WALTERS & BUSHBY ATTEND SEMINAR ON ATOMIC HAZARDS

"California and her sister states stand at the threshold of the development of a great new industry. Yet, the nature of atomic industry is but dimly understood by most of us. The precise areas of public protection that call for state action are not clear. In California, there has been no really effective step taken to investigate and at least broadly define the problems that are in need of solution...the state has done little to anticipate the hazards of atomic energy. It has done less to encourage its growth."

June 30th and 31st, to examine existing and prospective problems of atomic hazards and to consider means whereby they may be attacked.

Among the twenty labor representatives from various unions in attendance were Local 1245 Asst. Bus. Mgr. M. A. Walter, and Bus. Rep. Elmer B. Bushby. Dr. Harold Jones, Asst. Director of Donner Laboratory, U.C., stated that due to depletion of fossil fuels plus their toxic effects in air pollution, atomic energy must become our prime energy source. He pointed out.

(Continued on Page 2)

Union Takes Part in State Health and Welfare Plan Conference

C. J. Haggerty, Secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, was in attendance at a week-long conference of Health and Welfare plans, starting July 1 at Santa Barbara. Co-sponsor was the University of California.

The conference was devoted exclusively to the Health and Welfare insurance problems, as speakers and panel members, many outstanding insurance executives, management and labor leaders as well as the insurance officials.

Representing Local 1245, IBEW, members of Union's Health and Welfare Plan Committee, D. O. Chace, Oakland, Frank Mercier, Santa Rosa, and Mark Cook, San Jose.

The matter was brought to a successful conclusion. Results of balloting were 18 in favor of Union representation, 14 against, with one vote being challenged.

Following meetings at Antioch, Tracy and Newman, with the employees within the bargaining unit, Union entered into discussions with the Company with respect to negotiating an Agreement covering wages, hours and conditions of employment. It is contemplated that an early conclusion will be reached, following contract negotiations.

The Lake County Citizens Committee for Voluntary Unionism submitted the proposed "Right-to-Work" ordinance to that county's Board of Supervisors on July 8th. The Board took the matter under advisement and will study the issue further.

OTHER AREAS—

We hear that a "Committee for Voluntary Unionism" being formed in many other counties throughout the state, including Kern, Butte, and Marin.

There is also a movement afoot in San Francisco and Los Angeles to obtain sufficient signatures on "Right-to-Work" petitions to force a referenda vote in California in 1958.

DO NOT BE MISLED BY PROFESSIONAL PETITION CIRCULATORS.

RIGHT-TO-WORK LAWS ARE FRAUDULENT—TELL YOUR FRIENDS SO.

CUC WATER TALKS PROCEED

Following negotiating sessions on July 6th and 8th, Union's Committee was pleased to announce that tentative agreement had been reached with respect to hours and conditions of employment and the employees of the PG&E Co. are now bargaining for the elimination of the need for overtime work. The union supplies electric, gas and telephone service in the city and to neighboring communities in Nevada.
We Heartily Dissent

Once in a while a provocative issue finds one group of Unions and their spokesmen in opposition to another group of Unions and their spokesmen on the opposite view. Currently we have an issue—the Trinity Partnership Plan—which is pertinent to the major issue—public versus private power.

Generally, the AFL-CIO, both nationally and on a state-wide basis, support government development as each power situation demands. We are committed to all power products and distribution becoming government-owned and operated.

Bitterly opposed to this view are the utility workers represented by International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO, and the Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO. These groups represent some 90 per cent of the utility workers in the United States.

As a minority in labor on this issue, we are seldom given the opportunity to express our views. Some, unfortunately are those who are not even on record of our opposition to charges of "employers' stooges," "apologists for monopoly," etc.

We would like to offer a few points on why we dissent from the view that the power industry should be nationalized.

1. The N.R.B.R. is specifically prohibited from servicing employees of the United States, the States and their political subdivisions.

2. The State of California prohibits contracts between unions and public agencies covering our conditions and wages.

3. Bonds for public power financing are subject to tax-free basis and the benefits of such investments are reaped by large investors rather than small taxpayers. Such bonds are financed in small increments, often by large lenders, or members of special interests.

4. Representatives of public power agencies were the only group to oppose this legislation. The utility industry was defeated in the committee in the recent legislative session in California.

5. While labor, including our Union, has been successful in representing utility workers in some areas and has done a good job, most public agency employees, particularly in the rural and smaller communities, suffer disgraceful treatment with no relief through the right of contract and self-organization.

6. Safety regulations and construction standards applicable in private industry are not applicable in public agencies except where the agencies may voluntarily apply them.

