

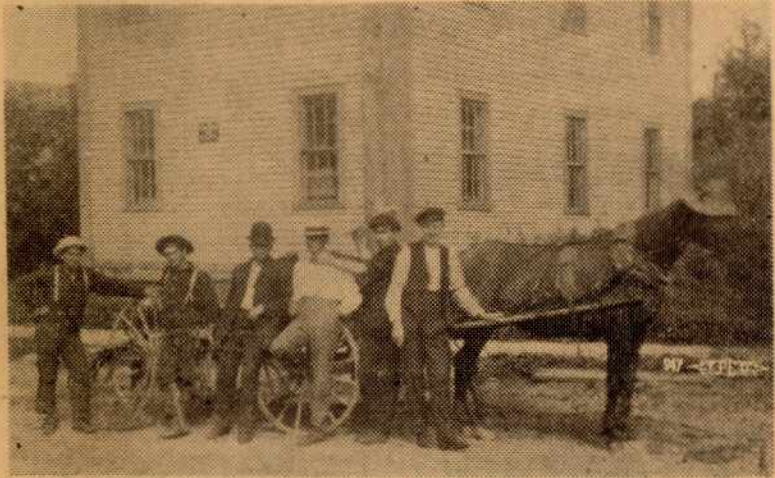
# Utility Reporter

Official Publication of I. B. E. W. Local Union 1245, AFL-CIO, 1918 Grove Street, Oakland 12, Calif.

Vol. V—No. 1

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MAY, 1957



REMEMBER THIS?—The best in line trucks—in the year 1910—is shown in the above picture of a Bakersfield line crew. This and other treasured photos will appear in a forthcoming anniversary edition of "The Utility Reporter."

## PUBLIC POWER BOYS AXE LABOR MEASURE

"By their needs ye shall know them." This applies to the position of certain representatives of public power agencies with respect to Assembly Bill 2793.

Anyone would think that the officials of a public-owned and operated utility system would welcome the organization

of its employees by a responsible Union. It would seem that collective representation would enhance the harmonious relationship between the workers and the public agency and thereby benefit the affected community. Not so, according to the public agency representatives who oppose A.B. 2793.

As noted in the last issue of the "Utility Reporter," A.B. 2793 would provide for collective bargaining in municipal utility districts, with the right of signed contracts. Further, it would provide for representation elections for the purpose of the employees to name their own representatives by majority

vote. To safeguard the public welfare, provisions are included which would allow arbitration of disputes.

This would seem to be a fair and equitable means of containing jurisdictional squabbles, give the rights of collective bargaining and contract to public utility agency workers while adequately protecting the continuity of service to the agency's customers.

The only opposition to the bill before the Assembly Committee on Industrial Relations, was expressed by representatives of the Los Angeles cities and public utility districts, the irrigation districts, the East Bay Municipal Utility District and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

Objections ranged from fear of expansion to other public agencies and opposition to arbitration and employee representation elections, to S.M.U.D.'s objection that ten

(Continued on Page 4)

## R. T. Weakley Talks to Class At Stanford

On May 10, 1957, Business Manager Ronald T. Weakley attended a class of Stanford University students upon invitation of Professor John P. Troxell. Troxell is Professor of Industrial Relations, graduate School of Business Administration. He is a noted arbitrator and considered a leading figure in the field of industrial relations education.

The class, with Professor Troxell moderating, heard Weakley explain the history, complex operations, bargaining methods and objectives of Local 1245. After the opening remarks, the students directed many questions to Weakley, who answered them in an atmosphere of relaxed informality.

The questions were sharp and the area broad but according to Weakley, the exchange was enjoyed by all. Of particular interest to the students were the questions of democracy in unions, wage bargaining determination, "Right-to-Work" laws, leadership motives and policies.

Considerable materials were made available to Professor Troxell and the industrial relations library. These included structural charts and administration information, educational papers and samples of methods of membership communication.

Weakley was pleased to report that an invitation to attend a future group meeting was kindly afforded by Professor Troxell at the conclusion of the May 10th session.



Congratulations from the Officers, Staff and members of Local 1245 to you Brother S. E. "Rocky" Rockwell on your 20th Anniversary as Business Manager of Local 595, IBEW—our landlord and good neighbor.

We know that during these past 20 years you have faced some obstacles which have been nearly insurmountable but have always come out "on top."

Your reputation as an honest and fearless labor leader in the IBEW and the Bay Area is well known wherever Union men congregate. You have given your whole-hearted devotion to your Union—Local 1245 salutes you!

## '57 Contract With Sierra Pacific Is Ratified; Many New Gains Are Achieved

The 1957 settlement with the Sierra Pacific Power Co. was ratified by a vote of 63 to 1 by the members in attendance at the meeting of Unit 3311 in Reno on May 8, 1957. Outstanding gains were made under the new contract.

Terms of the new Agreement, effective May 1, 1957, are for one year and include:

