

Shown here concentrating on a problem of the moment are officers and committeemen in attendance at their joint meeting held Feb. 2 and 3 in Local 1245 headquarters. (See story at right.)

## Officers, Key Committees Shape Local 1245 Program

### HEAVY LOAD OF DUTIES CLEARED UP BY LEADERS IN BUSY, 2-DAY MEETING

Local 1245's Officers, Policy Committee, P.G.&E. System Negotiating Committee, System Safety Committee, Health and Welfare Committee and Business Staff, had a busy session on February 2 and 3.

Under "Officers' Reports" Business Manager Ronald T. Weakley delivered a detailed report on the Union's current membership, the 1956 annual audit, progress of departmental negotiations, grievance procedure on PG&E properties, the PG&E System Safety Committee, proposed legislation permitting collective bargaining with Municipal Utility Districts, results of PG&E and Union's cooperation in relocating employees affected by the elimination, of five Division Customers Records Depts. and installation of IBM equipment in Emeryville, membership attitudes during his recent system tour and a 10-point program for the coming 1957 PG&E negotiations.

The two-day discussions centered primarily around the issue of amending or terminating the PG&E Agreement this year. Following these discussions, the Policy Committee recommended that no determination on this matter be made at this time, but rather that the decision shall be made during the Joint Meeting scheduled for April 27 and 28. This recommendation received concurrence by the Executive Board.

The Executive Board also concurred in the Policy Committee's recommendation that March 15 be established as the deadline for acceptance by the Business Office of Unit proposals to change the Agreements. All PG&E membership have been advised of this by notification on Union Bulletin Boards.

It was further agreed by the

Executive Board that a Joint Meeting of the Policy Committee and PG&E System Negotiating Committee be called for March 16 and 17 for the purpose of screen-

ing and evaluation of all Unit proposals.

Other actions of the Executive Board included endorsement of (Continued on Back Page)

## CAL. ELECTRICAL WKRS. IN 3-DAY S. F. SESSION

The semi-annual meeting of the California State Association of Electrical Workers was held on Feb. 8 through 10 in San Francisco. Headquarters for the delegates was the Alexander Hamilton Hotel. However, the group assembled for their business meeting in the beautiful new office building owned by IBEW, Local 6.

John Carney, Bus. Mgr. Local 477, San Bernardino, was chosen as President and Geo. Quinn, Bus. Mgr. Local 862, San Francisco, was elected Vice-President. Commencing two-year terms as Executive Board members are newly-elected E. N. Frye, Bus. Mgr. Local 551, Santa Rosa, and C. W. Walker, Local 11, Los Angeles. Local 1245 Bus. Mgr. R. T. Weakley was not up for re-election this year, having one more year in his term of office as Executive Board member from District No. 2.

High on the list of interesting speakers was Mr. Chas. Hanna, Division of Apprenticeship Standards of the California State De-

partment of Industrial Relations. He outlined the apparent need of Joint Apprenticeship Training programs on the Utility properties in California and the obvious lack of such programs. He pointed out that the Utility Companies have a unified resistance to Joint Programs.

Vocational rehabilitation for our members injured in the course of their employment should be removed from the jurisdiction of the Department of Education and placed under the control of the Industrial Accident Commission, according to another speaker, Mr. James Lance, Recording Secretary of L.U. 11 in Los Angeles and former Legislative Representative. He stated that such change would pro-

(Continued on Back Page)

## Owen Hero in Reno Blast

Orville Owen, Sierra Pacific Power Co. Gas Serviceman and Local 1245 Grievance Committee Representative and member of Union's Negotiating Committee is credited with

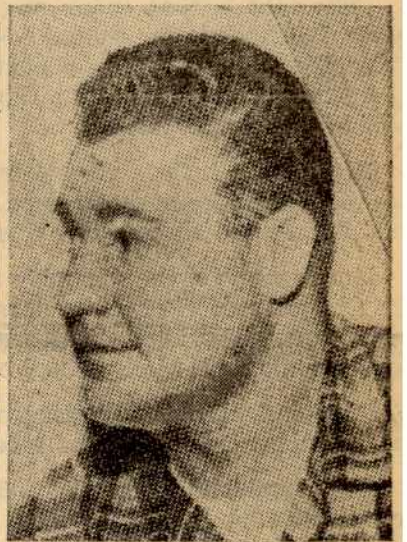
saving countless lives in the recent explosion and fire which destroyed a block or more of downtown Reno.

Called to investigate a reported gas leak in the basement of a men's clothing store, he took a few quick whiffs and was immediately convinced that the gas collection in the basement was dangerous. He then ordered evacuation of the store and other shops in the area and called for help from the Power Co. and Fire Department.

Brother Owen re-entered the basement of one of the buildings with another man to investigate a basement boiler which he thought might be near the source of the gas leak. As they reached the foot of the basement stairs, they were knocked down twice by explosions.

Suffering leg and face burns, he recalls, dimly, extricating himself from the fire and debris and hearing his companion praying. "I must have done a lot of things by reflexes," is all he can recall of his later movements.

Reno firemen said that Owen, once outside the demolished building, tried to go back in to aid the



ORVILLE OWEN

other man, but was halted by the firefighters.

The Editorial Staff of the UTILITY REPORTER and Local 1245 Officers are indeed proud of Brother Orville Owen for his quick thinking and acts of courage.



