

"Every Member an Organizer"—
 Union Strength Means a Better Contract

Union is Set for PG&E Wage Talks

Midterm Reopener on Clerical, Physical Pay

On April 21, 1961, Local 1245's System Negotiating Committee held its first meeting at Union headquarters to develop program for the forthcoming wage negotiations with Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

Under the terms of the current physical and clerical agreements, a midterm wage reopener clause provides for either party to serve notice of amendment for the purpose of negotiating general wage changes.

The System Committee will serve a 60 day notice on or about May 1 to the P.G. and E. of our intention to open the agreement.

Business Manager R. T. Weakley, Assistant Business Manager L. L. Mitchell and Research Assistant Bruce Lockey have been gathering data for some time in order to prepare for negotiations.

Company finances, living costs, productivity, etc., are being evaluated for Committee consideration and use.

Unit recommendations on hand are also being weighed by the Committee which includes A. J. Boker, Ron Fields, William H. Fleming, James H. Fountain, Richard D. Kern, Joseph S. Kreins, Melvin J. Robins, Wayne Weaver, Jerry Wells. The Committee will be assisted by Research Assistant Bruce Lockey.

Utility Reporter

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OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

APRIL, 1961

Sierra Pacific Members Win Benefit Improvements

On April 7, 1961, Local 1245 members employed by the Sierra Pacific Power Company ratified the result of negotiations at a special meeting in the Circle Room of the Holiday Hotel in Reno. Local 1245 Negotiators Carolyn McPartland, Orville Owen, Bob Newberry and Roy Murray outlined the terms of settlement which will affect 418 clerical and physical employees working in Northern Nevada and the Tahoe-Truckee-Portola area of California. Interest in the meeting was

shown by the fact that members in attendance traveled from distances of 50 miles to get to the meeting.

Total wage and benefit costs of the settlement will approximate 13.44 cents per hour on the average wage. A general wage increase of 4% will be applied to all employees in the

bargaining unit together with increased coverage for hospital and life insurance. Life insurance for each employee is to be doubled with an additional 10 cents per thousand of premium cost to be paid by the employer, with an added \$1000 accident policy totally paid by Company. Hospital room and board coverage in the hospital plan was increased from \$12 per day to \$20 per day with the Company paying for the increase in premium.

Establishment of five new job definitions and wage rates, together with revision of eight job classifications and inequity adjustments in the classifications of Water Works Patrolman and Street Light Maintenance Man were made to meet changing operational needs.

Contract changes resulted in increasing shift premiums by 1 cent per hour and establishing a joint investigating committee for resolving grievances involving qualifications.

Local 1245 Business Manager Ronald T. Weakley, commenting on the settlement, stated, "The results of the package not only provides an increase in take-home pay but provides extra family protection often unavailable to the average working man. We feel this is a settlement in which the dependents of our members have gained a much greater measure of security and one which will prove to be of long term value to all concerned."

Contracts incorporating the changes are now being signed and will become effective May 1, 1961 for wage and contract changes with insurance benefits to become applicable July 1, 1961.

YOUR
 Business Manager's
 COLUMN
 by Ronald T. Weakley

I recently ran across a quotation in a high school text book as I was checking on what sort of education our children are receiving concerning such matters as automation. If this sort of education is the norm, perhaps we are too harsh in some of the criticism we sometimes level at our educational system.

The quotation follows: "Human welfare requires a progressive diminution of the part played by economic production and consumption, leaving a larger and longer share of life free for the pursuit of those noneconomic ends which are the highest in the scale of human values."—J. A. Hobson.

The point is that the end result of automation should be greater abundance for all and less time spent in producing such abundance so that we can use the abundance for the recreational, cultural and spiritual needs of human beings.

Automation Not Producing Abundance for All
 Instead of producing the above situation, we find that
 (Continued on Page 2)



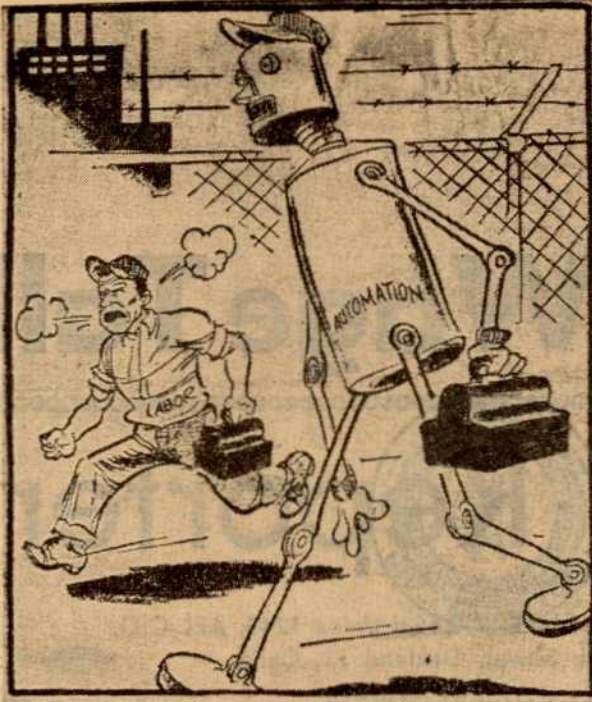
Changes in Overhead Line work were the main subject of discussion at the meeting of the Overhead Advisory Committee during their meeting at Union Headquarters on Saturday, April 15. The meeting was conducted by Business Manager Ron Weakley and attended by members from all over the PG&E system.



Twenty delegates representing Geographic Division Clerical employees met at Union Headquarters in Oakland Sat., Mar. 25 to discuss and make recommendations on a proposal for Lines of Progression covering the Commercial and Operating Units. Also in attendance were L. L. Mitchell, Frank Quadros, Ed James, John Wilder and Norman Amundson from the Union staff.

Notice to Members In General Const.

Members employed in the General Construction Department who have given 245 Market Street as their mailing address will not receive magazines and periodicals which are sent to that address. They are not forwarded. In order to insure that you receive your Utility Reporter, keep this office advised and for the Electrical Workers Journal, notify the International Office of the I.B.E.W. of your home address or mail forwarding address.



YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN

(Continued from Page 1)

this automation business is becoming one of the most serious domestic problems facing the people of America.

Millions of people who formerly supplied certain manual functions in basic production industries will never work at those same tasks again, no matter what happens to our economy. What is to happen to them? Will they find some other productive tasks to perform or will they simply join the millions of unemployed as castoffs of our new industrial revolution? These questions are serious.

A nation which cannot devise a proper means of gearing its production to the needs of its people is in bad trouble.

Simply producing more goods with less people will not answer the basic question concerning who will have the money to buy such goods and thus continue the consumer-producer relationship necessary to a private enterprise system.

Labor and management are, in many cases, trying to devise methods to meet this growing problem. Minor successes are reported. More often, we read about unions and corporations being locked in battle over which side shall get the benefits of automation in the division of the profit spoils.

Loud cries about "featherbedding" on the part of workmen are met with loud cries about the "featherbedders" in management. Newspaper and magazines carry paid ads and stories about the controversial subject, but we find a scarcity of sensible solutions being offered by these same publications.

VOLUNTARY SOLUTIONS

To simply meet the needs of a diminishing number of people as our population explodes, just won't do the job. In spite of our aversion to increased governmental intrusion into a free economy, it appears that such intrusion is inevitable unless we are able to avoid a major economic imbalance or a basic change in our political philosophy by finding voluntary means to meet the need.

The mutual efforts of labor and management, cushions supplied by state and federal unemployment legislation, severance pay plans, etc., are failing to successfully meet the bigger issue.

Something is basically wrong when our productive capacity outstrips our ability to consume to the point that we get so efficient that we might think we don't need people on either end of the stick.

Blaming automation in itself or corporations which modernize and equip their plants with labor-saving devices and work methods; or unions which seek to keep as many members employed as possible, doesn't begin to meet the problem.

More money for those workers who are left helps those who are left but does nothing for those who are laid off and who will never re-enter the work force they left because the need for human endeavor is gone so far as their jobs are concerned.

What happens to those in the middle and elderly age brackets? What happens to our growing army of children who have the right to expect that they can go to work and earn a living and raise a family?

Those who would ignore the problem are usually living in a



Oscar Fellin, Steward in North Bay Division is shown marking his ballot in the recent voting on the By-law amendments.

fool's paradise or they are basking in the affluence of the slot machine of automation which pays off bigger jackpots to fewer people every day.

Of course, there are some at the top of the economic heap who bitterly object to any move by working people, unions or government, which might force them to divide their jackpots a bit more so that more people can share in the fruits of automation.

On the other hand, in a recent issue of LOOK magazine Thomas J. Watson, Jr., president of International Business Machines Corporation is quoted as saying: "An employee who has invested a share of his work life in a company's business, and who has performed competently in his job, is entitled to every consideration we can give him, should he find himself affected by technological advance."

Watson displays a civilized attitude toward the human aspects of automation and here too, is an encouraging sign which is important if only because I.B.M. is one of the leading developers of automated processes in the world.

MEASURES FOR RELIEF

As automation and other technological improvements rapidly grow, there are some stopgap measures which companies and unions can adopt in order to lessen the impact on employees.

We have worked out a number of such plans through the collective bargaining process with our employers. More training, higher skill recognition with higher pay, broadening bases of regressive seniority, retraining of displaced workers, and increased security benefits which pay off when a worker must leave the job—these measures have mitigated a portion of our problems.

