



# utility reporter

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## OWID—a proud place



Lee Kline, Shop Steward and acting General Foreman for OWID, pulls up to the crew's location south of Oroville.

### Oroville

"A lot of changes have taken place since we've had a union," Lee Kline said as we pulled away from the OWID office and headed south of town.

"It's mostly the attitude of the men—they're prouder of the place they work.

"An irrigation district man used to be the low man on the totem pole. Now, with the increased use of equipment and better wages and conditions to go with it, a man's outlook is improved."

Dropping the OWID pick-up into bull low, Lee eased onto the dirt

## NID Board Lags behind

"Employees of Nevada Irrigation District who are members of the IBEW voted to accept a 4% wage increase adopted by the Board of Directors on December 29, 1966," Business Representative Scott Wadsworth reports. "However," he added, "they agreed unanimously that the wage increase was not adequate, as it places them even further behind employees doing similar work in private industry." "The employees cannot understand why the Board of Directors refused to act favorably on non-cost proposals which were submitted to the District this year," Wadsworth said.

"Employees are particularly dis-

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road which runs along the ditch to the crew's location.

"You could follow these flumes and canals for days and never cover the same stretch twice," he said as we rolled along in the foothill country he obviously has come to love since arriving from his native Ohio many years ago.

He had walked into the Thermlita Irrigation District with his payment for the water bill and his skill as an equipment operator.

There he met a man who became a good friend and eventually the General Foreman of Oroville-Wyandotte Irrigation District, Jim McDonald. Before ever getting that position, however, both men had gone to work for OWID.

"Five or six years ago, as an Equipment Operator for OWID, I made \$2.10 an hour—no overtime rates.

"Now I make \$3.46 an hour for the same work and time and a half for overtime.

"We were never paid for holidays before we had a union; now we are," Kline commented as the crew's dragline came into view.

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## Tree trimmers' cut better

Great progress toward standardization of the Tree Trimmers' wages and working conditions has been made in recent negotiations conducted by Business Representatives Frank Quadros and Orville Owen.

The Members of Local 1245 employed by Davey, Farrens, Pacific, Utility and Sohner tree companies, do line clearance work once done by PG&E itself. When PG&E subcontracted this work to the tree trimming companies, the subcontractors' employees who came in contact with PG&E crews and saw the discrepancy in wages and conditions—sought out Local 1245 as their collective bargaining agent.

"I remember back around 1960," says Frank Quadros, whose been with this thing, since it started, "when the tree trimmers had to provide their own trucks to do the work, or use their own cars to get to and from the job site." "And that meant traveling to the job for 8 o'clock, and leaving from it at night—often a ten hour day," Quadros relates.

"There was no standard wage rate; each man bargained his own, and these wage rates ranged from \$2.05 an hour to \$2.40, over a five year progression."

Now, in addition to an increased general wage level, the rates for individual classifications are becoming standardized. The wage rate for a Climber, for instance, on January 1, 1968 will be \$3.25 an hour on Davey (had it been ratified), \$3.25 on Farrens, \$3.24 on Pacific, \$3.29 on Sohner, and \$3.25 on Utility.

"Tree trimmers got only four or five holidays then," Quadros continues, "and none of them was guaranteed."

By the end of the term of these contracts, the men will enjoy eight holidays, and all of them are guaranteed.

"Before, only one employer offered a hospitalization-medical plan — at the employee's expense." Now, hospitalization-medical plans, including group life insurance, are available to employees of all five organized subcontractors.

"Improvements have been made not only in the percentage of the premium paid by the employer, but also in the value of the benefits covered by the plans themselves," Quadros states.

"The subsistence allowance paid when a man is required by the employer to be away from home overnight, has been doubled and standardized at \$8 a day, Local 1245's negotiator said.

Three of the companies now pro-

(Continued on page 2)

## YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN

### A new year's work

By Ronald T. Weakley

January finds my office engaged in winding up the last of our negotiations. Results are published elsewhere in this paper.

Work is progressing on the printing of new PG&E Agreements and we hope to have the booklets available very soon. The Physical Agreement is at the printers and we will move toward printing the Clerical Agreement as soon as we can obtain a decision among our Clerical members as to extension of the current Agreement to a common expiration date with the new Physical term.

Talks will begin soon on departmental matters affecting PG&E Water and Steam Operating people which were deferred to interim negotiations. Development of our new Master Apprenticeship Agreement will begin shortly with appointment of advisory committee people from the various affected departments.

Work is also in progress designed to improve office procedures, Steward training and internal communications. Organizing programs are either underway or in the process of development in a number of areas within our jurisdiction.

Our Executive Board is engaged in going over our policies, operations, finances, and our participation in community affairs.

The changing political picture finds our officers developing new methods of communication and accommodation of our legislative program to the new lineup in the State Capitols in order to gain maximum results from our efforts in this area of growing importance to our members and their families.

Safety is another topic of interest to those who are planning programs to meet membership needs. It is hoped that as joint efforts are made by Local 1245 and PG&E to develop improved apprenticeship and training programs, the subject of safe working rules and procedures will be an integral part of such programs.

A matter of necessity causes the leadership of Local 1245 to take a good look at the future of power

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## A new year's work

By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

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generation, transmission and distribution.

With a few exceptions, it appears that nuclear power will become the future means of power generation in our jurisdiction. PG&E's Diablo Canyon Project is the first big move in this direction. S.M.U.D. is also planning a large nuclear installation. This means that the future job opportunities in generation will go to those who are willing to prepare themselves to man these jobs.

Transmission interties will also affect generation facilities. We can expect to see some changes regarding system operation and protection as management seeks maximum operating efficiency of their systems within a large complex of EHV systems in the West.

Distribution voltages are rising. Underground facilities are replacing conventional overhead, and new methods and new equipment are becoming more evident every day. Our first concern here is to man these jobs as the employers are wooed by contractors to replace our people with contractors' employees and reduce our work opportunities.

On the gas side, air conditioning load is on the rise and many new types of equipment and controls will require special skills from those who handle this important phase of public service. The use of plastic pipe is growing, along with pipe-laying and other equipment which will have more and more effect on the type of work performed by gas distribution people.