1. 5½% general wage increase.
2. Inequity adjustments to be applied prior to the general wage increase:
  - A. Laborer—change from one year progression to single rate
  - B. Equipment Operator, Lt.—2c per hour
  - C. Chief Operator, Washoe—5c per hour
  - D. Operator, Washoe—5c per hour
  - E. Chief Operator, Reno—5c per hour
  - F. Operator, Reno—5c per hour
  - G. Operator, Gas—Increase starting rate 11c per hour and maximum of rate 5c per hour and change from 18 months progression to one year
  - H. Service Clerk—5c per hour
  - I. Electrician Technician—newly established
  - J. Lineman—¾c per hour and eliminate one month probationary period for newly-hired lineman
  - K. Apprentice Meterman, Electrician, Communicationman—Increase starting rate 3¾c per hour and 6 month step 2c per hour
  - L. Apprentice Lineman—Reduce progression from 3 years to 30 months. Increase the 18 months step 1¾c, the 2 year step 5c and the 30 month step 11¾c.
  - M. Engineering Assistant, Senior—5c per hour
3. Pension Plan—Improvements to be negotiated during interim term of Agreement. To become effective April 1, 1958.
4. Shift, Service & Resident Employees classifications made an appendix to Agreement.
5. Any work on a Holiday to be at overtime rate, whether scheduled or not.
6. Four (4) weeks vacation in 20th year of service.
7. Revision of Safety Rules based on PCEA Safety Code and Union-Company discussions.
8. Supplemental Benefits for Industrial Injury to equal 90% of employee's base wage.
9. Lines of Progression for promotion and demotion for all departments to be negotiated during interim term of Agreement.
10. Establishment of a bidding procedure for filling of vacancies.
11. No requirement for any employee to be "on call."
12. Job Definitions and Qualifications to be negotiated by Interim Committee.
13. Clarification of contractual language in various Sections of the Agreement.

Following are some examples of the wage schedule after application of the increases:

- Laborer—\$2.015 per hour or \$80.60 per week.
  - Helper or Groundman—\$2.145 per hour or \$85.80 per week.
  - Gas Serviceman—\$2.645 per hour or \$105.80 per week.
  - Mechanic, Garage—\$2.58 per hour or \$103.20 per week.
  - Machinist—\$2.64 per hour or \$105.60 per week.
  - Electrician—\$2.815 per hour or \$112.60 per week.
  - Lineman—\$2.80 per hour or \$112.00 per week.
  - Line Working Foreman—\$3.07 per hour or \$122.80 per week.
  - Service Clerk—\$2.555 per hour or \$102.20 per week.
  - Senior Typist—\$2.28 per hour or \$91.20 per week.
- (Continued on Page 4)

## PG&E Talks Progressing

At press time, the 4th meeting of Union and PG&E Negotiating Committees had been concluded. The parties, during these meetings, fully explained their respective proposals and counter-proposals and reached tentative agreement on some items including the major points on certain adjustments.

As a result of discussions and Company's counter-proposals, Union's Committee is now preparing a revised counter-proposal as a basis for our next meeting on Tues. and Wed., May 28th and 29th.

It is hoped that further progress will be made toward an early settlement of the 1957 negotiations.

Attend your unit meeting for information on further developments.

## Northern Calif. IBEW Backs Trinity Partnership

At its regular semi-annual meeting, held at the Casa De Vallejo hotel in Vallejo on May 11th, 1957, the Joint Executive Conference of Northern California's Electrical Workers, I.B.E.W., AFL-CIO, went on record in favor of H.R. 6697, which would provide for joint development of the Trinity River Project by government and private power.

A resolution, introduced by Local 1245 and adopted by the Conference, called for advising North-

ern California Congressmen of the action of the Conference which represents IBEW Locals from Salinas to Eureka in the construction, utility, communication and manufacturing branches of the Brotherhood.

Local 1245 Business Manager R. T. Weakley offered the motion for adoption on the resolution and scored government policies with respect to labor provisions in power construction contracts and the anti-labor attitudes of public power agencies recently brought to light in the matter of labor legislation affecting workers under the Municipal Utility District Act.

George Mulkey, International Representative, gave a report on anti-labor legislation and the Conference called for an early meeting of the Northern, Central and Southern Conference Chairmen and the State Electrical Workers Association Executive Board. The purpose of the meeting will be to mobilize the California IBEW membership into action designed to combat anti-legislation, such as Federal, State, County and Municipal "Right-to-Starve" laws.

Vice-President O. G. Harbak reported on the 9th District, with emphasis on atomic energy in our industry and the need for adequate protection against radiation hazards.

Brother Nick Frye of Santa Rosa Local 551 chaired the Conference and was elected Chairman for the ensuing year. Henry Gunderson of San Jose Local 332, was elected Vice-Chairman and W. H. Diedrichsen of San Mateo Local 617, was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer.

Local 1245 was represented by Business Manager R. T. Weakley, Central Area Executive Board Member Joe Kreins and Business Representative Roy D. Murray.

## Redding City Dads Duck Bargaining

Another example of public agency disregard of employees' rights was displayed by the Redding City Council last month when the Redding City Employees Association requested the Council to consider a 15% blanket wage increase.

Instead of assuming its responsibility to sit down and bargain fairly, the Council authorized City Manager R. W. Crowden to negotiate with either the State Personnel Board or Louis J. Kroeger and Associates for a job classification and basic pay plan for the city employees.

Kroeger's outfit was hired by the City of Fresno to suggest a "plan." The "plan" resulted in substantial pay cuts to many city employees in Fresno.

The Redding employees were told by Mayor Fleharty that while there was not a question of confidence in the city employees, there was a question of basic economy and that these things had to be taken in steps.

Redding is a public power agency and like Roseville, Turlock Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District and many other, does not allow the right of self-organization into bona fide unions for the purpose of legitimate collective bargaining.





# The UTILITY REPORTER



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## Housewives Take Note:

The lady of the house, the housewife, the mother . . . give her any name you will, has a definite responsibility. While her husband puts in that eight hours daily, she looks after the home and children, the laundry, the buying of groceries, children's clothes, beside a host of other various duties.

One of those prime tasks is shopping for the family . . . in the super-market, at the department store, at the shoe store, and other places that she must visit to keep a home going and her children and husband supplied with the necessary articles of food and clothing.

Even if her husband makes a good salary, she must watch the nickels and dimes, because there is a house payment to make, payments on the car, a new set of tires will be needed soon, the lawnmower needs overhauling, taxes must be paid or the insurance is coming due, or there is a dentist's bill.