Dramatic deals such as those negotiated by the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen and the Pacific Maritime Association wherein the union agrees to eliminate manpower in return for a royalty on management's savings; or the United Mine Workers' deal for tonnage royalties on mechanized coal mining serve only to pay off those who remain on these industries' shrinking payrolls as members of declining union institutions.

These schemes are better than nothing, but they are far from the total answer we need in order to meet the total problem.

The American Labor Movement and American Industry must always remember that they are not simply economic institutions whose sole reason for existence is the maintenance of their separate institutions. The welfare of all of our citizens, both present and future, transcends the institutional welfare

RALPH CHAPLIN

(1871-1961)

"Mourn not the dead that in the cool earth lie
Dust unto dust—
The calm sweet earth that mothers all who die
As all men must;

But rather mourn the apathetic throng—

The cowed and meek—
Who see the world's great anguish and its wrong
And dare not speak!"

The clear voice that spoke thus from Cook County jail in 1917 is silent. Ralph Chaplin, rebel poet who dared to speak for the solidarity of all men in a world of war and hatred, is dead.

Dedicated as few men are by his embracing love for humanity and his horror of man's cruelty to man, Ralph Chaplin in song and poem expressed the passionate hope of the oppressed for a better world. He gave word to the longing of lonely men for the bonds of brotherhood. His great song of industrial unionism, "Solidarity Forever," voices for countless millions throughout the world their common strength in Union.

Child of the Chicago Haymarket, the Pullman Strike and the gentle socialism of Eugene Debs, Ralph Chaplin in early manhood found the hope and brotherhood he sought in the Industrial Workers of the World. As editor of *Solidarity* during the first World War he condemned the nations that commanded brother to kill brother, and for this was sentenced to serve twenty years in Leavenworth prison.

Released from prison by Presidential amnesty in 1923, Ralph Chaplin returned to the cause of industrial unionism, writing and speaking for his fellow workers still in prison, and editing the *Industrial Worker* during the depression. When the lonely men of the sea and the waterfront found solidarity in the Maritime Federation of the Pacific Coast in the Thirties he championed their need for brotherhood as editor of the *Voice of the Federation*. During the Forties while editing the *Tacoma Labor Advocate* he carried the message of strong unionism.

Ralph Chaplin's life was an affirmation of the bond of love among all men, a dedicated crusade for man's right to fulfill that love in universal brotherhood. His pure and gentle spirit was supported by limitless courage to live by these ideals.

and even the survival of both unions and corporations, should any or all of them forget that they are the servants, not the masters of the people.

This goes for a government which might become so forgetful of the needs of its people that it puts the institution before the reason for the institution.

Should we fail the needs of our people, there won't be any unions or corporations. Should unions and corporations disappear from the scene, there won't be any capitalistic system in our country.

Those who might wishfully or actually feel otherwise need only look at the world today and the proof is complete.

The minds of men over the world are either weary and twisted into total conformity with total materialism or they are watching and waiting to see whether or not the greatest free nation on earth can still put people over money and survive.

This is the real challenge of automation in America.

1,809 Mile Pipeline— One-Man Operation

On April 19, 1961, the super-automated pipeline of Transwestern Pipeline Company's Texas to California gas transmission system was dedicated.

Just north of Roswell, New Mexico, a single operator controls the 1,809 mile pipeline which carries gas from the Texas fields to Needles, California.

On the same general subject, we hear of a steam generating station in Lake Charles, Louisiana, which will have a single operator per shift at the controls.

This reminds us of the old days when we, too, had at least one operator on shift in many substations and hydro plants which are now automatic.

We bet that whoever left the one man on shift at Roswell and at Lake Charles, will be displaced by another temporary planner who can get rid of that one man.

When this is done, there may be no need to keep the man who got rid of the man left on the job.

Remember our 1959 Conference, "Operation Security?" This preview of future needs which are being created by changing work methods and new technologies resulted in some important changes in our working agreements to improve job security.

Your leaders, however, "did not get through," so far as the real import of this subject matter is concerned. We still find apathy and lack of knowledge on the growing needs that must be met.

It is the good fortune of some workers to have a union to represent them in connection with these needs. Those who don't are more adversely affected.

No matter how much a stated wage rate is, how great the fringe benefits are, or how good the working conditions contract may be, they only apply to those who remain on the payroll.

The working members of Local 1245 can assist their leaders and themselves through developing programs to meet the needs surrounding job security.

To do so, we must continually organize and maintain a sound union. We must attend Unit meetings and we must keep up with what is going on in our industries if we are to plan and act to do something more about job security.



The UTILITY REPORTER



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Vernon Thompson Named New Head of PG&E Industrial Relations

Vernon J. Thompson of Larkspur has been named manager of industrial relations for Pacific Gas and Electric Company, L. Harold Anderson, PG&E vice president and assistant general manager, announced recently.

He will replace Robert J. Tilson, who retired April 1 after 44 years of service.

A native of Santa Rosa, Thompson joined PG&E in San Francisco in 1925 after attending Oregon State College. He worked in the central accounting and gas departments before moving to the personnel department in 1945 as an office assistant.

He received a bachelor of law degree from San Francisco Law School in 1943 and is a member of the State Bar of California and the San Francisco and American Bar associations. He was appointed to his present position as assistant manager of industrial relations in 1956. He is also a member of the Pacific Coast Gas and Pacific Coast Electrical Associations, the Lawyers Club of San Francisco and the Commonwealth Club.

Thompson and his wife, Ruth, live at 134 Madrone Avenue, Larkspur. They have a son, Vernon, Jr., a PG&E employee in Santa Rosa.

Tilson, who held his post since 1952, is a native of Fairfield, Iowa, and attended Los Angeles schools. He joined San Joaquin Light and Power Corporation in Bakersfield as a laborer in the gas department in 1917. He served in the field artillery during World War I and rejoined the company after the war, later becoming assistant personnel manager, then personnel manager in Fresno. He came to San Francisco for PG&E as a personnel assistant in 1943.

He and his wife, Henrietta, live at 19310 Arnold Drive, Sonoma. They have a son, Robert, Jr., of Forest Grove, Oregon, and four grandchildren. Tilson belongs to the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and the Pacific Coast Gas Association.

Boat Owners, Take Notice

SACRAMENTO—Here's a tip for California's 350,000 pleasure boat owners:

You can get a rebate on some of your gasoline expenses if you follow a few simple steps.

State Controller Alan Cranston said the six-cent state tax on a gallon of gasoline is refundable if the gasoline is used for boating purposes.

The state tax on gasoline is subject to refund whenever the gasoline is used for a non-highway purpose. Last year, Cranston said, the State refunded \$149,196 to 5937 pleasure boaters.

"Thousands of boat owners apparently are not cognizant of their right to a refund," he said.

Cranston warned that certain elemental records must be kept. State law requires that the refund claim be supported by the original invoice, made out in the name of the person using the fuel and claiming the refund. Thus, an invoice made out to "Cash" would be unacceptable.

Credit card invoices suffice to meet the requirements of the law, Cranston said.

The refund claims can be submitted anytime within 13 months after the purchase of the fuel.

Cranston suggested that boat owners write to the Controller's Division of Tax Collection and Refund, Post Office Box 1019, Sacramento 5, for refund forms which contain detailed instructions.

If a little knowledge is dangerous, where is the man who has so much as to be out of danger?—Huxley.



R. J. TILSON



V. J. THOMPSON

WELCOME!

The following people were welcomed into membership in Local 1245 during the month of March, 1961:

BA APPLICATIONS SAN JOAQUIN

Pierce, Maxine
Shell, Vernita Ann

COAST VALLEYS PIPE LINE OPERATIONS

Van Auken, Richard
Castillo, Carlos
Haver, Charles M.

SAN JOSE

Alaga, Nick J.
Alexander, John

STORES

Beitzell, Gerald J.
Johnson, Robert C.
Mosser, Robert W.
Thorup, Henning L.

EAST BAY

Chisholm, Sam
Donohue, James L. Jr.
French, Norman P.
Merryman, Spencer L.

SAN FRANCISCO

Cockrehan, John A.
Gouvia, David L.
Ward, Richard P.
Zamora, Steven B.

STOCKTON

Bachman, Dennis
Gibson, William E. L.
Johnson, Kenneth
Mintun, Jack L.
Richardson, Jared H.

SACRAMENTO TRANSIT

Hagel, Christian

HUMBOLDT

Grundhofer, Raymond W.
Kasper, Floyd G.
Moniz, Warren S.

SIERRA PACIFIC

Harris, Thomas A.

DE SABL A

Hanson, Harry P.

DRUM

Nelson, W. E.

NORTH BAY

Beatty, Paul J.

Jacobsen, James P.

CITIZENS UTILITIES

Norton, Beverly W.

Riley, Ruby P.

Scrugg, Maxwell F.

Wiggins, Kermit L.

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

Baker, Frank

Branch, Jerry B.



Butler, Dan
Casey, Donald W.
Cheatham, Tommy E.
Childers, Arthur A.
Gaspar, Joseph
Glover, Johnnie L.
Hunter, Terry J.
Jackson, Herbert L.
James, Edwin V.
Malone, Larry
Marrison, Billy L.
Moore, William C.
Ornelas, Felipe P.
Patton, Luther E.
Smith, Shuby
Solovieff, Nick A.
Souza, Donald R.