More changes are occurring in office and clerical operations. We can expect that the computer will really come into its own over the next few years. PG&E's Management Information System is designed to use computers for many phases of Company operations which involve both physical and clerical people today. Maintenance and construction activities are also involved as are a number of present management functions. In short, we can look to a new era of mechanized management and it will affect all employees to one degree or another.

Our Union's role in all of this is an important one. We know that changes are generally opposed by those in the work force who feel that they may be harmed as a result. Yet, changes can be and are made by managers every day, and during the next few years, the pace of change will become more rapid.

There are a lot of provisions in our contracts which were designed

to help meet these changes and as changes are anticipated and made, these provisions are triggered.

One of the best ways to handle changes in a fair and equitable manner is for the employer to keep the union advised so that the changes can be effected with a minimum of upset to the employees.

We have much experience in working out these changes with management and that experience will be put to good use in the future.

We shall also take steps to provide as much internal information as possible when changes are contemplated or are in the process of being carried out by our employers.

As was recently demonstrated, it is a large and costly job to negotiate our collective bargaining agreements. It is also a large and costly job to use our agreements to the maximum degree during the term when changes occur which require labor-management consultation, interpretation and application of the provisions of those agreements on a day-to-day basis.

These services, along with the administration of our grievance procedure activities, are a prime function of my office so far as the total job of contract administration is concerned. The other functions, such as handling staff and office personnel, etc., serve to augment the main job of negotiating and then utilizing our agreements in the interests of our membership during the term of such agreements.

The Assistants and field Representatives whom I supervise, are also deeply involved in the main function of my office. They handle a myriad of daily problems and must work closely with our Grievance Committees and the backbone of our Union, the Stewards on the job.

Therefore, all hands, including Stewards, Committee members, Representatives, Assistants, and the writer, will become involved in an improved communications process as we go to work on administering the agreements recently ratified by the membership.

Membership assistance in keeping the contract administrators advised as to conditions on the job is invaluable and the best way to do this is to keep the Steward cut in on all happenings which may affect the rights of those covered by our contracts.



Utility Reporter—

If the University of California comes, can the Labor Movement be far behind?  
—with apologies to Percy Bysshe Shelley and deep regret at the firing of Clark Kerr

## Violence as a way of life?

A labor editor who has dedicated her life to enhancing freedom in the work and market place is threatened by an anonymous caller in Berkeley.

A farm organizer is tortured in Yuba City.

Two leaders of local unions are murdered in the Bay Area.

The President of the United States is gunned down in Dallas.

Millions of words are spoken and written about who is responsible for these crimes. (Millions more are required.)

But few people wonder or worry about why they happened in the first place.

These are individual acts which stand out against a background of violence both here and abroad. Must we use the "High Noon" approach to creating a free society in this country and the world? Are we really only at the point where, if we do not understand someone, we shout or shoot him down?

No one knows all the answers to why we are not concerned about almost 40 gangland murders in Boston, 50,000 deaths on the highway or millions of casualties in various wars over the years. Perhaps we are, or want to be, so alienated, that we can dismiss these human beings by attaching various labels to them such as mobsters, or crazy drivers, or foreigners.

But why this alienation—this child's wish for a return to the simple life that never was, this adoption of a standard of values which ranks the accumulation of money higher than the accumulation of knowledge.

We do not have the answers, but we might all be better off by just asking the questions. Would that we be as tolerant of other living beings as we are of violence.

## Tree trimmers' cut better

(Continued from page 1)

vide all tools the men need in their work, which also includes so-called private work—the tree trimming and pruning you might want done by a fair contractor on your own property.

Serving with Quadros and Owen in these sets of negotiations were Ben Smallwood on Davey; Fred

Vaughn on Farrens; Ed Williams on Pacific; Tom Barnhill on Sohner; and Dan Griffith on Utility.

Members working for four of the companies, including Pacific, have already ratified the new agreements. Results of the Davey ratification were made known January 20th when Davey members voted 12 to 12 to reject the agreement.

# Ask the full price Not how much per month

By Sidney Margolius

One of the ways moderate-income families invite their own exploitation is by asking how much a month they have to pay, rather than the full price. John L. O'Brien, President of the St. Louis Better Business Bureau, advises that many instances of overcharging by credit sellers would be prevented if buyers would just multiply the quoted price per month by the number of months to see what the full price is, before they sign a contract.

Now the Federal Trade Commission finally is moving to try to curb this practice which often leads to outright deception, and even when used by more scrupulous stores may lead to overspending.

If the new rules proposed by the FTC staff are approved by the commission itself, stores that advertise, for example, "\$9.95 a month," will have to state either the total dollar cost, or, less desirably from the consumer's view, the number of months you have to pay that amount.

Many stores and some manufacturers, even otherwise scrupulous ones, have trained consumers to think in terms of the monthly amount by quoting and advertising that amount rather than the full price. Some even quote "so much a week" to make the cost seem even lower.

This practice used for some time in the appliance trade, now is invading such businesses as furniture and carpeting. Some carpet stores emphasize the cost per month rather than the price per yard. The salesmen emphasize the cost per month rather than the price per yard. The salesmen refer to a monthly payment rate chart when they quote prices to customers.

This enables them to trade up the customer to more expensive carpeting by showing that it costs only a little more per month. "So

much per month" also makes comparison shopping impossible for you. A dealer can make carpeting and other goods seem to cost less than at another store by stretching payments over a longer period.

One of the most damaging uses of the "so-much-a-month" trick has been in the sale of food-freezer plans. The salesmen often quote, for example, \$59 a month for the food and the freezer, without stating the full cost. An Akron couple who signed a contract did not become aware, until the merchandise was delivered, that they had obligated themselves to pay a total of \$1131 for a freezer and a three-month supply of frozen foods, the Better Business Bureau there reports. The order form they signed never showed the total obligation. (Any family that really needs a freezer, which does not include most city families, can buy a 16-cubic-foot upright with capacity of 560 pounds, for under \$300. So you can see how much extra this couple paid.)

Small-loan companies also often state the monthly amount for repaying a loan without also declaring the full amount to be repaid. They leave it up to the borrower to do any necessary arithmetic to determine the total cost.