Business Manager R. T. Weakley is shown here making his report as District 2 Exec. Bd. Member to the State Association meeting in San Francisco Feb. 9. Assn. Sec'y, Jack Bell is at left and Chm. W. H. Diederichsen at right.

## NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

Joseph S. Kreins is the new Central Area Executive Board Member. He was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Ed White who resigned from the Board due to personal reasons.



Bro. Kreins

Joe has worked with the P. G. & E. since 1937 and is now a Senior Service Operator in the Gas Dept. in Oakland. Prior to his employment with P. G. & E., he owned and operated a variety

store in Oakland and worked for a period as a private detective.

Brother Kreins served as Chief Officer and Master during World War II and still holds a Chief Officer's License. He was a former member of the Master Mates & Pilots, AFL.

His IBEW activities include Steward, Executive Committee Member and Chairman of Hayward Unit and Union's Chairman of East Bay Division Grievance Committee.

Joe lives in Hayward with his lovely wife Margaret and son Stephen. Another son Edward is on the Hayward Police Force and William is an Airman 1/C U.S.A.F.

His hobbies include bowling, golf, and gardening.

## KNOW YOUR POLICY COMMITTEE

### MORRIS G. CARPENTER (Clerical-at-Large)

Morris G. Carpenter (Glen to his friends), Policy Committee Member for P.G.&E. Clerical employees system-wide, is a Payroll Clerk in the Drum Division Headquarters in Auburn.



He has worked with the P. G. & E. for about 8½ years and since Local 1245 gained the bargaining rights for the Clerical employees in Drum Division in 1952, Glen has been

very active in organizing. He was one of the first five members to form the Auburn Clerical Unit and served as Unit Chairman. In addition to his Policy Committee duties he is presently a Steward in the Auburn office.

Glen served a hitch in the Navy during World War II as a Signalman aboard the aircraft carrier Enterprise and while in the service completed his high school education.

Living in Auburn with his wife Clara and three children, he pursues his hobbies of fishing, woodworking, cabinet making, auto mechanics and politics.

### JAMES E. GIBBS, JR. (De Sabla Division)

James Gibbs, Policy Committee member for De Sabla Division, is a Light Crew foreman in the Gas Department in Orland.

Jim has been with the P.G.&E. Co. for over eleven years and has served the Union in many capacities. He was one of the enthusiastic supporters of the IBEW in the setting up of L.U. 1324 in the



Bay Area and has acted as Steward, Unit Recorder, Unit Chairman of two different Units, Grievance Committee representative, Executive Board Member, Chief Steward, Delegate to State Federation Convention and as a full time Business Representative.

His love for his fellow man is exemplified in his many activities in the Cub Scouts, 4 H Clubs and Councils and as Sunday School Teacher.

Residing on a small farm in the Chico area with his wife May and two boys, he is able to indulge in the more rugged types of hobbies such as hunting, fishing, swimming and prospecting.

### CLIFFORD J. McMAHAN (Humboldt Division)

Clifford J. McMahan, "Red," as he is better known, Policy Committee member from Humboldt Division, is a Line Sub Foreman.

"Red" started with the P.G.&E. as a groundman in Eureka about nine and a half years ago and moved to Garberville in 1953. His many Union activities over years include Steward, Grievance Committee Chairman, Unit



Executive Committee Member, Unit Vice-Chairman, Unit Chairman and since 1953, as Policy Committee member.

He saw service during World War II, from August 1942 to December 1945, in the U.S. Army's 533rd Engineers, Boat and Shore Regiment.

In June, 1956, the UTILITY REPORTER ran a picture of Red and his wife Linda, holding an eight-foot octopus which he caught while abalone fishing, his favorite hobby along with hunting.

In addition to his wife Linda, his family includes one son Dennis, aged 12.





# The UTILITY REPORTER



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## For Shame

The real reason behind the emotion-charged opposition of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to any Federal aid to education would make interesting reading. We don't know the real reason. We do know that the men who run the Chamber in Washington are opposed to any Federal help for our schools and every week for a different reason.

One week, the Chamber's *Washington Report* darkly mentions "thought control." Another week, its publication charges that the drive for Federal aid to education is a plot to give the Federal Government control over our state and local school systems.

The Chamber's report to its members shrills: "Adoption of Federal aid to schools in any amount—no matter how small and with how many so-called safeguards—is the first step in the nationalization of the schools."

The fact is that every major school-aid bill contains provisions stipulating that the Federal government will not "exercise any direction, supervision or control over the personnel, curriculum or program of instruction of any school or school system."

Yet, if you believe Chamber of Commerce publications, this provision is only an attempt "to obviate the fears of parents against the threats of Federal domination."

More recently, the Chamber has shifted its attack. Now the Chamber of Commerce says, straight-faced, that there is no serious shortage of classrooms in the United States—implying that the whole school crisis is a national hoax.

President Eisenhower disagreed with the Chamber in his special message to Congress recently.

The President said: "In 1955, and again last year, I called attention to the critical shortage of classrooms in many communities across the country."

The President said: "The need for Federal assistance in eliminating this shortage is not theory, but demonstrated fact."

The President said: "There will be no Federal interference with local control of education."

Yet, the Chamber of Commerce still stands on its strange appeal to businessmen which states:

"All business must be prepared to speak out against Federal intervention through their trade associations, local chambers of commerce and other organizations lest Congress become convinced that a national school emergency exists . . ."