A APPLICATIONS GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

Darling, William B.
Friend, Donald E.
Thomson, Henry S.

Snakes, Monkeys Join Strikers on Zoo Picket Line

NEW YORK—Zoological employees staged a pet show on the picket line and kept enough members on duty to care for the animals when they walked out on strike at the Bronx Zoo and the Coney Island Aquarium here.

"We're striking against the management, not the kids or the animals," said an officer of Local 1501, State, County & Municipal Employees.

Photographers and children made a beeline for the zoo's Boston Post Road entrance when they spotted the strikers marching with boa constrictors, rock pythons and rat snakes perched on the shoulders of snake handlers and monkeys, sheep and goats squirming in the picket line.

AFSCME Local 1501 has represented menagerie keepers, maintenance workers, office, restaurant and clerical employees for about five years. Local officers say members got tired of working without a contract or union recognition.

Three years ago they struck for recognition, returned when management said it would negotiate. The result was what the

California Legislative Notes

Much Is Undone in Sacto

by M. A. WALTERS

With only eight weeks remaining in the current Session of the California Legislature, most issues of direct interest to Local Union 1245 members and working people in general, as well as other proposed progressive legislation, are still slowly wending their way through the Legislative channels. About the only legislation of major impact thus far passed, relates to revisions in the State's Educational System, or makes revision to the Election Code.

The one major exception to the foregoing relates to revisions in the Unemployment Insurance Code where two anti-recession measures have been passed by both Houses of the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

SB 20 by Senator Collier provides that an unemployed individual shall be entitled to unemployment compensation benefits while enrolled in a retraining program at any time during the period he is entitled to unemployment compensation benefits, instead of just during the period he is entitled to extended duration of unemployment compensation benefits. This measure is of real importance to employees who are displaced by automation and gives them the opportunity to draw unemployment insurance while retraining for a new line of endeavor.

SB 133 by Senator Shaw is an urgency bill to provide 13 weeks of extended payment of unemployment insurance benefits to those persons who have exhausted their regular 26 weeks and are still unable to find employment.

Additional legislation which would make significant improvements in unemployment insurance as well as unemployment disability insurance and Workmen's Compensation, are still being considered by the Assembly Committee on Finance & Insurance and Senate Committee on Insurance and Financial Institutions. Considerable opposition against these measures is being leveled before both committees by employer representatives.

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN

Passage of Proposition No. 1 in the General Elections last November has not seen the end of the water fight in California. Two major issues are currently being fought in the Legislature. The first of these currently under consideration in the Senate is a demand by many of the Senators that the Legislature have budgetary control over expenditure of the \$1-3/4 million made available by the voters and have the right of approval of the contract between the State and local agencies.

The other issue where attention is being focused in the Assembly involves a question as to whether or not California should go it alone in the development of its water resources or if it should take advantage of the available Federal assistance. The real issue involved in this question concerns itself with the question of the 160-acre limitation on water usage and the unjust enrichment of large land holders. Federal funds can only be made available if the State would adopt the principles of the Federal Reclamation Law and failure to do so can and will cost California taxpayers millions of dollars.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

One Local Union 1245 sponsored measure, AB 2180, relating to payroll deduction of union dues for employees of political subdivisions, was refused passage by the Assembly Committee on Civil Service and

State Personnel. However, another measure, AB 1788, on Thursday, April 20, was given a "do pass" recommendation by the Assembly Committee on Industrial Relations. While not as strong as AB 2180 in that its provisions are permissive, AB 1788 will correct an existing inequity in State statutes where organizations such as Local 1245 are denied the rights of payroll deductions.

Bills guaranteeing the right of self-organization and collective bargaining for public employees will be heard by the Assembly Committee on Industrial Relations on Thursday, April 27, while a Local Union 1245 sponsored measure to guarantee these rights to employees of municipal utility districts and public utility districts is set for hearing on Wednesday, May 3, before the Assembly Committee on Public Utilities and Corporations.

The only measure thus far acted upon relating to this subject is Assembly Constitutional Amendment 23, an anti-strike measure calling for severe penalties, which has been denied passage by the Assembly Committee on Constitutional Amendments.

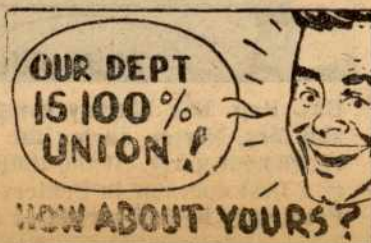
A Uniform Voters' Registration Law Is Needed in Calif.

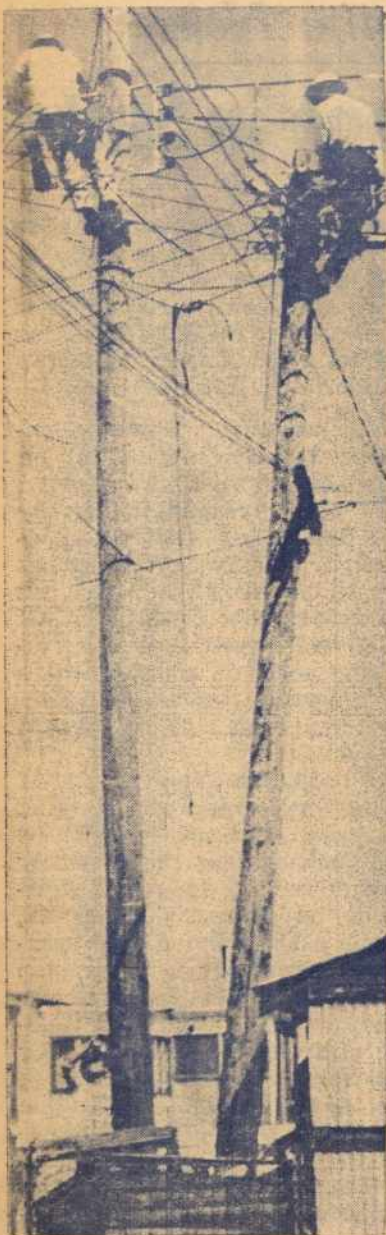
Under existing law there is a great diversity in the voter registration procedures of counties throughout the state. In many counties the county clerks permit or even encourage the use of volunteer deputies to secure maximum registration; but in some counties the use of deputy registrars is actively discouraged by the county clerk, and facilities for registration are restricted to time and place which make it almost impossible for the working man to register without taking time from work.

Although the pressure of public opinion and of many individual legislators has resulted in substantial improvement in the recent registration of voters, the only guarantee for permanent improvement is the enactment of a uniform registration act.

A bill now being drafted, would provide that county clerks shall deputize as registrars any qualified volunteers provided by any political party on the ballot, by any service organization, such as the League of Women Voters, or by any bona fide labor union and that such volunteer deputy registrars shall be permitted to register voters in any locality within the precinct in which they are registered (this would permit roving registrars). The bill also will provide that in all county seats and in any town of 20,000 or more the county clerk shall provide facilities for the 30 days immediately preceding the end of the normal registration period so that voters may register between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, and between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon on Saturdays.

—("Teamstergrams," newsletter of Calif. Teamsters Legal Council.)





James Sheppard and McCallen Hamilton are shown in this picture of line work in Needles, California.

Union Seeks Gains for Members

Overhead Dept. Advisory Group Meets, Studies Work Changes

On Saturday, April 15th, 28 selected members of Local 1245 met all day at Union Headquarters to consider the problems facing the membership engaged in P.G. and E. operations in Overhead construction, maintenance and service.

A broad departmental and geographical representation, including General Construction, was augmented by active safety and apprenticeship representatives and members of the Business Office and Field Staff. Certain Officers and Advisory Council Members were also present.

The group reviewed the practices on the P. G. and E. system concerning crew make-ups, service policies, division of work assignments, supervision, safety, skill development, use of supervisors in work production, use of service agents, and other items which bore out the lack of universal application of company practices on the properties.

The principles embodied in the Preambles of the IBEW International Constitution and our Local Union Bylaws were also reviewed with emphasis on the Union's responsibility to provide skilled workmen who must be properly classified and properly paid.

It was agreed that we should not and will not seek to stop technological progress, but that we must bring our job definitions, lines of progression, training, safety, and pay rates, into proper perspective inasmuch as these features are, in some cases, out of step with what is going on in the operations of P. G. and E. today.

It was also agreed that we delay formal action until after our general wage re-opener is negotiated and ratified. In the meantime, it was suggested by the group that Business Manager Weakley discuss the matter informally with P. G. and E. management in order to explore the problem and to set a timetable for future discussions.

Participants will discuss the topics of the meeting in the respective Unit Meetings with interested members, and will gather information and opinions to guide future activities of the Advisory Committee.

Business Manager Weakley will select a working committee to meet with him after our general wage re-opener negotiations. This working committee will meet with management in the future.

Meetings on the same general

subject matter which are peculiar to the Underground and various other departments will be set up in the future as time and proper programming will allow.

OTHER DEPARTMENTAL MEETINGS

Gas Department and Steam Department meetings are being planned and data is being collected to prepare for such meetings.

Other Departments are also being reviewed in order to cover all phases of change in work methods which may render certain present jobs, progressions and wage scales inadequate in consideration of the mechanization of P. G. and E. operations.