The most deceptive dealers are car sellers who advertise "No money down," or "\$5 down." In actual fact, such dealers require their trusting victims to make a side loan with a small-loan company for the down payment. Small-loan rates usually are even higher than car rates.

A California man wrote to **Everybody's Money**, the credit union association's lively consumer magazine, that he had responded to a sign offering "Any Car On The Lot—Only \$5 Down OAC."

"Apparently my OAC (on approval of credit) was faultless as the salesman needed only to see my fiver," he wrote. He chose a



Home building around the country is taking a beating as a result of high interest rates. Interest rates on new FHA home mortgages in the past year have added \$2,700 to the interest cost of a 25 year, \$15,000 mortgage.

## Buyers' Bailiwick

car priced at \$449. They arranged a contract for \$35.81, which the man felt he could afford. But this cooperative victim did not bother to multiply the \$35.81 by 24 months. So he paid a total of \$864.44 for an eight-year-old car that proved to be in very poor condition.

Keep in mind that the FTC rules are not yet in effect. Moreover, while they can help a great deal, it is difficult to stop the verbal use of the "so much a month" device by salesmen—both door-to-door and in stores.

Moreover, the FTC has no authority to police deceptions if sellers cannot be shown to be engaged in interstate commerce. Nor, in any case has it the staff or funds to tackle such localized cases. It tends to concentrate its limited forces on curbing law violators who do at least some of their selling across state lines.

In the last analysis, you're going to have to guard against this trick yourself. You can accept it as a fact that there is always a reason why the salesmen quotes a monthly cost rather than the full price. He has in mind either deception, trading you up or making comparison difficult.

The new rules also would require sellers to tell buyers in writing the

amount of finance charges and insurance they must pay, and also that the contract may be turned over to a finance company. The proposed rules, however, still will not make dealers and lenders tell you the true annual interest rate they charge. U.S. Senator William Proxmire (D., Wis.) this year is going to try to get Congress to pass the truth-in-lending bill former Senator Paul Douglas originally introduced. It would require this vital and helpful information.



Business Representative Scott Wadsworth has been appointed as a Vice President of the Nevada State AFL-CIO.



the utility  
reporter



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# Willard Wirtz throws down the gauntlet

## For Professors: Mix metaphors 2 to 1

Remarks of  
W. Willard Wirtz, Secretary of Labor  
at the

Nineteenth Annual Winter Meeting of the  
Industrial Relations Research Association  
San Francisco, December 28, 1966

It reflects my respect for the Industrial Relations Research Association that I started several months ago preparing remarks for this evening on a subject which seemed to me worthy of the Association's high tradition: John Maynard Keynes Revisited, or Through the Looking Glass Darkly with the Council of Economic Advisers.

Then, several days ago, I received the program for this 19th Annual Meeting. When I found my remarks sandwiched (or bottled!) in between a "Social Hour" and Dinner on one side and a "Smoker" on the other, there came back to me—from earlier academic exposure—the protocol of programming these annual between-the-holidays gatherings of learned societies: that the daylight sessions are devoted to the dissertations of those with something to dissert, while those invited to participate by virtue more of their notoriety than their knowledge are put down for the evening—on the theory that the shades of night deal mercifully both with the lines in ladies' faces and with those in their husbands' speeches.

Accordingly:

Ever since Arthur Ross came to Washington, a little over a year ago, the press has been full of reports about two developments in government: the "flight of the intellectuals" and "the credibility gap."

Knowing this could not be entirely Arthur's fault, even wondering a little whether the "gap" is the creation of the President (of the IRRA, that is) or the press, I arranged to monitor a couple of meetings recently—in a quiet, unobtrusive, unconstitutional sort of way, with a little help from J. Edgar Kennedy.

One was a meeting at which Commissioner Ross and his BLS colleagues were discussing the release, scheduled for the next day, of the monthly unemployment and Consumer Price Index figures.

The other, taking place twenty-four hours later, was a gathering of the Washington newspaper men who had now received these two releases and were trying to decide how to play them.

These are interesting tapes—and the public has a right to know. So I make this report.

You are also entitled, however, to know these three things:

First, both tapes are unfortunately garbled, so that it is impossible to tell just who is saying what.

Second, the two tapes have gotten mixed up, so that it is also impossible to tell which is the record of which meeting—and I have time for only one—I don't know which.

Third, as some of you know, in addition to being an eaves-dripper, I am an addict of an iniquitable habit developed in the course of listening to an unwanted amount of other people's public speaking which occasionally gets in the way of my own. This is the habit of jotting down, instead of the speaker's monumental message, his minumental metaphors—the little slips of the tongue every speaker makes when he gets as tired as his audience was from the beginning. In the contemporary "tell it all" custom of Washington's carpet-bagging literati, I feel a responsibility to disclose the results of the past several years' harvest of this habit, and have accordingly taken the liberty of interlading this transcript with a few of these germs of wisdom—all completely authoritative and footnoted.<sup>1</sup>

Herewithal,<sup>2</sup> then, the edited transcript of either a pre-press-release conference in the BLS offices or the post-press-release gathering of reporters about to file their stories on that same release.

<sup>1</sup>The accidents in this particular paragraph are all common usage along the Potomac, except for "germs of wisdom"—a felicitous coinage (date unrecorded) of the incumbent Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service at a meeting on November 2, 1962.

<sup>2</sup>Also common usage, especially among law school drop-outs.



Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz' wry sense of humor produced the delightful parody on academic reporting, complete with footnotes, at left—and his sense of urgency produced the plea for better communication, at right below.

A voice that probably isn't either Commissioner Ross' or that of the AP or UPI wire service man—but, of course, could be—comes in:

"You know, I've been keeping my ear to the grindstone recently,<sup>3</sup> and I tell you we've got to do something to get a toe-hold in the public eye."

There is quick assent:

"I agree! It's time to hitch up our trousers and throw down our gauntlets."<sup>4</sup>

Then an eager question:

"Have you got any plans underfoot?"<sup>5</sup>

And a quick reply:

"Yes I have. Look at these figures here: a 2.6% annual productivity increase rate, a 3.5% annual increase in prices, and almost 4% unemployment. If this keeps on, we'll all go down the drain in a steam-roller.<sup>6</sup> Why don't we just switch the figures around?"

