



"All that harms labor is treason to America. If any one man says he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar ... there is no America without labor ..."

—Abraham Lincoln

Utility Reporter

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YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN

by Ronald J. Weakley

The 85th Congress did not pass a so-called "Labor-Management Reform Bill." Despite introduction of certain bills, the most notable being the AFL-CIO supported Kennedy-Ives Bill, Congress failed to legislate in this area of public interest. Perhaps the fact that an election year precluded action is the most practical reason for failure.



R. T. Weakley

During the 1958 elections, a high public interest was developed concerning the labor-management field. Major contests among candidates showed the issue of labor-management activities to be an important one.

In California, ex-Senator Knowland chose this issue as his major campaign weapon. He was soundly defeated in the gubernatorial race by Pat Brown. With Proposition 18, the so-called "Right-to-Work" amendment on the ballot, Knowland and Brown took sides and the proposition was defeated along with Knowland.

Both in the U. S. Senate and in his California campaign, Knowland pushed for a reform program designed primarily to apply to labor organizations, both internally and with respect to certain relations with management. Labor considered his program to be punitive for the most part.

Knowland got nowhere in the Senate and his particular reform program in California went down with him in his defeat for the governorship.

The problem, however, did not die in the 85th Congress nor in the California general elections. It is an issue in the 86th Congress with one major bill, the Kennedy-Ervin Bill being supported by the AFL-CIO, and an Administration Bill being pushed by Senator Goldwater which is opposed by the AFL-CIO. California's legislature has before it a bill, (Senate Bill 209), covering the general subject matter which is Governor Brown's bill. Brown, during his campaign, pledged his support of legislation to regulate certain union functions and certain management functions in order to protect the public interest.

Legislation in Congress will, if passed, pre-empt most of the proposed California legislation. (Continued on Page 2)

'OPERATION SECURITY' OKAYED BY OFFICERS AND POLICY COMM.

What promises to be another historic eve it for Local 1245, IBEW—our third Unit Executive Committee Conference with some 500 delegates and guests expected to attend—has received an enthusiastic stamp of approval by Local 1245's Executive Board and Policy Committee.

During the two-day meeting in Union headquarters in Oakland on Jan. 31st and Feb.



Local 1245's Executive Board and Policy Committee give green light to future conference—the largest yet.

1st the proposed Conference and the reasons for holding it received special attention by the Executive Board, Policy Committee and Business Staff.

Bus. Mgr. R. T. Weakley, in his report to the joint group stressed the need for better membership understanding of the goals which Local 1245 must adopt for its 1959 negotiating program throughout its entire jurisdiction.

"The ever increasing technological advances in the industry and resultant increased productivity equated with a static or diminishing work force is cause for a good look at our working conditions agreements and those sections relating to job security," he stated. "The need for putting 'teeth' in those job security sections which require strengthening, providing such sections where they do not exist, establishing of new concepts in the area of humanitarian principles—all must be given prime consideration in our 1959 round of negotiations," Weakley emphasized.

JOB COME FIRST

"Although wage increases and so-called 'bread and butter' proposals are always an important and popular factor in any set of negotiations, a fabulous weekly wage for a particular job classification doesn't mean much if no one works in that classification," he noted.

"More attention," he stated, "must be given to those items which will provide jobs, continuation of employees' in jobs, greater measures of protection for those whose jobs have been

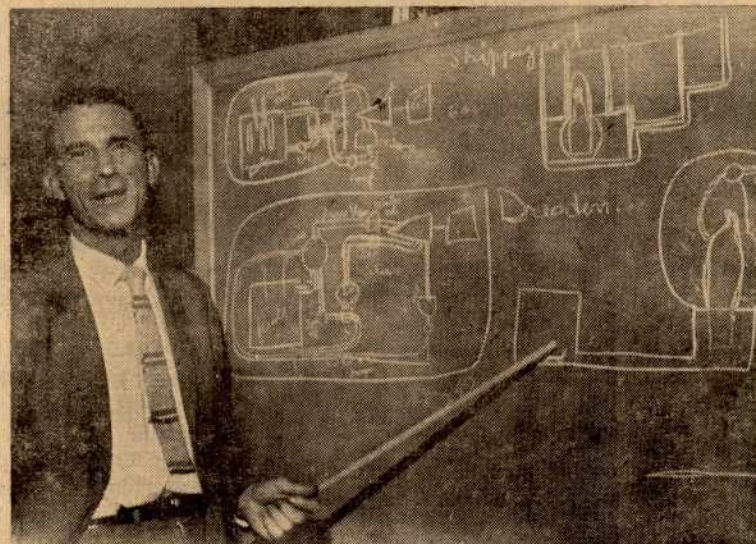
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Central Area Exec. Board Member Richard Sands brings Policy Committee up to date on Board's activities since last joint meeting.



Bus. Mgr. R. T. Weakley proposes Unit Executive Conference as a means of membership understanding of Union's major goals in 1959.



Asst. Bus. Mgr. L. L. Mitchell explains schematic drawings of Shippingport and Dresden Nuclear Power Plants.



Bus. Rep. Norman Amundson tells group of Union problems in electronic data processing in other utilities throughout U. S.

The Battle Starts on Capitol Hill

Ike-Goldwater vs. Kennedy-Ervin

A showdown on a 1959 labor-management bill is now being debated on Capitol Hill.

The Administration's bill has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Barry Goldwater (R., Ariz.), outspoken advocate of restrictive labor legislation.

The Senate Labor Subcommittee has opened hearings on the Democratic Kennedy-Ervin bill with Legislative Director Andrew Biemiller, representing the AFL-CIO, the leadoff witness.

The Administration-Goldwater

proposal is a one-shot piece of legislation which the President says will meet the problem of corruption and shore up weak-



Goldwater

Kennedy

nesses in the Taft-Hartley Act. The Kennedy-Ervin approach is two-fold: one bill to meet corruption and another to provide fundamental revision of Taft-Hartley. The President charges that this is a "piecemeal program."

Biemiller, in testifying before the Senate Labor Subcommittee, said "we are determined that there be legislation which will eliminate the opportunities for corruption and at the same time preserve the traditional legiti-

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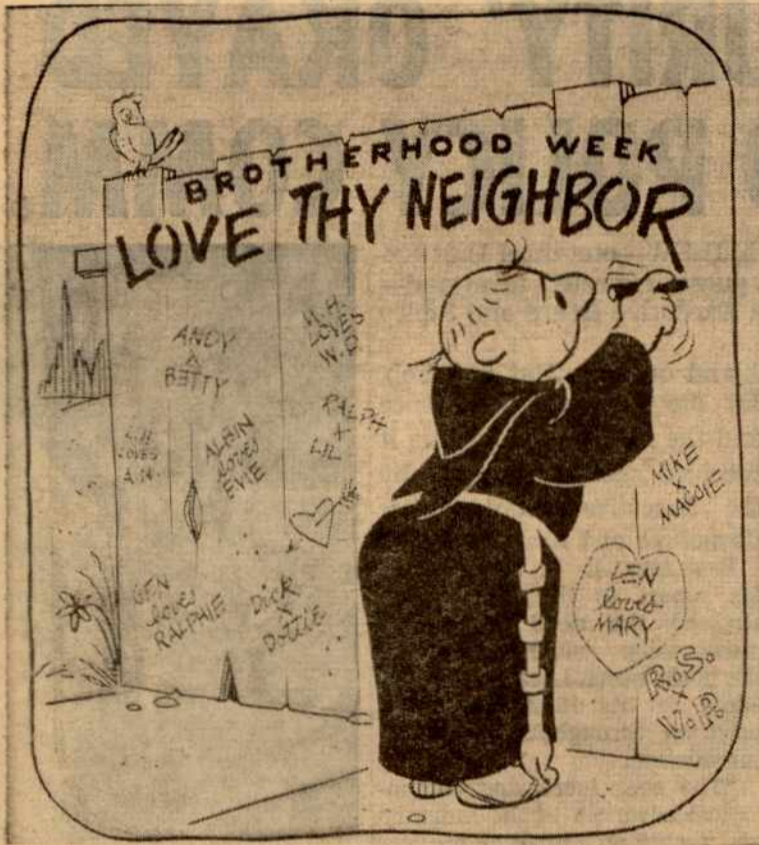
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BROTHERHOOD WEEK



—Courtesy Publishers Syndicate, Chicago.