Seems to us this matter ought to be put squarely before the responsible Chamber of Commerce members in every community where there is any concern over the school crisis. As things now stand the U.S. Chamber and its members are going to get the full blame if the Federal aid to education bill fails in Congress this year.

—From the Machinist

## You Fellows Better Avoid Radioactivity

A workman exposed to radioactive cobalt has sued the Connecticut Light and Power Co. for \$200,000 contending his marriage possibilities have been impaired.  
 Benjamin M. Zawacki, 37, of Norwich, Conn., an electrician and

a bachelor, argued in his damage action that "exposure . . . will have a permanent harmful genetic effect."

His general health and personality have become "seriously and permanently impaired," he said.

Zawacki was working on a construction job a year ago in the power company's Devon Plant. A cylinder of radioactive cobalt disappeared and became the object of an overnight search.

A Geiger counter check located the radioactive cylinder in Zawacki's automobile. He said he had needed a piece of string in his work, saw some hanging nearby and used part of it. The cylinder containing the cobalt was at the end of the string. Not knowing what it was, he said, he cut it off and put it in his pocket.

## Africa, Too

Johannesburg, South Africa  
 Even the bosses can't stomach the provisions of some anti-labor laws here.  
 Some 58 African soap factory hands were fined by the court for striking illegally. The boss pleaded for leniency and paid their fines, saying: "This is the best bunch who have worked under me and until the strike had caused no trouble."



LIONEL HOLMES

## Another Old Timer

Introducing Lionel E. Holmes, who, on March 22, 1927, became an employee of the P.G.&E. as a "Bell Stomper"—that is, an Operator of the long-past street cars in Sacramento. Being no Ding-Dong Daddy, and without a Street Car Named Desire, Lionel gave up on the trolleys the latter part of 1944, to become Parts Man for the Sacramento City Lines and has this same position with the successor organization—Transit Authority of the City of Sacramento.

Brother Holmes is very accommodating when he has the parts (which is seldom), but he will use every resource at his command to obtain the necessary equipment to keep the stock rolling.

If you happen to be in Sacramento, drop in to the plant and say "hello" to one of the regular guys."

## STAY SAFE OFF-THE-JOB, TOO



Smoking in bed is fun, if you like it. Your troubles seem far away when you see them through a fog of blue smoke as you lie back in comfort.

But every cigarette or cigar or pipeful you smoke in bed carries the chance of death. In the first place you are relaxed and ready for a sock in the jaw from Old Man Sleep.

Just to push the process along, you smoke, and before you know it, you go out like a light.

But, not your cigarette Oh no! Your hand slips over the side of the bed, where there's an up-draft and plenty of fuel for a first class fire—with you in the middle.

You MAY wake up in time to give an alarm, but many don't. Many die that way each year.

Beds and bedding are not the only highly combustible materials in your home. By falling asleep in the easy chair after a hard day's work, you may start a fire in the newspapers on the floor, in the upholstery, or in almost any waste material.

Unwatched and out of control, fire CAN gut your home, cause the death or injury of members of your family, and kill you.

CAN, did we say? DO injure and kill thousands of people each year. If you're a smoker, watch both the smokes and the matches, and don't smoke in bed!

An experiment recently completed in Pennsylvania indicated that if proper testing procedures (cell examination for uterine cancer) are set up in a community, deaths from cancer of the cervix (the second highest cancer killer of women) can be almost completely eliminated.

# BILLIONS OF PENNIES

There have been several proposals in recent months to increase consumer taxes on local and state levels. Some of these call for higher taxes on specific items to finance certain programs—for instance, the current suggestion of the California Teachers Association that taxes on beer and cigarettes be increased to meet higher school budgets. Others provide for a general sales tax increase for specific projects, such as the recent proposal by the San Francisco state lobbyist that a rapid transit system be financed by higher sales taxes. Still others, such as the recently effectuated San Francisco general sales tax increase, had no specific purpose except that "other counties were doing it to meet the costs of municipal government, and why shouldn't we?"

## LABOR'S POSITION

In view of this eagerness on the part of various groups and factions to exploit consumer taxes for revenue purposes, it would seem wise for the San Francisco Labor Council to reiterate its position in regard to all consumer taxes, for whatever purpose. This position was explicitly stated in a resolution adopted March 13, 1953, when the state legislature was contemplating the since enacted higher sales tax. At that time the Council stated, in language which clearly applies not merely to that specific instance but to the issue as a whole, past, present, and future:

"WHEREAS, any such increase in consumer taxes in the State of California would work severe hardships on the working families of this State, who already carry a disproportionately heavy load of the tax burden; and

"WHEREAS, the maintenance and improvement of state and local services, which are indispensable to the welfare of the whole community and which directly affect the lives of our members and their families, should properly be supported by an equitable tax base recognizing the principle of ability to pay;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Labor Council in session assembled this 13th day of March, 1953, does hereby go on record as opposed to any increase in the sales and use taxes in the State of California; and as calling upon our legislators and public officials to defeat Senate Bills 1344 and 1575 and any other efforts to increase or extend taxes on consumers in this State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Labor Council urges our legislators and public officials to give regard to the always-burdenome financial concerns of the wage-earner of small or moderate income, and to make the principle of ability to pay the governing factor in the formulation of all local, county, state, or federal tax programs."

The above resolution constitutes the official position of the San Francisco Labor Council in regard to consumer taxes. It represented no shift in policy at the time of its adoption, but has historically been the position of labor concerning taxes of this nature.

