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(Continued on Page 3)

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Utility Reporter
Official Publication of Local Union 1245, AFL-CIO.
1918 Grove Street, Oakland, Calif.
MAY 1961

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Crisis: Hard Core Jobless

The following editorial, dealing with the nature of the unemployment problem, is reprinted from the New York Times.

The time has come for the nation to face up to the fact that economic recovery may not be able to wipe out—or even substantially reduce—“hard-core” unemployment. The recent series of articles in this newspaper on unemployment by A. H. Raskin, and the National Planning Association’s “Joint Statement on the Rise of Unemployment in Some 150 Counties” show that the loss of work due to the elimination of jobs by machines is steadily increasing even in non-unionized areas.

The leading question now posed is this: Can business expansion create enough new jobs in the foreseeable future to make up for those that will be wiped out by automation? Are we not about the millions of young workers seeking jobs who will be otherwise unemployed? Is the nation in its richest period in all of its history ever likely to face unemployment? How long will it last? How will it be ended?

The technique of modern unemployment is no longer a sharp distinction between the unemployment that can be largely eliminated by an expansion of production, and that which cannot be—and will require special treatment both in prevention and in cure. The President did not make this as clear as he might have, or as urgent, our duty to suggest the kind of special attention and special effort the hardcore problem which is now so badly needed.

The big question is how long of such a problem caused by automation for discussion by the newly appointed Advisory Committee on Automation and Economic Policy. But that is only one area on which we hope government and industry and labor here and abroad will give focused effort, adequately staffed and financed to get all the related work done. It will not be enough to get the government and also of private management and organized labor.

Some Needed Land Reform Here

A recent Fortune magazine article indicates that some land reform may be needed not only in foreign lands, but here at home.

The article tells about one of the huge estates in this country—owned by the Bern family, in Pennsylvania. That corporation, the article points out, was formed in 1784, when it covered 1,500 square miles at the cost of a few dollars an acre. Since then it has been added to in other western states and its holdings now exceed 10 square miles, an area more than twice as large as the state of Rhode Island.

Tenants and workers on the great Kern estates certainly are better off than they would be in many foreign countries, but they lack the independence of the old-fashioned American farmers who worked on their own small land holdings.

Also, it’s no accident that the Kern owners are powerful in both state and national politics and government policy. As the great land-owning “lords of the manors” always have had such power under any form of government.

How About This

In Munich, Germany, some ten thousand people, including workers and countrymen of the world, union workers at the high-German Maximilians-Huette Iron Plant, went to a strike meeting, at which they decided to cut off an old custom and ordered the iron workers to put their beer drinking to a point. As the long days of working were to have in work to eat, the heat of man in summer, and the weather, the order was handed down the men walked out. To save the money, the workers paid their wages. As the man said that it would postpone the order for one year.

For Fringe Benefits

Tradition in iron and steel plants is for workers to drink a quart or two of beer a day when they have to work in the heat of blast furnaces. As a result, a new order was handed down the men walked out. To save costs, the workers paid out their wages. As the man said that it would postpone the order for one year.

Now what have you got to say, Smart Guy?

OK Vote on New 1245 Dues Rate

At their regular meeting, Saturday, May 6, 1961, the Executive Council of Local 1245 certified the results of the ballot on the proposed amendment to Article X, Section 2, Sub-section 1(a) of the Local Union Rules. This is the amendment which changed the dues structure to $8.50 per month for "A" members and $9.50 for "B" members. The amendment will be effective July 1, 1961. Approval by the International Office was given on May 17, 1961. The results of the balloting were as follows:

Yes—557
No—33
Void—17

At the same meeting, the results of the voting on Article III, Section 2, Paragraph 1(a) of the International Constitution were certified. Results were:

Yes—1,207
No—118
Void—4

Do We Have Any Photographers

We readily admit that your photographic efforts are sometimes not of the quality desired in our newspaper; once in a while, we get lucky ourselves or we get some real good black and white shots from our members or from public relations people in industry which come out well on the newsprint that we presently must use in publishing our paper.

We are not professional photographers among our members and their families. We get little opportunity to extend the photographic arts of these fine technicians to the thousands of people who scan our monthly efforts. We would like to show off the abilities of our “camera hawk” members and we promise to use their abilities in the best manner we can with proper recognition through photo credits.

A good photo, black and white glossy print, with a caption explaining the subject matter and properly identifying the individual and/or the family as a welcome addition to this publication. We hope to get some help and the help we need is available through our “camera hawk” members. We will do our best to reproduce any materials which are suitable for reproduction.

