legislation which is favorable to labor.

DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURE

Another example of the democratic procedure occurred during the voting on a recommendation of the Resolution Committee. A voice vote was taken first, and was declared inconclusive. Next, a standing vote was taken and the difference in vote was only ten—a very small margin for so large a convention! A roll-call vote was then

requested by the required number of delegates—and five full hours the next day were devoted to this roll-call vote!

This is the first convention I have ever attended and it certainly was an education to me. The complexities of a union certainly extend deeper than I had previously realized, but it all seems to start—and end—with us, the rank and file members. It is our duty to familiarize ourselves with our union, and its problems. The legal blocks and hurdles in the path of a union are many. And we can only overcome them by supporting the right men for public office through our LLPE—so they can do the right thing for us and our families.

HIP GONZALES

Valley Meet Hears Open Shop Plot

(Continued from Page One)

all members busy, due largely to the tremendous reconstruction required as a result of last year's earthquake. And San Luis Obispo local reported several of its members busy on the new PG&E steam plant being constructed at Morro Bay.

The conference was addressed by Assemblyman Wallace Henderson of Fresno, who predicted that labor WILL be faced with a compulsory open shop law in California unless union members organize more effectively for political action. Henderson, an officer of the Winery Workers Union, AFL, is one of the three out of the state's 80 assemblymen to have a perfect labor voting record during the last legislative session.

IBEW TOPS IN APPRENTICES

Mr. James Weldon, a Fresno vocational school teacher, spoke to the delegates on the present-day apprenticeship training programs and their relation to the laws establishing vocational training in our public schools, which date back to 1914. Mr. Weldon, an active trade unionist as well as a teacher, reported that the IBEW has led the field of all unions in over-all participation in workable apprentice training programs.

The conference was attended by Intl. Reps. Verne Bruillot and Charles P. "Chuck" Hughes, who reported on IBEW activities in all parts of the Ninth District.

Brother Hughes, in commenting on Assemblyman Henderson's remarks, urged all local unions to give immediate and sustained support to the fund drive now being carried on by the AFL Labor's League for Political Education.

Editor's Note: \$1 memberships in the annual LLPE drive are now available at your Unit meetings. Your business representative will collect your dollar—and issue your membership card.

Sacramento— SMUD and SCL Talks Continuing

"The Onlooker," a new feature which makes its first appearance in this issue, reports troubles on the negotiating front in many industries. It even happens in our own family!

The Key System strike has long delayed our own negotiations for the electric department personnel.

And, caught in the Sacramento Valley heat wave, our negotiating committees for the SMUD and the Sacramento City Lines units have been bogged down, too!

Brother Al Hansen, the hustling Bus. Rep. for the municipalities, reports that the committees for both of the aforementioned units have rejected offers submitted thus far by the companies. The entire membership of the units, however, is solidly behind their negotiating committees—and it is expected that some more realistic offers will be forthcoming in the near future.

At press time, the groups reported they were still hammering out the issues across the bargaining tables—but could not yet venture any guesses as to the terms of the eventual settlements.

'Round and About

Deer hunting time again in the Coast Valleys area! Bro. Wm. Marbacke, grievance man and chief steward in the King City area, bagged a 160-pound deer near Jolon recently. This may be a record weight for deer shot in that area!

From the same division, we have learned that the tiny daughter of Bro. Ike Ghizze passed away in August—a polio victim. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Bro. Ike, who is an apprentice fitter at Soledad, and Mrs. Ghizze.

Bro. Jackson, chairman of our Hinckley unit, was involved in a serious auto crash near San Jose last month. Mrs. Jackson was seriously injured, the car was a total wreck, but fortunately the two small children and Bro. Jackson escaped uninjured. We hope Mrs. Jackson will recover soon!

San Joaquin reports that Bro. George Myers, a senior serviceman at Fresno, passed away August 22. Bro. Myers had been an active member of the union for some time. Our deep sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Myers.

Our old friend "Hans" Elliot advises us that he has been deer hunting near San Luis Obispo recently, too. All hunting, and NO deer, reports "Hans." Too bad, old boy! "Hans" also wishes to be remembered to all the friends he made during the time he served our union as a Bus. Rep.

Reports from Stockton Division

indicate that our General Construction members are turning out for all the union meetings. A large group of the GC boys from Newman and Patterson came over to the Modesto unit meeting this month, and pepped things up a bit!

