Benefit Agreement Passes by two to one Margin

Four months and many long hours of hard work was culminated on February 24, by a yes vote from the membership on the PG&E Benefit Agreement.

Major gains were made at this set of negotiations and the negotiating committee is to be congratulated for an excellent job. The members of Union's negotiating committee were: Ron Weakley, L. L. Mitchell, Howard Harrington, IV, Ed Horn, Harry Weise and Larry Christopherson. These men spent many nights and Saturdays visiting the Unit meetings and Shop Steward meetings throughout the system, explaining the proposal to the membership.

The major gains were the Long Term Disability Plan and the Vested Pension after 10 years of credited service with the Company. There were a number of “goodies” included in this Agreement which will result in a general improvement for all of our members.

PG&E is presently holding meetings for all employees from the ages of 50½ to 65 years old to explain the Variable Annuity option so that these people can make their earliest possible decision sometime in the month of May.

Other meetings are being held by the Company and Union to develop the guidelines for the types of investments for the 4% Diversified Investment Trust as an optional addition to the PG&E Stock Savings Fund Plan.

Refunds for overpayments resulting from the reduced pension contribution should be made on the March payroll. Both parties are making every effort to provide for institution of the Diversified Investment Trust by July 1, 1969.

YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN

Local 1245 Must Bridge "Generation Gap"

By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

As I prepare to sign the new Local 1245 - PG&E Benefit Agreement and have signed the Master Apprenticeship Agreement, I could not help thinking about how we dreamed in 1952 about what we have just accomplished in 1969.

These two milestones in the history of Local 1245 deserve some passing comment. Those who were dreamers put a tremendous amount of hard work toward making the dream come true.

I speak of the many officers, Staff members, off - the - job committee members and loyal dues-paying members who have achieved practical accomplishment out of hopes and who now see the best contracts in the areas of personnel and family security and skill development programs in the American gas and electric utility industry.

Those who might minimize this great package of progressive movement will benefit greatly, despite their lack of interest in how the package was put together and how it was nailed down by legal contracts.

Those who paid the dues and supported leaders who kept the faith and who deserve our respect and appreciation for also keeping the faith and for their patience over some seventeen long years.

Those on pension got a break. Those in the present work force got a break. Those who are yet to enter the work force of the Pacific Gas & Electric Company got a break. That's a pretty good score, in my book.

PG&E's Officers, Department Heads and Negotiating Committee members also deserve commendation for a job well done. Those who worked as joint participants in a collective bargaining effort of great significance.

It was accomplished in the spirit of free discussion, free agreement and free decision, unmarked by the strikes or bitterness which plague many other labor-management relationships that have not yet produced a package of personnel and family progress such as ours.

The great majority of the working citizens who own and operate Local 1245 recognize this. They have benefited by the policies of this Union which suggest that the power of persuasion is superior to the persuasion of power.

Those who decry anarchy, violent demonstrations, misuse of the public trust, etc., and those who simply wish to live in peace and enjoy the way of life we hope will be ours and our children's, can see that so long as organized responsible action produces good benefits, there's no reason to tear down the fabric of "law and order" in the realms of labor-management relationships.

Sure, we have problems. Prob-

(Continued on Page 2)

Heavy Snows Near Record High

Fresh information from Pacific Gas and Electric Company snow surveyors added weight today to predictions that this winter will be the "big one" in California's Sierra.

It's a season that has brought heavy snow, gales or hurricane-force winds, falling trees and other problems throughout the high country of Northern and Central California.

And it already is virtually tied with the 1951-52 winter — until now the most severe in the Sierra Nevada in the last half century — in snow depth at California's oldest active survey station.

That's PG&E's station at Donner Summit, where measurements were started in 1910.

Last Friday, February 7 — before the latest storm — the snow depth at Donner was 152.2 inches.

This was just 6.2 inches less than the figure recorded at the same PG&E survey course on January 29, 1952 — 158.4 inches.