Do We Have Any Cartoonists

Humor is becoming a scarce and a prized commodity in this era of serious and critical everyday events. The art of depicting the absurdities and ironies of the day, the absurd events of the time, the bungling of big and petty officialdoms, the ineptitude of the man who makes the ultimate decisions, the dry humor of the man who can transcend provincial and selfish attitudes. Cartoons have been known to win or lose important elections. They have been instrumental in some of the major reforms of the last century. They have a power of expression which is reserved for certain members of our society and we know that we have some good cartoonists in the family of Local 1245.

We seek the contributions of our cartoonists or the cartoonist members of their families as a welcome addition to the pages of this newspaper. How about some help? We do our best to reproduce any materials which are suitable for reproduction.

Do We Have Any Poets

In order to brighten the pages of this newspaper, your editor considered the possibility that we may have some “unsung bards” among the thousands of members of our Union.

Poetry is something which is as individual an expression as any found in our society and our culture. Personal thoughts are transformed into rhythmic arrangements of words which tell stories or give ideas. This method of human expression is a very important factor in the recording of the history and the proceeding of human thought and expression in the civilization of many. Many poets are bashful and hide their talents in the face of cruel expressions of ignorant people who resent such free expressions of individual thought.

We welcome the contribution of our members and their families who write poetry and we would be most happy to start a "Poe's Corner", if we can generate some interest. Just send in your efforts and they will find their way into print, subject to the reasonable responsibilities of editors concerning space and the content of submitted material.
I've been going over some letters recently about occupational hazards. Of all the inquiries that come to me none are more important than those about work environment. To give an idea of what I mean here are some of the problems.

"I am a Diesel mechanic and shop with exhaust fumes. We work on concrete ramps and floors and many of us in all age groups could be exposed to asbestos, lumps, latex and other acids and poisons. Are the fumes the chief cause of our complaints and do the cement fumes really harm anything to do with it?"

The most dangerous element in Diesel exhaust is carbon monoxide (also in auto exhaust). Diesel exhaust is due to the aldehydes. Carbon monoxide has no color. The first symptom of carbon monoxide poisoning is faintness, heaviness in the chest and loss of power in the legs.

The shop situation ought to be inspected to determine the amount of carbon monoxide in the air; and whether there is adequate ventilation. Within shops and at the end of the shift there should be enough change of air to keep the carbon monoxide concentration below a dangerous level. It is not likely that the complaints cited are due to diesel exhaust. Nevertheless their physical condition should be examined. Perhaps the work is extra heavy, or it could be that some of the symptoms are due to a lack of fitness in the employees, perhaps there is some ailments needing treatment. If this shop management does not correct the conditions, the State Department of Labor or Health should be asked to make an inspection.

Another problem is also in a Diesel locomotive shop where a corrosive ink used in the engine radiator spilled on a worker and produced a severe skin eruption which took a long time to heal. He also had pain in his legs and other symptoms. First of all the chemicals in such ink should be known. When an accident of this nature occurs a complete inventory of the work should be made and a careful examination made of the involved worker. Often times there are personal conditions which aggravate the problem.

If none of the doctors available answer to the questions of whether the problem is as I have related, then appeal should be made to the State Departments of Health or Labor. They have specialists who can give the answers.

There should be more professional investigations of questionable shop conditions.

The chemicals in this cleaning agent were not known. Two often materials are used with"
Provisioning Muscles and Mobility for "GC"

The entrance to the Davis Service Center. Approximately one-third of all the General Construction Department vehicles came through the Service Center in 1968 for major repairs.

Machinist Delbert Hatfield gets set to "take a bite." He repairs old parts and makes new ones on his lathe.

Bicycles are a popular mode of transportation in Davis. Here First Clerk Richard Sills leaves for home to eat lunch.

Lyle G. Parker, painter, refurbishes a truck crane which has been repaired in the Service Center, the final step before returning it to the field.

Putting his back into it is Danny Miller, Garage Sub-foreman as he pulls a front end assembly on the shop floor hoist.

Surrendered by parts of a Ditch Digger he is repairing is Will Lyle G. Parker, painter, refurbishes a truck crane which has been repaired in the Service Center, the final step before returning it to the field.

Under the capable supervision of Superintendent Merrill Apple a myriad of different activities is carried on. Approximately 1900 repair jobs were performed in 1968, thousands of small hand tools were stocked and issued, house trailers for the temporary job sites were serviced and cleaned, booms and other tools were fabricated for field use—all a part of the tremendous task of supplying the General Construction Department with the means to do the job.

