



Tri-State Utility Unions Set Wage Goals

IBEW, UWUA, ICWU To Integrate Programs

In an action which may have far-reaching consequences in labor-management relations of the utility industry, delegates from all utility local unions in Arizona, California and Nevada formed the nucleus of a Tri-state Utility Conference at a day-long meeting held on August 28. Primary purpose of the Conference is to encourage leadership for union programs which will materially improve the economic and social position of workers in the electric, gas, water and telephone utilities.

Pointing to the close liaison existing between various utility companies, through membership in the Edison Electric Institute, the chambers of commerce, the Merchants and Manufacturers Association, and other trade groups, the delegates heartily approved formation of a Union Conference which will bring greater harmony and closer working relationships to all unions representing utility workers. All major utility unions of the IBEW, the Utility Workers Union of America—CIO and the Chemical Workers, AFL were represented at the conference. In addition, UWUA-CIO National Representative Edward T. Shedlock and IBEW International Representatives George A. Mulkey and C. P. Hughes were in attendance.

First step of the fledgling Conference was drafting and unanimous adoption of a resolution which sets forth a declaration of principles for a Utility Conference. The resolution contained the following major goals:

1. To create and give effect to a program whereby the member organizations shall extend to each other moral and material aid when the need arises.
2. To secure united and harmonious action in all matters directly affecting the interests of our union members.
3. To study ways and means of establishing a unified program for the advancement of our welfare and economic conditions.
4. To establish a central point for collection and dissemination of pertinent and statistical data.
5. To further the enactment of laws, consistent with our American form of government, which will aid labor to secure for itself the just rewards of its labor.
6. To work for the advancement of our membership and promote cooperation with all the officers and members of our separate organizations in order to establish and maintain the highest possible wage rates, together with the reduction of the hours which shall constitute a day's work.

It was pointed out that the Conference was in no way intended to supersede the local autonomy of any local union, or infringe upon the rights of members of a local union to pass final judgement on any matter affecting their welfare. While it is expected that minimum specifications of a common program will be adopted from time to time, these will serve as guide posts for affiliated unions in their relationship with employers.

Other matters acted on by the delegates included a decision to hold regular quarterly meetings; the introduction of questionnaires to determine wage rates and major fringe benefits currently in effect in all union contracts; and

(Continued on Page Three)

CALIF. IBEW AND AFL IN BUSY SESSION AT S. DIEGO

The annual conventions of the California Association of Electrical Workers and the California State Federation of Labor proved to be busy and interesting affairs for delegates from Local 1245. The State IBEW met at the Manor Hotel on Aug. 13 and 14, while the State AFL delegates filled San Diego's magnificent Convention Auditorium from Aug. 15 through 19. The delegation from Local 1245 included Recording Secretary Grace M. Baker, Vice President Frank Dillon, Executive Board members Howard H. Hill and Marvin Wagner, Asst. Bus. Mgr. L. L. Mitchell and Research Director George L. Rice. Bus. Mgr. Ron T. Weakley was delegated by the Northern California Executive Conference of the IBEW, which he currently serves as president.

The State IBEW, in addition to hearing from numerous outstanding speakers, devoted much of the weekend to discussion of legislation concerning safe working conditions, apprenticeship training programs, public works projects to provide additional employment for our brothers in the construction industry, and a host of related matters. Of great significance was the adoption of a resolution calling for the dissolution of the exist-



East Bay Division Bus. Rep. Paul "Cy" Yochem is pictured handing over a check for \$1,000 to Mrs. Jennie E. Perkins, 1078 Adason Drive, San Leandro, California.

The check represents the death benefit payment granted to Mrs. Perkins upon the death of her husband, our late Brother L. C. Perkins, who had worked in the electrical field for 39 years prior to his retirement in 1943.

Brother Perkins represents a typical case of the advantages of "A" membership. He drew his IBEW retirement benefits for 13 years following his retirement, and prior to his death. Then, his widow also receives the death benefit. Total benefits paid amount to more than \$8,500. Brother Perkins' total union dues payments for the 39 years of his working life amounted to less than \$2,500. That investment paid off handsomely!

Mrs. Perkins, who has two grown children living in the East Bay, continues to reside in the family home in San Leandro. She enjoys reading the Electrical Workers JOURNAL each month, and is especially fond of the "Women's Pages."

Bro. Perkins' last employment was with the electric department of Key System Transit Lines.



A group of delegates to the August 28th Tri-State Utility Conference discuss the "Sacramento Story," official state legislative voting record issued by the State Federation of Labor, with Assemblyman WALLACE D. HENDERSON (D) (center). On Mr. Henderson's right are RALPH LEIGON, Bus. Mgr., Las Vegas Local 357, IBEW, and RON WEAKLEY of Local 1245. On his left are (outside) GEORGE A. MULKEY, IBEW International Rep., and EDWARD T. SHEDLOCK, UWUA-CIO National Representative. All agreed that Assemblyman Henderson's labor voting record is tops!

Unit Chairmen to Meet at UC Oct. 1

As we go to press plans are being finalized for a CONFERENCE FOR IBEW UNIT CHAIRMAN, to be conducted by the local union in conjunction with the Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California, Berkeley.

The Conference will open on Saturday, October 1 with a welcome from Mrs. Margaret Gordon, Acting Director, Institute of Industrial Relations, and the introduction of union officers and guests by Geo. L. Rice, Conference Coordinator and Director of the Union's Research and Education program.

Luncheon will be served on campus to all in attendance, and a full afternoon will be devoted to problems relating to effective unit meetings. Fred S. Stripp, Associate in Speech, U.C., Berkeley, will lead a discussion on "Parliamentary Procedures and Effective Public Speaking." Conference Coordinator Rice will report on "The Unit Chairman and Union Leadership." After a brief afternoon recess, the gathering will divide into four groups to explore the techniques of the unit and unit executive committee meetings. Each group will have

as co-chairmen a Union Business Representative and a university Graduate Research Assistant.

