Cubic feet of gas has soared to a 66.2 percent increase over 1950. The increased productivity of the employees, customers has increased 26.9 percent. Gas customers increased by 36.1 percent since 1950. From December 31, 1950 to December 31, 1955 the number of electric customers has increased 20 percent. Gas customers increased by 36.1 percent during the period 1950 through 1955. The sales of KWH of electricity have risen 44.8 percent, while use of cubic feet of gas has moved to a 43.2 percent increase over 1950. The increase in the number of customers can be attributed to the rapid population growth in Northern and Central California.

However, the number of employees producing and distributing the ever-increasing volume of electricity and gas has increased only 3.8 percent since 1950. From 1953 through 1955 there has been an actual decrease in the number of employees! As a result, the number of customers per employee has risen from 141 in 1950 to 146 in 1955. Here is the statistical breakdown for the 5-year period. All data excepting percentage calculations, have been taken from the annual financial reports of the PG&E Company.

**CUSTOMERS PER EMPLOYEE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Gas Customers</th>
<th>Electric Customers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>1,033,424</td>
<td>1,331,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>1,706,818</td>
<td>1,969,046</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**CHORUS**

***Sixteen Votes***

Some folks say a Senator's just an old fool, Wealthy member of the "Exclusive Club," Exclusive Club for those windy and long, With minds that are weak and voices strong.

**CHORUS**

You vote 16 times and what do you get? Fifty-three baddle boys with no regrets, St. Louis don't call you, cause I can't pass, I owe my election to natural gas.

I woke up one morning and went to the hill, I closed my mind and voted for the bill, I voted 16 times on the call of the roll, And St. Lyndon said, "Well we've reached our goal."

From the reports of the Union's PG&E Negotiating Committee, the wage and working conditions of the members of the System Negotiating Committee have been reviewed during the December Board meeting. The chart above reflects a final review by the officers and committee members of the wages.

We are also studying company profits, productivity, and operational costs in order to arrive at wage figures which will constitute a justifiable proposal.

Other issues, including regulations of working hours, safety provisions, training programs, promotions, and discipline, have been carefully analyzed. Concerns with effect on the working conditions, equipment, or the use of other utilities have been reviewed to determine their effect on the wage package.

Additional problems have arisen from the effect of membership interest in job security. Many complex situations can—and do—arise in an area as large as ours, and equitable rules are most difficult to draft. It is imperative that we remember that we have some (Continued on Page Four)

**Board Sets Special Meeting for April 29th**

The Executive Board of Local 1245 has scheduled a special session for Sunday, April 29th for a joint meeting with members of the System Negotiating Committee. The Union's Board of Directors have referred to the Union's System Negotiating Committee for a final review of the bargaining process, as the contract involves the renewal of the current three-year agreement which will expire at the end of May.

The meeting will be held at Union Headquarters on Sunday, April 29th, at 10:00 a.m. All members of the Union's System Negotiating Committee are expected to attend.

**Organizing Drive Gets into High Gear**

Reports from every part of the jurisdiction of Local 1245 continue to point up the increased momentum of the Union's organizing campaign. Shop stewards, and active Union members, working cooperatively with the Business Staff, are "putting their stride" in the signing up of new members for the Union.

**Union's PG&E Negotiating Committee Gives Report**

In order to set forth our position in the clearest possible terms, the members of the System Negotiating Committee must remind you that, in preparing a report for our newspaper, we are reporting events which have already taken place and consequently in the Utility Reporter, there will, therefore, cover activities up to press time.

Our purpose is to keep you informed of the progress of negotiations by the mutual agreement of all parties. A full report will be supplemented by more detailed reports in our newspaper as negotiations proceed. We shall endeavor to keep you covered of our activities.

First, we have been assured at the general similarity of the proposed suggestions which have been presented by the officers from all areas throughout the system, and reviewed by our Committee. This is a great help to the Committee in determining the feasibility of the maximum number of suggestions. The desirability, and its possible effect on the entire membership, must be thoroughly analyzed.

Finally, we must select those suggestions which will be part of our submission to the PG&E Company. The suggestions must be drafted in a manner which is acceptable to the PG&E Company and support both our Union's program.