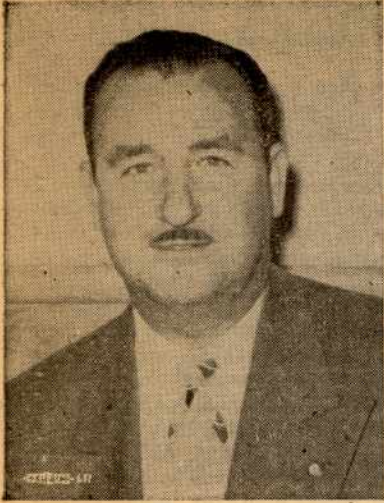
Humboldt reporters send the kind of word we like to hear! The members there are signing up new employees just as soon as they are hired—and the percentage of organization there is very high! Humboldt is a fine UNION division and the members there deserve—and get—all our praise for their excellent union spirit.

Early this month, Bro. J. P. Scoles, Redding lineman, fell from a pole when his hooks cut out. We all hope that Bro. Scoles, who is suffering from a possible skull fracture, will recover soon and rejoin his crew.

GC Rep. Lee Andrews tells us that Bro. John McStay, whose injuries were reported in our last issue, is still unable to return to work. He must be sent to an Eastern specialist for additional treatment in order to expedite his recovery. Meanwhile, Mrs. McStay and the two children are "waiting out" his return to Shasta County with impatience. Seems the stork is due again soon—and, naturally, the family wants John on hand!

North Bay Division members report there is great interest in the special meetings being held to vote on the results of our negotiations. While there are many points of

EVERYBODY'S DOING IT!
JOIN LLPE.



By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

YOUR Business Manager's REPORT

pervision, which were reported by union spokesmen. The company representatives flatly stated that when such incidents are brought to the attention of the top committee, they would take corrective action.

The word "safety" is tied in with the majority of the clauses of our agreement. Adequate rest assures mental and physical fitness, and therefore we have limited hours of work. Time for recreation, vacations, recovery from illness, and related matters are all tied in with SAFETY. Even the protections afforded through good wages, adequate pensions, and job security through seniority have a direct bearing on a worker's mental alertness. When insecurity, fears and anxiety plague a worker, his mind tends to stray from the high voltages and pressures which are ever-present in his often deadly surroundings.

The first requirement for improvement is a real interest in, and understanding of, the importance of working safely—as an individual, a member of a crew or shift, and as a good union member. The results of unsafe workmanship may cause loss of family income, temporary or permanent disability, or even death. A bit of sober reflection on the part of every worker should enhance a personal interest in avoiding the consequences of unsafe workmanship.

We cannot afford to let the

supervisor who winks at SAFETY, or the worker who is doing likewise, place you and your family in jeopardy. Carelessness and "speed-up" always increase industrial hazards and destroy the morale of the workers.

No employer can do an adequate job of SAFETY without the interest and cooperation of the employees. Our union has the responsibility of assisting in the protection of the lives, health and general welfare of all our members. We intend to initiate and to carry out programs which are designed to improve SAFETY conditions!

British Labor Urged By Milne to Press Advantage Over Russia

Douglas, Isle of Man—J. Scott Milne, AFL fraternal delegate to the 85th annual convention of the British Trades Union Congress, declared that Moscow "is at a disadvantage and we must not let the opportunity slip by." Milne is secretary-treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. William A. Lee, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, the other AFL fraternal delegate, reported prospects for AFL-CIO unity were good.

After reading this paper, pass it on to a non-member.

\$1,000 Death Benefit to Member's Son

ELECTRICAL WORKERS BENEFIT ASSOCIATION 1200 Fifteenth Street, N. W. Washington 5, D. C.		A 14157	15-25 317
Form No. 911		D.C. #26270, Niel Henriksen, I.O. (50)	
Check No. 43457	Date 8/20/53	PAY EXACTLY \$1000 AND 00 CTS	Amount \$ 1,000.00
To the Order of Earl A. Henriksen		E.W.B.A.—Voucher Account	
To American Security & Trust Company, Washington 5, D. C.			

Bro. Henriksen Is Mourned by Many

Reproduced here is the death benefit check paid by the International Office to the son of our late Brother Neil Henriksen, who passed away August 1st of this year.

Henriksen, a retired member for the past five years, had been a member of the Brotherhood for more than 40 years. A big, powerful man, he had attained wide recognition as an amateur wrestler among his fellow workers, and had frequently wrestled with another of our "old-timers," now retired, Bro. Chester McIntyre. Bro. Henriksen, a sea-going man in his youth, was also admired by his friends for his unusual ability to identify the country in which a ship had been originally built after taking a quick glance at vessels coming in to S.F. harbor.

Bro. Walter E. Horst, a retired member of Local 1245, had worked with Bro. Henriksen more than 40 years ago. Both men worked for the PG&E from 1907 to 1910 or so, on a line crew run by Jim Gallagher. Bro. Horst recalls one oc-

casation when Neil was burned while working on a 60,000-volt line coming in to the substation at E. 14th and 92nd Avenue in Oakland—and lived many years to tell about it! Both men had also worked for R.C.A. during the 1920's, building quad cable for the radio towers near Bolinas, which were used in early day transmission of trans-Pacific broadcasts.