Speaking of the work load presently being carried on in the Business Office concerning grievances, legislative activity, work conferences and educational planning, as well as the routine communication and negotiating processes now going on, Business Manager Weakley told the group that there is only so much time to cope with each of the major problems of our people. He stated that priorities must be set by the Officers of the Union and the Business Office.

Commenting on the matter of priorities after the meeting, the Business Manager stated that his desire to travel about the jurisdiction to meet with members at Unit Meetings is still his desire, but that such tours would have to wait until a "breather" period could be

found in his time schedule which is presently taken up with major problems affecting the welfare of the total membership.

He asked that more members attend Unit Meetings in order to hear what was going on at the top level of the Union and to help guide our efforts to meet the growing major problems of all of our people.

Our Local Union, he pointed out, is staffed with a number of Business Representatives who serve as the Business Manager's representatives in the field. Each of the 71 Units has a Business Representative in attendance at the monthly meetings. This is our structure and it has evolved after many years of trial and error in seeking the optimum mode of operation and provides two-way communication between the membership and Union headquarters.

Meetings like the Overhead session are not sufficiently productive if the people whose job conditions are involved don't care one way or the other as to what happens to their job conditions.

The official members of the Overhead Department Advisory Committee and other interested participants who gave up another Saturday to help keep this Union both democratic and effective were: Mark R. Cook, Staff—San Jose; Gerald F. Watson, Shasta; Robert W. Irwin, San Joaquin; Robert I. Stringham, Stockton; Leland Thomas, Jr., San Jose; Herb Brooks, East Bay; Gene Hastings, Staff—G.C.; Stanley P. Justis, Drum; Juventino Garcia, East Bay; H. B. Lucas, Humboldt; F. A. Quadros, Staff—North Bay; Frank Anderson, North Bay; Larry Foss, Staff—East Bay; Lee Stanford, East Bay; Ron Fields, San Francisco; Spike Ensley, Staff—Coast Valleys; Roy D. Murray, Staff—Colgate and De Sabla; L. L. Mitchell, Asst. Business Manager; Ron Weakley, Business Manager; M. A. Walters, Asst. Business Manager; Daniel J. McPeak, Staff—San Francisco; John J. Wilder, Staff—East Bay; Al Hansen, Asst. Business Manager; Gerald Bayless, San Joaquin; E. A. James, Staff—Stockton; W. S. Wadsworth, Staff—San Joaquin and Robert E. Staab Coast Valleys.

Morgan, 'Free of Pressure,' Lauds AFL-CIO, Network

WASHINGTON — News commentator Edward P. Morgan gave what he described as "a commercial in reverse" in accepting the Alfred I. duPont Radio & Television Award for the "thoroughness" and "integrity" of his radio reporting and commentaries.

Deploring commercial pressures on broadcasting which make it "sometimes very difficult for a reporter with a sense of purpose . . . to squeeze his finding in between the filter ads and the deodorant commercials," Morgan added.

"I might be hollering in a vacant lot or stacking unpublished commentaries in a closet if the ABC network and the AFL-CIO, my sponsor, had not afforded me an outlet for my views . . ."

"My criticisms, including those of broadcasting and the labor movement, have been free of pressure or censorship."

Morgan recently was elected to serve on the Thomas L. Stokes Memorial Awards Committee, which presents annual awards for outstanding newspaper reporting and editorials on conservation and development of natural resources.

erly is badly needed!) So, speak up! You needn't feel "on the shelf" just because you are in the retired ranks.

It Still Needs

AUTOMATION



THE IMPACT OF AUTOMATION, aggravating unemployment and lines the need for government action. Some of the problems posed through collective bargaining, only by national legislation in compensation, education and training distressed areas and, above all sustain a growth rate of 5 per cent

Clerical Pay Studied by

On Saturday, March 25, 1966 met at the Union offices to study Commercial and Operating Personnel by this group.

Tuesday, March 28, at 10:00 from the Advisory Committee—Joan E. Bynum, Donna G. Goff, John Jaster, Roy Leino and William J. Reno—together with Assistant Business Manager L. L. Mitchell and Business Representative Norman E. Amundson met with the Company Committee. Representing the Company were V. J. Thompson, Manager of Industrial Relations Department; I. W. Bonbright and R. F. Cleary.

After a discussion of the proposal and a consideration of the

You Thinking of Another Language?

If you're thinking of learning another language, here's a list of the first twelve languages of the world in order of the number of people who speak the language:

- Mandarin (China)—469 million.
 - English—284 million.
 - Russian (Great Russian only)—161 million.
 - Hindi (one of 14 Indian languages)—155 million.
 - Spanish—148 million.
 - German—120 million.
 - Japanese—96 million.
 - Bengali (India; Pakistan)—82 million.
 - Arabic—79 million.
 - Portuguese—77 million.
 - French—71 million.
 - Malay (& Bahasa Indonesia)—70 million.
- Source — World Almanac 1961.

No man can climb out beyond the limitations of his own character—Morley.

RETIRED FOLKS URGED TO BECOME LABOR GUARDSMEN

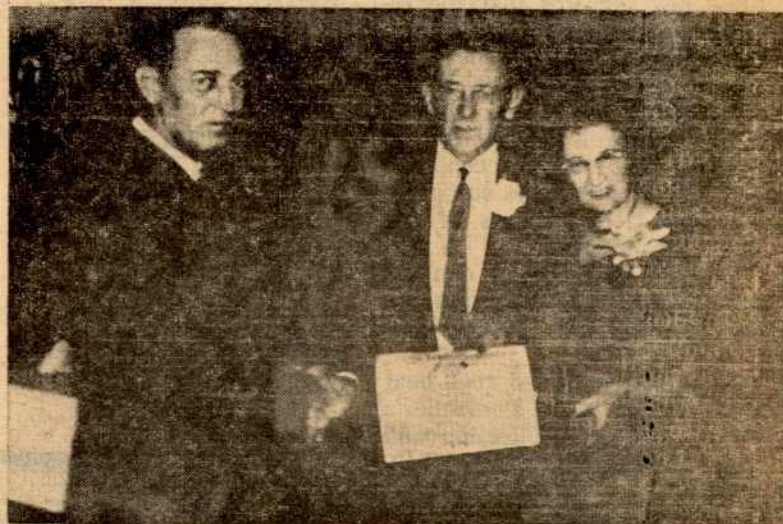
MODESTO — Are you, or do you know, someone retired but full of spark who would enjoy contributing time to an extremely valuable activity?

Members and retired members living in the Modesto area are urged to call the office of the Central Labor Council (LA 3-8079) and volunteer for the new "Observer's Panel."

Council delegates, in discussing the many items which local Supervisors, Councilmen, School Trustees, handle (which touch on the economic and social lives of working people) decided that it would be advantageous to send representatives to these meetings.

When possible, teams of two (perhaps more) will be assigned to a specific board of commission. They may also discover that they are able to achieve something substantial for themselves (for instance, they might convince the County Housing Authority that construction of some low-rent units for the elderly is badly needed!)

It was proposed that many retired members would get a lot of satisfaction out of performing this service for their fellow un-



Bus. Rep. Roy Murray congratulates Brother Alex M. Norton and Mrs. Norton during the course of Brother Norton's recent retirement party. At the time he retired Brother Norton worked as a first operator in Centerville Powerhouse, De Sabla Division. Previously he had served as a Lineman and Troublemaker.

Members in All Areas

Adjustments

ATION



ON a recession-ridden econo-
adding to unused plant under-
if the social benefits of the
ly distributed.
by automation can be handled
ut many others can be solved
areas of unemployment com-
g, a shorter work week, aid to
economic policies designed to
t a year.

—AFL-CIO NEWS

SEEK PAY RAISES IN BERKELEY CITY

Assistant Business Manager M. A. Walters appeared before the Berkeley Personnel Board on Tuesday, April 4, 1961, on behalf of Local Union 1245 members employed in the Electric Department in the City of Berkeley.

He requested a wage adjustment for the classifications of Electrician Foreman, Electrician Lineman, Electrical Helper and Radio Technician, which would place employees in these classifications on a par with employees in private industry performing comparable duties; the establishment of a differential for employees required to work at night; that the City of Berkeley pay the full cost of the individual employee's subscription in the group hospitalization program; the establishment of four weeks' vacation after fifteen years or more of employment.

In attendance at this meeting were more than one-half of the Electric Department employees, together with the Electrical Superintendent, who addressed the Personnel Board in support of the Union's requests, particularly with respect to wages. It is contemplated that the Personnel Board will make its report and recommendations to the Berkeley City Council early in May.

Of considerable importance was the Berkeley Municipal election which occurred on the same day and resulted in three Labor-endorsed candidates, one of whom was an incumbent, being elected to Berkeley City Council. This is extremely important in view of the five to four vote in the Council in 1960, resulting in a denial of any increase to the Electric Department employees.

It is anticipated that the results of the year's election will change the majority to one more favorable to the just proposals outlined above.

New Regulations on 'Summer Cruises'

SAN FRANCISCO, Mar. 15 — The U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Veteran's Reemployment Rights today reminded reservists, National Guardsmen and employers that new amendments to the Universal Military Training and Service Act are now in effect.

Robert L. Shelby, San Francisco Regional Director of the Bureau of Veteran's Reemployment Rights, said here the law now "prohibits employers from requiring employees to take their vacations coincident with summer encampments or cruises. Employers are required to re-employ an individual with such seniority, status, rate of pay and vacation as he would have had if he had not been absent to fulfill his military obligation as a reservist."