Despite the limited physical parameters of the written suggestions, the membership maintains considerable control and influence on the course of negotiations. As development occurs, we, as a membership, must be aware of our choices and the impact of our decisions. For that reason, we must be fully informed on the effectiveness of the membership's support of our Union's program.

Both parties know that the results of any negotiations will be committed to our membership for ratification. Each proposal and its final disposition is weighed in terms of this ratification, for, in the final analysis, the Will of the People is the only guide by which we are obligated.

Over the years, it would seem that the membership would have been tested through the grievance process, so that language revision would not be needed, to clarify what is already included in the agreements. However, disputes have been received and must be reviewed to explain what is already printed in the contract.

Wages—the main item of labor for the employer, and the principal source of income to the employees—remain the number one issue in every grievance. A great deal of time has been devoted to the wage picture, by our Committee, with special emphasis on our studies of wage movements in the utility field. The membership interest in job security. Many complex situations can—and do—arise in an area as large as ours, and equitable rules are most difficult to draft. It is imperative that we remember that we have some (Continued on Page Four)
Bargaining for Your Family

Families of PG&E employees have a greater stake than ever in the activities of Local 1245 at the present time. And this, through its System Negotiating Committee, shoulders heavy responsibilities in its concern for the needs of the member and their families.

Higher wages, of course, are a most important objective of your bargaining committee this year. There are numerous other benefits, obtainable through collective bargaining, which your committee is concerned to bring about for the benefit of the entire family of a Union member.

Every family hopes to enjoy a constantly rising standard of living which can be achieved by increased income. In addition, the family seeks opportunities for added income through promotion to better paid jobs, and he expects, rightfully we say, that a fair process of serving the public at all hours and under every condition?

Some families build up a cushion against reduced or lost income by practicing thrift or frugality in their spending when advancement is possible. This, of course, is a proper matter for collective bargaining.

Bargaining also produces more time for leisure, safe and healthful working conditions, and additional compensation for those who require an extra week of normal family life in the process of serving the public at all hours and under every conceivable climatic condition.

Many family contracts which result from bargaining also include provisions for a host of “on the job” benefits, as well as retirement benefits as a reward for length of service.

The family and the wage earner are concerned with maintenance of good wages and decent working conditions. This is but one part of the total picture. There is great concern for protection from the loss of income which may result through no fault of the worker. This aspect of bargaining is generally termed “job security.” It is increasingly important that these days as application of the technological refinements of American industrial genius upsets the customary activities of the wage earner. The organization of the wage earner—unions—must guard here to protect the worker, whenever possible, from demotion or lay-off.

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Facts You Don’t Support ‘Monopoly’ Charges Against Labor Unions

The truth of labor monopoly charged by foes of the merged AFL-CIO is demonstrated by the fact that the merged labor organization is in no way different in character or function from the separate labor organizations it replaced. The charge of monopoly is thus a fallacy.

The anti-labor press is an old and well-worn favorite of the anti-laborites. It is used to keep the wheels turning in government and industry.

The company pays no rent for the use of buildings, it charges by foes to the merged AFL-CIO, and it is financed by taxpayers.

The use of $95 million in buildings, it is charged by foes to the merged AFL-CIO, is “inadequate to assure equality of rights assured Americans in the Constitution had proved, as our logic,” it charges. “The right of every businessman, large and small, to trade in any ordinary guy more than 50 miles away.

The conspiracy theory has been knocked out by the courts, it points out, “because it had become clear that unions cannot be completed with one phone call.”

The Review comes to the conclusion that it reflects “a law of life” to secure fair and equalized usage.

The unions are “a monopoly,” it charges, “a monopoly of thinking, is a power to do good.”

The only time Ez Tike was unappreciative.

The employees of the Berkeley Auto Inspection Team were earning $3.65 in Boston, Mass.—$3.10. The workers were earning $2.50 at Savannah.

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The System negotiating committee reports that gains include establishment of a toll-burning oil for weeks in order to keep the Committee informed. The negotiations are expected to go on through April 20th. Included on the Union agenda is a proposal to increase the number of apprentices per class in order to train the necessary number of workers. The Union also plans to increase the number of clerical employees.

British Laborite Visits Bay Area

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