Henriksen, who had belonged to IBEW Locals 283, 50 and 1245, respectively, had paid in a total of \$2500 in dues during his years of membership. Since his retirement, he had received more than \$3000 in pension checks from the IBEW Pension Benefit Trust Fund, and now his son has been paid an additional \$1000 death benefit, plus the final month's pension of \$50. If any member wishes statistical data to prove that his union membership "pays off"—in more ways than one—here it is!

Bro. Henriksen, who had lived a rich, full life as a skilled union craftsman and ardent sportsman, will be missed by his many friends

LOCAL 1245 UNIT MEETING SCHEDULE

October 1953 Meeting Schedules

Meetings are established for the members living or working in the various areas. General construction members are requested to participate in the meeting activities of the unit nearest their work.

San Joaquin Division

- FRESNO**
Knights of Pythias, 1312 "R" St.
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.
- SELMA**
L. F. T. Hall, 812 E. Front St.
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m.
- MERCED**
Grange Hall, Bear Creek Road
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 8 p.m.
- DINUBA**
American Legion Hall
Thursday, Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m.
- COALINGA**
Fire Station
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m.
- BAKERSFIELD**
Carpenters Hall, 911 - 20th St.
Thursday, Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m.
- LOS BANOS**
Fire Hall, 520 J St.
Thursday, Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m.
- WISHON**
Community Hall
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m.
- TAFT**
Power Club
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.
- DORCORAN**
Community Hall
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m.
- MADERA**
Italian-American Hall
Thursday, Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m.
- SANTA MARIA**
O. E. S. Hall
Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.
- PASO ROBLES**
Hot Springs Hotel
Monday, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m.
- SAN LUIS OBISPO**
Labor Temple
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m.
- WASCO**
American Legion Hall
Thursday, Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m.
- FRESNO CLERICAL**
Hotel Californian, Van Ness & Kern Sts.
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m.
- BAKERSFIELD CLERICAL**
Hotel Padre, Bakersfield
Thursday, Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m.
- SELMA-DINUBA CLERICAL**
Dixie Drive-In, Dinuba
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Coast Valleys Division

- SALINAS**
American Legion Hall, Municipal Airport
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 8 p.m.
- MONTEREY**
Carpenters Hall, 778 Hawthorne
Thursday, Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m.
- WATSONVILLE**
Roma Hotel, Main & First Sts.
Monday, Oct. 19, 8 p.m.
- KING CITY**
Grange Hall, Oak & 101 Hwy,
Greenfield
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Gas Supply and Control

- HINKLEY-BARSTOW**
Desert Inn (Linwood), Hwy 66
5 miles west of Barstow
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 8 p.m.
- KETTLEMAN**
Veterans Memorial Hall
Wednesday, Oct. 28, 8 p.m.
- HOLLISTER - SAN MARTIN**
Friendly Inn, San Martin
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 7 p.m.
- TOPOCK-NEEDLES (bi-monthly)**
V. F. W. Hall
Monday, Oct. 26.

San Jose Division

- SAN JOSE**
Labor Temple, Room 107,
45 N. Santa Teresa St.
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 8 p.m.
- BELMONT**
Community Hall, 5th Ave.
Monday, Oct. 12, 8 p.m.
- BELMONT CLERICAL**
Community Hall
Thursday, Oct. 15, 8 p.m.

East Bay Division

- HAYWARD**
Labor Temple, 529 Soto St.
Thursday, Oct. 22, 8 p.m.
- OAKLAND**
Porter Hall, 1918 Grove St.
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 8 p.m.
- RICHMOND**
257 - 5th St., Hall No. 1
Thursday, Oct. 8, 8 p.m.
- CONCORD**
Farm Bureau Hall, Farm Bureau & Walnut Ave.
Monday, Oct. 5, 8 p.m.

- MARTINEZ**
I. O. O. F. Hall, 829 Ferry St.
Monday, Oct. 12, 7:45 p.m.
- OAKLAND CLERICAL**
Union Office, 1918 Grove St.
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 5 p.m.
- HAYWARD CLERICAL**
Labor Temple, 529 Soto St.
Thursday, Oct. 29, 8 p.m.
- CENTRAL SUPPLY CLERICAL**
Union Office, 1918 Grove St.
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.

San Francisco Division

- SAN FRANCISCO**
Harmony Hall, 200 Guerrero St.
(cor. 14th) Bldg. Tr. Temple
Thursday, Oct. 1, 8 p.m.
- SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO**
Butchers Hall, 220 Cypress St.
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 8 p.m.
- SAN FRANCISCO CLERICAL**
Retail Clerks Hall, 149 Powell St.
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 5:30 p.m.