My Brother's Keeper?

This is Brotherhood Week.
 This is the time each year when we take a searching look at ourselves to see how we measure up to the Commandment of Judaea and Christian faiths, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." How many of us can truthfully say that we are doing all that the Commandment requires of us?
 We shall not know true peace and freedom in our cities and states, in our nation and in the world until all men learn to live together as brothers.
 The Brotherhood of Man is a fundamental truth of religion. We cannot be good Christians or good Jews if we deny to these, our brothers, the rights and privileges we enjoy.
 Brotherhood is a basic tenet of democracy, set forth in the self-evident truths of the Declaration of Independence "... that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights ..."
 Unless we believe in and practice Brotherhood—in the full meaning of the word—we are hypocrites in our faith and in our patriotism.
 Brotherhood, to achieve the ultimate goals of peace and freedom, requires more than merely shaking hands with a fellow who happens to be of a race or religion other than our own. Brotherhood means that we shall treat all men as our brothers, insisting that their rights be protected and that they shall not be denied any privileges because of race or religion.
 True Brotherhood demands that we protest vigorously when injustices are permitted and that we fight against all forces and influences that foster or encourage class, racial or religious distinctions.
 We cannot dodge the issue nor evade the responsibility. Am I my brother's Keeper?
 The answer is written in the laws of God and man.

—(Tom Horner, Akron Beacon-Journal)

BROTHERHOOD WEEK
 February 15-22
 Brotherhood
 Believe It — Live It
 Support It

HAPPY NEW YEAR 新年快乐
4657 YEAR OF THE BOAR 猪年

The month of February, although the year's shortest month, has more than its fair share of days which we Americans celebrate in one manner or another.

One of these special days is annually celebrated by a group of Americans with all the old world's—the old, old world's—colorful pageantry, noise and joyous festivity imaginable.

Sunday, February 8th, ushered in the 4657th Chinese year—the Year of the Boar—and for a whole week Chinese New Years will be cause for a real celebration in San Francisco's Chinatown. Thousands of onlookers will see the famed, block-long Dragon writhe in unbelievable contortions down narrow Grant Avenue. The beating of bells, gongs and drums, the wailful whine of one-string fiddles, the high pitched tones of various reed instruments, will mingle with the smell of burning incense in an ubiquitous permeation of all Chinatown. Yes, Chinese New Years is Mardi Gras, 4th of July, and "Old Grad Week" rolled into one.

We believe that this year, this month, this very day, would be an appropriate time for all Americans to realize that this particular group of Americans, who are celebrating their 4657th New Year, have been persecuted for over 100 years by the rankest kind of discrimination—oppressive legislation aimed solely and directly at them.

WHIPPING BOY

Labor's apparent failure to understand the causes and effects of economic recession and depression, its unforgivable ignorance of the fact that greedy, monopolistic employers were the true culprits and the need for a "whipping boy" as the cause of California's economic ills, were made to order for the antagonism of white workers against the Chinese.

Their physical appearance and dress marked them as easy objects of attack; their lack of political influence tended to encourage the abuses to which they were subjected. It was alleged that Chinese competition reduced wages, and thus, by lowering the standard of living, hindered immigration of workers from the Eastern states. It was charged that they were filthy and loathsome in their living and working habits, and vile in their customs; that they spread the use of opium, the evils of gambling, and the practice and diseases of prostitution; and that socially they were in every way undesirable as workers and residents of the country.

Although these pernicious allegations had little or no basis in fact, they did provide the necessary fuel to the fire being fanned by a few fanatical sandlot agitators who labeled themselves labor leaders. Reacting as mobs inevitably react, the workers in mass hysteria vented their spleen against a minority group—those least able to protect themselves from mob violence—the Chinese.

BEATEN, KILLED

Sporadic attacks on the Chinese left many brutally beaten and murdered, their dwellings and shops burned and pillaged. Although order always seemed to be restored, the mass would rear its ugly head again and again with more of the same for the enduring Chinese.

Through political pressures, the white workers succeeded in getting a whole host of oppres-

sive tax measures enacted against the Chinese and Chinese only. These discriminatory taxes, in varying amounts, included a Chinese miner's tax, a Chinese fisherman's tax, a head tax on all Chinese immigrants, a tax on laundry keepers, if horses were used for delivery purposes, of \$2 per quarter for one horse, \$4 for two horses, \$15 for three or more and \$15 even if no horses were used, and a monthly tax for merely being a Chinese.

Chinese testimony in the courts, for or against white persons, was prohibited by law. An ordinance was passed prohibiting any person from walking on the sidewalks while carrying baskets suspended from a pole resting across the shoulders. This was obviously directed solely against the Chinese. Who else carried anything in such a manner? Another ordinance was passed requiring the sheriff to cut to the length of one inch the hair of all persons committed to his care. To a white person this merely meant a free haircut but to a Chinese it meant the loss of his queue, a disgrace in the eyes of his countrymen.

SHOWS PERSECUTION

Although most of these obviously discriminatory laws were repealed or declared unconstitutional, they were effective for varying periods of time and certainly serve to show the harassment and persecution to which the Chinese were subjected.

From 1882 to 1943 the Chinese were not permitted to enter the United States as immigrants and only since 1943 has U.S. Citizenship been granted to these Americans, notwithstanding the fact that they, their fathers, their grandfathers or whatever ancestor, may have been born in this country.

Even today, the annual quota of Chinese immigrants is only 105 including persons of Chinese descent.

We cannot in 1959—or 4657—retroactively correct or erase the shameful acts committed against a group of people who have proven themselves to be exceptionally good American citizens; a group who, by comparison with white-Americans, are scholastically superior, have a lesser crime rate, have far less juvenile delinquency—in fact, practically none, and have an interesting culture which predates the western world's by thousands of years.

PROSPERITY YEAR?

It is predicted that because the animal symbol of the year—the Boar—is one of prosperity and well-being, unexcelled rewards are in store for those especially well off—for all others, the year will be better than the one before.

No, we cannot in 1959—or 4657—undo what's been done but we can commence doing certain things right now. As homeowners, we should welcome the Chinese-American into our communities as good neighbors, as employers we should hire them on the basis of their ability and talents, as Trade Unions, we

YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN
 by Ronald J. Weakley

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Intra-state activities and certain areas where Federal Law does not cover the State bill's subject matter, shape up the possible extent of S.B. 209.