With careful figuring, however, the housewife does a good job, and has a little something left over for the occasional movie and to put away for emergencies or a rainy day.

But all this may be changed. The housewife, when she goes to the super-market will have to be much more careful. In fact she is not just going to have to watch nickels and dimes . . . she is going to have to actually pinch pennies. Those children are going to have to wear their shoes longer . . . have them half-soled again and again. That family car is going to have to last twice as long; the family is going to have to cut down on that milk bill and on other groceries and meat . . . if those reactionaries have their way and pass, in the State of California, a so-called right to work law.

Now these "right-to-work" laws go by many names, and in California the outfit which wants to beat down your wages goes by the name of "Committee for Voluntary Unionism."

But that name is merely a cover-up, because the perpetrators do not care about voluntary unionism . . . or anything else . . . except the lower wages that a right-to-work law would create.

Survey after survey in those states which have such a law prove one thing . . . and prove it conclusively . . . that wages are beaten down, for non-union people, as well as Union people under such a law.

In the state of Arkansas, a state that has a so-called right-to-work law, the income of skilled crafts like carpenters, machinists, electricians, plasterers, bricklayers, plumbers, is about \$600 less annually than the neighboring state of Oklahoma which does not have such a law on the books. Arkansas is but one example.

This is because Unions in Oklahoma can successfully negotiate wages; Unions in Arkansas can't.

But, pause for a moment, and with paper and pencil, figure where you would cut down if the pay check your husband brought home was \$50 less each month.

Perhaps you'd have to forego those music lessons for the children. Perhaps you'd have to cut down your insurance to a bare minimum or perhaps cancel it altogether. Maybe you'd have to forego that annual vacation.

Perhaps you can cut down and use a quart less milk daily . . . buy cheaper meat . . . cut out that weekly movie . . . Johnny can't have that bicycle he'd been planning on . . . the younger children will have to wear more hand-me-down clothes . . . and you'll have to quit putting away those few dollars weekly that was intended to help Johnny through college. When the TV goes haywire, you might not be able to afford a service call.

Fifty dollars monthly doesn't seem much, but it can mean the difference between having to be just thrifty rather than being downright penurious.

And fifty dollars can go a long way toward the monthly payment on the car, house, TV or washing machine and other appliances.

Women should be particularly interested in keeping a so-called right-to-work law off the books, for they will bear the brunt of a smaller paycheck.

So the women of California better start thinking about

## Letters to the Editor

May 14, 1957

Local 1245, IBEW  
 Oakland, California  
 Att. H. M. Sevey.  
 Dear Sir & Brother:  
 I received the two checks you forwarded to me from the I.O. and I thank you for same.  
 I guess being retired is O.K. but I miss going to meetings and being part of the Local.  
 Wishing all the Officers and members all the success in the world, I remain,  
 Fraternally yours,  
 s/ "NEWT" COATES

## ELECTRONICS

### Could Wipe Out 90% of Some Clerical Jobs

A top business economist has predicted that electronic computers could replace up to 90 per cent of clerical workers in some areas of the economy.

A. James Meigs, business economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, made the estimate. A survey, he reported, showed that the use of electronic computers could reduce clerical labor and space in the Chicago metropolitan area by 25 per cent.

He added that he thinks this is a conservative estimate and that labor, in certain cases, might be cut 90 per cent. The banking business, for example, will undergo "radical changes if the early promise of the computers is realized," he said.

It no longer will be necessary for banks to concentrate accounting operations at the main downtown branch, Meigs said.

"If businesses move data processing to the suburbs, retail and service businesses which now sell to people working downtown would be affected." In the future, "the typical bank employee, would be older, more highly skilled, than is true today," Meigs said.

## It is Strange Friends We Have

After it was announced that U.S. foreign policy had won a great victory in Jordan, a news report said that country's Arab King Hussein "BANNED TRADE UNIONS AND EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATIONS."

We recall that this was Hitler's first act upon his rise to power in Germany.

This sort of thing makes us wonder whether some of Uncle Sam's foreign "friends" are also friends of democracy.



what is going to happen in the coming months.

In newspapers, on billboards, on radio and TV, you will hear about the "Committee for Voluntary Unionism." They will attempt to sell you on the idea of "personal freedom" for the worker.

But this is a snare and a delusion for their sole aim is to beat down wages. The propaganda will be clever and convincing, but every wife, mother, housewife and working woman must remember one important fact.

And that is: Beneath all the arguments . . . the slick propaganda . . . twisted logic . . . the oily speeches—a right-to-work law does not guarantee any right to work or individual freedom—it is a device to lower your wages. Keep that stark, naked fact in mind when you are asked to sign a petition or vote for such a law.

It is tough enough to get by now, with prices and the cost of living what they are. A right-to-work law will only make it tougher. You don't really realize just how much tougher!

## WHY THE CLASSROOM SHORTAGE GROWS



ENROLLMENT KEEPS GOING UP		NUMBER OF PUPILS
In last 5 years, public school enrollment	-----	UP 5 1/2 million
In the next 5 years, estimated rise	-----	UP 6 million
MORE CLASSROOMS - A MUST		NEW CLASSROOMS NEEDED
Right now: To eliminate overcrowding and substandard schools	-----	159,000
In the next 5 years	-----	225,000
To meet current obsolescence and destruction due to fire, flood, etc.	-----	110,000
We must build, in the next 5 years	-----	494,000
BUT THE SCHOOL DEFICIT IS GROWING		NEW CLASSROOMS NEEDED
Last year, new classrooms totalled	-----	63,000
At that rate, the 5-year total would be	-----	315,000
AND THE DEFICIT—without federal aid, would rise to	-----	179,000

## "Creeping Feminism"

There are 5 million more married women working today than there were ten years ago. They represent more than 30 per cent of the American labor force with the proportion climbing every year since 1947 when it was 21.4 per cent.