Following dinner at Spenger's Fish Grotto in Berkeley, the gathering will hear a major address by Cyril P. Atkinson, Assistant Professor of Engineering Design, U.C., who will speak on "Organized Labor and the New Technology."

Following reports on the workshop sessions by Mr. Stripp, a session on "Effective Union Communication" will occupy the group for the evening. Discussion leaders will include Jeffery Cohelan, Oakland Milk Wagon Drivers Union Secretary and Member, Community Advisory Committee, U.C., and Geo. L. Rice.

The Sunday sessions will be held at Union headquarters, starting at 9:00 a.m. (Church arrangements will be made for members desiring to attend early services. Bus. Mgr. Ron T. Weakley, Asst. Bus. Mgrs. Walters and Mitchell, and Bus. Rep. Elmer Bushby will all participate in sessions built around specific problems confronting our local union.

(Continued on Page Two)

IN THIS ISSUE

Unionist's Wife	Page 2
IBEW on LLPE	" 2
Nevada AFL	" 2
'Round & About	" 3
9th District Meet	" 3
Shasta Party	" 3
B.M. Report	" 4
Municipalities	" 4
E.B. Picnic	" 4
Mail Bag	" 4

Special to All Linemen And Groundmen

The union office is receiving numerous calls from IBEW local unions with Line Construction jurisdiction who need men on various jobs. Since Local 1245 no longer has jurisdiction over Outside Line Construction work, we now assist our members by referring them to any local union which has need of their skills.

A manpower shortage is developing in the Outside Line Construction field at this time. Anyone who is interested in, or available for this type of work is invited to contact the Local 1245 union office.

Fraternally yours,
R. T. Weakley, Bus. Mgr.



Victors in the tug-of-war contest for kids at the East Bay Union Organizational Picnic are flexing their muscles as Bro. GEO. HANFORD looks on approvingly. The losing team must have scurried off for the cold soda pop while the winners strutted their stuff! More than 100 children of E. B. Division union members participated in games at the Castle Rock park barbecue on Sept. 17th. (See story, page four).

(Continued on Page Four)

**The
UTILITY
REPORTER**

Editor
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Associate Editor
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Editorial Board: Frank D. Gilleran, President; George Wagner, Grace M. Baker, Herbert C. Macy, Frank Dillon, Howard H. Hill, Marvin Wagner, Ray D. Reynolds.

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The Unionist's Wife

A news story from Chicago, Ill. concerning the activities of Esther Quigley, wife of a striking UAW-CIO member, impels us to address these words to our members—and their wives.

Mrs. Quigley, it seems, locked her husband out of their home in protest of his activity as a union member on strike. She then announced to the press that she considered her husband partially to blame for more than 400 men being out on strike. "If those men aren't back to work on Monday," she declared, "he'll stay out for good!" By this she meant she would divorce him.

Mrs. Quigley's actions run counter to the activities of most union members' wives of our acquaintance. In issuing her ultimatum, she has cast aside any consideration of the issues which caused the strike. In a blindly prejudicial manner she has said, "Go back or else!" One wonders just where her own self-interest may lie!

The wife of a union member is the cornerstone of successful trade union activity. Not only does she provide the moral support needed by her husband but she must face the real challenge in the event that pay check ceases to come in regularly. In more than 85 percent of American families, it is the wife who handles the family income—and disbursements. It is the wife who buys the groceries, the shoes and the clothing; who pays the rent, the insurance premiums and the installment payments. Most husbands only worry about money in a superficial way; it is the wife who faces the daily battle of the family budget.

Every married trade union member and leader in our experience who consistently does a top-notch job has more than just passive support from his wife. He has her active aid and encouragement at all times, and, in many cases, it is the wife who actually plans her union member husband's personal strategy.

But this family cooperation doesn't just happen. It comes about because of a joint realization that "in union there is strength." This applies equally to the unity of a family or the unity of trade union members.

"Give us the tools," Winston Churchill once said "and we will do the job!" He spoke, of course, of winning the great war. The daily struggles of an active union member or a union leader have little of the dramatic quality present in world conflict. Yet these struggles must be won too, if we are to gain constant improvements in our living standards. Americans have learned through bitter experiences that management alone cannot be trusted to safeguard the welfare of the working men and women. Those safeguards—the maintenance of some kind of balance of economic and political power—can only be achieved by the working people themselves. Thus, in a nutshell, we see the need for continuation of our trade unions.

We hope the wives of our members read the union paper which is delivered to their home each month. We hope they read books and pamphlets which deal with the current labor-management problems. For only by seeking information can they hope to raise their own level of understanding. Call it an educational process; call it what you will. The fact remains that the good unionist has a good wife—a wife who is equally concerned with her own enlightened self interest and with constant improvements in what we call the American system of private enterprise.

We have a sense of pity for Mrs. Quigley. Somewhere along the line her own family unity has broken down—and her hostilities are expressed by the issuance of ultimatums and the injection of herself into a labor management dispute in a manner which is not calculated to help her husband.

Our real sympathy, however, is reserved for the wives of the other 400 UAW members who were on strike against their employer. They are the unsung heroines in this case. Their moral support and their willingness to stretch their savings in the absence of pay checks enabled their husbands to continue the strike and to win their just demands.

We have had no strike problems in our union—and we hope we never have them. But the absence of strikes does not diminish the need for union wives who share their husband's hopes and aspirations, who enlighten themselves on the issues of the day, and who stand ever ready to encourage their men, through thick and thin.

IBEW Leads LLPE Drive

In March, we circularized all our local unions relative to the 1955 national drive for voluntary contributions being made by Labor's League for Political Education.

Many local unions have made complete returns, some have made partial returns—but many have made no returns whatsoever.

We are, therefore, making a second appeal to all local unions to step up their activities so far as collections for LLPE are concerned.

