State's Labor Press Has An Important Job Ahead

Business Manager R. T. Weakley and Administrative Asst. Elmer B. Bushby were among the more than 500 Labor Press Editors and officials in attendance at the 2-day California Labor Press Conference held in San Diego on Nov. 16th and 17th. Sponsored by the Calif. State Federation of Labor and the University of California, the conference was held in San Diego. At right is John Henning, research director, State Federation of Labor.

PG&E CO. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT CHALLENGED

Recent publicity in the press on the question of employee discounts on gas and electric bills has raised concern on the part of the Company's employees. The present discount policy, going back nearly 60 years in some form or another, is protected by the "savings clause" in the Agreement between PG&E and Local 1245.

Although a stockholder raised the question by letter to the Public Utilities Commission, recent hearings on PG&E's request for gas rate relief, to offset El Paso Gas wholesale rate increase, did not include this matter as being a proper subject for the particular hearings.

The subject may be raised in future hearings on PG&E's request for gas rate increases to recover a differential between current rate of return and a higher allowable Commission rate.

Business Manager Ronald T. Weakley appeared at the hearings on November 19th in order to testify should the discount matter be formally raised. The Union will watch any further developments on this matter in order that this contractual employee benefit be properly protected.

Sutter County No. 4 To Adopt Wreck Law

Sutter County now stands as the 4th California County to adopt the vicious anti-union "right-to-work" ordinance. On Nov. 4, by a vote of 3 to 2 the County Board of Supervisors passed the ordinance. This vote appeared to represent a sharp clash between urban and rural interests in the county. Voting for the Union busting ordinance were M. S. Davie, Ed Da Costa, and Elmer Bushby, all from the rural areas. Chairman Ike North and Harold Moore, representing the urban areas, voted against it.

The ordinance is identical to that passed in Tehama County, ruled invalid in urban cities, and will become effective Dec. 3rd.

Among the speakers opposing this legislation was Local 1245's Marysville Unit Chairman Ken Stevenson.

Public Hazards in Radiation Outlined at S.F. Meet

On Nov. 13, 14 and 15 the 8th National Conference on Standards was held in San Francisco under the auspices of the American Standards Association. A panel of experts on hazards of Radiation pointed to the lack of an adequate program to control the hazards involved and the great need for doing so.

Dr. Paul C. Tomkins of the United States Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory pointed out that all of possible hazards involved in the reactor had received the most attention. The possible consequences being so severe and obvious, most effort is directed toward reactor safety. The Windscale accident involving a reactor in England was pointed to as an example. Here due to human failures and improper planning, an area some 200 miles in diameter was exposed to radiation. This meant the necessity of evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people, and the cost to each household amounted to several thousand dollars for foodstuff in the area. One need only apply this situation to a comparable area in California to see the great loss which would occur—both in human values and economic.

A. C. Blackman, Chief Division of Industrial Safety for the State of California, highlighted the problems of regulations becouse of the many agencies involved. Federal Agencies, such as the Interstate Commerce Commission, Civil Aeronautics Board, Coast Guard, and the Post Office have legitimate concern and control over the transportation of radioactive materials. The State Agencies have a measure of control in such fields as public health, emergency, water pollution and natural resources. Many cities and counties have local ordinances which affect either the location of a reactor or the disposal of waste products.

As is evident from this short list, which could be expanded greatly, a real problem is apparent. Blackman stated that the problem was being slowly answered by cooperation of the various groups involved. In summary he remarked "The path this nation must follow is clear."
No California employer in his right mind would waste his money on such absurd newspaper ads. Neither would any California worker who feels that he or she is paid a living wage. A recent AFL-CIO survey reveals that Arkansas' minimum wage for women workers in local business is set at 13.6 cents an hour. However, the report notes that in 1956 wages were actually 11 cents an hour. In 1957, these cents an hour were being paid in some counties of Arkansas—a “Right-to-Work” state.

Employers in “Right-to-Work” states use many dodges to avoid paying fair wages. Not the least of these is the employment of unskilled, nonunion labor at the minimum wage law by skilled craftsmen at incredibly low rates.

One of these exploited workers has written to the AFL-CIO Labor Constitution Department to tell his story: He was employed as a tenant farmer near Rome, Georgia—a “Right-to-Work” state. Paul $3 for an 11-hour day, the worker was paid $87.80 at the end of the month. Paying such a low rate, the employer had to cover his losses for the cost of meals. In Texas, after passage, the workers had to cover their meals for themselves. In Arizona, another “Right-to-Work” state, wages for Culinary Workers have actually decreased since passage of the union-busting legislation. Prior to its enactment, Dishwashers were paid $8 a day. The wages had been lowered to as little as $1.25 an hour a day. This was lower than the 1941 wage of $1.50 a day plus meals.