Another amendment to Public Law 86-632, which became effective September 10, 1960, provides that inactive duty training reservists and National Guardsmen must request a leave of absence to avail themselves of the reemployment protection afforded by the statutes. Employers must grant leave for such training duty.

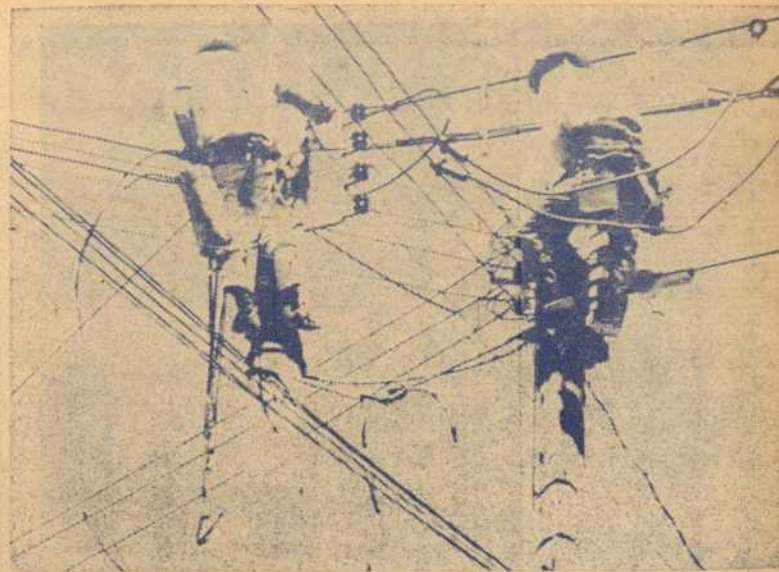
Shelby defined active duty for training as an initial period of three to six months and inactive duty training as consisting of weekly drill periods and summer encampments or cruises, usually of two weeks' duration.

"Reserve and Guard units have been instructed to brief their members concerning the necessity of requesting a leave of absence prior to encampment," Shelby said. But, he added, "it is possible some personnel may not have been reached and are not aware of the request requirement to insure reemployment protection."

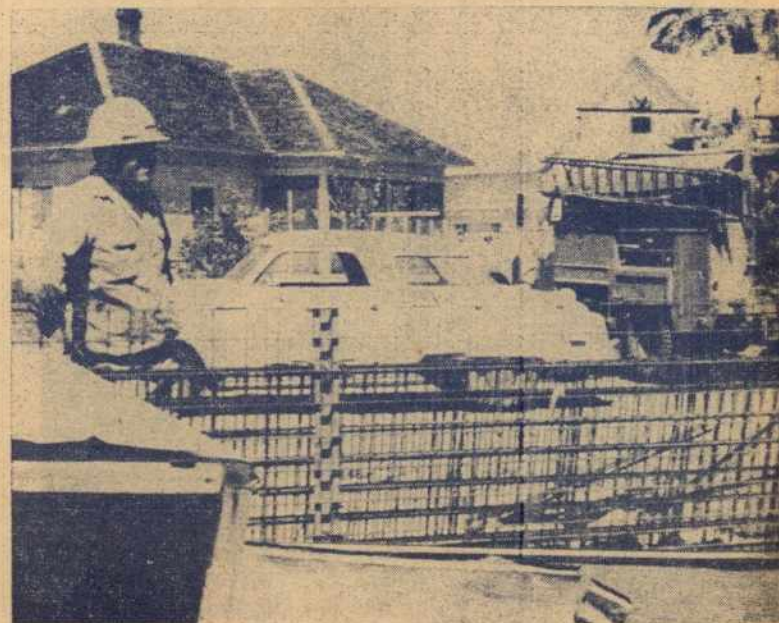
Shelby pointed out another change in the provisions of the Act. "It is now required that an employee must report back to work at the beginning of the next regularly scheduled work period, after expiration of the last calendar day necessary to travel from the place of training to the place of employment." "Prior to the new amendments," he said, "an employee had 30 days in which to report back to work after a summer encampment or cruise."

The San Francisco Regional Director expressed the belief that the new provisions "work in fairness to the individual, the employer and the country." He added: "Thousands of reservists will join me in testifying that employers have been extremely cooperative in this program which is of vital importance to our national security."

For additional information, reservists, guardsmen or employers can address Shelby at the Regional Office, Bureau of Veterans Reemployment Rights,



The sky in Needles is always blue and the sun is hot on the backs of Local 1245 members James E. Sheppard, Lineman, and McCallen Hamilton, Apprentice Lineman, employed by Calif. Pacific Utilities.



Cecil Hay, Lineman and Negotiating Committee member for Needles Division of California Pacific Utilities checks the progress of a job.

CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC AGREEMENT REACHED

On Tuesday, April 13, 1961, Local Union 1245 members employed by the California Pacific Utilities Company in Needles voted by secret ballot to accept the results of this year's negotiations between Union and Company. Included in the settlement were provisions to double the sick leave from six to twelve days

per year with the maximum accumulation to be increased from 60 to 120 days, an additional two hours at the straight time rate of pay for standby and a general wage increase of 4.4%, resulting in increases from 12c to 15c per hour.

The parties also agreed to establish two new classifications in the Telephone Department. They are Cable Splicer at a top rate of \$3.24 per hour and Working Wire Chief, with a 20c per hour differential over the Jour-

neyman rate. While the Union's negotiators were unable to obtain one of their primary proposals, the establishment of a Union Shop agreement, the last non-member in the group affected was signed up, resulting in 100% organization of the Needles Division of California Pacific Utilities Company.

Union's negotiating committee was composed of Cecil Hay, Business Representative Jack Wilson and Assistant Business Manager M. A. Walters. Representing the Company were L. J. Kays, Needles Division Manager and D. M. Pritchett, Assistant to the President.

Room 1529, Appraisers Building, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, or telephone: YUkon 6-3111, Ext. 591.



During the March meeting of the Redding Unit, Bus. Rep. James McMullan presented Scrolls and Pins to two retiring members. L. to R., Luther Hackler, 15 years in Local 1245, James C. Alexander, IBEW member since 1917, Unit Chairman Robert McKray and McMullan.

Progression Proposals Clerical Delegates

An Advisory Committee composed of twenty clerical delegates examine and discuss a proposed Line of Progression for the Division Motion and Transfer Units. A number of recommendations were

a.m. a Negotiating Committee composed of five members selected mutual problems, the meeting was adjourned. The Company Committee is to prepare another proposal. The Committee will meet again in about three weeks.

Delegates to the Union Advisory Committee were: Eleanor Kilgore, Donna G. Goff and Iva J. Strunk San Joaquin Division. Henry J. Lewis, Barbara Green and Joan E. Bynum, East Bay Division. Thomas Fleming, Lester Gruenhagen and James H. Fountain, North Bay Division.

B. J. Sayre, V. M. Willson and George Wageman, Stockton Division. Grace Herrschaft, San Jose Division. Marquis A. Bear,

Colgate Division, Slaton Kepingler, Humboldt Division. William Kennedy and William J. Reno, San Francisco Division. Roy Leino and Lachlan Van Bibber, Coast Valleys Division. John Jaster, De Sabla Division.

P.O. BOYS IN MERGER
WASHINGTON (PAI) — The National Federation of Post Office Clerks, AFL-CIO, and the United National Association of Post Office Craftsmen have signed a merger agreement. The new organization will be known as the United Federation of Post Office Clerks, AFL-CIO.



Retiring members James C. Alexander and Luther Hackler discuss their retirement plans with Jim Branstetter and Harold Westlake at the Redding Unit meeting.

Radiation Round-Up—

PG&E EUREKA REACTOR REPORT UNDER STUDY

By SAM L. CASALINA, Radiation Safety Consultant

Believing in company signs which read "Safety Is Everybody's Business," Local 1245 through the activities of your Business Manager, has obtained a complete copy of P.G.&E.'s "Preliminary Hazards Summary Report" of the Humboldt Bay nuclear power reactor. P. G. & E. supplied the copy.

Before a reactor can be constructed and operated, certain requirements must be met which provide reasonable assurance of safety for plant personnel and the people who live nearby.

These requirements include a "Hazards Summary Report," drawn up by the prospective licensee, and outlining the construction and operating details of the reactor. The summary also covers the meteorological, geological and earthquake conditions of the area.

Last year I listened to an employer's Safety Engineer tell me that "safety is the prerogative of management." Such near-sighted and archaic thinking does not stand up in view of the fact that employees are the ones who get hurt, and it is the responsibility of BOTH Labor and Management to work for a safe operation. Then too, we have long since reached a point in the evolution of our society where no one race, or interest group, has cornered the market of intelligence.

It is my intent to review the Hazards Summary Report and utilize its contents for teaching Local 1245's officers and members about this new power source's immense possibilities. I will also review the Summary from a health physics standpoint and attempt to contribute to the radiation safety of our members.

NO GOBBLEDEGOOK

While analysis of the Report is not complete, the PG&E Hazards Summary Report appears to be unusually well written in its clarity and simplicity. This is somewhat of a pleasant surprise to me because I have found that people who write a report to a governmental agency, such as the A.E.C. tend to write in the same ponderous, gobbledegook fashion as some governmental agencies.