The latest survey of women workers in the American economy, made by the Department of Commerce, shows a number of striking facts.

As of March 1956:

There were 20,842,000 women in the American labor force as compared with 16,323,000 in 1947.

More than one-third or 43.2 per cent of women in the country had jobs in 1956 as compared with 29.8 in 1947.

The number of single women dropped from 6,181,000 in 1947 to 5,167,000 in 1956. Part of this drop is due to the fact that the marriage rate went up but part is also due to the lesser participation of single women in the labor force.

There were 12,126,000 married women in the labor force in 1956 as compared with 7,545,000 in 1947.

Of these 11,126,000 had husbands who also had jobs, 3,397,000 were widowed or divorced, while 1,152,000 were separated from their husbands for one reason or another.

Most of the married women who worked came from homes where the husband's income was \$5,000 a year or less. "In general," the report said, "the higher a husband's income, the less likely his wife is to be a member of the labor force."

In 1956, 60 per cent of women in the labor force were married as compared with 45 per cent in 1947.

Women between the ages of 45 and 64 have played an increasingly significant role in the growth of the postwar labor force. The number of working women in this age group has doubled in the past ten years going from 1.9 million to 3.8 million, with about 33 per cent of women in this group working as compared with 20 per cent in 1947.

The steady influx of older women has now raised the average age of the working woman from 35 years to 39 1/2 years.

The percentage of mothers in the work force varies with the age of their children only 30 per cent

having children under six years of age while 70 per cent had children 6 years or older.

## POLIO CAN BE CONTROLLED

The 1,300,000 members of the AFL-CIO in the State of California can play a tremendous role in the forthcoming polio campaign. By July 1st, it is hoped that 6,000,000 unvaccinated Californians under 40 can be protected against this dread disease.

A program of this nature can only succeed with the cooperation of such important organizations as the AFL-CIO.

Paralytic polio among older people can not only be an extremely painful disease but can leave its victims with a long-term disability. As the breadwinner in your family, you can appreciate how such a disability would affect the economic stability of your family, not to mention the emotional crisis that might develop in such a situation. When you know, however, that this need not happen, it is your responsibility as head of your family, and as a key worker in your plant or industry to take the necessary precautions. This is especially true since all that this involves is receiving at least two doses of polio vaccine before July 1.

Many local health departments and medical societies have set up special immunization plans for industry using commercial vaccine supplies at nominal cost. But don't forget to protect your family too. Contact the local department or medical society in your community for details. Remember, there will be only enough state vaccine to protect one-third of all the 6,000,000 Californians who are still unvaccinated.

### YOU CAN HELP

This is the challenge. Labor has always played a prominent role in promoting the health and welfare of the community. In cooperation with all other interested agencies, this is our opportunity to prevent at least 1000 Californians from contracting paralytic polio this year.

As Governor Knight has said, "The ultimate responsibility for protecting our people against the ravages of this crippling disease now rests squarely with us. We cannot do less than meet this responsibility to ourselves and our families."

For Your Family's Sake—Vaccinate Against Polio—Today!

A successful marriage speaks volumes—a cookbook, a checkbook, and a prayer book.

T-V's half-baked commercials are overdone, while those that are well done are rare.



# "Right-to-Work" Dictated By Employer, Not by Law

Every employer lays down a host of conditions to which an employee must comply if he is to maintain his "Right-to-Work." Such employee must abide by any rules the employer lays down, no matter how extreme or fantastic.

At the present time, a California employer, legally, can employ—only men, only women, only whites only Negroes, only large men, only tall men, only fat men, only skinny men, only redheads, blackheads, or bald heads. Few people raise any question about the authority of the employer to dictate such conditions surrounding the "right-to-work."

The howl arises only when the workers and management reach an agreement through collective bargaining that one of these conditions shall include membership in the Union which is the bargaining agent for these workers.

A significant example of this contrast in attitude comes out of Utah, which has a "Right-to-Starve" law prohibiting the union shop.

There, it has been reported, that the Superintendent of the Granite School District had fired a painter on the spot when he discovered that the employee used tobacco—not on the job, but in his home.

The painter, incidentally, was a refugee, a former Hungarian freedom fighter.

His crime was that he had unwittingly violated a hard and fast rule laid down by the superintendent which barred employees from "smoking or drinking anywhere." Thus, in a flash, the painter's "Right-to-Work" had been wiped out at the whim of the employer.

We have heard of no hue and cry being raised over this suppression of the "Right-to-Work."

## IN MEMORIAM

Larry Drew, IBEW International Representative, passed away while asleep in his motel room in the Los Angeles area during the night of May 18th due to major coronary stoppage. Harry, aged 53, had many friends in Local 1245, having been assigned to work in the Bay Area during the organizing period of Local 1324. He also served as Local 1245 Office Manager for a short while after the amalgamation of Locals 1324 and 1245.

Albert "Bert" Ford, Business Representative for Local 1245 from July 1944 to Nov. 1951, died on May 10th. Bert retired from his business in Oakdale a year ago at 60 years of age. He had been suffering from a kidney ailment since his retirement. Bert will be remembered by his many friends throughout Local 1245 having worked as Business Rep. in all divisions of PG&E Co. during his seven years with the Union.

Earl McDaniell, aged 61, died Thursday, May 16th, in his home as a result of a heart attack. Earl was an early day President of Local 1245 serving for 4 years from June 1945 to July 1949. He had

## Why Unions?

"The only way to keep men from agitating against grievances is to remove the grievances. While we are fighting for freedom, we must see, among other things, that labor is free."—Woodrow Wilson.

### WHY WAGE INCREASES?

Everybody favors a higher income level for the American people.