The 1958 merger convention of the California AFL-CIO un-animously called for enactment of State legislation on labor-management reform "along the lines of the Kennedy-Ives Bill." Governor Brown's program was put into bill form by a number of State Senators. Certain consultations were held between Brown's office and others interested in the matter prior to the introduction of the bill.

S.B. 209 was not drafted by the California Labor Federation and therefore is not "Labor's bill." However, it would appear that with some amendments designed to provide a more workable measure, S.B. 209 will not meet with major resistance by the Federation.

Apparently, a majority in the Legislature, the Administration, and the general public including most union members, are in support of the principles of such legislation.

While it is understandable that some differences of opinion might arise with respect to the scope and details of this legislation, it appears that some legislation along these lines will be enacted.

Our Local Union has a policy position in this matter. We have endeavored to build and to operate a democratic organization in order to discharge our proper responsibilities to our members, the industry, and the general public.

We already meet the general requirements for conduct under the proposed legislation and have met them for a long time.

In addition, we have sought to strengthen all democratic processes and have supported any measure which would eliminate corruption within the house of Labor. We shall continue to do so whether or not laws covering these matters are enacted.

Those minority leaders in some unions who have failed to recognize deficiencies and to correct them have created a need for regulatory legislation will get it. Those employers who are party to improper conduct and corruption will also get it.

Our Local Union supports the principles embodied in S.B. 209. We are satisfied that as amendments to the bill are proposed which are designed to correct any punitive, unreasonable, or unworkable sections, they will be acceptable to Gov. Brown and the authors of S.B. 209.

Those of us in labor who have tried to operate properly do not seek laws to regulate free processes. However, the benefits of such legislation may well be worth more than the expense of more reports, red tape, and more regulations.

should admit them as members, as U.S. Congressmen, we can amend our immigration laws to permit a citizen of Great Britain, for example, to enter this country under that country's quota rather than under the very limited quota for Chinese merely because he happens to be of Chinese descent.

So, we say Happy New Year 4657 to our Chinese-American friends and sincerely hope that the Boar, during his reign, will bring all of the good things predicted.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

They Call Him George, But He's Really Dead-Eye-Dick



If Wells-Fargo were still carrying the mails, pretty Western gals and gold bullion in "these here parts" as they did during the latter part of the last century, and had need for a good man to "ride shotgun," we've got just the man for them.

State of California, "AA" Class, Trapshooting Champion in 1956; Sacramento Valley, "AA" Class, Champion in Jan., 1959, picked on Sports Afield Magazine's "All-American" Trapshooting Team in 1958, member of the 5-man Pacific Coast All Star Team in 1958 at the North American Trapshoot in Vandalia, Ohio—these are just some of the accomplishments of Brother George Higgins, Garage Mechanic for the Transit Authority in Sacramento.

George, who certainly "savvy's" a shotgun, has attended trapshoots in Dayton, Ohio; Reno Las Vegas, and Elko, Nevada; Salem, Oregon; Stockton, Sacramento and San Francisco, Calif., just to mention a few, and had a terrific shooting average of 98.72 per cent for 1958. Brother Higgins is presently President of the Sacramento Trapshooting Club, and no wonder, with a shooting eye like that. Keep up the good shooting George and the best of luck in all future events.

Local 1245 Member Seeks Council Seat

Cyril "Red" P. Henneberry, Electrician in PG&E's Central District Substation Maintenance Dept., has thrown his "hat into the ring" in the coming City of Alameda City Council election.

Brother Henneberry, a long-time resident of the island city, received his education in Alameda and after graduation from high school in 1936 went to sea in the Merchant Marine. During the World War II years, he was assigned by the Maritime Service to teach engineering for a

one-year period at the Alameda Maritime Academy after which, in 1947, he went to work for PG&E in its East Bay Division where he has worked in the Steam and Substation Maintenance Depts.

"Red" resides at 2017 San Jose Ave., Alameda with his wife, Constance and their three children—Steve 16, Bridget 11, and Margaret, 4.

A registered Democrat, Bro. Henneberry believes that it is his obligation as a good citizen to involve himself in community affairs and a good place to start is at the City Council level.

Local 1245's Executive Board, at their meeting on Feb. 1st, endorsed Brother Henneberry's candidacy, with Local 1245 to seek further endorsement by the Alameda County Central Labor Council.

We urge all of our members, their families and friends residing in Alameda to turn out on Election Day and place Brother "Red" Henneberry on the Alameda City Council.



Peninsulans Say Farewell, McKay

Local 1245's Belmont Unit honored Brother Thomas McKay, a long-time active member of Local 1245, IBEW, on the occasion of his retirement last Dec. 31st, at their last Unit meeting.

Unit Chairman Bob DeZarn presented Tom with a gift on behalf of the members in San Mateo and Redwood City Service Groups. On behalf of the Local Union and Officers, Business Representative John Wilder presented Tom with his Local 1245 Retirement Scroll and an IBEW lapel pin.

Brother Tom spoke briefly on the gains which have been made by the Union and warned that they must be guarded and protected or they could be lost.

This won't be the last we will see of Tom, as he has promised that in between his long-awaited fishing trips, he will visit with his fellow members at the Unit meetings.

UNION MEMBERS AND WIVES ATTEND GOVERNOR'S BALL



Pictured above are Reno Unit officers and Local Union 1245 Staff members together with their wives, who gathered for a social hour at the home of Brother and Mrs. Thomas Lewis in Reno prior to their attending Nevada Governor Grant Sawyer's Inaugural Ball in Carson City the night of Jan. 17th by invitation from Governor Sawyer.

Old Timer Hurt In Auto Accident

Many Local 1245 members were recently saddened by the news that Brother John Stewart of Bakersfield was seriously hurt in an auto accident the evening of Jan. 24th.

The accident occurred on Highway 99 near Bakersfield when Brother Stewart made a left turn off the highway and was hit broadside and the car demolished. A friend who was with John in the car was injured critically.

This bad luck comes only a few months after Brother Stewart retired after 35 years with the PG&E Co. and many years in Local 1245. He was one of the best known Machinists in the San Joaquin area, having worked at the old Buttonwillow and Bakersfield Steam Plants before the new Kern Plant was built and was a Machinist at Kern Steam when he retired last fall.

John's many friends and Brothers wish him a fast and complete recovery and hope he has better luck in the future in his well earned retirement.

WEOTT EATS THEN MEETS

On January 14 the Garberville-Weott Unit 3112 held their first dinner meeting at Cotter's Cafe in Weott, with the dinner running from the proverbial soup to nuts.

After the dinner dishes were cleared away, the meeting progressed through the regular orders of business with Bus. Rep. Fred Lucas and Humboldt Div. Union Grievance Chairman, George Tully, reporting on the activity of the Union over-all and locally.

An interesting sidelight of the meeting was how Bus. Rep. Lucas who lives in Anderson, south of Redding, was prohibited from driving to Humboldt due to major slides on Highways 101 and 299. Nevertheless, arrangements were made by the Union through its Oakland office for Lucas to fly over to Humboldt via Pacific Air Lines and conduct business as usual.