7. Representatives of public power agencies have been permitted to testify against some of the safety regulations and contracts enjoy wages and conditions superior to public power employees on a national basis. They also enjoy full powers of negotiation and representation which are restricted through the Hatch Act and other punitive laws.

8. Organized utility workers belong and work with companies which are in the best position to render our members a complete service in the protection of our national resources and we stand with labor in support of proper regulation of utility companies, including safeguards against dual empires and any other unregulated or unlimited monopoly in any industry. We also feel the government is responsible to protect and to utilize our national resources efficiently and properly, but disagree that the water resources by-product and electric power, should be used to nationalize the power industry.

9. Private power is under regulation and it is the job of regulators to check up on the whole system and to keep our customers well informed. Private power is not as convenient as public power. The public power user, the water resources by-product, electric power, should be used for the public good.

Private power is under regulation and it is the job of regulators to keep a check on the whole field of public power, and our job to gain fair wages. As a fundamental policy, we doubt that American cities could or should take over the utility industries if they desire the nationalization of their own power. It is evident that we are not ready to underrate any deep conflict between labor unions which will divide us from a united labor front on any and all programs designed to help labor and the community. We are committed to the specific idea of the gradual expansion of the public power to eventual nationalization which means the destruction of our rights as a Union, we heartily dissent.

Ronald T. Weakley
M. A. Walters
Emery R. Bushby

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Advertising Rates

Minimum insertion rates two issues.

 Classified Ad.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has issued a report that explores the propaganda of the wage inflationists—employers, speakers, and politicians—of the claims that wage and salary increases are the primary cause of price increases.

The BLS report deals with the question of prices and the private sector of the national economy in 1947-1956. Although the government agency's figures are not an exact index of trend, the BLS report does show the trend of post World War II wage costs and prices.

LABOR COSTS LOWER THAN PRICE RISES

The report states: "The index for unit labor costs was lower than the price index for every year prior to 1956, although the difference was very slight and probably insignificant in 1953 and 1954. In other words, nominal price rises were faster than unit labor costs, being about 10 per cent higher during the year, 1956. During the post World War II years, price increases have been pulling up unit labor costs, not vice versa."

The BLS study also states that: the index of non-labor costs (profits, depreciation and other non-labor payments) was higher than the price index for every year prior to 1956, with only slight differences in 1953 and 1954. It was noted, depreciation and other non-labor payments that received the benefits from the "hands-off" policy.

The June 1 issue of Business Week reports its continuation of the BLS study. The business magazine states: "One obvious way of trying to determine which causation would be to measure whether labor costs or price movements up first. Subjected to this test, unit labor costs have followed price jumps through most of the post-war years—and especially during those years when the inflationary heat was most intense."

The record of the past six months or so indicates that we are back to the 1947-1955 trend. Commenting on record corporation profits in a recent issue of the New York Journal of Commerce, May 21, decreases in volume of production has held remarkably the rate of business. The chief cause for this is that business is showing has been improvement in the nation's defense spending margin per dollar of sales.

This increase in profit margins is also indicated by a New York Times survey which shows that labor costs have been lower in the past six months than for any time since 1947, with high costs, including unit labor costs—has occurred all during the World War II period, except for several months of 1956.

CLOSED SHOP FOR LAWYERS

Did you or your friends know that California State Law requires paid up membership in the State Bar as a condition of employment for all lawyers? Well, we quote from the Business and Professional Code as follows:

Section 6125: "Practice Without Active Membership—No person is permitted to practice law in the State of California unless he is an active member of the State Bar.

Section 6128: "Unlawful Practice of Law, or advertising as a Misleading Practice—Any person advertising himself as practicing or engaged to practice law without being a member of the State Bar, or who is not an active member of the State Bar is guilty of a misdemeanor."

Case citations. No one may ever cover service for compensation as an attorney-at-law unless he has been enrolled at the time of such service. A member of the State Bar, Harry K. Sanders, Farmers Valley Chamber of Commerce 99CA2d527 (1950).

Pretty clear isn't it? Fact is, there is no closed shop law, but you will be put in jail for practicing while deficient in his dues to the State Bar. If you are not a member of the State Bar, don't practice law.

All we ask is freedom of consummation and freedom to bargain on union security. This would be nullified by the so-called "Closed Shop Constitutional Unionists" who single out lawyers.

Do you think they will agree to amend the law to delete from the definition, a clause which would, in effect, say that no one would have to belong to any organization of any kind in order to practice law? We think not. Therefore the fraud is exposed—wreck unions under the guise of a claim of individual freedom—that's the real program.
Cal. Electrical Workers Map Campaign Against Open Shop

The California State Association of Electrical Workers has announced plans to carry an educational program to its more than 60,000 members on the issue of so-called "Right-to-Work" laws.