<sup>3</sup>A distinguished member of the Washington Bureau of the New York Times, March 21, 1963. Previously reported in the June 1963 National Academy of Arbitrators Newsletter.

<sup>4</sup>Heard at a public meeting in Washington, March 9, 1966. But subsequently denied by the perpetrator, a well-known leader of the bureaucracy, and therefore not identified—on advice of counsel.

<sup>5</sup>Reported, second hand, on March 5, 1963, by Informant RK, as having been "made before a large political gathering in Washington recently." Subsequent research confirmed this report.

<sup>6</sup>A representative of Sears Roebuck Co. at a White House meeting on March 30, 1966.

<sup>7</sup>A management spokesman in the long-shore negotiations, February 4, 1965. Cf. D. P. Moynihan, June 11, 1964: "We're being sold down the drain."

**'We made this up ourselves just to get into the spirit of the thing—The Editor**

# Gambit<sup>1</sup> to Educators and Media-men

## Media-men's responsibility in communicating the news

Why, with 4% increased productivity, 3.5% unemployment, and a 2.6% price increase for the year we can get this country out of the eight ball' and make an honest man of J. Maynard Keynes in the boot.<sup>9</sup> It may not work, but let's take a flying gambit at it."<sup>10</sup> The first reaction to this is one of outrighteous<sup>11</sup> outrage: "Wait a minute. That kind of business gets my dandruff up.<sup>12</sup> And when I smell a rat, I nip it in the bud.<sup>13</sup> That idea doesn't have a Chinaman's chance in Hell."<sup>14</sup>

But as the obvious sense of it all begins to impress everybody, dissent dissolves into mere cautiousness:

"Let's don't go off the deep end of the reservation."<sup>15</sup>  
"If we try this we're likely to have a bear by the horns."<sup>16</sup>  
"We've got to be careful about getting too many cooks in the soup,<sup>17</sup> or somebody's going to think there's dirty work behind the crossroads."<sup>18</sup>

The argument goes on from here more or less ad nauseam,<sup>19</sup> until finally the obvious leader of the plot makes his telling pitch:

"OK. OK. Let's grasp this nettle by the horns." CPI, CPS, who knows the difference? Sure, somebody's likely to rear up on his back.<sup>20</sup> But I know every cranny and crook<sup>21</sup> in this town, and they're all the same. It's just a matter of whose ox is being goosed."<sup>22</sup>

This does it. The decision is made.

The tape ran out shortly afterward. But you have here, ladies and gentlemen, the story of how **either** the BLS staff **or** the Washington labor press corps used Credibility Gap to win a critical victory for Lyndon B. Johnson **and** John Maynard Keynes and contribute to the unprecedented record of 69 months of uninterrupted expansion of the American economy.

If apology for this vignette of contemporary politico-economic history is called for, I remind you of Adlai Stevenson's improvement, when he was asked how he liked his job, on the old story of the Indian fighter who crawled into the frontier fort with three arrows in his back and was asked whether it hurt. "Only," he answered, "when I laugh." "My job," the Governor added, "only hurts when I don't laugh."

So does mine.

Perhaps, though, there will be some to wonder whether this has all been meant as purest jest.

I suppose not quite all—and that I may appropriately say a little more about the **problems of communication** that become increasingly relevant and important as a nation, newly equipped with fantastic electronic paraphernalia, simultaneously—and not entirely coincidentally—turns away from a traditional philosophy of determinism and toward the acceptance, instead, of responsibility for controlling the human course and inventing the future.

Best, certainly, to leave it as errant nonsense that statisticians or

scribes might perpetrate a monstrous hoax by tinkering with the national arithmetic. Some non-cooperative computer would blow a fuse!

Harder, though, to avoid the implications of the truth that the adoption, in the 1964 tax cut, of Keynesian politico-economics is only a reminder that from here on national economic policy will be made by decision-makers—all of us—in reliance not on what we know first hand but on the reported cogitations of the computers.

The policies of laissez-faire were wrong, but they had the utility—which a democracy finds a compensating advantage—of being easily understood.

We complain about the "new math" our children are getting at school. Our not understanding or being able to help with it is diminishing our usefulness and therefore our stature as parents. Yet we understand even less the new math of the fiscal and monetary and budgetary policies we have ourselves adopted—and it seems to diminish our stature as citizens.

This is no idle concern.

The decision to base policy-making on statisticians' measurements of the national condition and on the reports of these measurements through the public media, depends for its validity on the measurements and reports being both accurately made and accurately understood. These are different things. There is no communication of truth unless it is heard as well as told. If it is hidden in a haystack of tabular exhibits or back of the obituaries on page 37, it isn't any part of the significant truth.

It is not, for example, just a question of whether the monthly nationwide, seasonally adjusted unemployment figure is arrived at by statistically sound procedures and accurate computations. It is equally important that whatever is significant about unemployment be measured, and that whatever is relevant be included in not only the measurement but also in the subsequent report.

It is right, and important for a variety of reasons, that this nationwide unemployment index be kept carefully. It was not right that until recently **only** that nation-wide figure was developed or reported. The **local** figures, that tell what ought to be done where, were at best loosely assembled; and even then they were for "standard metropolitan statistical areas" and averaged in the slums and the suburbs together—concealing, until there were riots, the real condition in the slums.

The "seasonal adjustment" in these figures facilitates the economist's analysis of the general economic condition and simplifies the reporter's job. It makes it easier to say, in the dangerous shorthand of communication, by headline and five-second spots on thirty-second television newscasts, that things are "better" or "worse." But the way this adjustment has been handled has resulted, as a practical matter, in turning attention away from a factor—serious seasonal unemployment—which can be changed, and which every other comparable country has done more about than we have.

It is interesting, and significant, that there has been so little notice that the 1960 census figures contain a serious "undercount" element, failing to include or disclose tens, perhaps hundreds, of thousands of adult males—probably mostly non-white—who are known to be part of the population. If this seems only a statistical matter, it is worth pointing out that one reason for this "undercount" is that payments under the Aid For Dependent Children program are denied, in many states, where there is a man in the house. Full development of this discrepancy between the figures and the known facts would be of inestimable policy-making importance.