Into the Service center come many GC crews to headquarters while waiting to move to a new job assignment. Public auctions are held regularly to dispose of used equipment which is no longer needed. A railroad spur brings in regular rail shipments. Camp supplies of all kinds from refrigerators to dishes are stored in the warehouse.

The employees of the Service Center are proudest of all one fact—their group is 100% organized and has maintained that record for several years.

100 Per Cent
General Construction—
Davis Service Center

Organized!

Receiving Clerk Lester Watson has the job of checking in all the new and used material which comes into the warehouse.

Intent on his task of repairing a truck engine is Service Mechanic John H. Otterson in this picture.

Unit Recorder Delmar Hanson wraps a package for shipment as part of his duties as a Warehouseman.

Welders Robert Gabel and Herbert Millang are almost ready to start welding on a Power take-up reel carriage for a cable pay-out and take-in.

Joe Brasheer, Field Clerk, and Alex Ford, Materials Man, part of a Heavy Crew under H. S. Pruter, had just returned to the Center from a job at Vacaville. By now they may have been sent off to a job anywhere in the System.

Approximately sixty Union members are employed at the Davis Service Center, operating and in good repair.

Intent on his task of repairing a truck engine is Service Mechanic John H. Otterson in this picture.

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Changes On Grievance Committee, Coast Valleys

Like the sailor who has given up the sea to become a landlubber, it's the experience which he has gained that will be missed by those who share the land. Perhaps two or three? And do you feel very sorry for them because they are the men in front of one who may be struggling along unnoticed in the background? One can easily be forget-

Charles Lovett

Advisory Council Member's Mother Passes Away

Mona N. Thomas passed away recently at Gil-

ov, Calif., from a heart condi-

tion. Mrs. Thomas was the mother of 14 children, four of her boys being employed by P.G.E. Three of them are line-

man and one is a conductor in the X
gas Department. Leland Thomas, Jr., is the Advisory Council Member. His wife, Mrs. Thomas, is a widow. Mrs. Thomas passed away at 5:45 p.m. at a Steward in San Jose. Rev. Russell Thomas is a Steward in Watsonville, Calif. He is a member of Local 245 and has been a conductor for 30 years.

Peace (de resistance)

Cors Horszody

In the eyes of the United States tell-

ing them that we are having agricul-

tural problems and need our help. They explained, "What will do is send a tele-

gram to the President in the White House, telling them that we are suffering. They will then send us food and tractors." The delegation included Mr. Horszody, 30 young technicians to help us. Then we will send a tele-

gram to the United States telling them that we are suffering. They will then send us food and tractors."

Radiation Round-Up

Opposition to AEC Safe Reactor Site Cited

By Sam L. Casalina, Radiation Safety Consultant

The U. S. Atomic Energy Commission has proposed safety standards for the site locations of new nuclear power reactors. These standards are based upon industrial, and other, safety statistics. The center of controversy appears to be that the AEC has developed three reactor sites to the low level of safety. Perhaps one of the reactor sites to the low level of safety. Perhaps the accident rate of reactors would be reduced by the new reactor. Perhaps the accident rate of reactors would be reduced by the new reactor.

The industry representatives feel that the proposed safety standards increase the possibility of transmitting power from one reactor to another reactor. The industry representatives also believe that these standards would remove incentives for improving reactor safety from an engineering standpoint. A group from industry has formed an ad hoc committee to draft a document which will conform to these proposed safety standards. So long as the nuclear industry remains, the industry representatives feel that these standards will be necessary to maintain the necessary standard of living main-
Labor Force Changes, again, according to...

1. On the assumption that there will be no major war, that scientific and technological advances will continue to be made at the present rate, and that relatively high levels of economic activity and employment are maintained, the U.S. Department of Labor has estimated, in Manpower: Challenge of the 1960's, a growth in the labor force of about 73 million in 1960 to about 87 million in 1970. If this growth takes place, it will represent an increase of almost 20 percent in the labor force, and there would be the largest increase in number of workers during any decade in the history of the United States.

Because of the striking increase in the younger population, the number reaching age 18 will come to 3.5 million yearly by 1968, compared to 2.6 million in 1960. The effect of this upon the labor force will be a sharp increase in the number of workers under 25. The total number of new young workers entering the labor force at the age of 15 is estimated. At the same time, there will be a significant increase in the numbers of over 45. While workers in the age group 25-34 will also grow somewhat, the number aged 35-44 will decline slightly.