OUR CRUDDY ENVIRONMENT

Our environment is becoming increasingly polluted by individuals who tell us that the toxic

determine his eligibility to receive extended benefits just as would be the case on a regular unemployment insurance claim.

All claimants, whether they exhausted their regular benefits under a state or federal unemployment insurance law, must meet the eligibility requirements of the California Unemployment Insurance Code, California acts as the agent of the federal government in administering the two federal unemployment compensation programs, and federal law provides that federal claimants shall meet the eligibility requirements of the agent state's unemployment insurance law.

Further information about the federal TEC program, including explanatory literature, may be obtained at the local office.

substances which they are releasing into air or water are put there in sufficiently small quantities as to be "insignificant." To date, we have literally hundreds of "insignificant" toxic chemicals introduced into the air we breathe by foundries, chemical plants, refineries, and automobiles. Within the last few years, radioactively contaminated air from magnesium-thorium foundries, nuclear materials labs, and reactors have been added. Each special interest group speaks in terms of the number of parts per million of ITS CONTAMINANT which is being contributed to the other pollutants.

Each group produces data which indeed substantiates its claim that X number of parts per million of Y contaminant has no DISCERNABLE effect on an animal. The fact that the test animal was kept in a sterile air-conditioned laboratory when it was subjected to the single toxic agent does not occur to these people. Or perhaps it does. It is the job of the responsible legislator, scientist, and citizen, to evaluate the CUMULATIVE EFFECT of the numerous contaminants already present, and to prevent the addition of any

new ones under the guise of progress.

NEW ELEMENT DISCOVERED

Up until the 6th of April, 1961, the world was thought to be made up of 102 ELEMENTS, the basic building blocks of all matter. On April 7, 1961, while visiting a colleague at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory in Berkeley, my friend received a telephone call from Dr. Albert Ghiorso, noted research scientist at that lab. I had provided radiation safety equipment and services to this researcher during the period of 1953 to 1957. Dr. Ghiorso related that he and his staff had officially isolated element 103 and that he planned to call it Lawrencium after Dr. Ernest O. Lawrence, Nobel Prize winning scientist and director of the U. C. Radiation Laboratory until his death a few years ago. Element 103 was artificially produced and although of slight practical value, gives us further insight into the nature of the atom.

This one fact should give pause for thought and make us hesitant to be too positive concerning "absolutes" or "end points" in the usage or effects of nuclear energy sources.

A.E.C. OK'S OPERATION OF REACTOR AT VALLECITOS

The Atomic Energy Commission has authorized the General Electric Company to resume operation of its Vallecitos Boiling Water Reactor at Pleasanton, California. The 5,000 electrical kilowatt Vallecitos reactor was shut down in January by the company to permit replacement of components made of 17-4 precipitation

No Danger to Public From Atomic Subs At Mare Island

There is "no cause for alarm" now about discharge of radioactive material from navy submarines in the Mare Island area, State Atomic Energy Coordinator Alexander Grendon recently assured the Solano County Health Department and the public.

Grendon recently voiced a direct request to the Navy to furnish exact and specific data about radioactive waste being discharged into the bay.

"We are not going to be content with language; we want figures," he declared at a meeting of the President's Advisory Board on Water Pollution Control in San Francisco.

Public reports of the meeting touched off a flurry of inquiries from worried citizens to the Solano County Health Department and the State Health Department officials.

Today Grendon said he wanted to emphasize for all the public that there is currently no danger from the discharge.

"We just want to make certain that the situation will stay that way," he added.

"The Navy is following practices based on the advice of the National Committee on Radiation Protection and is furnishing the U.S. Public Health Serv-

hardened stainless steel and the adoption of design changes in the reactor. Corrective work also has been completed with respect to two small cracks in one boron stainless steel control rod.

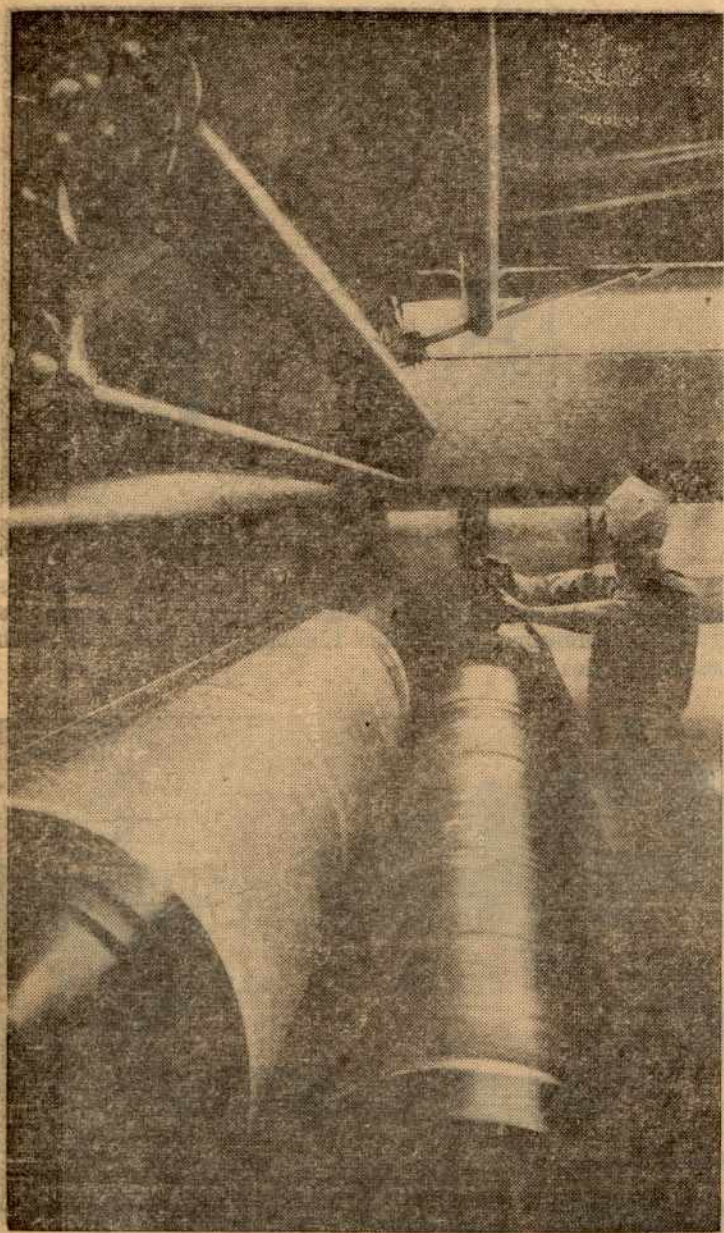
The Commission has evaluated the changes made by General Electric in components and design and determined that the reactor may be reloaded with nuclear fuel and operations may be resumed without undue hazard to the public health and safety.

Before operation of the reactor at a power level above 100 kilowatts (thermal) AEC has directed General Electric to make certain tests of the control rod drive system to determine that it is functioning properly. In addition, the Commission proposes to amend the company's license to specify period inspections to be made by the licensee of the control rod drive mechanisms and the control rods.

ice with data on its actual discharges.

"With the prospect of increasing use of atomic energy, we want to keep our own tally of radioactive materials in the environment, and Admiral Russell, Commandant of the 12th Naval District, has promised to supply the State information on the amounts discharged by the Navy.

"The State Department of Public Health is planning to establish a monitoring program for the surrounding waters which will constitute a further check to insure that the public health is well protected."



PORTLAND MILESTONE in labor unity is the now-established daily Portland Reporter, first begun as a strike weapon by 850 men and women on strike against the two big dailies, Journal and Oregonian. The big new tabloid has more than 60,000 advance subscriptions, though strikers will work six months for only strike benefits to help the new paper get on its feet. Stock is now being sold in the new paper, which is the newspaper industry's workers answer to union-busting, violence, and strike-breaking, by the big monopoly newspapers. This picture shows the press, cylinder at left carries paper, one at bottom carries the plates. Pressman is adjusting ink flow.

Extended Jobless Pay Now Available

Local offices of the State Department of Employment began taking extended unemployment insurance benefit claims under the federal Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1961 on Monday, April 10, for weeks of unemployment beginning April 9 and thereafter.

In Sacramento, Irving H. Perluss, Director of Employment, estimated that about 30,000 Californians who exhausted regular state or federal unemployment benefits between June 30, 1960, and November 1, 1960, will be eligible to file extended benefit claims under the federal law at the beginning of the program. In addition, some 57,000 Californians who exhausted their regular unemployment insurance benefits after November 1, 1960, and who already have filed extended duration claims under the state extended benefit program which began February 26 under the Shaw bill will be shifted over to the federal program without inconvenience to them. (There is no waiting period.)

Eligible claimants who file for the first time under the federal law will receive a benefit payment for two weeks of unemployment at the end of the second week; and will receive weekly payments thereafter. There will be no interruption in payments to persons who have been drawing under the state program and now go under the federal system.

Perluss estimated further that a total of approximately 155,000 Californians will benefit from the extended unemployment insurance duration program between now and its end on June 30, 1962. Last date for establishing an extended benefit claim will be April 1, 1962.

"This," the state administrator said, "means California's economy will be the recipient of about \$85,000,000 of the billion dollars which the TEC program will feed into the nation's commercial arteries."

To be eligible for extended benefits, a person must be unemployed, able to work, available for work and seeking work, and since June 30, 1960, must have exhausted his right to unemployment insurance under a state unemployment insurance law or under the federal laws which provide unemployment compensation for former members of the armed forces and federal employees.