Our Brotherhood has, as we told you, been the No. 1 international union in contributions to LLPE since the first drive was launched. Last year, our contributions again topped all others, but in spite of that fact, our contributions represented less than 8½ cents apiece from each member of our union.

Congress has adjourned its sessions and members thereof who will depend on us for support are now seeking assistance in optioning radio and television time for next year as well as to carry on some campaigning during the months until Congress reconvenes. A number of our very staunch supporters who live south of the Mason-Dixon Line depend on the primaries for election. These will be held in the early months of 1956. It is, therefore, imperative that we raise what we can as quickly as possible so that Labor's League can make proper distribution.

We urge you to do your best in aiding us to get 100 per cent participation for the years 1955-56.

Make your returns as quickly as possible.

Fraternally yours,
/s/ GORDON M. FREEMAN
International President
/s/ JOSEPH D. KEENAN
International Secretary

Teachers Help Labor

(By Wm. Becker, AFL Committee to Combat Intolerance)

AFL workers everywhere—and all Americans, in fact—owe a deep debt of gratitude to the California Unit of the American Federation of Teachers for its sponsorship of Assembly Bill 970 establishing a public policy forbidding school boards of the state to discriminate in the hiring of teachers on the basis of race, creed, color or national origin.

The bill, recently signed by Governor Knight, implements the policy of merit employment long established by the top leadership of the American Federation of Labor and supports the traditional AFL stand against discrimination because of race or religion.

The measure, strongly supported by the California State AFL, is a powerful step in the right direction and should do much toward eventual success in the long and tedious fight to outlaw employment discrimination against any and all workers in all fields of endeavor.

Discrimination in American industry, wherever it exists, is harmful and costly in many ways. Besides its economic cost, it gives our enemies, the Communists, powerful ammunition in furthering their mythical claims that democracy has failed.

We salute the California Unit of the American Federation of Teachers. Its members have taught us the value of courageous, tireless campaigning for a cause that is just and right.

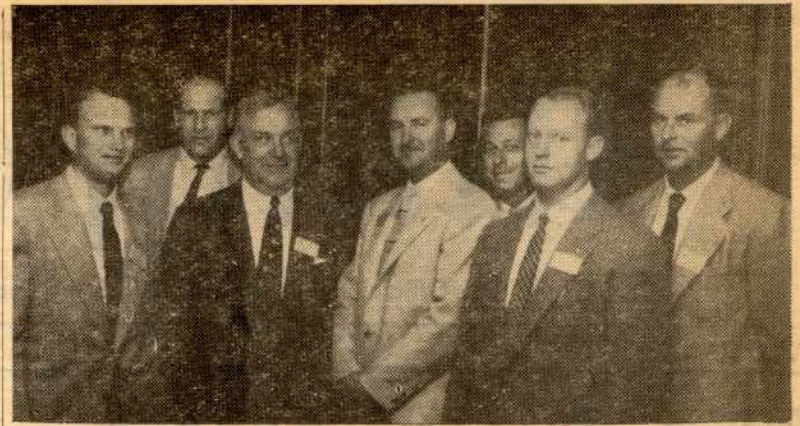
Unit Chairmen

(Continued from Page One)

The Conference will be concluded with a Sunday luncheon at Peluso's Restaurant in Oakland, when University Certificates will be presented to all who attend by John Hutchinson, Coordinator of Labor Programs for the University.

Arrangements are being made to transport all Unit Chairmen and Policy Committeemen to Oakland by the Business Representatives in each area of Northern California and Nevada.

Present indications point to a conference of about 125 members, representative of every department and area of Local 1245.



Secretary Keenan Greets Local 1245 Staff

International Secretary JOSEPH D. KEENAN of the Brotherhood paused for a picture with some of the members of the Local 1245 staff at the recent 9th District Progress Meet. (l. to r.) MERT WALTERS, PAUL YOCHEM, Secretary KEENAN, RON WEAKLEY, ALFRED KAZNOWSKI, JOHN M. LAPPIN, Jr., and GERALD W. MORAN.

Las Vegas

Nevada AFL Meet Blasts Vicious 'Right-to-Work' Law

By THOMAS LEWIS
Delegate, Local 1245

The 13th convention of the Nevada Federation of Labor opened on Friday, Aug. 19, with a welcome address by Bro. Ralph Leigon, Bus. Mgr. of IBEW Local 357. The Mayor of Las Vegas, the host city, cited the contributions of organized labor to the growth of the city, and the continued responsibility to help maintain its prosperity.

State AFL President James "Sailor" Ryan then took over the session and introduced Governor Charles Russell. Gov. Russell cited the 36 per cent growth in population of the state during the past ten years, and commented on the increased need for schools and economic development of Nevada.

U.S. Senator Alan Bible, Democrat of Nevada, then spoke to the convention. Sen. Bible stressed the unity of the two major parties in the field of foreign affairs; the gradual increase in the Federal Minimum Wage Law from 25 cents to \$1.00 per hour; the increase in armed forces manpower from 700,000 to 3,000,000; the 7½ per cent increase in wages for federal employees, and numerous other matters which had concerned the recent session of Congress. Senator Bible stressed the benefits to come from merger of the AFL trade union movement for bringing this to pass. He was given a standing ovation.

Other speakers included Atty. Gen. Harvey Dickerson of Nevada; Reno City Judge Harry D. Anderson; State Labor Commissioner Everton; Glenn Roberts of the U.S. Department of Labor, speaking for Secretary James P. Mitchell; John Rooney, Int. President of the Plasterers and Cement Finishers Union; John Cory, Director, Nevada State Industrial Commission; Leonard Weston, State Accident Prevention Director; and Phillis Beattie, Information Chief, Western Region, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The convention, which extended through Sunday, Aug. 21, also heard numerous labor speakers. Chief among these was Daniel J. Flanagan, Western Regional Director, AF of L, who extended the greeting of AFL President George Meany. Bro. Flanagan recited the history of the AFL-CIO disputes and the long struggle to achieve labor unity which will be culminated this December. Quoting President Meany, Bro. Flanagan said, "We must use the power of the merger for better and more schools, better homes, highways, elimination of slums and underpaid workers, and to prove to the world that democracy works in America."