Unions have tried to do something about it—and they have been successful in raising the income level of workers' wages through collective bargaining with employers.

Back in 1936, for instance, the average hourly wage in America's steel industry was only 66c an hour. In 1956, it had risen to about \$2.50 an hour. Other unions, in other industries, have been similarly successful in lifting the wage levels in America's factories and shops, its mines and mills and stores.

Some people say: "But that does not do any good—increases in the cost of living eat up the increased wages."

The facts don't support that argument. Steel wages, for instance, have increased about 336 per cent in twenty years; the cost of living during the same period has gone up about 96 per cent. Thus, the steelworkers have received real benefits.

Another study shows that the increase in buying power of the take-home pay for average industrial workers has increased by 55 per cent between 1939 and 1955—and that shows the average industrial worker is 55 per cent better off despite the rising prices.

If workers are better off, is that good for the rest of the national economy?

Again, the facts say "yes."

Our democratic American economy is based on an essential need for mass markets, for mass buying power, to purchase the products that industries and farmers produce. If our working population does not have the money to buy those products, goods pile up, business slows down, factories go on short schedule, farmers find fewer markets for the things they raise.

When workers get wage increases in a community, everybody benefits indirectly. The merchant sells more goods to families with more buying power; doctors and dentists find more people with the money to spend for more adequate

been a foreman of a Substation maintenance crew with S.M.U.D. for the last 10 years having transferred from the PG&E Co. in 1946 where he had been employed since 1921.

health care; churches, civic groups and community funds, find workers more able to contribute generously to these institutions.

Union collective bargaining agreements have also helped to serve still other people in the community. When the first big company-paid pension agreements were signed, back in 1949-50, they provided that the employer would pay the difference between social security benefits and the figure set forth in the union-management contract. That gave an incentive to industry to join with labor in seeking legislation to bring long-needed improvements in the social security benefits. Those new benefits helped everybody: retired people, in and out of the unions, as well as business enterprise.

Through their legislative activities, unions have consistently championed measures to improve governmental benefits for various groups of citizens, without regard to whether the beneficiaries are union members or not.

Thus, we've seen, social security benefits have been liberalized. So, too, have workmen's compensation plans, unemployment insurance, and minimum wages. (These latter usually affect non-union workers whose wages are in the lowest brackets).

Unions have worked for government programs to spur full employment, to help the farmers, to improve governmental health programs, to aid distressed economic areas, to promote both public and private housing programs for middle- and lower-income families and many similar projects.

Union members know that what's good for America is good for American labor. They know how essential is a healthy expanding economy, in which our free enterprise system can function at maximum efficiency for all the people. They recognize that in our America, the activities of every segment of our population have a direct effect on every other group.

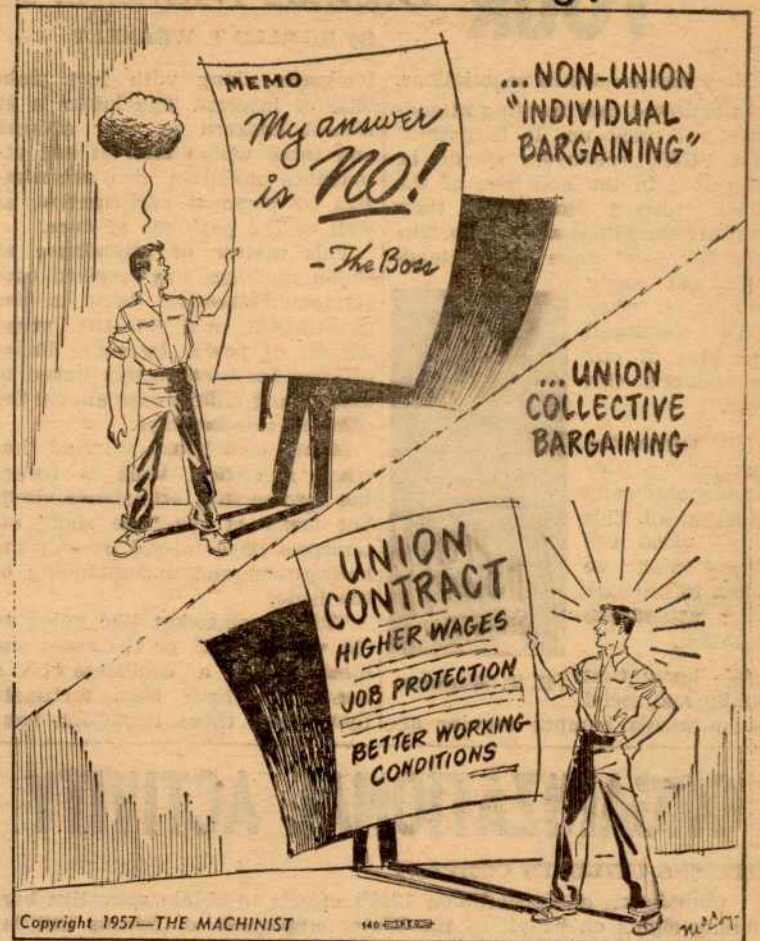
As AFL-CIO President George Meany said recently: American labor doesn't consider itself "a class apart" but as a "part of the great mass of American citizens." He pointed out: "We are practical enough to know that under a democracy such as we have, advance and progress must be made for the benefit of all."

### McClellan's 2 Hats

Here is what the influential Washington Post & Times Herald had to say about the action of Senator John McClellan, Arkansas Democrat for his introduction of a federal "right-to-work" amendment at a time when he is chairman of the Senate Rackets Committee:

Sen. John McClellan is wearing two hats these days. In his neutral gray fedora, he operates as the impartial chairman of the Senate Rackets Committee—established to investigate corruption, misuse of union funds and other irregularities in labor unions. To conduct this investigation successfully, the committee must have the confidence and cooperation of the honorable and progressive elements in the labor movement who are bent upon setting their own houses in order. But Senator McClellan from time to time dons a formal homburg; and in this attire he has sought to tack on to the civil rights bill a wholly irrelevant "right-to-work" rider which could be a vehicle for union-busting. One of these hats simply doesn't suit the Senator's personality.