Out of a potential of nineteen

Standing, left to right: Unit Chairman Geo. Macdonald, Policy Committeeman Orville Owen, Mrs. Owen, Bus. Rep. Roy Murray, Education Committee Chairman Tom Lewis and Local Union Bus. Mgr. R. T. Weakley. Seated, left to right: Mrs. Geo. Macdonald, Mrs. Roy Murray, Mrs. Thomas Lewis and Mrs. R. T. Weakley.

Also in attendance at the ball but not included in the picture were Unit Vice-Chairman and Mrs. Sylvester Kelly of Carson City.

Following the ball, the group gathered for a late social hour at the home of Brother and Mrs. Sylvester Kelly of Carson City.

members in the Unit, the fifteen who attended thoroughly enjoyed the dinner meeting and are looking forward to more of them.

Thanks were extended to Jim O'Neill and Clint Peek of Weott for their arranging the affair and for putting the Unit social funds to such good use.

Where There's Smoke There's Fire . . . And Also Local 1245, IBEW Members

These good Local 1245, IBEW members, like thousands of other responsible citizens, man Volunteer Fire Departments. This group operates the Burbank-Paradise District Station of the Modesto Fire System.

Shown bottom row, left to right are Shop Steward Clint Smith, Jay Ebie and Unit Chairman Jack Simmons. In the top row, left to right are Shake Rosen, Bill Chandler and Bert Franklin.

Active volunteers in this group, but not pictured, are Local 1245's Vice President Marvin C. Brooks and Shop Steward Joe Pulizzi, who is also a member of the La Loma District Fire Station.

This participation as Volunteer Firemen is just another classic example of the "good citizen" role which so many of our Union members play in their respective communities.



90,000 'Slaves' in Cal

(A California Labor News Service Feature)

In September of 1958 some 90,000 men worked in California as, well, slaves. "Indentured servants" would be a more exact phrase, though old-fashioned. "Administered labor force" is more modern. But "slaves" is close enough and better understood.

They had no civil liberties, no right to travel, no right to seek higher wages as individuals—let alone the right to bargain collectively.

They were cheated on their insurance, on their food, on their housing and on their pay—more generally than not—but they had no effective recourse.

If they complained to officials who were supposed to at least stop the cheating, they were shipped back over the Mexican border, where they had been leased wholesale in the first place.

The lease on their lives—their "contract"—runs only a few weeks. Six, usually, or ten. Even a sophisticated worker with a command of English and good connections can seldom get action in so short a time. And the Mexican national hopes maybe next time, if he doesn't complain and his contract is renewed, maybe next time he'll get a good boss. Maybe he'll be able to pay off the money he borrowed to get to the border. Maybe, in any case, it's better than absolute starvation at home.

Meanwhile—

In that same September of 1958 there were about 60,000 other farm workers in California who were not Mexican Nationals. They were American born.

There were thousands more who weren't working because the growers had "all the Nationals we need."

Those who had jobs for the moment were not much better off than the Mexicans. They couldn't ask for wages fit for a free man. The grower wouldn't pay more than his association had agreed to pay for a slave.

Even if the "domestic worker" were desperate enough to accept 70 to 87½ cents an hour the grower didn't want him. Nationals are cheaper because they are easier to cheat—and they don't quit when they are cheated. They don't run to authorities when they are paid (straight time) nine hours pay for 12 hours work. They don't

fuss about the impossible shacks the growers call housing. They put up with abuses no free man could stand and no informed public opinion would tolerate.

It's true the domestic worker could travel, if he hadn't already sold his car for food, and if he dared get that far away from the relief office. For if he goes to another county the relief people won't help him should the grower already have all the Nationals he needs.

You see, Mr. Public Official, the taxpayers are subsidizing the wealthy growers of this state. Their relief funds are only one of the means by which they are helping to maintain a pool of semi-starved workers. The growers need a few to work in an emergency. But mostly they need some kind of supply of American workers to rationalize their system for the benefit of state and federal authorities.

For the fact is that by law the growers may not import workers from across the border unless there is a shortage of domestic workers.

The law—a treaty between the Mexican and American governments—prescribes that "braceros" may be imported if the government certifies that a shortage of "stoop labor" exists.

But Nationals are often used to pack lettuce, move irrigation pipe, dig post holes, do odd repair jobs around the camp and even, sometimes, to drive tractors or trucks loaded with their fellow workers.

And as for the "shortages" certified by the government (the State Dept. of Employment acting as agent for the U.S. Dept. of Labor) those shortages are mostly artificial, as we shall see.

Housing Standards?

The law requires that certain minimum standards of housing and sanitation be maintained for the Mexican workers.

But whatever the problems in the State Division of Housing—whether it be a lack of funds or a surplus of grower influence—housing conditions in many contract labor camps are scandalous. (For domestic workers,

Do you really want to "protect the workers," Mr. Public Official? Do you mean it when you give that as the reason for "labor reform" legislation? Then open your blinkered eyes, sir, to one of the worst labor scandals that ever blighted a state.



With BULL WHIP AND REVOLVER, contract workers are corralled at Monterey on the Mexican border. The California farm labor market is dominated by this "administered labor force."

housing is as angry an issue as wages).

The law requires that Mexican contract workers be paid the prevailing wage in the area—and this is the crux of the problem.

The State Dept. of Employment, through its Farm Placement Agency, decides there is a shortage of domestic labor if it is satisfied that growers have advertised for workers, offering the "prevailing rate."

It determines the prevailing rate by asking the growers what they are paying for work on this crop this year.

The growers will answer as with one voice "85 cents"—or "87½ cents" (in the Imperial Valley it is 70 cents).

Their association has already met and decided that this is what they will pay. Whether they can get domestic workers or not, this is what they expect to be able to hire Nationals for at the border.

Fake Wage

The grower dutifully lists the jobs, at that rate, with the employment agency and after a brief wait declares that he can't get enough workers.

The Farm Placement agency

doesn't say "did you try at a dollar or \$1.10 or \$1.25?" It declares 85 cents to be the prevailing wage and certifies a shortage. The U.S. Dept. of Labor accepts its findings.

(Just let the state set a minimum wage of \$1.25 for farm work—and ENFORCE it—and we should see how much of a

shortage there would be).

The association sends its labor contractor to El Centro—the reception center on the California-Mexico border—and hires his crew. The Association then becomes responsible for transporting, feeding and housing the men. This can be a massive operation. The San Joaqui

A REAL Reform Program

1. Set a minimum wage in reasonable relationship with California's standard of living.
2. Place enforcement agency in hands of those dedicated to the welfare of the laborer and give them adequate enforcement facilities.

This will require courage and vision, but if these are present the following results will ensue:

1. Under ordinary conditions there will be little need for imported labor with all its scandalous concomitants.
2. Our "good neighbor" relations will be greatly enhanced. Few braceros imported into this country for "stoop labor" return to Mexico with anything but bitterness in their hearts.
3. California will rid itself of what is nothing less than barbaric custom of trafficking in human beings.
4. The standard of living in our agricultural economy will begin to approach that in our industrial.

There are those who will say that our agricultural economy cannot afford these "reforms."

This is not only dishonest, it is stuff and nonsense reminiscent of the slave holder's arguments in the mid-nineteenth century, and the mill owners several decades later.

If California's agricultural economy depends upon virtual slave labor for its existence, then we have indeed retreated into the nineteenth century or conceded that Russia might be right after all.



WAS THERE A SHORTAGE of domestic farm workers when growers brought these Mexican Nationals—450 of them—to Stockton on February 27, 1958? See picture at right.