William McSorley, Assistant Director, National LLPE, then reported to the convention on the drive for voluntary labor contributions for the 1956 political campaigns. McSorley stressed the need to elect candidates who will sponsor legislation favorable to working men and women and to help to repeal Section 14B of the T-H Act. Bro. McSorley also went into detail on the subject of the ex-

travagances and "give away" programs of the Eisenhower administration.

Among actions taken by the convention were the following:

- 1—Resolution approved, calling on the American Legion to withdraw its National Convention from Miami Beach, Fla., until the hotel workers strike is settled;
- 2—Approval given to a vote of appreciation from the Convention to State AFL Secretary Louis Paley for his excellent work in behalf of organized labor;
- 3—Resolution adopted, urging that artificial coloring be removed from foods when there is any chance it will endanger health;
- 4—Resolution adopted, calling upon the Federation to distribute the official convention results within 60 days;
- 5—Resolution adopted, establishing a permanent contribution to the Heart Fund as a memorial to the late Bro. Angus Cauble;
- 6—Motion approved, requiring delegates to future state conventions to pay a registration fee of \$7.50, plus a like amount for each registered guest;
- 7—Resolution adopted, calling for legislation to permit disabled workers to retire before age 65 and to receive their pension based on earnings during their most productive years;
- 8—Resolution adopted, calling for legislation to lower retirement age from 65 to 60 for men, and to 55 for widows and wives of retired men;
- 9—Resolution approved, urging the AFL to sponsor legislation to provide free medical care for all persons retired and living on their social security pensions;
- 10—Resolution approved, to continue the five cent per member LLPE contribution to raise funds to fight the Nevada "right to work" law, despite Resolutions committee recommendation that the resolution be filed.

Numerous other matters, pertaining to health and safety, sanitary conditions, political action and other labor matters were acted on by the convention.

The election of officers resulted in the following new officer being elected for 1955-56: President, James Ryan (who is also the delegate to the AFL-CIO Merger Convention); Secretary - Treasurer, Louis Paley; Vice President, District No. 1, Bro. McGill; V.P., District No. 2, Louise Hunter; and V.P., District No. 3, Al Bramblett.

I consider this convention excellent, constructive and well planned. It was an honor and privilege to represent Local 1245 as a delegate.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Lewis.



'Round and About

Political note of the month: Brother HENRY TORRES, a Meterman for PG&E in Sacramento, has filed for a seat on the Sacramento City Council. Bro. Torres was the third citizen to declare his candidacy for one of nine seats to be filled at the November 8th election. Union members in the Sacramento area are urged to help Bro. Torres win his political spurs.

General Construction Policy Committeeman EVERETT BASINGER advises us that the G.C. members have noted with much interest the composition of the Pipe Line Operations Unit in San Jose. Seems that three G.C. brothers, namely Thomas Moore, M. H. Popovac and B. H. Trigg, serve on the 5-man Executive Committee for the unit. Good to see our General Construction brothers taking an active part in the affairs of their Unit.

BRO. M. G. FITZGERALD PASSES
We note with sorrow the death of one of our real "old timers," Brother Michael G. Fitzgerald, of Redding. Requiem Mass was offered in St. Joseph's Church on August 6th by Father John O'Connor.

Bro. Fitzgerald, 81 years YOUNG, had many rich and rewarding experiences during his lifetime of service to the Utility industry. He personally connected the last wires which completed the transworld telegraph system, and supervised the crew which strung the first through telegraph line from New York to Los Angeles. He also designed and built what is now known as the PG&E Creosoting

Plant in Redding, and supervised the plant's operation until 1935.

Our deep and sincere sympathy is extended to the widow, Mrs. Lucy T. Fitzgerald, and other members of the family.

FLORIDA STRIKE VOTE

Management resistance to legitimate union negotiating demands seems to be catching in Florida. The Hotel Workers' strike in Miami Beach has been carried on for many months and now comes word that our IBEW brothers and sisters employed by Florida Power and Light Co. have taken a strike vote to enforce their demands for a new union agreement. The final management offer has been voted down by a tally of 1,605 to 1.

In the event the unions are forced to strike to bring the power company management to terms, 3 out of every 4 users of electricity in Florida will be affected.

Additional reports of this matter will be carried in the paper as the details become known.

RICH FOAM

Just can't pass this one up for a wind-up to the column. Herr Oskar Farny, minister of federal affairs in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg in Germany, has found a new way to determine national prosperity—and brewery workers will be inclined to agree with him.

He told the fifth annual European brewery convention at Baden Baden that beer is a good political barometer. In time of good beer the world is peaceful and ready for compromise, he said. (PAI).

San Francisco 9TH DISTRICT TELLS GAINS

Nearly 200 delegates to the Ninth District Annual Progress Meeting of the IBEW heard International Secretary Joseph D. Keenan deliver a resounding speech on the necessity for labor's political action, late last month at Hotel Sir Francis Drake. Secretary Keenan, who flew out from Washington, D.C., especially for the affair, expounded on the theme that the Taft-Hartley Act is a "time bomb" which hangs over labor's head, and that more representatives in Congress, friendly to the labor viewpoint, must be elected in 1956 if we are to avoid more anti-labor legislation.

The sessions, chaired by Intl. V.P. Oscar Harbak, included a gathering of utility union representatives on Thursday, August 25, and general sessions for Ninth District union delegates on Friday and Saturday. The district includes Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California and Nevada.