Stockton Division

- LODI**
Veterans Hall, 23 1/2 W. Pine St.
Thursday, Oct. 22, 8 p.m.
- OAKDALE**
V. F. W. Hall, 4th Street
Thursday, Oct. 8, 8 p.m.
- MODESTO**
Burbank - Paradise Hall, Vernon & Beverly
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 8 p.m.
- JACKSON**
Native Sons Hall, 20 Court St.
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m.
- STOCKTON**
Labor Temple, 805 E. Weber
Thursday, Oct. 15, 8 p.m.
- SONORA**
Patton Building
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 8 p.m.
- TRACY**
Bo's Cafe, 207 W. 11th St.
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 8 p.m.
- STOCKTON CLERICAL**
Clark Hotel
Wednesday, Oct. 28, 8 p.m.

Humboldt Division

- GARBERVILLE (bi-monthly)**
Diesel Plant
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m.
- EUREKA**
Labor Temple, 9th & "E" Sts.
Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.
- EUREKA CLERICAL**
Labor Temple, 9th & "E" Sts.
Thursday, Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m.

Shasta Division

- RED BLUFF**
Veterans' Memorial Hall
Monday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.
- REDDING**
A. F. of L. Hall, Shasta and California Streets
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.
- FALL RIVER MILLS**
Recreation Hall, Pit No. 1
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m.

De Saba Division

- PARADISE**
Eagles' Hall
Thursday, Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m.
- WILLOWS**
Fire Hall
Friday, Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m.
- LAKE ALMANOR**
Bull Room
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 8 p.m.
- CARIBOU**
Club House
Thursday, Oct. 20, 8:30 p.m.
- CHICO**
Teamsters Hall, 412 Wall St.
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m.
- LAS PLUMAS**
Club House
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 8 p.m.
- STORRIE**
Club House
Tuesday, Oct. 26, 8:30 p.m.

Drum Division

- ALTA**
Fire House
Friday, Oct. 23, 8 p.m.
- GRASS VALLEY**
Labor Temple, 110 1/2 E. Main St.
Thursday, Oct. 15, 8 p.m.
- AUBURN**
Eagles' Hall
Friday, Oct. 16, 8 p.m.

Sierra Pacific Power

- RENO**
AFL Labor Temple
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m.

Colgate Division

- OROVILLE**
Carpenters' Hall, Mitchell Ave., East of Myers
Thursday, Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m.
- COLUSA**
Hotel Espanol, Market Street
Thursday, Oct. 1, 8 p.m.
- MARYSVILLE**
V.F.W. Hall, 9th and "E" Sts.
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 8 p.m.

- MARYSVILLE CLERICAL**
V.F.W. Hall, 9th and "E" Sts.
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 5 p.m.

North Bay Division

- NAPA**
Labor Temple, 1606 Main St.
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.
- VALLEJO**
Labor Temple, 316 Virginia St.
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 8 p.m.
- SAN RAFAEL**
Painters' Hall
Thursday, Oct. 8, 8 p.m.
- FORT BRAGG**
Eagles' Hall
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 8 p.m.
- PETALUMA**
Labor Temple, 225 Western Ave.
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 8 p.m.
- UKIAH**
I.O.O.F. Hall, State & Standley
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 8 p.m.
- SANTA ROSA**
Labor Temple, 636 Third St.
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 8 p.m.

Sacramento Division

- SACRAMENTO**
A. F. of L. Labor Center,
Stockton Blvd. & 2nd Ave.
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 8 p.m.
- DAVIS**
I.O.O.F. Hall, "G" Street
Friday, Oct. 9, 7:30 p.m.
- PLACERVILLE**
I.O.O.F. Hall
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.
- WOODLAND**
I.O.O.F. Hall
Thursday, Sept. 10, 8 p.m.
- VACAVILLE**
Youth Center, Merchant St.
Thursday, Oct. 8, 8 p.m.

Other Units

- OUTSIDE LINE CONSTRUCTION**
1918 Grove Street, Oakland
Friday, Oct. 2, 8 p.m.
- SACTO MUNIC. UTILITY DIST.**
C.E.L.&T. Assn. Hall, 2nd Ave. & Stockton Blvd., Sacramento
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 8 p.m.
- SACTO CITY LINES**
C.E.L.&T. Assn. Hall, 2nd Ave. & Stockton Blvd., Sacramento
Monday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.
- CITY OF LODI**
Veterans Hall, Lodi,
Thursday, Oct. 15, 8 p.m.
- OAKLAND, BERKELEY, ALAMEDA, KEY SYSTEM**
1918 Grove St., Oakland
Meet with Oakland Unit
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 8 p.m.
- MT. VIEW G. C.**
190 Sterling Rd., Mt. View
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 8 p.m.