It was early in 1952 that Southern Pacific's crack streamliner, the City of San Francisco, was immobilized in the snow east of Emigrant Gap, a "modern "Donner party" incident marking what has been recorded as the most severe winter of the last 50 years.

PG&E, whose troubleshooters have battled numerous storm-triggered problems in almost a non-stop effort through the early days of 1969, makes snow depth measurements at 50 Sierra survey courses — contributing to California's cooperative surveys conducted by the State Department of Water Resources.

In survey record-keeping, the long-term average measurements of snow content on April 1 constitute "normal" snow conditions.

On the basis of the latest survey, Donner Summit's snowpack had a water content of 56.6 inches — or 154 per cent of a "normal" 36.9 inches.

There have been similar high readings in other areas of the Sierra. For example, on February 3, at the PG&E Mount Dyer station in the Lake Almanor or Feather River watershed, there was a snow depth of 65.8 inches. The water content level was 140 per cent of "normal."

At Browns Camp near PG&E's Bucks Lake in the Feather River region on January 31, the snow depth was 99.1 inches. The water content was 154 per cent of "normal."

In the Stanislaus watershed, the Spicers snow course on the North Fork showed a January 31 depth of 104.2 inches, with water content of 46.0, or 154 per cent of a "normal" of 29.8 inches.

In the Kings River area, a reading on January 31 at Blackcap Basin in the high country showed 147 inches — with water content logged at 140 per cent of "normal."

Usually February and March produce the heaviest amount of snow in the Sierra, which adds to the "big one" prediction.

As February began with renewed stormy weather, PG&E issued a warning to skiers and snow buggy operators to avoid danger from high voltage lines perilously close to snow levels. Skiers in the high country, it cautioned, should use only supervised ski runs.
Facts About Your Social Security Disability Coverage

Disability, whether caused by injury or illness, can mean serious financial problems for any family. If your income stopped because of disability, would your family need help to maintain the same standard of living?

Social Security disability insurance benefits help replace lost income by paying monthly cash benefits when serious disability strikes.

Each year about 300,000 disabled workers and their families begin to receive disability benefits. In recent months about 2 of every 3 disabled workers who applied for benefits have been found eligible. Unfortunately, many begin with the 7th month of disability.

To help you through the financial crisis, workers can look to social security for financial help if you become severely disabled and cannot work. At a time when your disability prevents you from working, you may receive social security disability benefits for as long as your disability prevents you from working.

Just what does “disabled” mean? Well, you must have a physical or mental impairment which prevents you from doing substantial work and which has lasted (or is expected to last) 12 months or more. The payments can begin with the 7th month of disability. Monthly benefits continue for as long as your disability prevents you from working.

Payments for a disabled worker now range from $55 to $204 a month, depending on his average earnings. Each year about 25,000 people begin to receive these “childhood disability” benefits. Some of them are in their fifties and sixties at the time benefits begin.

There are other important types of social security disability payments; both go to dependents of workers after the worker has received social security benefits. If a worker is disabled before the begining of his disability, Workers disabled before 24 need 1 1/2 years' credit in the 3-year period before the disability begins.

Social Security disability insur-ance benefits help replace lost income by paying monthly cash benefits when serious disability strikes.

The social security disability program is to encourage disabled persons to undertake rehabilitation programs and to become self-supporting. All disability applicants are considered for vocational rehabilitation services whether or not their claims initially are approved. The services are provided by State vocational rehabilitation agencies — usually at no cost to the disabled person. The agencies provide vocational counseling and training in finding a job, and medical services and supplies.

Workmen's Compensation Changes

Here are the changes in the California workmen's compensation benefits approved by the 1968 legislature.

Effective January 1, 1969, these benefit levels increase go into effect:

- The maximum weekly compensation for temporary disability is increased to $85.50 from the present $70.
- A surviving widow with dependent minor children will be entitled to maximum death benefit of $23,000. At the present time, the maximum death benefit stands at $20,500.
- The maximum death benefit for other levels of dependency has been raised to $20,000 from the present $17,500.
- The allowance for burial expenses has been increased to $1,600 from the current $600 figure.