The Progress Meet, an informational affair held annually to give local union representatives an opportunity to compare notes and to study International Union program, was attended by Bus. Mgr. Ron T. Weakley and Recording Secretary Grace M. Baker, official delegates from Local 1245. Visitors from Local 1245 included Bus. Reps. John M. Lappin, Lee R. Andrews, Roy D. Murray, Al Kaznowski, Fred M. K. Lucas, Elmer Bushby, Gene Hastings, Gerald Moran, W. Scott Wadsworth, Paul "Cy" Yochem, Asst. Bus. Mgrs. L. L. Mitchell and Mert A. Walters, and Research Director Geo. L. Rice.

Vice President Harbak issued to all official union delegates copies of the valuable booklet setting forth the jurisdiction and wage rates of local unions, contract termination dates, the roster of all utilities in the Ninth District, and much additional useful information about our IBEW in the Far West.

Tri-State Utility Parley Maps Goals

(Continued from Page One)
the adoption of a minimum program for forthcoming negotiations with utility employers.

Following lengthy discussion of possible minimum programs for negotiations, it was unanimously agreed that each utility local union would seek minimum increases of 25 cents per hour in their forthcoming negotiations.

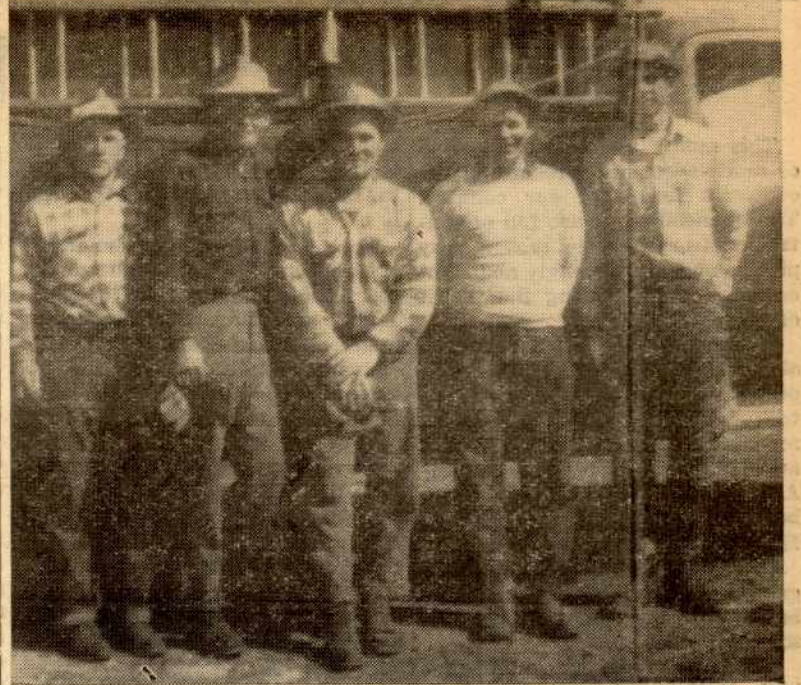
It was agreed that, due to widespread disparities in the employer costs for fringe benefits thus far negotiated with different utility companies, the minimum figure of 25 cents per hour would not be limited specifically to wage increases.

In the discussions around the wage increase question, several delegates pointed out factors which directly affect the "real value" of wages to utility workers. These included: the patterns being established by national wage settlements in basic industries, the tremendous increases in productivity in the utility industry, the rising costs of living, and the obvious ability of utility companies to pay substantial wage increases.

General discussion also centered on the issues of union security clauses, contract termination dates, long-term contracts, and bargaining which produces gains scheduled to become effective in the year following conclusion of the negotiations.

It was agreed that the question of productivity is so involved, since the impact of mechanization, automation and reduced hours of employment must be considered, that a special Conference should be given over to detailed investigation and discussion of this topic. Accordingly, the delegates approved the calling of a Conference on October 16, to be held in Los Angeles.

At the luncheon recess, delegates and their wives were pleased to hear an excellent report from Assemblyman Wallace D. Henderson (D), Fresno, on the need for effective leadership in every segment of our society. Mr. Henderson, Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Industrial Relations, is a history and government teacher at Fresno Junior College.



Pictured here are some NORTH BAY Division men who have brought organization of the union on their crews to the 100 per cent mark. (l. to r.), ARMAS POLLARI, H. A. STENSGAARD, DICK LEMOS, CLIFF CHAPMAN and ALLEN HODGE. All are members of Fort Bragg Unit No. 3717.

Humboldt Physical Unit 100% Union

Bus. Rep. Fred M. K. Lucas proudly reported to the recent joint Policy Committee and Executive Board meeting on the attainment of 100 per cent union organization in the physical units of Humboldt Division.

A Division meeting, held on July 22nd in Eureka, gave members the opportunity to celebrate this victory. The affair was also attended by Asst. Bus. Mgr. L. L. Mitchell, Policy Committeeman Ed James of North Bay Division, Clerical Policy Committeeman James Cochrane, and Humboldt Policy Committeeman Cliff McMahon.

Division members pointed out, with justifiable pride, that the goal of 100 per cent unionization has been reached because of the membership participation in a never-ending organizing campaign. Several speakers also urged that members in other divisions on the PG&E properties take a leaf from the Humboldt book—and increase their organizing activities.

Following the business portion of the meeting, the 100 members

and guests in attendance adjourned to the Labor Temple Recreation room to mop up on the dutch lunch and assorted beverages. Special thanks were extended to Refreshment Committee Chairman Pete Albonico and members H. B. Lucas, R. L. Williamson, George Tulley, Lewis Anderson and Carl Coffey for the quality—and quantity—of the refreshments they provided.

The Editorial Board of UTILITY REPORTER extends hearty congratulations to the membership of the Humboldt Division for their outstanding achievement. And, we hope the standard these good sisters and brothers have set will be noted and duplicated by every other unit of our local union!

IBEW Auxiliary Elects Officers

By ISABEL McMILLIN
Publicity Chairman

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the California IBEW, meeting in conjunction with the State Association at San Diego, Aug. 13, adopted a constitution and elected their state officers for the coming year.