There appear to be several basic misunderstandings regarding consumer taxes. The first is that they are merely a matter of pennies, that nobody minds paying a few cents extra or misses those few pennies. Pennies? Consumer taxes now in effect constitute hundreds of millions of dollars. It was stated in the press recently that, "A sales tax of one cent would raise more

than the \$31 million per year estimated as the cost of paying construction bonds" (for the proposed Bay Area mass rapid transit system). It was stated in the press recently that a proposed 3-cents a pack cigarette tax and a tax increase of 10 cents per gallon on beer would amount to \$70,000,000 a year. It was stated in the press recently that San Francisco's one-cent city sales tax will bring in \$17,000,000 this year. All from "pennies"—our pennies. For if that amount goes into state and local coffers, by the same token it comes out of our pockets and pocket-books.

That's one misconception—that consumer taxes are only a few pennies and that they won't be missed.

## OTHER MISCONCEPTIONS

Another is that the end justifies the means. That is, the project to be financed is a worthy one—"everyone" is in favor of it—but nobody wants to be taxed for it. So let's add another penny to the sales tax, or let's stick a few cents more tax on cigarettes or liquor or something like that, and if the workingman squawks, well, he shouldn't be wasting his money on cigarettes or beer anyway, if a few pennies mean that much to him.

And this brings us to the third misconception, which is that there should be one law for the wealthy and powerful and another for the low and moderate income group. This was the attitude evidenced by the President of the Down Town Association, Mr. Roy Buell, in his appearance before the San Francisco Board of Supervisors a few months ago when the Board was considering a half-cent increase on the city sales and use tax, which would precisely double the rate. As President of the Down Town Association, Mr. Buell's position was that this increase was justified and necessary. The Board of Supervisors agreed with him, and enacted the increase accordingly.

## TELEPHONE FRANCHISE

A few days later, Mr. Buell, in his capacity as manager of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, appeared before the Board of Supervisors to demand that the phone company's franchise be cut from \$1,050,000 a year to about \$225,000. Or looking at the matter head on, that the workingman's tax should be doubled but the phone company's should be something better than quartered.

To reiterate: Fundamentally, consumer taxes are inequitable taxes which hit the low and middle income groups harder than they do the upper income group. The growing trend of state and local governments to place an even heavier burden of taxation on those least able to pay must cease. Our legislators, public officials, and prominent citizens in positions of influence must face their responsibility to the moderate-income taxpayer.

Fraternally yours,

George W. Johns, Secretary  
 SAN FRANCISCO LABOR COUNCIL

—Reprinted from Official Bulletin of S.F. Labor Council.

## (Editors' Note:

Indicative of pennies being dollars is the nearly \$2 billion 1957-58 Calif. State Budget. This shows 36c of every revenue dollar coming from State Sales Tax.

Further proof that Sales Taxes make the rich richer and the poor poorer are recent statistics showing that workers with \$3,000 to \$4,000 per year income spend 4.5 per cent of their income in the form of Sales Taxes; those with over \$10,000 per year income spend only 2.8 per cent of their's in Sales Taxes.)

When you're skillet-cooking liver and onions, cook the onions first in butter until they're soft and golden. Then draw the onions to one side of the pan and fry the sliced liver, adding more butter if necessary.

## What? No Love?

In Paris, the absolute ultimate in automation was announced by inventor Pierre Marre who disclosed he had produced an ingenious machine that will eventually replace the housewife. Here, according to the inventor, is what the robot housewife will already do:

Wash 12 pounds of laundry in 5 minutes; clear up the kitchen in 30 seconds; peel vegetables; scrape pots; sweep floors; polish shoes and clean car windows. Finally, according to inventor Marre the robot housewife will cost only 2 cents-an-hour to operate.



# Destroy Salk Polio Vaccine; Fear "Creeping Socialism"

Is it "statesmanship" to finance health programs abroad but "creeping socialism" to do so here at home?

That question was raised recently by Senator Wayne Morse

## Accidents With Stopped Vehicles, Safety Meet Topic

On February 7 and 8, 1957, Assistant Business Manager M. A. Walters and System Safety Committee Chairman C. F. Elliott represented Local Union 1245 at the Governors' Industrial Safety Conference held at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

At the section meetings of the Transportation, Utilities and Communications section, the primary activity concerning members of Local Union 1245 revolved around the rising rate of injuries involving motor vehicles at rest. As a prime objective of this group in the forthcoming year, a study is to be made of this problem and proposals for corrective action will result.

In connection with this matter, representatives of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company gave a very informative demonstration as to what their company is doing in an effort to protect workmen at locations along highways and streets, stressing the importance of high level warning devices and proper low level traffic guides.

Other matters discussed in the T.C.U. section meeting were reports on programs to prevent electrical contact accidents involving third parties and a panel discussion on how to reduce injuries in transportation, utilities and communications.

In the general assembly, the primary speakers stressed the necessity for complete cooperation between management, labor and the State government in order to make any safety program work. A. C. Blackman, Chief of the Division of Industrial Safety, reported on his Department's efforts to obtain a divisional staffing in order to further facilitate their activities.

## Employer's Use of Racist Poison Backfires

In November it was reported in the Utility Reporter that the IBEW had lost an election in Sanford, N. C. and that the Union had filed objections over the employer's conduct prior to the election with the NLRB. At that time it was expected that little would come of such objections.

But miracles do happen occasionally! The IBEW has won an important round in its bitter dispute with the Cornell-Dubilier Electric Corp. in Sanford, N. C.