The new benefit levels will apply to all on-the-job injuries on or after January 1, 1969. Employees injured prior to that date are not affected.
Taxes Are High Again This Year

By Sidney Margolfinus
Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

This is the year Congress finally may enact tax reforms. It’s also the year to make sure you take all the legitimate tax-savers available when you file your own return. Because of the surtax you are paying higher taxes than you ever have before, the government is very generous in the loopholes allowed oil-well operators, mine owners, and others. If you know the loopholes and real estate speculators, you can trust that it does not want you to overpay. Unions and other associations for moderate-income families have been pleading and crusading with increasing determination for reform. Presently, some very wealthy people are able to get away with little or no tax payments at all.

There were even 155 taxpayers with incomes of $200,000 a year or more who paid no federal income tax at all in 1967, including 21 who had incomes of over $1,000,000. Chief victims are the families with incomes of $70,000 and higher who usually pay at full rates. They pay over half of all the federal income taxes, but in fact, shouldering heavier taxes, because of the estimated fifty billion dollars lost through various loopholes, they are taxes on the poor.

Thus, you will overpay twice if you don’t take the trouble to learn all the tax savers available to you.

Especially pay attention to these three points:

1—Choose the most suitable type of return. If you use the short form tax return (1040A) merely because it’s easier, you may miss out on savings available only on the long form (1040). These include “skim pay” (which can be excluded from taxable income under rules listed in the tax instructions); “moving expenses” if you were not under specification “employee business expenses” (if your work requires you to be away from home overnight or if working on a temporary job away from home);

Too, you can itemize deductions only on the long form. The form allows for all the standard deductions.

Choose the deduction method yielding the largest total deduction. On the short form, you have a choice of the “10 per cent standard deduction" or the “minimum standard.” The latter allows you $200 for each exemption listed on your return.

On the long form you also can itemize deductions. For homeowners, certainly, this is usually the best choice. But it also would pay a non-homeowner to itemize if you had large medical expenses in 1968, specifically “capital gains” if you gave large donations, or had other large deductible expenses.

As a rule of thumb to find out: make a trial estimate of your total if you itemize, and compare it with the actual deduction. The maximum standard allowances would give you:

-5-Make sure you take all legal deductions. We don’t try to list all possible deductions here, but want to call your attention to several new ones or those sometimes overlooked:

MEDICAL: Remember that you can itemize only half of the expenses you pay for health-insurance premiums up to $150 without regard to the usual 3 per cent limitation.

You can take this deduction whether or not you have enough other medical expenses to itemize (meaning, medical expenses over 3 per cent of your adjusted gross income).

On the long form, you also can deduct half of your health insurance premiums, plus the excess over the $150 limit, also is deductible subject to the 3 per cent limitation. In mind that you can include all hospital and medical insurance bills, including your payments toward union-provided health insurance, and also, the medical-payments portion of your auto insurance premium: That’s a fast tip you probably won’t get elsewhere.

If you support a relative who would qualify as a dependent and place your return except that he has taxable income of $600 or more (social security payments toward health insurance bills you pay for your dependent. Tip: thus, it’s sometimes preferable to pay medical bills for a dependent because they give him the same protection.

Payments for Medicare Part B doctor-bill insurance are health-insurance premiums and thus deductible.

Deductible medical expenses include: hospital bills, surgical fees; medicines and household remedies per 1 cent of adjusted gross income; special foods prescribed by a doctor; medical expenses for a heart patient; eyeglasses, arch supports and other aids, and transportation costs to get medical care.

(Continued on Page 6)

Labor Opposes Uniform State Credit Law

By Sidney Margolfinus
Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

A proposed uniform state credit law that could set lower rates on loans and installment purchases in many states to as much as 36 per cent has evoked strong opposition from consumer and labor groups. This battle could have important effects on your own credit costs, especially if you are a young moderate-income family and often borrow and buy on time.