The newly elected officers are: President, Gertrude Alcaez, Auxiliary to Local 569; Northern California District Vice President (to be elected at a regional meeting); Southern California District Vice President, Lonnie McCall, Auxiliary to Local 11; Secretary, Marie Flynn, Auxiliary to Local 11; Treasurer, Meanette McCann, Auxiliary to Local 569; Trustee for Northern California, Geneva Maabs, Auxiliary to Local 340; Trustee for Southern California, Norma Middlebrook, Auxiliary to Local 441; Trustee for Central California to be selected at a regional meeting.

The new officers were installed by Ivan Beavan, President of the California State Assn. of Electrical Workers, who complimented the ladies on the good work of their organization.

Following installation, President Alcaez named the following standing committees: Legislation, Mabel Small, Aux. to Local 569; Union Label, Grace Gatch, Aux. to Local 11; Education and Program, Pauline Hughes, Aux. to Local 465; and Publicity, Isabel McMillin, Aux. to Local 465.

Mrs. Zella Crown, Vice Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee, 30th Congressional District, and California Chairman for the Democratic Digest drive, then was called upon to introduce Mrs. Elizabeth Snyder, Chairman of the California Democratic Central Committee. Mrs. Snyder addressed the group on Labor's interest in regard to automation, school problems and state legislation.

Following the meeting, the Auxiliaries to Locals 465 and 569 were hostesses at a tea in Local 569's new building at Five Points in San Diego.

Red Bluff

SHASTA SUMMER PARTY

By ROY D. MURRAY

The annual Summer Barbecue and party meeting of the Red Bluff Unit of Shasta Division was held at the home of Clerical member Edith Shook on Friday evening September 16, 1955.

Physical and Clerical members, together with their husbands and wives, gathered for an evening of fun and Union discussions. Despite the thunder storm and showers, the party was pronounced a complete success by all those who attended. Barbecue arrangements were moved into the house, and the highlight of the evening was the "outdoor" type dinner served "indoors" by Clerical members of the Red Bluff office group.

Business Manager Ronald Weakley journeyed to Red Bluff to attend the meeting, as has been his custom since this affair was made

a regular yearly event. Accompanying him were Assistant Business Manager L. L. Mitchell and International Staff Representative Della McIntyre. Unit Chairman Alden Hart welcomed the group in behalf of their many friends and acquaintances in the Red Bluff Unit.

Line and trouble crews called out earlier in the evening were late in arriving, but managed to get in on the affair before the evening was over.

Policy Committeeman Gerald Watson reported an awakening of interest in Union affairs throughout the entire Shasta Division. Jarrell and Eugene Moller were enthusiastic in their discussions on Union Activity in the area.

Expressions of appreciation were offered by all present to their hosts for the evening, Edith and Virgil Shook.

'Brain' Will Run Ohio Edison Units

(Reprinted courtesy of "Electrical World.")

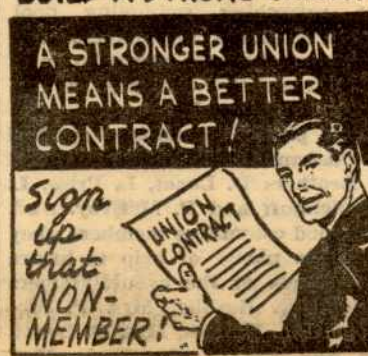
A new electronic brain scheduled for installation in 1956 will automatically control 35 of Ohio Edison Company's steam generating units. All inter-connected but scattered over 9,000 square miles, the combined output of the controlled units total more than 1.6 million kilowatts. The Utility announced (in August, 1955) that it had ordered the brain, otherwise known as a Goodyear electronic differential analyzer or GEDA, from Goodyear Aircraft Corporation. The order is believed to be the first ever placed for the integrated automatic control of a power system. The analyzer will be installed at Utilities Dispatching Center at Massillon, Ohio.

Working for Ohio Edison the special purpose GEDA will make calculations and instantly manipulate the throttles of the 35 generators, some 150 miles away from the control center. Engineers explain that the machine will replace human brains and fingers presently used in calculating which generators can most economically produce a given output. Remote operation of the unit will be managed through electronic impulses sent out by the brain over carrier telephone circuits. The exact amount of output deemed best by GEDA's calculations then will be

produced by the controlled units. Selecting the most efficient and economical load for a generator depends on many diverse elements. At present Ohio Edison's generators are controlled automatically, but many man hours of employee work are involved. At the central station, meters and other devices tell the operators how much power is needed and where and how much is being generated. Precalculated charts then are used as guides in manually setting the controls. GEDA will dispense with the charts and the manual controls.

The control box for the Utility system will be housed in a rectangular box about the size of two household doors and about two feet deep. A series of drawers—one for each power plant—covers the front of the analyzer. Inside each of these drawers, small plastic slabs about two and one half inches square, covered with tiny electrical resistors connected by a maze of wires, represent each generating unit. Arrangement of the wiring and resistors establish the individual characteristics of each unit. On the face of each drawer are dials which can be set to give the machine more data. In a split second GEDA digests the information, selects the most desirable output for each unit, and sends out its impulses to operate the entire system.

BUILD A STRONG UNION!



YOUR Business Manager's REPORT

By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

This month finds us in a period of much speculation regarding the economic future of our country. The financial pages are full of contradictions. One side sees a rosy picture of an increasingly abundant economy while lauding the "spirit of free enterprise."

Another viewpoint expresses alarm at the tremendous diversion of wealth to giant corporate control. Mergers, increases in prices for basic commodities, and the general philosophy of a "pro-business" Administration all come in for a lambasting by those who see the future as not being so rosy.

One general opinion, however, is growing in size and has adherents in the opposing camps. That is the threat of inflation.