On the grounds that at least nine employees voted illegally, thereby placing an "undue burden" on the union, NLRB Regional Director Reed Johnston recommended that the election—lost by a 533 to 526 vote—be set aside.

His recommendation now goes before the full NLRB and if it upholds the ruling a new election will be ordered.

The IBEW's formal objection was based on illegal voting, but as previously reported, the corporation's president also sent employees a letter on the eve of the election which was filled with misstatements, distortions, racist poison propaganda and anti-union propaganda.

The recommendation was hailed as a "victory for our organization" by R. N. Rogers and H. Adair, IBEW International Representatives.

"We believe this ruling is clear-cut and gives the Board a specific example of illegal voting through which it can grant us the right to a fair, unbiased election, they declared.

(Dem., Oregon). He cited to the Senate reports that large quantities of Salk polio vaccine are being destroyed because it won't "keep" any longer and no market for it can be found, although millions of American men, women and children have not yet been vaccinated against that dread disease.

When the vaccine was first announced, Morse recalled, only a limited quantity was available and he urged that the Federal Government supervise its distribution so it would be "put to maximum use for the best protection of the American people's health."

For that proposal, Morse reminded the Senate, he was called a "creeping socialist." "In this country," he said, "we have almost reached the point where anyone who fights for general welfare legislation is charged with being a creeping socialist."

The scientific research program which produced the Salk vaccine "was financed by the dimes contributed by the American people in the great March of Dimes program," Morse pointed out, and "the benefits ought to accrue to the health of the people—not to the profit dollars of the drug companies or the medical profession."

(The November, 1956 issue of UTILITY REPORTER reported how the five manufacturers of this vaccine, in competitive bidding on the \$52 million purchase by the U.S. Government, demanded identical prices and thereby received about 125 per cent above the manufacturing cost of the polio vaccine.)

"But now we read in the papers that thousands of precious vials of Salk vaccine have to be destroyed because thousands of people find it costs too much. An injection costs \$5, and three are needed, so the total cost is \$15 per person."

Morse continued, "if you could sit with me on the Foreign Relations Committee, you would observe the great sums of money the American taxpayers are contributing for health programs abroad."

"I have not heard anyone call these foreign aid health programs 'creeping socialism.'"

"But, when one suggests any government-aided health program for our own people, he runs into one of the most powerful lobbies in America today—the combined lobby of the big drug manufacturers and the American Medical Association."

"I shall not," Morse said, "accept the argument that it is socialism to support a government health program for our own people, but great statesmanship to support foreign-aid health programs."

"The American people are becoming wise to that reactionary double-talk."

## 'Labor Peace' Claim Rapped by 3 Unions

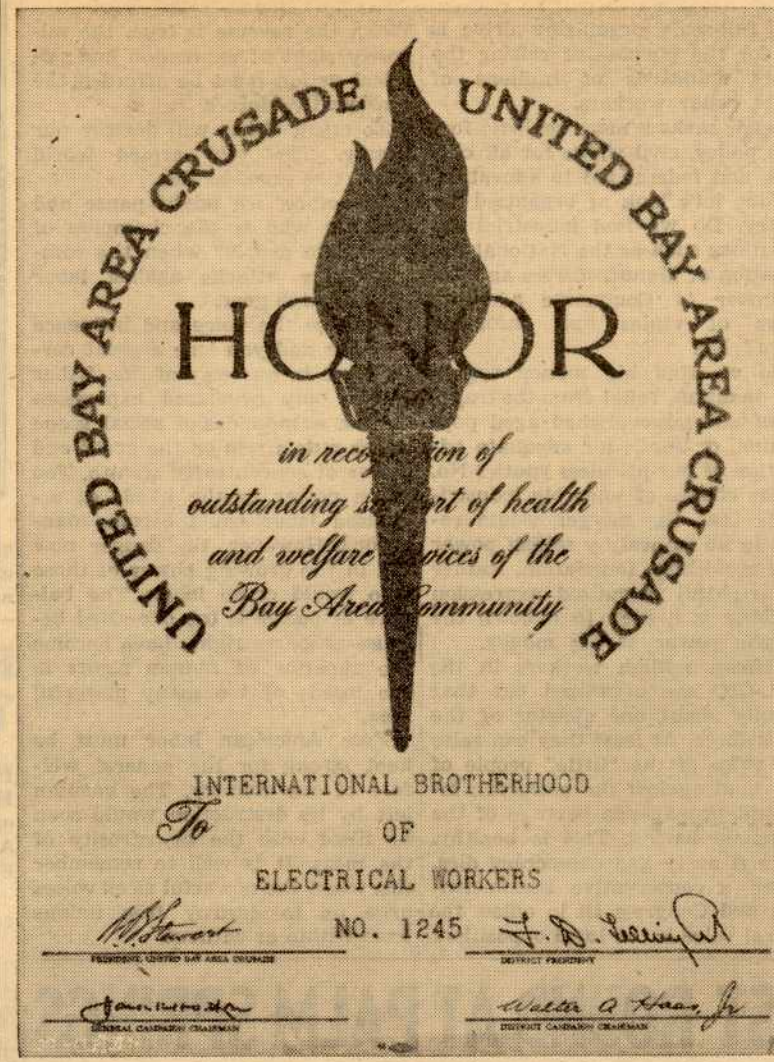
Presidents of three major unions have hotly disputed GOP claims of labor peace in statements to Press Associates, national labor press news service.