The false economy of measuring only what is most cheaply measured has resulted in defining "unemployment" as including only those "actively looking for work and unable to find it" and as excluding those ("non-participants in the work-force") who have given up even looking, and therefore present the most serious cases. It is even worse that funds necessary to make "job vacancy" studies have been denied—out of misguided concern that the results would be offset against the unemployment figures.

There will be no better place than this to express my personal gratitude and the Nation's debt to the Commissioner of Labor Statistics and the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Manpower for their achievements this year in making the employment statistics more meaningful and useful.

But the communication of the vital statistics is fully as important as their computation.

Statistics are dull news—except for the boxscores on doom and disaster, casualty lists or holiday deaths on the highways.

But is it too much to ask that when national policy is put at stake,

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<sup>1</sup>Anon but not apoc; i.e. I have lost the source note, but recall it clearly.

<sup>9</sup>A Building Service Union representative. June 10, 1966

<sup>10</sup>An Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, on the phone. October 1, 1964. "We have to deal with the whole gambit of this affair." By the ninth Secretary of Labor, at an April 3, 1966 dinner of the President's Advisory Committee on Labor-Management Policy.

<sup>11</sup>The tenth Secretary of Labor. October 10, 1965 (circa).

<sup>12</sup>A well-known corporate executive, as reported by Informant SF by letter dated September 21, 1964.

<sup>13</sup>See footnote 5, supra.

<sup>14</sup>The Assistant Secretary of Labor for Manpower, in private (?) conversation. April 4, 1966.

<sup>15</sup>A General Electric representative at the October 25, 1966 meeting of Advisory (to the Secretary of Labor) Committee on Pension and Welfare Plans.

<sup>16</sup>N. Thompson Powers, Assistant to the Secretary of Labor, January 9, 1964.

<sup>17</sup>A decent regard for the opinions of mankind (and for my own future) precludes exact attribution here. The time was during the 1964 Railroad Case negotiations.

<sup>18</sup>The Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. June 9, 1964. Note: "Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service"—Telegram from TWU representative, September 11, 1961.

<sup>19</sup>See footnote 11, supra.

<sup>20</sup>This one is illegitimate.

<sup>21</sup>From the floor at the 1966 Convention of the Chemical Workers in Montreal. October 18, 1966.

<sup>22</sup>A successful candidate for the Maryland legislature at his deficit dinner, November 1966. (Original form: "I think I deserved to win. I went to every cranny and crook in this district." Inaccurately reported by others present as: "I went to every nook and crook . . .")

<sup>23</sup>The Administrator of the Neighborhood Youth Corps. January 11, 1966. His quick recovery and subsequent assertion of deliberate intent to put it this way should be noted but not necessarily credited.

# Media-men's responsibility in communicating the news

(continued from page five)

there be a higher standard of communication ethics than readers' or listeners' obsessions? Would the media accept a share of responsibility for promoting a standard of not just a right to know, but an obligation to know?

There is advantage in having a .3% increase in prices or unemployment get several times the front-page attention a similar decrease does. The country needs more to be warned of its dangers than told of its successes. It is a different thing though if the fires of inflation are fed by constantly playing down every indication of stability and magnifying every sign of possible instability. One television announcement of the 0.1% November consumer price increase—the smallest in six months—was confined to the newscaster's statement that "prices rose in November for the tenth consecutive month."

Nor is there excuse for the country's having been told persistently the less-than-half-truth that it was American labor's insistence on wage increases that "broke the guidelines"—when the fact is that **Price** increases have exceeded those limits much more seriously than have wage increases?

It is worth asking what standard of "credibility" it is that inspires or permits an editor to persist in protesting the alleged inflationary effects of the paper imbalance of the Government's "administrative budget" when he knows (and knows most of his readers don't know) that only the much nearly balanced "national incomes account budget" bears any relationship to national economic stability.

Perhaps it is all too complicated, so that the inevitable price of letting reason rule a complex society is the non-participation of most people in the decision-making. Perhaps it is too much to expect that sophisticated issues of monetary and fiscal policy be decided by those so unfamiliar with decimal points that 3.9% sounds like almost ten times as much as 4%. Perhaps effective communication is impossible across the credibility gulf that lies between C. P. Snow's two cultures.

We deny this—for we must.

There must be, though, more recognition than there has been so far of the increasingly critical role of communication in the increasingly rational and complex economy and society—so that today in Marshall McLuhan's enigmatic but pregnant phrase "the medium is the message."

Perhaps there should be experiment with such measures as bringing out all vital statistical reports on the same day each month—to avoid or at least reduce the confusion that comes from reading, one day, that the Wholesale Price index is down; the next day that the Consumer Price index is up; the day after that, that the estimated gross national product for the next quarter is higher than previously predicted; the following day that productivity in manufacturing is increasing but is down in services; and so forth. Maybe a single monthly report card to the public on how it is doing would be better understood.

But any such suggestion is superficial. The problem here is much deeper, and broader, and not limited to economic issues or the habits of computers or professional purveyors of the news.

What makes this all so important now, and so difficult, is the fact of rejection of the old idea of the "inevitability of progress" (which, in its extreme form, left communication only the significance of commentary) and the adoption, instead, of the conviction that the human capacity includes the power to improve the future. With this turn of events and philosophy, truth in the forum and "the media" has become as important, especially in a democracy, as truth in the laboratory or the library.

What relevance had truth—or "credibility"—in the public forum while racial bigotry was covered by the convenient dispensation that "equal" included "separate"; while people moving from country or city were required to leave their votes behind; while old-age was considered an irrevocable sentence to penury and disease; while it was counted God's doing, not the majority's, that some people sank into the human cesspools of slums and ghettos; and while the public dialogue couldn't be dirtied by any "obscenity" or "heresy" about birth control?

It is hard to realize how rapidly the whole idea of the human competence to perfect life's pattern has taken hold.