The TEC program provides for extended benefits equal to one-half the amount of money which a claimant received or was entitled to receive on his most-recently exhausted claim, payable at the weekly benefit amount for that exhausted claim. This means eligible Californians will receive from 6 to 13 weekly payments at their regular weekly benefit amounts. Most will receive 13 weeks of extended benefits.

In order to claim extended benefits, residents of the area served by the local office of the Department of Employment should go to the local office and register for work and file an unemployment insurance claim in the usual manner. After obtaining the necessary information from the claimant, the local office will



Casalina

SIGN UP THAT NON-MEMBER!

Are Wedding Rings A Hazard at Work?

(This article appeared in THE MACHINIST. Opinions on this hazard vary. Perhaps some Local 1245 members have had experiences and could add to the discussion.)

Deep feeling for the wedding rings they wear put members of IAM Lodge 503 into the news columns recently. These members, who work at the Clinton Engines Corp. plant at Maquoketa, Iowa, protested a company order to remove all jewelry—including wedding rings—during working hours.

Speaking for the members, Dick Fallow, union representative for IAM District 102, argued there had never been a ring accident at Clinton. However, he told The Machinist last week that IAM members are no longer wearing their rings at work. In turn, the company has straightened out some other serious hazards.

Although the dispute lasted only a few days, it raises the question: are wedding rings a serious danger, in the class with dangling jewelry and wrist watches?

Several experts, queried by The Machinist, were in sympathy with the regard the Iowa members have for their rings, but felt they were a definite danger.

Gilbert Grieve, secretary of

the Labor Conference of the National Safety Council, dug into the Council's files for instances of ring accidents. These are two of a dozen examples:

In one plant, a workman, doing a rush job on a drill press, was checking the wobble of the drill chuck. He caught his ring in a projection and tore off his finger.

An airline employee, completing a job of rigging, was coming down a ladder from the top platform of the tailstand. As he swung his weight from the ladder to the tailstand, his ring caught on a 10/32 in. bolt that holds the toe board in place. All his weight was suspended on the ring and his finger was amputated below the first joint.

Stanley J. Butcher, of the U.S. Labor Department, was emphatic in disapproving all rings on the job. Butcher's job is to instruct employees and employers all over the country in safety practices. He told The Machinist:

"Rings are dangerous because they catch on things. It doesn't matter that wedding rings are usually flat bands, without settings, because it is the under side that is hazardous. Anyone who works around machinery should take the rings off, because in too many of these accidents, the finger is pulled from the socket."

The U.S. Navy Department reported in its publication, "Safety Review," for June, 1960, that eight men had suffered accidents in the past few months "as the result of . . . wearing rings." Cases cited were these:

An air-conditioning mechanic was threading a piece of 4-inch pipe, using a universal joint-type drive shaft. After he completed the thread he returned the dies to their normal position by reversing the drive shaft. In doing this, a small grease fitting on the shaft caught in his wedding band, amputating the finger.

An aviation mechanic was working on an R5D aircraft engine from a workstand. As he started to leave the stand, using the cowl flap ring for balance, his ring caught on the cowl flap ring, tearing the flesh from his finger. It had to be amputated.



"We're taking up a little collection for Charlie — he just went in to tell the boss where to get off."

How Do You Stand On Your Social Security Credit?

Want to make sure you're getting proper social security credits?

If you are, it's easy to find out.

In the records of the social security accounting office in Baltimore, Maryland, are many incorrectly identified wage reports. The wages in such cases cannot be credited to worker accounts. A typographical error on the part of a typist may, for instance, prevent the crediting of the wages. If a bookkeeper transposes two digits of your social security account number when he copies it from your card, it may be impossible to identify the worker.

That's why it's so important to keep track of your social security card.

You might have been a Quiz Kid when you were small, but don't try to memorize your social security number. It belongs to you and no one else. Don't keep it a secret—show your card to your prospective employer.

When he copies the number, be sure it's copied right. This will make it possible for him to file correct reports of your wages, to insure protection under the Federal social security program for you and your family. The accuracy of social security records depends upon the tax reports submitted by employers.

Some employers may not realize their responsibilities. Moreover, some employees may not know they are losing valuable social security credits by not having their wages reported accurately.

That's why the Social Security Administration emphasizes that all workers should check up on their social security accounts at least once every three years. In this way, they may find out if their wages are being properly reported.

And how does one go about this checking?

Well, it's real simple.

Your social security office will be glad to furnish you a wage statement request card, Form OAR-7004. After you mail this card to Baltimore, Maryland, you will receive a statement showing your earnings under social security. If this statement discloses that your wages have not been reported correctly, your social security office will be glad to assist you in establishing these wages. It is not necessary for you to pay anyone to aid you in securing this information. There is no charge for this service.

Just remember that your social security account number is your key to future benefits.

SOUP TO NONSENSE MY OPERATION

By JANE GOODSSELL

Now that the adhesive is curling around the edges and the stitches are due to come out in two days, the time has come to tell you about my operation. Frankly, it was rather disappointing.

I'm no more courageous than the next coward but, once I'd made sure it wasn't serious, was not urgent and wouldn't hurt, I adopted a stiff-upper lip attitude. I even got sort of excited, and I felt important.

I was about to witness, first hand, the tight-lipped drama of the surgery.

My operation was scheduled for 9:30 in the morning. At 8 o'clock a nurse telephoned to ask if I could be there by 8:30 because an operation, slated before mine, had been postponed. If I could make it, they'd hold the surgery in readiness for me. Images of Dr. Kildare stories raced through my head and, feeling very dramatic, I tore to the hospital, half expecting to find the doctor waiting for me at the door—which he wasn't.

At the admittance office, I announced breathlessly that I was the lady for whom the surgery was being held. A nurse looked up, yawned and asked me my name. I told her, and she waved me toward a chair.

"Just wait there," she said indifferently. Fifteen minutes later she beckoned me into a small office, where another nurse questioned me about my name, my age and my hospital insurance. She seemed bored with my answers.

She stood up, said, "Follow me," and handed me over to another nurse who said, "Follow me," and led me into another room. She told me to take off all my clothes except my shoes and to put them in a locker.

"Then you can go upstairs," she said.

For one wild moment I wondered if I was supposed to traipse around the hospital clad in my pumps, but a peek into the dressing room reassured me. There was a pile of some sort of laundry on the shelf. It proved to be a very awkward garment, split up the back, and a blue denim bathrobe with no style whatsoever and six sizes too big.

I abandoned my efforts to drape it into graceful folds when the orderly arrived with a wheelchair, and tied a bandage labeled "Right Shoulder" around my left wrist. The ride in the wheelchair up to the surgery room cheered me up. The other passengers eyed me with respect, and I tried to look modest but brave.

On the surgical floor, the orderly wheeled me briskly down the corridor, parked me and departed with a casual "Bye now!" I sat there in the hall while life teemed around me. Nurses rushed past, carrying trays covered with towels. Doctors sauntered by, laughing merrily.

Only one person spoke to me—a nurse who said, "You the gallstones?"

"No," I snapped. "I'm the right shoulder."

Finally my doctor wandered along and said, "What're you doing out here? C'mon in."

So I went in, and they told me to climb up on the table.

I can't tell you much about the operation because they didn't let me see it. They erected a sort of pup tent around me so I couldn't see anything but a blank wall. But I was wide awake, and it wasn't a bit like a Dr. Kildare movie. The doctor didn't rap out terse commands for scalpel and sponge.

He kidded one of the nurses about her boyfriend, and he regaled me with an account of the lousy golf game he'd played the day before. He asked me how old my children were, and he told me how old his children were, and he and the nurses discussed somebody else's operation right in the middle of mine. There was only one tense moment when the doctor said "Oops!" and I nearly fainted from fright. But it turned out that he'd only dropped a towel on the floor.

The whole thing was over in fifteen minutes, and then he told me I could run along home. I've seen more tight-lipped drama in a beauty salon over a permanent wave.

GOOD READING PRICE \$1.50

A new 70 page booklet is available to all citizens and students who are interested in the "Bill of Rights"—the first ten Amendments to the United States Constitution.

The publishers have this to say about the book: "A Living Bill of Rights," by William O. Douglas, is a short, lucid discussion of the first ten amendments to the Constitution in terms of the citizen's daily life. It is done so eloquently, so lucidly, and with so much humanity as well as authority that our civil rights are seen in new dimensions. Justice Douglas' exposition also has, for good measure, a relation of the principle to today's major issues: the racial problem, anti-Communist and loyalty questions, and, perhaps most freshly and cogently, our educational system. He deals with constitutional and legal problems of censorship and the relationship between military and civilian courts; he makes a stimulating warning and appeal to citizens in all walks of life to help perpetuate the democratic ideal reflected in the Bill of Rights. This is not a scatter-gun emotional appeal, but a rational and telling one. Throughout there is the impress of a great personality and one's respect for our heritage, the Bill of Rights, is reaffirmed."

"A Living Bill of Rights" by William O. Douglas Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, New York Price \$1.50

AIDING THE CONSUMER

Congressman Clement J. Zablocki (Dem., Wis.) has introduced two bills which, he said, are designed "to protect the consumer against legislation and other government measures that could lead to inflation." That job would be given to a joint Senate-House Committee on Consumers Interests, which would be created by one of the bills.