UAW Pres. Walter P. Reuther declared that the Eisenhower Administration has shown favoritism toward employers and cited current unemployment in Michigan, as an indication of the Administration's do-nothingism.

Reuther pointed to the Kohler strike as an example of what is happening in the present Administration. He said that the Administration's major action in this two and one-half year strike has been to award a defense contract to the union-busting firm. He also cited the Perfect Circle Co., where Lothair Teator, chairman of the board and a high Administration official, sat mute while his firm broke union organization.

Gordon Freeman, president of the IBEW, declared that under the Taft-Hartley Act, the IBEW "has had more difficulty in organizing, in conducting collective bargaining, and settling disputes than they had in the preceding 20 years, and in states with right-to-work laws,

# Local 1245 Gets Honor Award



Mr. Ronald T. Weakley, Financial Secretary Electrical Workers No. 1245 1918 Grove Street Oakland, California Dear Brother Weakley:

On behalf of the UNITED BAY AREA CRUSADE, it is my pleasant assignment to present the enclosed HONOR AWARD to the Union and its membership.

The issue of this AWARD is exclusively reserved for those employee groups who achieved a 90% or better participation in the Company and Plant campaigns during our recent fund-raising drive. Your members assisted in bringing this recognition for outstanding support to a number of the establishments within the Union's employment areas.

With this token of appreciation comes the gratitude of the Crusade's 256 affiliated Health and Welfare Services and the people who benefit by them. To this, I add my personal thanks for the members' generosity and the co-operation of your fellow officers and your good self.

Fraternally, EDWIN B. LOVE Liaison Representative San Francisco Labor Council

## Electric Power Here to Stay

An increase of between 300 and 400 percent in the use of electricity in American homes and industry by 1980, is the new prediction of the Federal Power Commission.

It is estimated by Secretary of Interior, Fred A. Seaton, that to build the additional generating capacity, it will take \$40 billion to finance this expansion over the next 10 years. For the next 20 years, the cost is estimated at \$94 billion.

Where will all this future power come from? Other FPC studies indicate that 8 1/2% of the total will come from hydroelectric, 77% from conventional fuel plants and 14 1/2% from atomic energy.

It is the expected growth in home consumption of electricity that will be of most interest to the average person.

It was calculated 14% of U.S. homes might be electrically heated by 1980. Faster growth of the electric home-heating industry will be held back because, for the next 25 years at least, the cost of electricity will be higher than the cost of competitive fuels, in most parts of the country.

Industrial users are, of course, the big customers. The top 10% use 90% of the power. However, the FPC report says, "with rising population, the residential classification may at some time in the distant future overtake the industrial use."

## Teacher Aims

"Sound methods of determining competency and incompetency, tenure principles which will protect the rights of the teacher and the child, freedom to give our best as artists in the classroom and promotion of the art of learning—these are our basic objectives," President Ben Rust told the annual convention of the California State Federation of Teachers.

## Observe Safety Rules

## Need More Output? Give Man a Badge!

Not all speed-up artists are in the non-union plants of America. Over in England, the firm of John Peck and Co. of Liverpool has come up with a new "gimmick."

This firm's women workers are awarded merit badges for stepping up production. Badges are worn on workers' sleeves. There's a badge for a "promising learner," one for an "improver," one for the worker "ready to take her place with seasoned workers," one for "seasoned workers," one for "high grade" workers, one for "excellent" workers, one for the "speedy, accurate" worker, and a pair of

## Labor Press Club Formed

Saturday, February 9, heralded the birth of the Northern California Labor Press Club, to which Local 1245, as owners and publishers of the UTILITY REPORTER, is affiliated.

Membership in the Club will be restricted to Editors and Advertising Managers of AFL-CIO publications who will meet quarterly for the purpose of working together to generally improve the Labor Press in Northern California as an accepted responsibility of citizenship.

Officers elected for the remainder of the year were: Chairman, Charles Clough, Editor, VALLEY LABOR CITIZEN, Fresno; Vice-Chairman, Dave Selvin, Editor, SAN FRANCISCO LABOR, San Francisco; Sec.-Treas., Jack Henning, Research Director, California State Federation of Labor.

In addition to the above-noted officers, those in attendance at the "kick-off" meeting were: Louis Burgess, Editor, Wm. Mullin, Advertising Manager, EAST BAY LABOR JOURNAL, Oakland; Langdon Post, CALIFORNIA LABOR PRESS, (editor and publisher of 10 labor publications in Northern California); Fred Steiner, Editor, WEST COAST SAILORS, San Francisco; Ronald T. Weakley, Editor, L. L. Mitchell, Assistant Editor and Elmer B. Bushby, Assistant Editor, UTILITY REPORTER, Oakland.

## Tycoon Holds Unions Essential

In New York City, a multi-millionaire manufacturer broke violently with fellow-industrialists who still cling to ancient notions that unions must be fought tooth-and-nail.

Gerard P. Lambert, a drug manufacturer and advertising tycoon who once made \$10 million in exactly 40 minutes, published his autobiography

Among conclusions that made other industrialists wince with pain were these: "With each passing year I know that I have become more liberal in my political views. There was a time when I considered labor unions a tyrannical menace. Now I am glad that they enforced their demands. They have brought a more stable economy by shifting our wealth from the few to the masses, strangely enough aiding industry while doing so."