A look at the appalling living conditions of farm workers in the Yuma—Sustar area should convince anyone that our laws and our society have failed to provide even minimum health, sanitary and economic protections for these poor people. Yes, there’s a reason for “Right-to-Work” laws. It’s purely economic.
Free Trade Unions Seek World Peace: Reuther

The millions of free trade unionists are among the vanguard of those who are fighting to make peace and freedom secure throughout the world. Walter Reuther, president of the Auto Workers and vice-president of the AFL-CIO, told an audience in San Francisco on November 7th that labor is greatly concerned with the question of war and peace. He will take part in the plenary session of the 6th National Conference of the United Nations for the Reconstruction of Society, held in San Francisco.

"Abraham Lincoln once remarked that a nation cannot survive half slave and half free," he said. "I say that a world cannot survive without the complete realization of the dream which he expressed, that a nation should be free. You cannot win the struggle for the minds and hearts of mankind with a gun or a bayonet in a vacuum," Reuther stated.

The new world confronted by the members of the AFL-CIO, he emphasized military instead of economic and moral assistance in a part of the world where economic and social planning is a primary need. He urged that we give our rapt attention to the task of dividing the world into two camps of freedom and those with us and those against us. This is a dangerous and unrealistic attitude.

He pointed to India as the bulwark of the free world. "India has now success or failure of its next 5-year plan to increase the standard of living for the Indian people," Reuther said."

Now's the Time!

RADIATION HAZARDS TOLD

(Continued from Page 1)

The inherent basic philosophy of our nation is to provide for health and safety. The need is to be encouraged and if the various levels of government are to be effective in this, cooperative action is of vital concern.

Problems of waste disposal were discussed by Dr. L. Smith, U.S. Naval Radiological Laboratory. He stated, "Very early in the Atomic Energy Program it was realized that there were an enormous number of solid wastes."

"Problems of waste disposal are quite serious," he said. "If the radioactive waste is not handled properly, people may get ill or even die. If it sounds hollow it should be inspected as to its soundness."

When in doubt, as a result for treatment of the waste, the holes should be treated as toxic waste, and the pole to determine the amount of solid wood. If no samples appear on the surface a hammer or hatchet should be used to find if it is hollow or not. If it sounds hollow it should be inspected."

The place when the pole is set in concrete or asphalt, two holes should be made in the pole at an angle of 45 degrees with an extension of sufficient length to allow the wood to run through the pole. These bores should be made with a power tool at approximately 90 degrees apart on the circumference."

If the bores do not replace the holes must be dug up with concrete or dove."

All poles are to be the same, giving consideration to the pole being in the same pole. They should be dug in the same pole. The pole is to be climbed on the side of the street to be climbed on the same pole. The pole is to be climbed where the street is to be climbed and where the pole is to be climbed, and where the pole is to be climbed, the pole is to be climbed. The pole is to be climbed where the street is to be climbed and where the pole is to be climbed, the pole is to be climbed, and the pole is to be climbed.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE REMOVAL

Low level liquid waste contain only tracer amounts of radioactivity are, in many cases, directly discharged into the environment or released to streams or rivers.

Solid waste is usually buried in concrete vaults weighing at least 12 inches below the ground."

In some cases it may be at considerable greater depth. The burial vaults are to be inspected and the pole to determine the amount of solid wood."

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YOUR

Business Manager's
BY RONALD T. WEAREY

COLUMBIA

PG&E Dept. Negotiations

DIVISION COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENTS

Interchange between the Physical and Commercial bargaining processes and out of the classification of a labor pool. This pool was made the subject of discussion during negotiating sessions on November 21 for this group. While the procedures were not developed, the principle of such interchange was agreed to. In addition, the job definition for the Junior Pump Tester was improved. The pump Inspector broadened, and the junior Pump and Power Surveyor established.

John Orendorff, De Sable Division, and Assistant Business Manager M. A. Walters represented the Union in these negotiations.

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION EXPENSES

On Saturday, November 9, a representative group of Teamstere construction department members met in the Local Union office in order to discuss the various problems and to outline Union's position with respect to improving the expense provisions of the Agreement. While no firm proposals were developed, the group did discuss possibilities with respect to developing methods for determining an individual's residence area and for increasing expense allowances as well as justification.

WATER DEPARTMENT

During negotiating sessions on November 24 agreement was reached on job definitions and lines of progression for all classies, including those for the job of Field Clerk. This classification is the Company's position that the work of this group should be required to as Field Clerk for the crew while the Union contends that such duties properly fall within the duties of a Clerk in the Disbursing Department. The major issue is over the distinction between Light and Heavy Driving for this crew and as Drivers. Other issues include the right of the Company to compel the group to work within the defined scope of such classifications.

Electrical Department Office

Counter proposals were received and the company we went to press. They are currently being studied by Union's com-