This is not a political speech. But whoever is properly concerned about "credibility"—so that he would reject the credible advancement of what is in fact incredible (racial discrimination, poverty, economic depression, "disproportionment," birth by ignorance or accident)—will note the record of the past three years: a brief moment—as history measures time in which this country has been asked to face up to the truth.

- that boom-and-bust economics **can** be replaced by the economics of constant expansion;
- that civil (meaning equal) rights can be translated into civil results;
- that poverty **can** be eliminated and slums eradicated;

- that the franchise **can** be restored to a one-person-one-vote basis;
- that older age **can** be given security **and** meaning;
- that the growth of the population **can** be governed by reason and knowledge instead of ignorance.

These propositions are **right**. Their implementation depends solely on the extent to which **all** participants in the ensuing dialogue regarding them also accept truth as its standard.

In some areas, the new dialogue has been almost completely constructive.

It renews faith in democracy's process that, starting with President Johnson's State of the Union Message in 1965 and his United Nation's address here in San Francisco a little later, the discussion of family and population planning has proceeded with everybody respecting fully everybody else's opinion—and with infinite advantage to the society. This has been a triumph of truth.

It is having a harder time on the civil rights, and poverty, fronts.

Now the lie of "black power" is hurled against the older lie of "white supremacy."

Now the summer patriots in the war against poverty turn away from the inevitable winter campaign that comes in any war worth fighting, and take up instead the shell game of poverty and politics: if the funds for fighting poverty are increased, point at the budget and condemn any further appropriations as improvidence; if the funds aren't increased, complain that the war in Viet Nam is being paid for out of the poor-boxes here at home.

The truth loafed for a long time in this country—and voted "present" on the issue of leaving things as they were. Now—in a time of change—it faces a tougher testing.

So, I suppose, it has always seemed. All of history is the record of the struggle between what is true and what isn't.

I have tried, nevertheless, to suggest here the critical reduction in the permissible tolerance for untruth once it is decided to assert reason instead of determinism as the national philosophy and to accept responsibility for the perfection of life's pattern.

"God," Albert Einstein said once, "is clever; but He is not dishonest." As Man's cleverness increases, his honesty becomes the more critical.

## USBR members vote for Improved working conditions

The working conditions of Central Valley Project employees represented by Local 1245 have been improved as a result of negotiations concluded late in 1966, Business Representative Al Kaznowski reports. Wages were improved earlier.

Meeting in Sacramento, representatives of Region 2 of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Union reached tentative agreement on improving: work schedules; reporting places, commuting distance and travel time provisions; dual classification time requirements; repromotion rights after reductions in force; and penalty rates on the temporary rescheduling of day workers outside regular hours.

Besides adding the classification of Foreman II, Lineman (Electric Power) for the supervision of subdivided crews, the parties also agreed to study by this February, matters relating to Relief Operators, staffing at Keswick, and the Electrical Testing Foreman at Shasta.

Matters to be studied by the 1967 Wage Board Conference include development of objective qualifications evaluation criteria for the Merit Promotion Plan, the practicality of standardized job sheets, and improved promotional opportunities in nonapprenticeable classifications.

Other subjects related to Mechanics' dual rates, the furnishing of gloves, an Apprentice Lineman program, safe clearance procedures, and the reporting of vacancies to the Union.

Nine other topics were discussed in meetings held during the last quarter of 1966.

U.S.B.R. Members voted at meetings held throughout the Central Valley Project area during January—whether to accept or reject the results of these negotiations.

Results of the voting at meetings held at Folsom Dam and Sacramento by Al Kaznowski, Shasta Dam by Jerry Watson, Tracy Pumping Plant by Hank Lucas, and Friant Dam and Los Banos O&M by Bobby Robinson—were 59 to 0 to accept the improved conditions.



Ditch Tender Andy Proschold and Utility Plumber Ken Graves assist Equipment Operator Wayne Brewer on the dragline operation. The new retirement plan with its employer-paid past service benefit is a valuable provision to Andy who hopes to retire soon. OWID will match the employees' 3 per cent contribution for current service.

## OWID—a proud place

(Continued from page 1)

It is a tribute to the sophistication of the OWID Board and management that Lee Kline, a Shop Steward and natural leader of men, is on a temporary upgrade to General Foreman, in the absence of his friend.

He chatted easily with Equipment Operator Wayne Brewer, Utility Plumber Ken Graves, and Ditch Tender Andy Prochold — checking on the progress of their ditch-cleaning job and kidding them good-naturedly about the shine on one of the new Bronco trucks the District had provided recently with Local 1245's encouragement.

The last set of negotiations had doubled the monthly allowance paid to Ditch Patrolmen who still do not have these trucks and have to use their own cars. Other employees using their own cars for the District's convenience will be reimbursed 9 cents a mile on improved roads and 15 cents a mile on unimproved roads, such as the one we were jouncing back on.

Yes, Lee—in constant radio contact with the OWID dispatcher, Sadie Palmer had seen some changes, and not just in having the radio, which he called "a lifesaver."

He and Ken Graves remember the three days and nights crews worked in the Feather River Canyon to replace a section of siphon which had washed itself out.

For the first two days, working around the clock to manhandle 8-foot sections of 36-inch pipe down the side of the Canyon, all they had to eat was sandwiches.

"After two or three meals, sandwiches somehow aren't too much of a comfort," Lee remembers.

When they went to put water in the siphon, it blew again. Management told them to come out of there anyway.

Ken Graves, who has a knack for taming water under hundreds of pounds of pressure shooting out of a burst pipe—was asked if the hike out to their vehicles was difficult. "No, it was pretty level going," he said.

What he didn't volunteer, because it didn't seem difficult to an irrigation man, was the fact that where the trail beside the flumes did not exist, the eight men with three flashlights at 2 o'clock in the morning, walked along 2 by 12 planking laid on top of the flumes 300 feet above the river.

After 3 hours of sleep they were back on the job at 6:00 A.M.

It probably couldn't happen exactly like that again. For one thing, the old Palermo Ditch has been flooded by the Oroville Dam Project.

For another, Local 1245 Business Representative Ron Reynolds has negotiated some rules and regulations which provide for meals, overtime, safety—things like that.