The second bill would "amend the Employment Act of 1946, to make reasonable stability of consumer prices the goal of the Federal government."

"My experience in Congress," Zablocki said, "has convinced me that—in passing laws affecting commerce, agriculture, labor and industry—the legislators first consider the effect on various producer groups. The interests of the consumers are placed secondary."

"This is because the people who come before Congress to testify on bills are in the majority, producers rather than consumers. They want what is good for them as producers. Their voice is strong. The producer groups have research services, public relations firms and expert lobbyists working for them."

On the other hand, Zablocki pointed out, "the average consumer, both as an individual and as a group, does not have similar facilities for making his voice heard on specific issues."



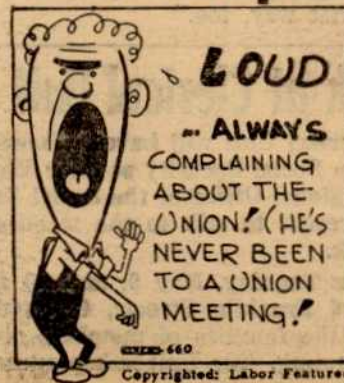
Exploded Again

THE PERENNIAL PLAINTS of the opponents of the social security system—that the trust funds from which all benefits flow are unsound—has been blown out of the water for the 21st consecutive year.

It probably won't appear in Chamber of Commerce or American Medical Association publications, but three Eisenhower Administration Cabinet officers in a report to Congress declared flatly that the funds are "soundly financed and, based upon the best estimates available, will remain so for the future."

The annual report points up the position of organized labor that the social security system can provide new and expanded benefits to all Americans so long as the program is soundly financed by employer and employee payments which entitle Americans to benefits as a matter of right.

Small People



ANOTHER HEALTH PLAN OPEN TO PG&E EMPLOYEES

Three types of Hospital and Medical insurance coverage will soon be available to employees of P.G. and E., by addition of a hospital and medical plan for coverage by the California Physicians Service.

Persons who wish to change their coverage to the new plan must do so before June 20th. Brochures and comparisons of the three plans available to affected employees are being distributed by the P.S.E.A.

In addition, persons now covered by the P.S.E. Hospital Plan (Cal-Western), may change their coverage to the P.S.E. Health Group, (Kaiser Foundation), in areas where it is available, or they may change from Kaiser to Cal-Western, or from either to the new PSE-CPC Health Plan, (California Physicians Service).

Persons who do not now belong to any of the three plans offered, can join any one of them without evidence of insurability if the application and payroll deduction cards are received by the P.S.E.A. before June 20th.

So far as Local 1245 is concerned, the choice of plans is up to individuals and we suggest that "careful shopping" be done by those in the market. The \$4.50 negotiated with P. G. and E. by Local 1245 applies to the members' premium, no matter which plan a person chooses.

The request for multiple choice was made by the Union prior to last year's election on a choice of plans and the Union's prediction that employees wouldn't be satisfied with less than a multiple choice of plans has come true.

The Union's request for an additional plan and an opportunity to change plans has been met. Additional suggestions on other improvements were made to P. G. and E. prior to P.S.E.A. approval of the plans. These have not yet been adopted but such suggestions will be reiterated by the Union through the P. G. and E. after the new sign-up is over.

This is a long cry from 1957 when we cracked the single plan — no Company contribution front by obtaining an added major medical plan to which the Company contributed \$2.00. Next, we negotiated an additional \$1.50 Company contribution and then a choice between Cal-Western and Kaiser. Our negotiations in 1960 provided an ad-

ditional Company contribution of \$1.00, making a total of \$4.50 per month contribution by the Company and now this total can be applied to any one of THREE PLANS, thanks to the support of Union program by the membership in the field.

There are still problems with respect to continually rising costs and improved coverage for the premium dollar and we shall move to make further improvement as the opportunities arise.

Transfer of Work to Central E.D.F System to Be Completed by May

The month of April will see the completion of the centralization of accounting in the Gen Office in San Francisco and the conversion of billing to the Electronic Data Processing Sys. The last work to be transferred is the Power Billing Department from the San Joaquin Division.

On April 5, Representatives of the Union and Company met in Fresno to work out the details of the Power Billing employees in San Joaquin Division. As soon as final agreement is reached on this problem, the process as it affects clerical employees and their possible demotion, displacement or transfer will be completed.

It is expected that Union and Company will meet shortly to negotiate an agreement on ending the "Conditional Status" under which all clerical promotions have been made since August 1, 1957.

Every clerical employee promoted since that date received a letter informing him that his promotion was conditional and might be revoked at some fu-

ture date due to the centralization of accounting or the conversion to electronic billing.

About a third of the entire clerical force has been affected in some way by the change. For some it has meant a transfer, others a demotion and in some cases, a layoff. For almost all of the clerical force it has meant a certain amount of worrying and anxiety about what the future might hold.

While the transition has been painful, it has not been as diffi-

cult nor has it meant as many hardships as it could have.

Union and the Company have both worked hard to provide job opportunities for affected employees. Procedural rules were worked out in the beginning to act as a guide in determining a displaced employee's rights. Every case was given over and discussed to insure that the person was being given every chance he was entitled to on the basis of his Company seniority.



The two gentlemen and all the charming ladies pictured above were in attendance at a recent meeting for Clerical members of the San Joaquin Division Fresno Office. A great deal of the time was spent in discussing Accelerated Progression rights and transfer applications. The subjects were of interest to this group because of the many demotions and displacements which occurred during the recent transfer of the Division's billing and accounting functions to San Francisco.

CON ED AIDS TUITION THRU UNION PACT

NEW YORK—A unique company-supported education program has been worked out by Local 1-2 of the Utility Workers, which represents 25,000 workers employed by Consolidated Edison here. Under the agreement, the company will pay 50 per cent of costs of tuition, up to \$250 per year, for employees who desire to take school courses that will improve their chances for advancement.

There is no limitation on the type of study or the number of years, Michael Sampson, the local's business manager, said in announcing the agreement. They may be technical, general or professional.

"We started negotiating with the company on this issue because we've been disturbed over the fact that the company went out and hired people with certain skills, but made no effort to develop skills within the work force," Sampson said.

"We thought that Con Ed workers on the job should have a chance to improve and advance themselves and we're happy that the company sees it that way, too."

NEW STEWARDS

The following Union Stewards were appointed during the month of March, 1961:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ralph Van Meter | Coast Valleys Division |
| Frank E. Moran | Colgate Division |
| Paul A. Groves | East Bay Division |
| Donald McClure | East Bay Division |
| James W. McKenney | East Bay Division |
| Paul G. Meier | East Bay Division |
| Ernest E. Lynch, Jr. | East Bay Division |
| Henry Yelverton | East Bay Division |
| Clifford F. Andrews | General Construction Department |
| Robert B. Egan | General Construction Department |
| Keith E. Myers | General Construction Department |
| Marjorie S. Smith | General Office |
| James R. Molder | San Joaquin Division |
| Fred C. Baney | San Jose Division |
| John G. Perry | Stores Division |

Death Takes 2 IBEW Eastern Leaders

Dixie Carter, Business Manager for the System Council IBEW Locals representing members employed by Commonwealth Edison Company, Chicago, Illinois and Louis P. Marante, IBEW International Executive Committee Member and President of New Jersey Federation of Labor, died recently.

Brother Carter was in the midst of negotiations with Commonwealth Edison when he suffered a fatal heart attack. Brother Marante died at age 62 after being hospitalized, also for heart ailment.

Both of these men were capable leaders dedicated to the service of the Union movement. Assistance and support for Local 1245 has been contributed over the years by them. Their contributions to the cause of Unionism have improved the lives of many thousands of working people.

Every Member An Organizer!



Social Security Talk at Clerical Unit

Members of the East Bay Clerical Unit will have a chance to learn the latest information on Social Security at their May meeting. A speaker from the Regional Office of the Social Security Administration will be present to talk to the meeting and answer questions after his talk.

The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, at 7:30 at the Hotel Leamington, 19th and Franklin Streets, Oakland. Members from other Units and the families of members are welcome to attend this special meeting. The Unit is hoping for a good turnout of interested persons.

In Memoriam

DUANE E. EWING, a Fitter-Relief Serviceman from Shasta Division, died March 21, 1961. Brother Ewing had been a member of the I.B.E.W. since May, 1952.

ERNEST MORROW, a Helper from Sacramento Division, died March 29, 1961. Brother Morrow was initiated into the I.B.E.W. on September 1, 1956.

TRYGVE O. PETERSEN, a member of the I.B.E.W. since April 1, 1948, passed away on March 31, 1961. Brother Petersen was a Mechanic in the General Construction Department.

FRAN J. SIMS, an Electric Line Sub-Foreman from San Jose Division, died March 12, 1961. He had been a member of the I.B.E.W. since his initiation on October 1, 1954.

Want ad: "Lovely kitten desires position as companion to little girl. Will also do light mouse work."

Inflation

IN LOS ANGELES, AFL-CIO economists applauded Milton Berle's illuminating comment on inflation. Said Berle, "First let us define inflation. Inflation means that your money today won't buy as much as it would have during the depression when you didn't have any."

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Clip and Mail to:

I.B.E.W., Local 1245
1918 Grove Street
Oakland 12, California.

Name:

Old Address:
(Street)
.....
(City)

New Address:
(Street)
.....
(City)