Consumer credit is at an all-time high. Delinquency and default on outstanding consumer credit payments is growing rapidly. Some increase in government interest requirements as well as some commercial banking credit tightening has been instituted as a sort of "stopper." However, the trend is continuing and is definite.

Even the most optimistic economists and banking houses are expressing a sort of concern at the spectre of inflation.

The last reported government figures indicate that both living costs and basic commodity prices are beginning to rise. Profits are tremendous and consumers are

loaded with debt. This has a familiar ring to one who is old enough to remember the "boom" of the 20's.

The world is watching the effects of the Geneva talks. Disarmament poses the thought of cut backs in defense spending. Basic industries in defense production are subject to diplomatic decisions and the attendant effect on our economy reaches beyond our borders to the rest of the world.

No one has come up with an answer to the future picture but most observers are getting somewhat jittery as they consider the potentials of an unsettled world.

All of this directly affects our members and their families. We have seen the economic effects on our own people which resulted from the so-called "flexible support" farm policy of this Administration. We had layoffs in the agricultural areas.

In spite of the tremendous growth of California and its home construction boom, heavy industry has not expanded proportionately in this area. Further, the increase in job opportunities which we had reason to expect would develop with the population rise, didn't develop.

We have had lots to say about the effects of mechanization and automation on the economy and on our members. We will have lots more to say about it.

All of these factors develop one important conclusion. Maybe we will have inflation. It is the responsibility of government to control this danger.

It gets just a bit tiresome to hear that the workers and their rising standard of living is the reason for these big economic ills. Complaints are made about the fellow who "lives over his head." Also that Unions are responsible for the unnecessary price gouging by those who control the production and marketing of basic commodities.

The real trouble is that the tremendous wealth that we produce must be divided in a manner which maintains a healthy balance. This means more purchasing power among workers and farmers in order that we increase the market for our goods and services. It means that if we can secure an honorable peace, we must swing into a giant public works program for schools, highways, recreation, health and old age assistance programs with Federal spending.

It means that a shorter work period with high wage levels must be adopted in order to balance the work force with the advent of labor saving devices.

Your Local Union is limited in its ability to cope with problems of national and international scope. We can, however, have something to say and do about the local scene.

Let no one talk about siphoning off the "cream" of our members' take-home pay to stop inflation. The "cream" if any, is mighty small among utility workers. What our people need is more money from an industry which has the best financial position in its history.

The growing attacks upon the favored position of utilities politically is not the fault of utility workers. We want a healthy industry so that it can provide the maximum wages and conditions its public service employees are entitled to. In order to justify the support of utility employees when the going gets tough in the political field, the employers must come through with more than slogans and platitudes.

The coming round of wage negotiations in our industry will be closely observed by our members and will serve as a guidepost for evaluating the attitudes of management toward the rightful needs of utility workers.



Bus. Mgr. RON WEAKLEY is caught by the Candid Camera while discussing trends with Governor GEORGE LEADER of Pennsylvania. Weakley was pleased to learn that Gov. Leader is on the best of terms with our sister local unions in Penn State.

State Conventions

(Continued from Page One)

gion; William McSorly, Jr., Asst. Director, National LLPE; Thomas J. Murray, Dept. Commander, VFW; N. S. Colley, NAACP; Chas. F. Hanna, Chief, California Division of Apprenticeship Standards, and many other outstanding speakers from every segment of our society.

Among the most challenging speeches was that of Donald K. Wall, representing Eagle Scout Troop No. 47, Los Angeles. Young Don, who is also a member of Retail Clerks Local 770, employed as a Box Boy, commanded the attention of more than 2,000 delegates as he spoke of the lack of information concerning labor unions which young people have today. Said Eagle Scout Wall, in part:

"I think that the first place organized labor should start to correct this situation is in the schools where our education begins. In the senior years in most high schools they have a class in senior problems. In this class they discuss all the current problems a student may run into after leaving school, including labor problems. But who are the people that answer these questions on these current problems? We have the teacher, representatives from business, the chambers of commerce, the Merchants and Manufacturers, Associated Farmer Groups, but no one from labor to give their side of the problem. Organized labor should be represented here!"

The majority of the time of the delegates was devoted to the 212 resolutions submitted for convention action. These resolutions, which constitute the official policy of the State AFL once adopted, dealt with every conceivable human, social and economic problem confronting working men and women—and the entire population, for that matter—today. The complete subject list of the resolutions, together with notations of convention actions, runs to nearly 200 printed pages!

The Convention Arrangements Committee, headed up by Max J. Osslo, Butchers' Union; C. O. Taylor, CLC President; John Quimby, CLC Secretary; and M. J. Collins, BTC Secretary (and Bus. Mgr., IBEW Local 569) did not intend the convention to be all work and no play, however. Events planned for pleasure and relaxation included a huge barbecue at the Ti-ajuana, Baja California, dog race track; an outstanding Ladies' Luncheon at the famous Del Coronado Hotel; and a gala Grand Ball, held at the beautiful El Cortez Hotel. In addition many hundreds of delegates and their families toured the world-famous San Diego zoo while others availed themselves of an opportunity to go deep sea fishing in the warm waters off the coast of Mexico.

Election of officers resulted in the re-election of President Thomas L. Pitts of Los Angeles, and 22 incumbent area vice presidents. Newly elected vice presidents were Robert J. O'Hare, Santa Monica Carpenters' Union, and Jack Goldberger, San Francisco Newspaper and Periodical Drivers Union. Incumbent Secretary-Treasurer C. J.

Mail Bag

Editor: "The Utility Reporter," at least since I have been a reader, maintains moderation of statement and broadmindedness of concept unique among trade-union publications. The August, 1955, editorial reprinting from San Joaquin "Valley Labor Citizen" is a disappointing departure from this reasonable viewpoint.

You bold-faced the statement that Charles S. Mott, a General Motors director, made \$2 million an hour during a 5 1/2-hour Stock Exchange day recently.