## NID Board lags behind

(Continued from page 1)

satisfied with the Board's refusal to provide for improved safety on the job, and an improved grievance procedure—which would have eliminated the need for going to court on unresolved problems at added expense to the taxpayers and the District, as well as the Union."

"Beyond depressed wages and working conditions," Local 1245's spokesman continued, "it is indeed a sad and inequitable situation where Nevada Irrigation District hides behind a State law to deprive its employees of the same rights of bargaining and contract which have long been enjoyed by employees in private industry."

"Local 1245 represents many em-

## Alabama Power Strike Ends

IBEW members employed by Alabama Power Company have returned to work after having been "on the bricks" since last August.

Main items of the return to work agreement will take the Lineman's rate to \$3.99 by August of 1967, add a fourth week of vacation for the first time, increase the Company's premium share on the hospital-medical plan to \$5.71 a month maximum, and pay time and one half instead of straight time for work on a paid holiday.

The strike arose out of a stalemate in 1965 between Alabama Power and System Council U-19 of the IBEW. Since the parties were unable to reach agreement on a new contract effective August of 1965, their old contract continued under its evergreen clause.

One year later, on August 15, 1966, the strike started. Despite numerous meetings between both parties and federal mediators, no significant progress was made. It took the intervention of Governor George Wallace on January 4th, 1967 to bring the parties together. Three days later, a tentative settlement was reached, and the men went back to work.

Wage applications of the settlement produced a 3.7 per cent increase retroactive to 8-15-65, a 3.9 per cent increase effective 8-15-66 but not retroactive since no one was at work, and a 4.4 per cent increase scheduled for 8-15-67. Unused vacation taken during the strike was, however, adjusted by the 3.9 per cent increase.

More than 100 acts of vandalism were charged by the Company and reported locally by the commercial press and nationally by the trade journals. These charges of vandalism, which can be perpetrated by either side's adherents in a dispute, impressed the general public which

read these reports, but the validity of the charges was questioned by the men.

## Farm Organizer Tortured

Yuba City

The Sutter County Sheriff's Office has found no leads in the sadistic attempted murder of De Witt Tannehill last December.

Tannehill, a UFWOC organizer credited with gaining representation rights for farm workers in Arvin, Delano, and San Diego County, was tortured by two men who used drawn revolvers to get into his brother-in-law's home in Yuba City.

A gun at his head, Tannehill was made to remove his clothing. A broom handle with a nail in the end was forced up his rectum, severely damaging his liver and kidneys and paralyzing his right side.

Only emergency surgery performed at Fremont Hospital saved his life.

Tannehill had just returned to the empty house from a meeting with farm workers near Marysville. He was found on the floor by his brother-in-law.

De Witt is now out of the hospital but he may never be able to return to his life's work of improving farm workers' wages and conditions.

He holds AWOC Card No. 1, organized without pay in 1961, went to jail in Butte County after peach workers struck, lost his wife while he was in Butte County jail, and continued his efforts in spite of threats on his life.

A \$1,000 reward has been posted by the United Farm Workers' Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, for the apprehension and conviction of his assailants. Other unions interested in increasing the reward may contact UFWOC headquarters in Delano.

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this is a prime example of the need for a change in the California State law which would give these employees at least the simple right to recognition equal to their counterparts in private industry.

"In conclusion," Wadsworth stated, "we will continue to pursue, in any way possible, basic recognition and better working conditions and we hope the public, in taking note of this glaring inequity, will support their needs toward this end.

Wadsworth went on to say that

# The Outdoor Scene

by Fred Goetz

Recently I ran into a long time friend, Carlton Richter, with whom I've wet an occasional line and had many a gab session. The net result, whenever we chance-meet, is an involved, mutually-enjoyable dissertation on angling. The particular nature of it depends on the time of year and the type of fishing involved. This time it was steelheading.

Inseparable fishing companions are Carl and his wife, Opal. For winter-steelheading, they are partial to the waters of their home state—the Sandy River, fish-lush tributary of the lower Columbia and three northwest coastal streams—the Wilson, Nestucca, and Nehalem.

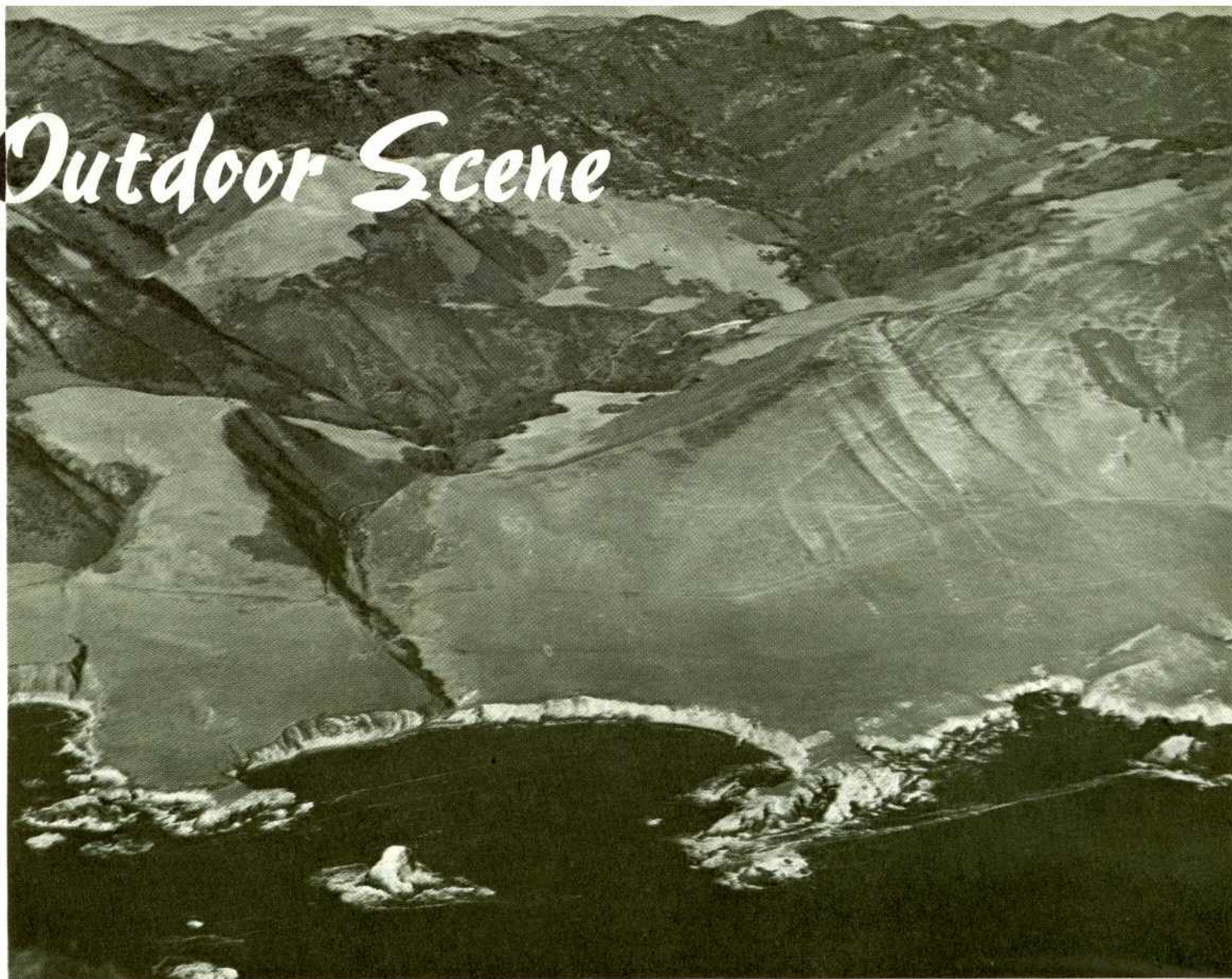
Judging from the longevity of their marriage, I'd say they must see eye to eye on most things but one thing in particular they definitely do not agree on, that is the "modus operandi" of steelheading.