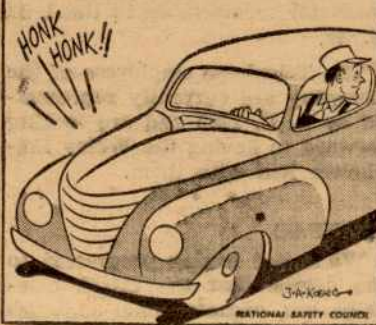
## How are YOU doing?



### STAY SAFE OFF-THE-JOB, TOO

BEFORE YOU BACK UP

LOOK BACK SOUND YOUR HORN and BACK SLOWLY



Safety is sanity.

It's common sense at work in a dangerous world. It's calm good judgment, thoughtfulness for others—the Golden Rule.

The chap in this cartoon is practicing it in a very real situation.

Many other drivers practice it too. Yet each year, about 30,000 persons are killed and a million injured in motor vehicle accidents. A good number of them are workers.

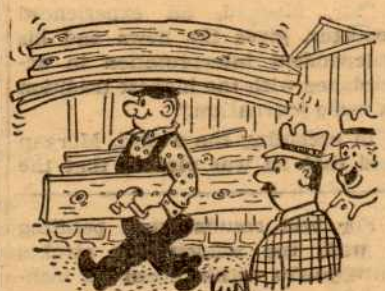
This toll represents a tragic and shameful human and economic waste. You can help prevent a similar waste again this year.

Take this matter of backing up, for example. Most drivers do the large share of backing up in their own driveways.

When you drive out of your driveway, make sure there is no one in the driveway. Teach your children not to leave toys in the driveway so they won't be tempted to dart in the path of the car in an attempt to rescue them. Be alert for people stepping into the driveway from behind shrubs, buildings or other concealments.

Study your own driveway problem. Backing your car into the garage and driving out frontwards may be safer than the other way around.

Don't attempt to enter the traffic stream unless you can do so with safety for yourself and others. Remember, cars in the flow of traffic have the right of way.



## MINIMUM WAGE EXTENSION URGED

AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany denounced as "narrow, restricted and unrealistic" Administration proposals from Labor Secretary James P. Mitchell that would expand minimum wage coverage by only 2.5 million workers, of whom only an estimated 400,000 would actually get pay raises.

Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell has recommended to Congress that the \$1 an hour minimum wage be extended to another 2 1/2 million workers, most of them in retail trades.

Appearing before a Senate labor subcommittee, Mr. Mitchell urged amendments to bring under the Fair Labor Standards Act all employees of any business enterprise "in which the total annual value of incoming materials, or supplies moving directly across State lines to its place or places of business is \$1 million or more" and employing 100 or more workers.

Under Mr. Mitchell's plan, about 2 million employees of some 2,200 large retail enterprises including department store and chain store operations would come under the law.

It would also cover 65,000 employees of city transit systems, 15,000 telephone employees; 90,000 seamen; 50,000 employees of the Nation's largest hotel systems; 30,000 employees of large taxicab companies, and some 200,000 employees in about 100 construction enterprises involving activities in many States.

Labor carried its case for extended minimum wage coverage to both Senate and House Labor subcommittees and gave full endorsement to the pending Morse-Kelley bills that would grant protection to about 9.6 million workers.

### 'Labor Racketeering' Misnomer—Rep. Green

Congresswoman Edith Green (D., Ore.) strongly resents the term "labor racketeering."

Speaking on a transcribed radio broadcast from Washington, Rep. Green declared:

"It seems to me that if we have one teller in a bank who absconds with money, we don't say that we will immediately have an investigation into 'bank racketeering.'

"Or, because there is one Dixon-Yates, we don't say that we'll have an investigation of 'business racketeering.'

"And I feel the same way about labor racketeering. Because you have violations of ethical conduct you don't automatically say we're going to have an investigation of labor racketeering. But clean it out wherever it occurs."

## HOW'S THIS FOR A COMPANY POLICY?

Because of a company policy, a mother has lost her son and the electrical workers have been deprived of a talented apprentice. Edwin G. Peters, 25, employed by the City Public Service Board in San Antonio, Texas, (a "Right-to-Work" state), lost his life hours after coming in contact with a 4KV wire atop a 35-ft. pole.

A supervisory employee of the company stated that he was carrying out orders of the company in defying ambulance crews to administer first aid pending arrival of a company doctor.

Supervisor Ben Utz said company policy prevented him releasing Peters to ambulance crews until a company doctor arrived 45 minutes after the accident.

Victor H. Braunig, board general manager, confirmed that the action was a company policy. He said that 12 physicians were called before one was found available.



# YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN

By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

Now that we are in negotiations, it is expected that meeting attendance will pick up. It is natural that PG&E employees should be interested in the activities of the Union toward improving their working conditions and wages. The "old faithfuls" have been attending right along and it is they who developed the base of our negotiations this year.

The rest of the membership attends sporadically or not at all. This is not good and steps must be taken to improve this attendance situation.

We know that family and social commitments hamper regular at-

tendance, along with just plain lack of interest. The latter is of utmost concern to your officers and those whose interest and attendance maintain this organization by personal participation, as well as the payment of dues.

This matter of attendance at Union meetings has received considerable attention, both in the government and in the press. Abuses of power by some Union officers has been rightly linked to apathy and indifference among the affected memberships.