At a special Executive Board meeting held in Fresno on July 13, the state organization comprised of members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO, set up a working committee to develop educational materials to be distributed on a statewide basis.

Jack Keenan, President of the group, called for a "mobilization of all electrical workers to fight the fraud of so-called 'Right-to-Work' laws throughout the county ordinances or reference petitions."

The committee, chaired by Executive Board member Ron Carney, will work in conjunction with the California Associations of Electrical Workers to organize the labor movement to push for "a mobilization of all electrical workers to fight the fraud of so-called 'Right-to-Work' laws throughout the county ordinances or reference petitions."

Keenan Cities 'Right to Work' As 'America's Greatest Swindle'

"As each day goes by," he told a Washington conference of the AFL-CIO's union officials, "the anti-union minority groups are making gains toward their objectives."

A major aim of these groups, the Keenan union leader said, is to "impose probably the greatest swindle ever to be tried on the Americans public" - the so-called "right to work" laws banning the union shop.

"The project is national in scope and affects the unions, the workers and the public in general," he said.

"The campaign will be directed at all union members, both inside and outside the AFL-CIO."
Municipalities Roundup

Negotiations with the various public agencies under the jurisdiction of Local Union 1245 have been carried on at a brisk clip since the last issue of the UTILITY REPORTER. Aust. Bus. Mgr. M. A. Walters and Bus. Rep. A. M. Hunsem, who have been working with the various agencies, have reached an agreement or status of negotiation still in progress as follows:

**CITY OF BERKELEY**

Wage increases ranging from $23 per month for Radio Technicians to $2 per month for Electrician's Helper, were approved by the Berkeley Electric Department by the City Council on June 25th. This brings the monthly rate for Journeymen to $520 with some minor changes for the electrician's Helper. The original recommendation of the Personnel Board called for increases of from $2 per month to $4.50 per month for Journeymen. This was in agreement with the recommendations of the Electrical Department.

**CITY OF OAKLAND**

Union's Negotiating Committee, consisting of William Yoch- em, Frank Shop and Rod Bur- dical, recently concluded its session on June 18th when the City Council granted increases of $3 per shift. The city’s wage structure is effective now. Some of the new monthly rates are as follows: Lineman and Fire Alarm Operators, $644; Radi- o Electrician, $512; and Hollow- er, $830. Although there were some increases in the working conditions, another major gain was made when the City Council directed the Personnel Board to deal with prevailing rates in the General Classification area. For the first time, L.U. 1245 bargained for the Radio Electricians, who were recently transferred from L.U. 202.

**KEY SYSTEM TRANSIT LINE**

On June 17th the membership of L.U. 1245 employed by the Key System voted to accept the results of negotiations, which were concluded on June 14th. These conclusions called for a general wage increase of 5c per hour, plus an additional increase of 4.5c per hour was gained for Working Foremen. Improvements were also made in the sick leave and vacation sections of the Agreement, as well as in the provisions of the assignability clause. The latter improvement is extremely important, due to the pending sale or lease of the properties to the Alameda-Contra Costa County Transit Authority.

**ALAMEDA BUREAU OF ELECTRICITY**

Friday, July 19th, is the date set to commence negotiations with regard to wages and con- ditions. Union is desirous of correcting various wage in- creases to $36 per month follow- ing discussions with the Person- nel Board of the Bureau before the City Council of Walt- ters and Walter's. Shop Steward John Hinkeld on June 18th.

Vacation allowances were in- creased by 5c per hour for 5 weeks after 5 years and 4 weeks after 10 years. In ad- dition the Personnel Board is to conduct a study with respect to Departmental and Medical Insurance and report to the City Council at a later date.

**S.M.U.D.**

Following Union's presenta- tion of its wage request, negoti- ations with the Board continued till July 10th and 11th at which time the negotiations were concluded. The results of these sessions were not too productive and the pending sessions with the Session is still unresolved. Nego- tiations will be continued at the July 17th and Union's Commit- tee, consisting of William R. Miller, L. R. Weik- ley, and Gale Austin, who is acting as an attorney for the Union, met with M. A. Walters and A. M. Hansen from the L.U. office, are of the opinion that the sessions will be more productive and that nego- tiations will be satisfactorily concluded in the near future.

**GAS SERVICEMAN FLIES**

Dr. Arnold’s resolution, because of the closure improvements from the leave and seniority provisions of the Agreement, together with the possibility of vital concern to both the AMU and our membership. The last report, in fact, was that the AMA give up their trad- itional closed shop. The Association, which recently engaged in a sneak attack on Union security, had adopted its own “right-to-work” policy, said

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