In 1955 alone, cancer killed over ten times the number of Americans killed in action during three years of war in Korea.



# YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN

By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

The AFL-CIO is now implementing the policy declarations adopted at the merger convention of December, 1955.

The general theme of the merger convention was that labor is a public institution rather than a big and selfish pressure club.

We are now seeing this philosophy put into practice in the recent weeks. Three International Unions have been hauled onto the carpet and steps are being taken to clean them up or kick them out.

Codes are now in effect covering ethical practices which are designed to weed out those few who are unfit to hold the public trust placed in them.

On matters of general public good, we see the AFL-CIO asking the Congress to do its job. Labor asks broadened Social Security, tax relief for the majority of taxpayers and investigation into the economic unbalance between prices and wages.

A full-scale organizing drive is set for the purpose of raising the living standards of millions of white collar workers.

Labor seeks a more realistic foreign policy, civil rights for all citizens, and federal aid to education.

Now, let's look at organized industry. Do we find industrial associations such as the National Association of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce adopting codes of ethics and enforcing them? No.

Do we find big money urging fair taxation, relief from the tragedy of our impoverished aged population, or funds for adequate education of our priceless youth? No.

The charge of some big industrialists that the merger would result in an unhealthy selfish power bloc is without foundation. Rather the rightful organized expression of labor is needed to balance the terrific power of big money.

Fifteen million workers in the AFL-CIO are organized but that is only about one quarter of the work force. At least they can raise the voice of the "little" people of this land against the powerful, incessant propaganda barrage of the economic barons. This is healthy. Take it away and democracy dies. When a conservative administration and Congress sit in office, the liberal voice is the loyal opposition.

When the reverse is true, the minority right of expression and political action must be afforded the conservative forces.

To crush either will destroy our liberty. The two armed world camps are proof of this.

Therefore, we might pause and consider who is the champion of the "little people" when the coming heavy attacks against labor get into high gear.

Remove the voice and influence of labor and you lose a great cornerstone in our way of life. Labor is the only organized expression on the economic and social scene which puts a rein on the greed and power of concentrated wealth. Too much power in the hands of organized labor could become dangerous. However, the danger now lies in the growing power of those who would crush labor. The balance of power is too one-sided because property rights have become the superior of human rights in the minds of too many powerful men.

Free American labor must be kept strong for the general welfare of our country. The vacuum left by its destruction would soon be filled with the monstrosity of the mass. It is well to remember this when the powerful siren voices urge us to destroy free unions from within or without.



A general view of delegates attending the Feb. 9 and 10 meeting of Calif. State Electrical Wkrs. Assn. semi-annual meeting in San Francisco. At lower left is Ninth Dist. Vice-Pres. Oscar Harback. To right of him are Bros. Joe Kreins and Spike Ensley of Local 1245.

## BONINO NAMED ON COMMITTEE TO TRAIN NEEDED TECHNICIANS

Louis Bonino, Electric Shop Foreman for the City of Alameda's Bureau of Electricity and Local 1245 Policy Committee Member for Key System and East Bay Municipalities, has been selected to serve on the Advisory Committee of the San Leandro Unified School District's Adult School program of Industrial Electronics Technician Training.

Brother Bonino is the only representative from labor on this nine-man committee whose objective is to permit ambitious adults to realize their occupational potentialities in order to alleviate the manpower shortage due in part to continuing technological developments in industry.

In attempting to arrive at a solution to the problem, the School District has provided a number of courses and instructors but has stated that the program is flexible and will set up courses in accordance with the needs and desires of the industry.

As the program develops, it is hoped it will expand to cover

courses in the Electric Light and Power Industry, but will depend, of course, on participation by members. It is also hoped that in time the Union will be able to develop and furnish instructors in these courses.

Members in this area who are interested in participating as students or instructors in this vitally-needed program, should contact Brother Bonino through the Business Office.



Bonino

### Watch Out For 1958

The advocates of "scab labor" bills never give up, as evidenced by the situation in California. Consensus of both employer and labor spokesmen, however, is that the California State Legislature during this session, will sidetrack the union-busting measures.

But an employer spokesman indicated that the reprieve would be only temporary. W. M. Caldwell, president of the California Association of Employers, said that an initiative "right to work" (right-to-scab, right-to-wreck, right-to-starve) measure would be submitted to the voters of the state in the election of 1958.

"We have been conducting an educational campaign among employers, employees and the public on the advantages of this legislation," he said. "We don't think the state is ready for an initiative petition this year. There's no use in being premature."

Although it does not appear likely that such legislation will be introduced at this session, it is known that several anti-union legislators are debating proposals to join with the 17 states which already have scab laws.

A group to keep our "weather eye" on, also, is Associated Farmers of California. At a recent meeting of the AFC in San Francisco, the board of directors of the statewide farm organization pledged all-out support to the "Committee for Voluntary Unionism," another term for "right-to-work" (right-to-scab, right-to-wreck, right-to-starve).

The AFC directors called on all 30 of its county units to join in "showing the way" to what they described as "breaking the shackles of union labor bosses who forced thousands to join a union to obtain and hold their jobs."

### ICFTU on Algeria

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has condemned the French Government for its persecution of trade unions in Algeria where an Arab nationalist movement is in progress. The ICFTU will complain formally to the International Labor Organization.

Attend Union Meetings!