Informed persons are well aware that such "paper profits" are realized only if the stock is sold. A large part of it would then go to the government. Only the gullible or the uninformed will agree with the views expressed by an editorial writer who deliberately seeks to confuse and mislead his readers.

It is to be regretted that "The Utility Reporter" has stooped to the position of dignifying such rubbish in its editorial column. You should write your own editorials in the future.

H. A. CLOVER

520-B West Eaton Avenue
Tracy, California.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The UTILITY REPORTER regrets that reader Clover deprecates the attitude expressed by the "New Yorker" and the San Joaquin "Valley Labor Citizen." We thought their comments were somewhat humorous—and we are certain that it doesn't make much difference whether a man cashes in his blue chips now or later!

While we generally strive for moderation in our columns, we do not agree that ownership of 800,000 shares of G.M. stock sets one above a bit of lampooning.

We expect that G.M. directors will blame the workers for the increased prices of their autos—which become other workers' transportation. We rest our case on the simple fact that we are a LABOR paper—and, as such, we will continue to write or re-print articles which we feel significantly point out the unbalance in the distribution of the wealth of our nation.

Gentlemen:

I have terminated my employment with P G & E. Therefore, please issue a withdrawal card in my name and delete my name from the rolls of the Local.

My new position is as a member of management with a manufacturing firm, but I promise to never relinquish my sympathy for the cause of organized labor.

Thank you very much for your efforts in my behalf. The constant alertness of the Union leaders has contributed immeasurably to improving working conditions on the property.

Very Truly Yours,
EMMETT F. FREITAS

Haggerty, the only state official to hold a 2-year term, was re-elected at the 1954 convention.

Copies of the August issue of the UTILITY REPORTER were distributed to the delegates in attendance and were favorably received.

ACTION ON THE MUNI FRONTS

Reports have been coming in all month as to the action to increase wages—or the lack of it—of several municipalities employing members of Local 1245.

Sacramento Municipal Utility District offered a general wage increase of 5 cents an hour to their employees early this month. The offer was rejected at a unit meeting. Subsequent negotiations have resulted in a SMUD offer of 7 1/2 cents an hour, which will be voted on by the employees at a Local 1245 unit meeting set for September 28th. The Union Committee handling negotiations is composed of Brothers Harry Kessler, Chairman, Gene Pembroke, John Hesselton and Bus. Rep. Al M. Hansen.

The Sacramento City Lines, long a privately owned transit company, will become a public agency on September 23rd, when the Sacramento Transit Authority officially takes over the reins.

Bus. Rep. Hansen reports that Mr. Troutwine, Director of the Authority, met with himself and Br. Lee Holmes on September 20th to discuss new contract and wage terms. Agreement has been reached that the wage gain ultimately agreed on will be retroactive to September 23rd—the date the city takes over—and the contract will continue the union shop clause which was in effect with the private employer. Future meetings have been set to discuss the wage question and other contractual issues.

In the Bay Area, the Oakland City Council recently announced wage gains for the city's Electric Department employees, represented by Local 1245. Linemen and Fire Alarm Operators are set to receive \$15 monthly increases, Helpers \$10, Foremen \$20 and Lineman-Cable Splicers \$30. Since these gains fall far short of the expectations of the membership, the Union's Wage Committee, composed of Brothers Lyle Smith, Wm. Yochem, Charles Schoop and Ed Brown have been instructed to secure additional meeting dates with the city officials.

In Alameda, the Board of Directors of the Bureau of Water and Power voted a 3 per cent general wage increase, effective October 1,

1955. At a special shop meeting held last week, the members unanimously instructed their wage committee to continue pressing for the original 8 per cent demand of the Union, plus a number of other improvements. Additional meetings will be scheduled with the Bureau's management in the immediate future.

Negotiations with Pinole Light and Power Company, servicing a portion of Contra Costa County, appear to be going very well. Research Director Geo. L. Rice reported last week that a decision regarding an 18 cent hourly company contribution to a jointly administered pension plan will be reached in the next week or two. No other issues are at stake in these negotiations.



Bay Labor Hosts Gov., Mrs. Geo. Leader

Pictured here are some of the Bay Area union leaders who attended a reception given for Governor and Mrs. GEORGE M. LEADER of Pennsylvania on September 14th. (l. to r.) GEORGE BALLARD, Calif. Legislative Representative, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen; RON WEAKLEY, Bus. Mgr., IBEW Local 1245; WILLIAM KILPATRICK, Secy.-Treas., Cooks Union Local 44, S.F.; GOV. LEADER; LEW C. G. BLIX, President, Alameda County Voters' League; and MANUAL DIAS, President, California CIO Council. Nearly 100 union officials turned out to meet the popular governor and his lovely wife.

Kids, Parents Enjoy E.B. Union Picnic

Saturday, Sept. 17 found more than 300 East Bay Union members and their families at Castlerock Park in Contra Costa County for a day of fun and good food.

A beautiful, sunny day, co-o-o-ld, but refreshing swimming pool, plenty of games, refreshments and food, plus the good comradeship of union members, attracted a fine crowd to the park.

The picnic committee, sparked by Chairman Frank Goss, consisted of Brothers D. Lucot, L. Price, L. Middlekauff and P. McEvoy. And, like good committee members, they pulled in plenty of help to insure the success of the event! Helpers included E. Bushby, Mrs. P. McEvoy, Mrs. F. Goss, Mrs. D. Lucot, Mr. and Mrs. A. Perryman, Mrs.

M. Walters, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Matthews.

The Perrymans dispensed liquid refreshments, including gallons of soda pop for the kids, while the other assistants busied themselves with the task of providing barbecued hamburger steaks, mixed green salad, beans, french bread and coffee to the hungry throng.

A variety of children's games were held, under supervision of Brothers G. Meeks and G. Hanford. The fun was enjoyed equally by the participants and the spectators.

Everyone who attended went home full of good food, good comradeship, and a determination to hold an even more successful event next year.