California Fields

Farm Production Association had 25,000 contract workers at the peak of the 1956 harvest.

No less than sixty associations hire Nationals this way and they make a good thing of it. Besides dues and fees they often charge the "grower-user" 75 cents per man week, or so much per man hour.

All contract workers have to pay premiums on a non-occupational health and life insurance plan, which are supposed to amount to \$1 per calendar week. The Growers associations collect it. Some Nationals have been charged \$8 a month. The worker doesn't get a copy of the policy he pays for—only the association has a master copy. One worker who broke his back on the job and was getting workmen's compensation was persuaded to keep paying premiums on the non-occupational policy. Others seriously injured have often been dumped on the nearest county hospital—again at taxpayer expense. Justice of the Peace Marable of Brawley recently referred to the compulsory plan as "the worst abuse I have heard of."

Profit in Feeding

The employer or the concessionaire—usually a farm labor contractor—charges the Mexican worker \$1.75 a day for food. Some camps serve \$1 worth of food and charge the rest to overhead. With thousands of workers the opportunity for profit is obvious, and those who have a hand in the business of feeding the nationals have reason enough to call for more contract workers than they need.

(It is hard to know just how profitable this traffic in men really is, Mr. Public Official, because, although the growers associations are chartered by the state they are not required to make financial reports for official scrutiny.)

The Chief of the Farm Placement Bureau in the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Don Larin, was carefully precise when he said in 1957, "The foreign worker is not a free agent. He has no free-

dom to move about and shop for the best job the labor market could afford."

Such workers have nothing to say about wage policies. Thus, when the commercial wineries of the San Joaquin Valley studied how to cut their grape harvesting costs, they changed the method of payment. Instead of paying by the box, usually nine cents, they paid by the drum. Grapes were dumped into a drum holding from 8 to 10 boxes. The rate of pay reported by some Nationals was 45 cents a drum—savings in wages of 50 per cent.

A typical complaint was that of a crew of 25 Nationals who worked for the Stokely-Van Camp Company near Stockton, cutting asparagus during the 1958 season. Their contract called for minimum earnings of 90 cents an hour for every pay period of two weeks. But the company decided to comply with the minimum earnings requirement at the end of the 10-week contract period instead. It thus retained over \$4,000 in wages. The same crew, in addition, had claimed 61 hours of unpaid time for the contract period. This claim amounted to over \$1,200 of disputed wages. The 25 men were sent home before they could properly file and press their complaint.

Payroll records are decisive as evidence in such controversies. Minimum hour and wage guarantees hinge on what the payroll shows. It might be thought that so crucial a document would be regarded with respect by employers. Yet one of them admitted that he marked his payrolls with an "R" whenever there was no work available for his "braceros." When asked what this "R" signified, he said, "refusal to work." When a National refuses to work all bets are off. Neither his wage nor his minimum hour guarantee operates.

Evidence Ignored

For ten years the Agricultural Workers Union AFL-CIO has been submitting evidence of such abuses . . . and worse . . .

But state farm placement policies are still grower-dominated, still the same.

Neither that union nor any other representative of the workers has had a chance to express an official opinion on what might be a fair wage for farm workers, or to help plan manpower needs for crops.

An administered labor force dominates the California farm labor scene, and the condition of the "free" domestic workers is the same misery dictated for workers who are "not free agents."

"Standards" become a grim joke when they are not enforced. They can even hurt the domestic worker when the growers find it easier to ignore standards for foreign workers, giving them a greater incentive to drive our native field hands out of the picture.

By a system of clearances and gentlemen's understandings between the growers associations, the Farm Placement Service and the Department of Labor, the so-called prevailing wage—the yardstick of wages in agriculture—is pushed farther down in the freezer.

The Mexican Nationals are brought in under the terms of an elaborate, complicated and quite impressive contract—with no union to see to it that it is respected. Mexican Nationals who have grievances are simply sent home before they get a chance to see a shop steward—which there isn't.

It is by regimented labor of this type that domestic farm workers are being displaced, supplementing a process which the machine pushed inexorably forward.

Lack of inspectors and compliance officers is partly responsible for the failure to enforce standards. But the key to the scandal is grower-dictated policy of the Department of Employment.

Dare we hope that the new state administration will restore a free labor market in California?

May we not reasonably expect those who are so concerned with protecting workers' rights will come to the defense of those vast thousands who have no organization to protect them against degrading poverty and defenseless servitude?

Governor Brown has asked for \$1.25 minimum wage covering ALL workers not so protected by federal law. He has given no hint of compromise. But it is a tragic fact of history that, time after time, minimum wage demands have been settled on the basis of a compromise excluding agricultural workers—the very workers who need it most.

A minimum wage is a matter of bare subsistence. It is not moral to allow growers or anyone else to pay less, and not factual to assert that the growers can't afford it.

Think, too, what a free farm labor force would mean to California in terms of greater prosperity, lighter relief and crime loads, and more wholesome communities.

'Operation Security' Gets OK

(Continued from Page 1)

eliminated or 'watered down,' training or re-training, and many others—in other words, job security provisions."

As a means of obtaining the broadest understanding of Local 1245's collective bargaining goals and the "climate" in which negotiations will be conducted this year, the Executive Board and Policy Committee wholeheartedly endorsed the Unit Executive Committee Conference, to be held in April. Participating in this Conference will be members from the Unit Executive Committees of each of our Local Units, the Executive Board, Policy Committee, Negotiating Committee, at-large appointees from PG&E's General Construction Dept. and Clerical forces, and the Local Union Business Staff.

LARGEST GATHERING

This Conference, representing the largest assemblage of Local 1245 members in one place, at one time—in fact, it approaches a Convention in size—will be held April 11th and 12th at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley, where exceptional facilities for such a meeting are available. The delegates will review general principles as they may or may not relate to our "Operation Security"—the Union's goals to be sought in our 1959 negotiations. Further details on the Conference and "Operation Security" will be reported in the March issue of the UTILITY REPORTER.

Bus. Mgr. Weakley, during the two-day meeting, also reported on proposed labor legislation in California and Washington, D.C. and reviewed the present labor and political situation in Nevada. He stressed again the need for activating our Local Unit Education Committees throughout our jurisdiction and pointed to the Reno Unit's Committee as an example of the measure of success that can be attained through concentrated activity.

REPORT ON TOUR

Asst. Bus. Mgr. L. L. Mitchell reported to the group on his recent tour throughout the country. Special attention was directed to the Shippingport and Dresden Nuclear Power Plants. He pointed to the differences in the two plants and the resultant differences in radiation exposure problems and other safety measures. He reviewed the problems which the Unions have had to face in these plants and showed how Local 1245 will have to meet these same problems. "The many issues involved," he stated, "are all certainly of a nature which fall within our 'Operation Security'."

Bus. Representative Norman Amundson, who accompanied Mitchell on the nation-wide tour, reported on the several Electronic Data Processing machines and procedures which he had observed during the tour. "The myriad of problems, which the Unions on these properties have encountered as a result of automation, clearly indicate a need for considering them as a major factor in our "Operation Security," not only as they relate to the Clerical and Office employees but to the physical or Blue Collar worker as well," he said.