In our own house, we find that when a critical issue is before the membership, attendance swells but many of the "one shot" attendants have missed out on the background and understanding of the issue.

This is somewhat like going to the voting booth or the races and blind-picking a candidate or a horse. We have been fortunate that when these situations have

occurred, we have been able, eventually and satisfactorily, to resolve the issues.

However, the danger is ever present that some major decision might some day be made under such circumstances and turn out to be a fatal error.

There isn't much to be gained by harping on the need for attendance and participation at our Unit meetings. All your officers ask is that you consider the foregoing remarks and pledge two or three hours a month to the operation of your Local Union. All of your officers and staff members are trying to do the best possible job for you. We need you and your guidance in our efforts to maintain and improve security and living standards for you and your family. Enough said.

Let's go to the next Unit meeting and live up to the responsibilities of membership in our Union.



R. T. Weakley

## Utility Execs. View Future at P. C. Meet

The 40th annual convention of the Pacific Coast Electrical Association held in San Francisco on May 15th and 16th, 1957, was the scene of discussion on the "Challenge of Growth."

Speaking on the future of the power industry, PG&E President Norman R. Sutherland cited the downward trend of atomic fuel costs as against the continuing rise in conventional fuel costs. Sutherland forecast the economic possibility of atomic generation within the next decade due to technological development and fuel cost con-

siderations.

Sierra Pacific Power's President Frank A. Tracy cited the tax load now borne by individuals and business as a factor in considering the growth of the power business. Tracy stated that the electric utility tax bill covering Federal, State and local taxes for 1956 amounted to a little less than \$1 out of every \$4 that utility customers paid for services in 1956.

Some 1200 delegates were in attendance from the West and Hawaii and represented the electrical industry in this area.

## Safety Committee Active

The System Safety Committee of Local Union 1245, in its regular bi-monthly meeting on Saturday, May 4th, took steps to implement the elimination of various hazards confronting the membership. After consideration of reports from various Unit Safety Committees and analysis of numerous

accidents, several of which resulted in fatalities, action was taken which resulted in letters being written to the PG&E proposing revisions in the Company's Safety Rules, as well as pointing out hazardous conditions with a request that these be investigated and corrective action applied.

Willows-Orland Unit 3414, through its Unit Safety Committee, brought the matter of hazards present in installations using carbontetrachloride filled S&C fuses mounted on line disconnect blades to the System Safety Committees' attention. This Unit also raised the question of hazards present when transformers mounted on separate poles are connected in parallel. With respect to the first matter, a request was made that the Company take action to eliminate the hazards present. A request that signs or other warning devices be utilized was requested where paralleling of transformers was involved.

A suggestion that Company's Safety Rules be revised to provide that reclosures shall be blocked and non-test tags utilized whenever work is to be performed on hot lines or in connection therewith was a result of analysis of numerous accidents and reports from various units including Eureka, Santa Rosa and Salinas. A similar proposal was also submitted to Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

For several months the Committee has been working to improve Safety Rules for Gas Workers and has been successful in gaining the cooperation of other labor organizations representing Gas Workers. A meeting of all interested Unions has been called for Sunday, May 19th in Los Angeles to develop this program further. Local Union

Vice President Marvin Brooks, who was active in fostering this program while serving as Chairman of the System Safety Committee, present chairman C. F. Elliot, Committee member William Pfeister and Assistant Business Manager M. A. Walters will represent Local Union 1245 at this meeting.

## "I DO's" Now At Overtime Rate

Time and one-half for marriages outside of regular business hours was established by Nevada's Washoe county commissioners at their regular meeting recently in Reno.

The commissioners agreed to pass an ordinance setting a rate of \$7.50 for licenses obtained outside regular hours—the current license fee is \$5.00.

Authority for the price increase was given in a recent law passed by the Nevada State Legislature.

County Clerk Harry K. Brown said that about half the county's 20,000 marriage licenses are issued on week-ends and at night, when county license personnel must be paid overtime. The overtime pay for the workers was used as the basis for the new fees.

## GAS IN THE MANHOLE

Are you sure that you won't set off a fire or an explosion or become asphyxiated when you enter a vault or manhole? Do you always test to make sure it is safe to enter? If not, you are taking unnecessary chances with your welfare as well as that of your fellow workers and the general public.

Some of our members have been observed entering manholes, vaults and other confining areas, without taking proper precautions—let's see what should be done.

**PG&E SAFETY RULES**  
703—Precautions Before Commencing Underground Work.

a) Employees shall not enter any manhole or vault or begin work upon any underground equipment without first determining and assuring themselves of the absence of flammable or explosive gases.

The manhole or vault shall be tested with an approved tester, and the operator shall determine that the instrument is in proper working order.

b) Whenever an employee enters a manhole or vault, he shall inspect it for hazardous conditions.

**740—Work in Presence of Gas**  
Employees shall not work in manholes or vaults where harmful fumes, vapors or gases are present, until sufficient ventilation has been provided to eliminate all hazardous conditions, except when approved respiratory equipment is used.

Where approved respiratory equipment is used, a rope shall be attached to the body of the employee and fastened outside the enclosure so that he may be withdrawn in case of emergency.

## ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITY

### CITIZENS UTILITIES COMPANY

Completion of Local Union 1245's efforts to obtain collective bargaining rights on behalf of the Water employees of Citizens Utilities Company, came a step nearer on Monday, May 13th, when the National Labor Relations Board mailed ballots to all employees in the bargaining unit. These ballots are to be marked as to whether or not the employees wish the Union to represent them for purposes of collective bargaining and returned to the

N.L.R.B.'s twentieth Region office no later than May 28th.