## LABOR WINS FIRST ROUND AT PALM SPRINGS

Riverside County labor unions and council, on behalf of organized labor of California, won the first round battle against the City of Palm Springs January 31, when Superior Court Judge Hilton McCabe enjoined the city against enforcing its anti-labor "Right-to-work" ordinance.

The preliminary injunction will

prevent the City from enforcing the "Right-to-Work" ordinance until a final decision is made. Palm Springs was given 20 days to reply to the injunction.

In a 10-page opinion, Judge McCabe ruled that the courts of California have recognized the validity of the closed shop union agreement for over 30 years. The City

Ordinance prevents union closed shop agreements.

Two suits had been filed through the Riverside County Ordinance Committee, representing organized labor, by the Culinary and Bartenders Local 535 and IBEW Local 440.

Unions and Councils of California are urged to continue their contributions to the campaign as the opposition, headed by the Palm Springs Employers Association, is expected to appeal to the higher courts. Contributions should be sent to Riverside County Ordinance Committee, 1074 La Cadena Drive, Riverside, California.

The general organizing campaign continues in Palm Springs with active picket lines at the El Mirador Hotel and Desert Inn.

State wide support for the Palm Springs campaign continues with the participation of the California State Federation of Labor and every major Council and Federation in the State.

Last month the Palm Springs City Council requested the State Legislature to adopt a State "Right-to-Work Law."

### \$1400 Coffee Break Goes Before Court

Mary E. Cash took two 15-minute coffee breaks daily during the two years or so she worked as a secretary for the Knoxville Poultry and Egg Co.

The company deducted for these breaks in figuring her salary, Miss Cash said in a U.S. District Court suit filed in Knoxville, Tenn. This, she alleged, violates the Fair Labor Standards Act.

True to her name, she seeks \$1400 she says is due her for back coffee breaks and various other deductions she cites as illegal.

For the record, her two years with Knoxville Poultry and Egg Co. ended last August.

### Keep Dues Paid Up!

## Eye Clerical Line of Progression

On Saturday, February 16, representatives from many of the P.G.&E. Clerical work groups met in the Business Office in Oakland to formulate a proposal on lines of progression for Clerical and Office classifications.

As this first meeting produced only a general coverage of the complex problems, it is hoped that the membership will contact the Committee members and provide more specific ideas.

Those in attendance as Committee members were Vince Raycraft, Chico; Morris Carpenter, Auburn; James Baxter, Salinas; Grace Herrschaft, San Jose; Walter Kaufmann, Fresno; Joan Bynum, Hayward; Ima Young, Oakland; Henry Lewis, Oakland; Ted Cordua, Emeryville. Assisting the committee from the Business Office was Business Representative Elmer B. Bushby.

## Average PG&E Worker Works 3 Weeks for Free

If you are an average P.G.&E. worker, you had to work more than the first three weeks of January for nothing.

At least that's how long it took you to earn the money it will cost you in taxes in 1957, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, now planning to discuss tax reduction and other national legislative problems at a congressional

issue clinic in Detroit on February 28.

With a weekly salary of \$93.84 (the average wage of P.G.&E. employees in the bargaining unit) the worker with a wife and two children had to work 123½ hours or slightly longer than three weeks to meet his 1957 tax bill of \$290.

The average worker with only one child worked for over the entire month of January or 175½ hours to pay his tax bill, while an unmarried worker with no dependents faced working through February 19 or 287 hours to earn his \$674 tax bill.

### THERE'S THE RUB.

However, the conference is not likely to come up with any recommendations to help the average worker. The Chamber's position is that the "basic problem lies in correcting tax rates which penalize initiative and productivity, rather than piecemeal correction of inequities in the tax code."

## Business Failures Are Still Climbing

Big business profits and dividends continue to soar, but according to the Wall St. Journal, failures in businesses during 1956 climbed to 12,686, a gain of sixteen percent from the 1955 total and the highest since pre-war 1940.

A majority of these failures were small businesses in construction, retail and wholesale enterprises.

Harold D. Wess, a professor of business administration at American University, took a look at developments and came up with this:

"If and when small business disappears from our midst, then our free enterprise society will be no more. I use "when" because I fear that unless appropriate action is taken it is possible that small business will no longer be present."

150,000 Americans will be saved from cancer this year. Another 80,000 could be saved if they secured the proper treatment in time.

## Cal. Electrical Wkrs. Assn. Meets in S.F.

(Continued from Page One)

vide a more comprehensive program and would be administered by persons experienced in industrial accident problems and the need for vocational rehabilitation.

Mr. Lance also pointed out that there must be some concerted effort to convince the medical profession of the seriousness of electrical shock and its after effects.

On Friday, the day prior to the Conference, the California Utility Locals met in caucus in the exchange of ideas on common problems peculiar to the Utility group. Representing Local 1245 were Bus. Mgr. R. T. Weakley, Asst. Bus. Mgr. L. L. Mitchell, Bus. Reps. Elmer Bushby, Dan McPeak, "Spike" Ensley and Executive Board member Joe Kreins.

An act amending the Municipal Utility District Act to permit collective bargaining by Municipal Utility Districts, which has been sponsored by L.U. 1245 in the State Legislature, was one of the major subjects under discussion. The Utility Locals unanimously recommended that a resolution be submitted to the Association's Executive Board for their adoption. The Association's Executive Board, acting as the Legislative Committee, did adopt the resolution and will support the proposed measure.

Other items of extreme interest before the Utility Locals included Health and Welfare Plans, Joint Apprenticeship Training and Joint Safety Programs.