AUDIT, MEMBERSHIP

Local 1245's Audit for 1958 was thoroughly reviewed by the Board and Policy Committee with Asst. Bus. Mgr. M. A. Walters, Treasurer "Bud" Kerin and Office Mgr. Howard Sevey answering all questions from the group. (It will be noted elsewhere in this issue of the UTILITY REPORTER that the complete Audit has been printed for

the membership's convenience. Any questions on the Audit will be answered at the Local Unit meetings by the Business Representative in attendance).

The status of Local 1245's total membership was thoroughly reviewed by Asst. Bus. Mgr. M. A. Walters and discussed by the group at length. Detailed comparisons of present membership and that of one year ago were made and he stated that a definite relationship could be established between diminishing jobs in certain work groups and membership figures in these same groups. "Here again," he stated, "is a factor to be considered in our 'Operation Security'."

In order to expedite the every-day operations of the Local Union in a more efficient manner, some reorganization of the Business Staff in the Union's office has been necessary. These changes in duties and responsibilities were explained by Asst. Bus. Mgr. L. L. Mitchell.

The agenda for the 2-day meeting was a heavy one and contained many important Local Union problems, as it always does at a Policy Committee meeting, and will be explained in more detail at the Unit meetings during this month. It was agreed, however, that our proposed Conference with "Operation Security" as its theme, was one of the most important and needed activities Local 1245 has undertaken.

Marion Hedges, IBEW Vet, Dies

Marion H. Hedges, 70, former IBEW research director and supervisor of the Electrical Workers Journal, died Jan. 6th in Washington, D.C. after a heart attack.

Hedges, one of the nation's noted labor economists and champion of progressive economic planning, served as a labor consultant to several government agencies and helped set up the collective bargaining procedures of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

After 25 years on the IBEW staff he retired in 1954 and became labor adviser to what is now the Intl. Cooperation Administration.

An author, reporter and college professor at various stages in his career, he also served as labor consultant to the Social Security Board, as technical adviser at Intl. Labor Organization conferences, leader in apprenticeship training, member of the planning committee of the War Production Board, and was a founder and long-time officer of the Natl. Planning Association.

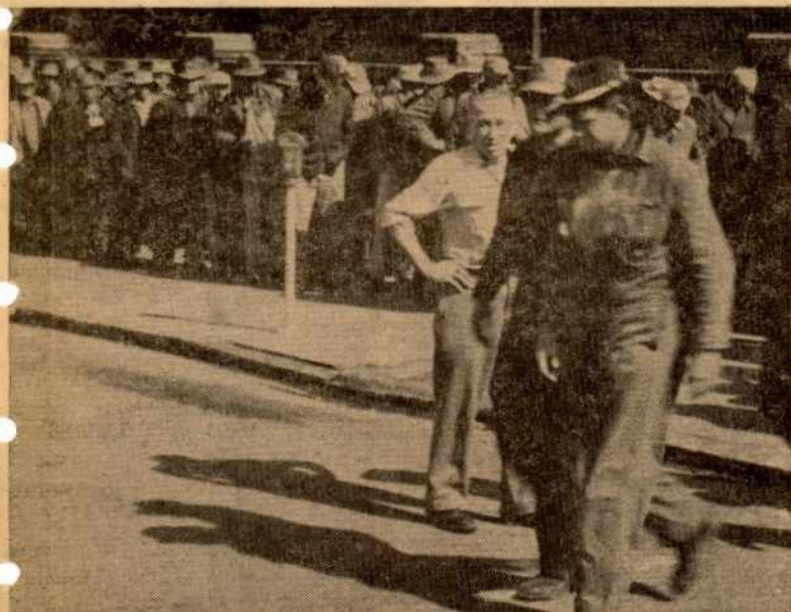
Equal Pay Is High Crime

The latest news from the "Workers' Paradise" of East Germany is that it's a crime for businessmen to overpay their employees.

It's all part of the Soviet drive to extend state ownership. The privately-controlled companies are required to pay lower wages than the nationalized firms.



What's the scoop on this 'Operation Security' I've been hearing so much about? Let's go to our next Unit meeting and get the straight dope.



NO SHORTAGE. February 26, 1958, one day before the Nationals arrived, this picture was taken of 700 unemployed being marched across a Stockton street to be fed in shifts at the charity-supported St. Mary's Dining Room.



An article in the December 25 Michigan Christian Advocate by Stanley H. Brams bears the title "Labor and Management Tighten the Knot." The author, who publishes a news letter called Labor Trends, presents an interesting thesis, one which is not new but which is worth recalling in viewing the large canvas of labor-management relations.

Accompanying the article, but without direct relationship to it, the Methodist paper displays a Religious News Service photo with the caption, "The church views with concerned interest the evolutionary development of labor-management relations." In the three-column-wide cut a number of churchmen in a study session are looking at a blackboard upon which the leader has drawn a triangle. The two base corners are labelled "management" and "labor" while the apex of the triangle is labelled "Church." Symbolically it represents the linkage and concern which bring a religious publication to consideration of the labor-management scene. And quite frequently this concern is being expressed in such church journals.

The article sketches rapidly some of the bargaining results of the past twenty years and expounds the thesis that we have seen increasingly a tightening of the knot that binds the two forces, management and labor, to each other.

For example, the very early appearance of the seniority system tightened with each passing year the bond between the worker and the company—the longer a man worked the greater became the security his job afforded. Then, beginning in 1948, the big push came for company-paid pensions. Again, the worker's stake in keeping his post rather than changing jobs increased. In 1955, Supplemental Unemployment Benefits moved onto the bargaining stage.

"Now," says Mr. Brams, "the worker had a tie to his company that could be felt in bad times," as well as his earlier advantages of good times, such as paid vacations and insurance. Consequently, in the last two decades "the worker has become bound

more and more tightly to his job by such steady and automatic accrual of advantages that a shift to another employer becomes something to be studied with extreme care." Severance pay negotiated in 1958 contracts has added one more stone to the structure.

This has been more elaborately noted and documented by Eli Chinoy's 1955 book, "Automobile Workers and the American Dream." The dream of leaving the factory to become independent in one's own business, so generally held, just doesn't work out. As the book says of the worker, "By the time he is in his late thirties, he has too much seniority, too much familiarity, too much family, to be willing to pull up stakes."

Is this good or bad? Who can judge? The aim of unions, to serve the workers by making their economic lives more secure, has been strikingly achieved. Perhaps one result is greater labor peace, as the worker gains stability from a stable employment. Certainly the fourteenth-hundredths of one per cent of total work time lost by strikes in 1957 is a high degree of labor peace.

For the venturesome, there is still the dream and the chance. For others, there is security. For better or for worse, the tightening of the labor-management knot has given us a changed America.

A. Lincoln—Labor's Friend

The year 1959 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, during which state and local governments and entire communities are being asked to plan and produce programs honoring Lincoln in this his sesquicentennial year.

If a reason for celebrating the life of Abraham Lincoln needs recording, it is this: he was truly a great man. He influenced the course of history. His wisdom and innate faith in his countrymen enabled him, as President of the United States, to lead the nation safely through the horrors of a civil war.

As a frontier boy and youth, as an Illinois lawyer and politician, and as leader of a nation, Abraham Lincoln practiced the cardinal virtues of humility, steadfastness, faith in righteousness, and the forgiving spirit. Then too, his humor, his earthiness, and his utter lack of pretension made him one with common humanity.

He was a friend and champion of working people and one of the nation's first important public figures to take a firm stand in behalf of organized labor.