3. The long-term growth in the number of women workers will continue to increase as it is expected that one out of every three in the labor force in 1970 will be a woman. At that date, it is estimated that there will be about 30 million women workers. Over the past 10 years, the number of working women has increased by about 25 percent, while the number of men in the labor force will rise by only 15 percent. Those influences of younger women into the labor force, about half of the increase among the women will be accounted for by those returning to work later in their lives.

4. The Department of Labor estimates that recent trends in this result that there will be a more rapid growth of employment in the service industries than in the manufacturing industries. This means that inequity will decline further. Currently, the production industries manufacture agriculture, construction, and mining, account for 30 percent of the increase in the government services, transportation and public utilities, finance, insurance, real estate, for 22.5 percent. By 1970, it is estimated, the production industries will employ 30 million and the service industries more than 40 million workers.

As in recent decades, the greatest relative growth between 1960 and 1970, according to Manpower: Challenge of the 1960's, will take place in the occupations requiring more education and skill. This means that the emphasis will be upon technical, and related occupations, compared with less than a 30 percent increase for sales and clerical workers, more than a 20 percent increase for skilled workers, and less than a 20 percent increase for semi-skilled workers. The anticipated decrease for farm and farm workers comes close to 20 percent.

6. On the educational front, the Department of Labor estimates that high school enrollments will increase by almost 50 percent and college enrollments by about 70 percent during the 1960's. About 60 percent of the nine year entrants to the labor force were high school graduates or better. During the coming decade, 70 percent are expected to be high school graduates or better.

7. If these estimates hold, three out of every ten young workers in the labor force in the 1960's will not have completed high school. The Department of Labor also estimates that 2.5 million entering the labor force during the 1960's will not have completed Grade 8.

8. In the light of these and other manpower developments, the Department of Labor has set forth a series of broad policy objectives, including:

- "We must expand and improve all forms of training on the job, including apprenticeship for the skilled trades; end all forms of discrimination in hiring and use of manpower; develop and then make full use of the irreplaceable effective placements and support and strengthen our school systems; expand and improve all forms of manpower training while in the work places; develop better national and local information on manpower resources and requirements."

9. These policy objectives are the same as those urged during the 1950's. In fact, when, in 1950, a report of a period of manpower stringency and relatively small supplies of new workers was made, it was apparent that those objectives would either be modified or revised. It is possible that these may be modified by the changes in the size and qualitative characteristics of the labor force anticipated by the U.S. Department of Labor.

10. The government must encourage strong and free union organization is just as necessary as government aid to encourage strong and free sector in the economy.

- "The decline and fall of free organized labor or private enterprise within itself of our system and the rise of government and free labor."

- "Failure to meet our human needs, and seek through free processes will be the end of our freedom."

- "The materialistic humanist revolution of the Soviet Union will be lost if we cannot engage our human needs with the robotic on automation and mechanization as merely a continuing manifestation of"

- "We shall have the freedom to solve our own problems. If we don't solve this one, we won't have either the freedom or the problem."
North California Delegates Briefed on Laws, Organization, Radiation, NLRB

Delegates to the Joint Executive Conference of the Northern California Electrical Workers were Saturday, May 13, in San Francisco heard reports on the legislative program of Labor on the State level, discussion of current problems in organization, growing hazards in industry and the effects of the Supreme Court decisions on the Brown-Olds and Mountain-Pacific rulings by the NLRB.

“The Landrum-Griffin Act gives federal government powers which could be used to take over the internal affairs of Unions,” said the opening words of John L. Holcombe, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Management Reports, at a special program on the Landrum-Griffin Act, April 27 in Sacramento sponsored by Sacramento State College.

In attendance at this conference and one held the preceding day at Fresno were the Business Representatives of Local 1245.

We feel that this was not the intent of Congress,” the Commissioner went on. “It’s the Administration’s view that the intent of the Act is for Unions to correct malpractices themselves by operating in a “Goldfish Bowl” atmosphere.”

We have heard that there have been over 6,000 complaints filed with the Bureau. In over two-thirds of them there was no violation. Out of approximately a thousand violations 95 percent of them have not been willful and hence no action was taken by the Bureau as they must prove “Willfulness” before they can proceed with a court action, Holcombe stated. That is, in his opinion these figures have shown that the vast majority of the labor leaders and members in the country are dedicated, honest people. He must be held responsible that these types of people be encouraged in order to build a strong, dynamic labor movement.

The big problem of his agency, he pointed out, is the education of Unions. Unions want to comply but they do not know how, nor what is expected of them. Many Unions do not have the funds to hire attorneys and accountants to do the work for them. Therefore the Bureau must turn to an educational program.