Basically, Carl is a "migrant" and Opal a "resident," which is to say that Carl migrates by walking leisurely down the stream bank, probing one patch of likely water after another—shallow runs, riffles, deep drifts, eddys or holding ponds—while Opal doggedly prefers to reside for two or three hours at one, time-honored and proven stretch of the river.

One might compare such variance in angling technique to nimirrod counterparts, namely the "stalker," who seeks his game, and the "still hunter," who remains immobile, in seclusion on stand, waiting for the prey to come loping unsuspectingly down an established game trail.

Carl, in telling about a recent junket to the Sandy river, recalled an instance where Opal's piscatorial philosophy paid off. She bottom-bounced a long deep run—about a 100-yd. stretch of the river—for almost an hour with bait, then hung a sea 'bow on the first cast after she had switched to a fluorescent bobber, an Okie lure.

The foregoing suggests certain biological facts concerning the life of the steelhead. After several years at sea, it forsakes the bountiful ocean larder and heads for the freshwater stream of its birth. Oft-times, it will seek out a large river (such as the Columbia, Umpqua, Rogue, or Klamath) progressively entering a major tributary of the system, perhaps a mere rivulet, there to spawn, probably to die. This has been the usual pattern of



The Outdoor Scene illustration this month also shows the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant site on the Pacific Coast, 12 miles southwest of San Luis Obispo. The proposed 1,060,000 kilowatt plant will be located on the benchland to the right of the canyon mouth marked by the dark line of trees running down to the crescent-shaped bay. The San Luis Range is in the background.

## PG&E applies for Diablo Canyon site

**SAN FRANCISCO**—Pacific Gas & Electric Co. has applied to the California Public Utilities Commission for authorization to build its recently announced 1,060,000-kilowatt, atomic-fueled power plant in San Luis Obispo County.

The December application seeks a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the project. The company plans to place the plant

in initial operation in the fall of 1971. The project site is near Diablo Canyon, about 12 miles southwest of the City of San Luis Obispo.

PG&E acquired the plant site in September on a long-term lease. Last month the company awarded Westinghouse Electric Corp. the contract to supply the nuclear reactor, turbine-generator and atomic fuel for the plant.

the sea-run trouts—the cutthroat and the steelhead—and the salmon for all time. (It must be noted here that the salmon die after the initial spawning act while the steelhead and cutthroat have been known to survive one or more spawnings.)

It therefore seems logical to assume that the steelhead is "on the move" until such time as it selects a definite area to set up housekeeping. A "run" or "hot spot" that may be barren of fish for a considerable length of time may, suddenly, become alive with upstream migrants. When such an occasion develops, Opal's method is likely to pay handsome dividends, literally triggering the finny jackpot. Of course, the same situation could also pay off for Carl if he happens to be "in the right place, at the right time." By the same token,

he may be relentlessly trudging along the rocky stream bank while a school of migrants passes him in the opposite direction. On the other hand, Opal, stationed at a permanent and likely location, may be in a position to intercept one or more of the migrants.

Both Carl and Opal usually account for around a dozen or more steelhead per year. They really work for their winter treasures but, admittedly, oft-times come home with an empty creel. Steelheadin's like that.

"Come now, Carl," I asked as I bade him adieu, "who, in your opinion, has the most productive method—the 'migrant' or the 'resident'?" "That is a loaded question," he replied, but after further query, Carl admitted: "Opal does tag a few more steelies than I do each year but, frankly, I need the exercise."

Estimated cost of the project is about \$150 million, exclusive of substation and transmission facilities. The plant will produce electricity at a lower cost than any postwar steam or hydro plant in the company's system.

The site recently received the formal approval of the State Resources Agency. Administrator Hugo Fisher said agency representatives from interested state departments after thorough studies had concluded the operation of a generating station at the site would not adversely affect the natural resources in the vicinity.

The Sierra Club directors and Conservation Associates, two conservation organizations, have reviewed plans for the site and have indicated they would not oppose its use for the atomic electric installation. A poll of Sierra Club members has been initiated in order to determine their feeling on the subject.

PG&E also has submitted its application to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission for the necessary permit to build the nuclear portion of the power plant. Both the AEC and the California Public Utilities Commission will hold public hearings on these applications. At press time, the California PUC had scheduled hearings for February 16, 17, 23, and 24 in San Luis Obispo.