In his six-volume biography, "Abraham Lincoln," the great Illinois poet, Carl Sandburg, provides quotations from the Civil War President regarding labor:

"Capital is the fruit of labor and could never have existed if labor had not first existed."

"Workingmen are the basis of all governments."

"Labor is prior to and independent of capital."

"The strongest bond of human sympathy, outside of the family relation, should be one uniting all working people, of all nations and tongues and kindreds."

"I feel that the time is coming when the sun shall shine, the rain fall on no man who shall go forth to unrequited toil."

"Thank God we live in a country where the workingman has the right to strike." LINCOLN NOT ONLY THOUGHT, HE ACTED

But Lincoln not only had thoughts on labor; he also acted. Sandburg writes:

"In St. Louis, when newspaper printers went on strike, General Rosecrans detailed soldiers to take the place of the strikers. The union printers sent a note to Lincoln on their side of the case. And it became a tradition of the labor movement that the President sent word that the servants of the Federal government should not interfere with the legitimate demands of labor—and the strike-breaking soldiers were withdrawn."

It was not unusual for Lincoln to meet with representatives of organized labor from time to time. Sandburg covered one such incident in 1864 which also gives some picture of labor's political activity of the time.

"A restless and uncrystallized labor movement over the country would cast its ballot in the coming election. Lincoln met with a small section of it when a committee from the New York Workingman's Democratic-Republican Workingman's Asso-



"Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."—A. Lincoln, 1860.

ciation called at his office to inform him that the organization had elected him an honorary member. They had organized the year before and favored trade unions and bargaining of employes with employes.

"The honorary membership in your association," said the President, "is gratefully accepted. You comprehend as your address shows, that the existing rebellion means more and tends to do more than the perpetration of African slavery . . . that it is, in fact, a war upon the rights of all working people."

LIVE A LITTLE LONGER

4,000 Cancer Quacks

BY DR. WILLIAM A. SAWYER

This column is copyrighted by THE MACHINIST and is reprinted through the courtesy of the International Association of Machinists. Dr. Sawyer cannot answer individual correspondence.

There are probably more than 4,000 cancer-cure quacks in this country at the present time. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration estimates they are taking from the public more than ten million dollars a year. It is said that many families have spent their entire savings for worthless cancer cures.

It is understandable that anyone with cancer will try anything as a last resort. No one can blame a person for grasping at a straw when all else has failed. Since some forms of cancer can be treated successfully by approved methods, the smart thing is to give them the earliest possible chance. Too often, unfortunately, people begin too late.

Cancer quacks are generally money-minded sharpsters who—with no medical background—claim they can treat and cure cancer with a secret remedy without resorting to surgery or X-rays. Upon investigation these so-called cures have been found to have no beneficial effect whatever.

Following is a partial list of

night to bring me word that I should be using a different soap than I'm now using.

The postman plods heroically through the sleet, snow, rain and slush to deliver my bills, and to bring me word that I haven't as much money in my checking account as I'd thought.

He brings me notices of committee meetings, and he delivers the word that my magazine subscriptions are running out.

I get travel brochures, describing glamorous trips that I can't take, and advertisements that ask intimate questions about my digestion.

As far as I'm concerned, the postal service can stop puffing out its chest and boasting that nothing can stop the mails from getting through.

If it would make things any easier for them, they can just toss my mail in the wastepaper basket.

SOUP TO NONSENSE
Mail—Never Fails!
—By Jane Goodsell—

Not rain nor sleet nor heat of day can prevent you from getting your mail. Hiding the mailbox doesn't help, either.

It seems that nothing can be done to stop this relentless deluge of mail. The mail that is meant for you, you're going to get.

Of course, there may be some people who don't want to stop it. Some people, I suppose, get mail informing them that they are somebody's little lollipop. Some letters, I am told, start with the words: "Find check enclosed." And some letters are interesting and gossipy.

It is possible that mail brings joy into some lives, but not mine. The kind of mail I get, I can do without.

I get postal cards from the library reminding me that my books are overdue, and cards from my dentist reminding me that it's time for a check-up.

I receive warnings that the sparkplugs in my car are probably dirty, and I'd better do something about it quick. I get breathless announcements that I can purchase a 98-cent bottle of upholstery cleaner at a special introductory price of 89 cents.

I am informed that I can have my picture taken at the ridiculously low Valentine's day price. And I am invited by a man who refers to himself as a "courturier in furs" to view his exceptionally fine mink skins.

I get picture postcards from friends on the roam, wishing I were there.

Mail trains roar through the

| | | |
|---|----------------|---------------------|
| Difference in Per Capita Expense Files — Officers and Staff | 6.20 | |
| | 327.26 | 21,917.05 |
| Payroll Taxes—Net: | | |
| Income Taxes Withheld | \$ (30,869.67) | |
| Social Security Taxes Withheld | (4,399.40) | |
| Income Taxes Forwarded | 30,602.33 | |
| Social Security Taxes Forwarded | 8,019.96 | 3,353.22 |
| Total Disbursements | | \$563,945.41 |

EXHIBIT B

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL NO. 1245
BALANCE SHEET — DECEMBER 31, 1958**

| | | |
|---|--------------|---------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash Accounts: | | |
| Cash in Banks and Deposits After Close of Bank Statements | \$ 82,566.76 | |
| Returned Checks for Collection | 23.50 | |
| Cash Funds | 1,700.00 | \$ 84,290.26 |
| Furniture and Equipment: | | |
| Automobiles (18) at Cost | \$ 41,474.29 | |
| Less: Reserve for Depreciation | 11,973.80 | 29,500.49 |
| Furniture and Office Equipment | \$ 27,113.61 | |
| Less: Reserve for Depreciation | 11,383.25 | 15,730.36 |
| Other Assets: | | |
| Notes Receivable — I.B.E.W. Pension Fund | \$ 45,000.00 | |
| Air Transportation Deposit | 425.00 | 45,425.00 |
| Total Assets | | \$174,946.11 |
| LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH | | |
| Liabilities: | | |
| I.B.E.W. Per Capita | | 13,146.70 |
| Net Worth December 31, 1958 | | \$161,799.41 |

If you have any questions relative to the Audit, attend your next Unit meeting where the Business Representative in attendance will provide the answers.

**SIGN UP THAT
NON-MEMBER
TODAY!**

Weakley is Guest Speaker At Stanford for Third Time

On February 3rd, Business Manager Ronald T. Weakley again appeared as guest speaker before a large group of Stanford University students. Professor John P. Troxell, Director of Stanford's Division of Industrial Relations, Graduate School of Business, had invited Weakley to Stanford for his third consecutive annual appearance in order to address classes and to submit to questions.

After outlining the organization and operations of Local 1245, Weakley discussed the

preparations and methods utilized by the Union to participate in collective bargaining with employers in our industry.

Weakley's remarks drew a large number of sharp questions from the some 150 students covered in two 50-minute separated classes.

Interest in wage-price relationships, use of strikes in public utilities, bargaining techniques, effects of mechanization and automation on job security, educational standards, and the social effects of increased productivity formed the major areas of the question and answer portions of the classes.

Special interest was shown in the background, lives, and motives of those who had chosen to work on the staff of Local 1245 representing fellow workers rather than continue at their trades. There was an obvious interest in the human aspects of industrial relations and the role of unions in seeking priority for people in the utilization of technological advancement.