The Company supplies water service to Guerneville, Niles, Boulder Creek, Montara, North Los Altos and several communities in Sacramento County and its main offices are in North Sacramento. A substantial majority of the 33 employees have signed application cards for membership in the I. B. E. W.

The Telephone employees of the Company are currently represented by L. U. 1245 and are looking forward to having the Water Employees join with them.

### STANPAC

While not having progressed to the degree that the C.U.C. campaign has, organizational activities in Standard Pacific Gas Line Inc. are moving forward. With a majority of the employees signing application cards for membership, Local Union 1245 petitioned the National Labor Relations Board for a representation election. On April 29th a preliminary meeting was held by the N.L.R.B. in their Field Examiner's office and tentative agreement reached to conduct a consent election among all operation, construction and maintenance employees of the Company. At a subsequent meeting on May 10th, agreement was reached as to the scope of the bargaining unit and we are now awaiting the decision of the N.L.R.B. as to when the election will be held.

## MISCONCEPTION!

Contrary to general impression, the national income devoted each year to public tax-supported social welfare programs has steadily declined percentage-wise since its 1935 peak. In 1955 practically the same percentage of federal, state, and local budgets went for social welfare programs as 65 years earlier, in 1890.

## Public Power Axes Labor

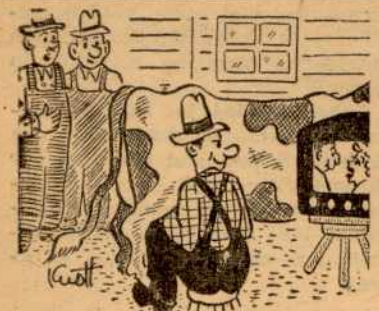
(Continued from Page 1)  
years of dealing with Local 1245, IBEW, had shown no need for such a law and that civil service protects the employees' right.

This points up the real anti-labor attitudes of these officials who don't want their little parties disturbed by legitimate and contractual Union representation. It is notable that the private utility lobby did not oppose A.B. 2793.

The bill is still in committee, blocked by Southern California committee members Holmes, Santa Barbara; Backstrand, Riverside; McGee, Encino; Shell, Los Angeles and Unruh, Los Angeles who passed. Five members of the committee are supporting and a sixth is necessary to get our bill out of committee.

Representatives of Local 1245 are seeking additional support from the southern assemblymen as we go to press.

Should we lose this battle, we gain a lesson. On the direct record, our municipal utility district employers are anti-union as expressed by open opposition to basic worker rights.



"That's just another fringe benefit we give our hired hand."

## NOTICE

The California Department of Employment reports that 1956 Disability Insurance Refunds are now available.

You are entitled to claim a refund if you worked for TWO or more employers during 1956 and received more than \$3,000 in total wages during the year, had the deduction for disability insurance taken from your wages, which altogether exceeded \$30.

Application form, DE 1964, are available at the Department of Employment, 800 Capitol Ave., Sacramento 14, Calif., or any local office of the department.

Claims for refunds must be filed before June 30.

## Sierra Pacific Pact Ratified

(Continued from Page 1)

Sierra Pacific's committee, headed by President Frank A. Tracy, included Vice-President F. G. Barnett, Treasurer Roy Torvinen, Industrial Service Engineer Fred Talley and Personnel Supervisor Harry Marshall. Mrs. Lois Bruce acted as secretary for the Company's committee.

Although all of Union's proposed amendments were not incorporated in the new agreement, the gains made represent one of the outstanding settlements reached this year in the Utility industry and truly reflect the results of mature collective bargaining.

We say at this time "Congratulations on a job well done" to Union's committee consisting of Orville Owen, Silvano Buonanoma, Lloyd Clark, assisted by Business Manager R. T. Weakley, Assistant Business Manager L. L. Mitchell and Business Representative Al Kaznowski.

### GAS CONSUMPTION

Your car uses approximately 20 percent more gasoline to travel one mile at a speed of 70 miles per hour than it does to go one mile at 50, says the California State Automobile Association.

Your best source of information is the Public Library.

## No Right-to-Work For These Guys

According to the Wall Street Journal, business failures have climbed to another post-war high, totalling 1336 for the month of March. This represents the highest for any month since January of pre-World War II, 1939, and compares with 1170 failures during March last year.

## AFL-CIO is Praised as Ed Morgan Awarded Highest Honor in Radio

The AFL-CIO won unprecedented praise as a radio news program sponsor with the presentation of the George Foster Peabody Radio News Award, highest honor in the radio field, to Edward P. Morgan. Morgan is sponsored by the AFL-CIO, on the American Broadcasting Co. network.

"Notable is the circumstance that AFL-CIO, as sponsors, bring this public service to the radio audience without any suggestion of special pleading or propaganda," the citation declared.

"Edward P. Morgan and the News was the outstanding news program for 1956," the citation, read at an awards luncheon in the Roosevelt Hotel here, said. "Mr.

Morgan's daily 15-minute program of hard news and commentary developed a wide public acceptance because of the skill and brilliance of its presentation. . . .

"Mr. Morgan, an experienced reporter, gives the news and his independent interpretation in accordance with the highest tradition of radio journalism."

In accepting the award, Morgan said that he was pleased that the

For best results when painting a wall, use semicircular strokes until you're within about six inches of a window or door frame. Turn the brush sideways and finish with long, steady strokes.

citation signalled out both his sponsor and the network for commendation.

A highlight of Morgan's reports last year was the sinking of the Andrea Doria, Italian Line steamer on which his former wife and daughter were passengers. Both were saved, the daughter miraculously when she landed, after the crash, on the other vessel, the Stockholm.

Peabody, educator at the University of Georgia, established the awards in 1940. Current administrator is Henry W. Grady, head of the school of journalism at the University of Georgia. Awards chairman is Bennett Cerf, of Random House, publishers.



EDWARD MORGAN