Speaking on Trade Unionism as it relates to the "cold war," Weakley stressed that while the Soviet Union laid down the rules covering wages and conditions by government edict, our system leaves this matter generally to labor and management to work out together. Also that while our unions do not oppose technological advancement and increased efficiency and productivity, we do not, like the Soviet version of trade unions, consider productive efficiency to be the main goal for organizations of workers. "We feel," he pointed out, "that the welfare of people comes before profit and efficiency and that the fruits of technological progress must accrue to the improvement of the economic and social status of the people."

"Survival of our system," Weakley warned, "may well depend on how we can at the same time out-produce our major economic competitors and out-perform them in the social and economic

advancement of our people." The responsibility, he advised the students, lay in labor-management recognition of human as well as economic improvement and should this process fail, we shall face serious changes in our social and political traditions.

The students were generous with their applause at the conclusion of the sessions and a number of them expressed personal appreciation to Business Manager Weakley for appearing before them and giving them some ideas to consider in their studies.

Mail Bag

Mr. R. T. Weakley
Local 1245, IBEW
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Sir:

Having reached 65 years of age, I have been retired from the PG&E Co. as Division Operator so am requesting a Union withdrawal card.

I wish to thank you people for what I think has been a commendable job in obtaining all the present conditions which we enjoy as a result of your tireless efforts. It is too bad that the free riders can't see the light

R. J. Tilson Assumes New Position

Effective Jan. 1st this year, Mr. R. J. Tilson, PG&E Company's Director of Industrial Relations was promoted to the newly established position of Manager of Industrial Relations.

Mr. Tilson was the former Personnel Manager of the San Joaquin Power Co. for 13 years prior to that Company's merger with PG&E in 1943, at which time he was transferred to the PG&E's Personnel Dept. at its General Office in San Francisco.

Negotiations with Local 1245, IBEW, will be handled by Mr. Tilson, who will act as the Chairman of the Company's Negotiating Committee.

GEN. CONST. STEWARDS TURN OUT FOR SEMINAR

The second General Construction Shop Steward seminar was held at Local Union Headquarters January 24, 1959. Business Manager R. T. Weakley started the afternoon's discussion with a report on the Local Union operation and reviewed the program

being instituted to better meet the needs of our General Construction membership. Assistant Business Manager L. L. Mitchell led a discussion on negotiations. Other topics on the agenda included "Making the Grievance Procedure Work" with Business Representative Ed James as discussion leader; and "Union Law and Structure" with Business Representative Dan McPeak as discussion leader. Joseph Grodin from the law firm of Tobriner, Lazarus, Brundage & Neyhart, reviewed and led a very lively discussion on the recent U.S.

and get on the wagon and help the good cause.

Thanking you again for all the wonderful conditions I have received, I remain,

Yours truly,
Trygve Eriksen
1745 San Jose Ave.
San Francisco, Calif.

Supreme Court decision and subsequent tax court rulings on per diem expenses as they relate to income. Administrative Assistant Scott Wadsworth coordinated the Seminar.

There was a very fine attendance of Shop Stewards, many of them traveling in excess of 100 miles. Guests at the Conference included Everett Basinger, Executive Board Member; John Michael, Policy Committee Member; and the Business Staff.

These hard-working Stewards are to be warmly commended for their efforts and interest in behalf of their fellow members. This is just one more example of how these Shop Stewards spend many hours of their own time in the interest of their Local Union.

Know your Shop Steward and give him your support and cooperation!

IN MEMORIAM

IMA J. YOUNG, Clerk A in PG&E's Central Acctg. Dept., at the EDP Center in San Francisco, passed away on Jan. 17th. Ima had been a very active member in the Clerical forces since July, 1952 having acted as Shop Steward in East Bay Division and Chairman of the General Office Griev. Committee since her transfer to the EDP group.

J. ELMER BLUNT, Electrical Machinist at PG&E's Pit No. 1 Hydro Plant died on Jan. 10th. Brother Blunt had been a Local 1245 member since Jan. 1949 and at the time of his death was on Leave of Absence.

CHARLES T. HUGHES, retired Line Patrolman in the Pipe Line Operation Dept. of PG&E, passed away on Jan. 17th. Bro. Hughes was one of the Union's most active supporters in the Pipe Line group for over ten years prior to his retirement.

H. J. WHITE, Operator at PG&E's Newark Substation in East Bay Division, died on Jan. 9th. Brother White had been a member of Local 1245 since Feb. 1957.

Pole Falls With 2 SMUD Linemen

We regret to report the injury on Jan. 5th of Brothers Ted Blanchard and Richard Pullen, Linemen for SMUD.

They were working on a pole during storm conditions and in the act of replacing one transformer in a bank of three, when the pole, with the aid of extremely high winds and wet ground, gave way and fell to the ground. Brother Blanchard was injured severely by falling on a steel post fence. He was hospitalized for approximately three weeks and at present is recuperating at home. Brother Pullen, although not injured as badly, suffered many bruises in his fall. Both are expected back at work in the near future.

On the brighter side, Blanchard has been employed by the District only a short time so had no sick leave benefits available, but through efforts of Union's Negotiating Committee and the Business Office in 1958, a new section in the Civil Service Rules—Rule 112.1—incorporating Supplemental Industrial Disability payments, which pays 85 per cent of the employee's base pay and equals approximately his take-home pay for all time off due to industrial accident, was available to Brother Blanchard. In fact, the Rule change went into effect on Jan. 6th, the first day he was off due to his accident.

Although no one wants to see any industrial accidents, it is comforting to know that certain monetary protections are effective for the benefit of employees when injured on the job.

We all wish a speedy recovery for both Ted and Dick.

STRIKES: Page One Headlines Industrial Peace: KILL STORY

We give up. We've been holding our breath, waiting for the daily newspaper editorial writers to get around to congratulating labor and management on one of the most peaceful years in labor relations history.

But it's over a month now since Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell announced the good news that "in terms of industrial peace, 1958 was one of the best peacetime years on record." And we haven't yet seen the first editorial about it.

The 1958 record showed, according to Secretary Mitchell that "strike idleness, as measured in man-days, was about the same as in 1951 and 1954, but lower than any other postwar

year except 1957. The number of work stoppages beginning in 1958, estimated at 3,400, was lowest for any year since World War II."

"Perhaps more significant," Mr. Mitchell said, "were the

many important industries and establishments in which contracts were negotiated or renegotiated without a work stoppage."

Long ago, we gave up hoping that we could ever make a peacefully negotiated agreement as palatable as strikes to the men who make our daily newspapers. Newspapers live and make their profits on drama and conflict.

But once a year, when the record is as good as 1958, we think more newspapers ought to take the trouble to put the strike headlines in proper perspective. The editors ought to let their readers know that collective bargaining is working well in this country — despite the treatment it gets in many newspapers.

Back on the editorial page, which isn't supposed to need sensationalism, a cheer for the improvement in labor-management relations wouldn't bankrupt any publisher. It might, of course, make it more difficult to convince the American people that unions are ruining the country and need drastic regulation.

We know that in writing this we run a risk. Perhaps there have been editorials praising the 1958 record for industrial peace. If the daily newspaper you buy has published such an editorial, send us a clipping. If it hasn't perhaps you ought to write a letter to the editor, prodding his conscience. If you are polite enough, he might even print it. —From The Machinist.