The higher rates could become legal if you adopt a law that enacts a proposed credit code under the pretext that it is at least as good as the forthcoming Federal Truth in Lending Act. The Federal act, which requires lenders and install ment sellers to tell you the total annual interest rates, takes effect July 1. But it also contains a provision that a state which has a law at least equal to the new Federal act, is exempt from the enforcement of consumers can be exempted.

Since the proposed state code also requires that lenders and sellers state the true interest rates, in this respect it can be considered to be as good as the forthcoming Federal law. The uniform state law also softens some of the harsh collection practices permitted in some states. But as well as giving lenders and sellers the opportunity to use higher rates, the proposed state law also has a number of other dangerous loopholes.

A California Municipal Court Judge, George Brunn, points out that the code, if your state agrees to this provision, also could let sellers collect attorney fees if they sued you as a debtor (now not permitted in many states). Among other presently unfair practices, the proposal also falls to the notorious practice of permitting deficiency judgments on sales over $1000, which included most auto sales. The deficiency judgment permits the seller to recover his purchase if you default, and the same rule, for any difference between the resale price and the amount you still owe plus repossession costs, which have happened to many families, you could lose your purchase and still be in debt as much as the original price.

Even your home now could become security for a loan over $1000, a practice not now permitted in many states.

For these reasons, Congresswoman Lenor Sullivan, who led the battle for a strong Federal Truth-in-Lending law, is urging consumers to keep a close watch on their state legislature when attempts are made this year to enact the proposed credit code. In some states with very inadequate credit laws the proposed state code might be an improvement, she says. But in others, some of the provisions would be a step backward.

Mrs. Sullivan notes that the rates that lenders and credit sellers have always had a lot of influence with state legislatures.

The higher rates possible under the proposed state code would especially harm lower-income families. She points out that the people who head a lawyers’ group who studied the code for the Consumer Federation of America. Low-income families have not had the same access to low-cost credit of middle-income families, and are not as able to shop for the lowest rates, Kass says. They traditionally pay the higher rate.

While the backers of the proposed code claim that competition will keep down the rates, this has never happened with the rates charged by loan companies and many credit sellers. The “ceilings” usually have become the floor. All the loan companies charge the highest rates permitted in each state.

The loan companies also know how to kid their way around truth-in-lending laws. Household Finance Company, the largest of the loan company chains, already is advertising on TV in some areas that they “always” have told the true interest rates. But the fact is, they merely told the monthly rate, not the annual rate. A charge of 5 per cent a month is a true 36 per cent a year.

The higher interest rates permitted themselves are enough to make the proposed code thoroughly undesirable to working families. Interest rate and finance charges are already a serious drain, often adding an additional $300 a year burden to your families who habitually buy on credit.

You ought to be able to get several insights for your own guidance from this fact over the
# Local 1245's Annual Financial Report

## General Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash Balance December 31, 1967</td>
<td>$100,697.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts</td>
<td>$1,222,335.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursements</td>
<td>$1,211,123.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>$11,212.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cosh Balances December 31, 1967:

- **General Fund**: $98,996.35
- **Replacement Fund**: $35,197.97
- **Staff Pension Plan Fund**: $3,850.52
- **Fund for Organizing Expenses**: $818.05

### Other Assets Net of Liabilities:

- **Equity**: $220,532.63

**Note:** Exclusion of transfers between funds.

**Details of Balance-General Fund:**

- **January 1, 1967**: $100,697.12
- **December 31, 1967**: $100,697.12

### Reimbursements to General Fund:

- **Receipts held for members' credit or to be refunded**: $5,162.45
- **Members' credits applied to dues, etc.**: $2,360.51
- **Savings interest**: $683.70
- **Refunds and reimbursements**: $138,482.82
- **Staff expenses from I.O. for organizing expense**: $20,278.03
- **Other**: $3,458.55
- **Total**: $127,944.61

### General Fund Statement of Outstanding Checks:

- **Total**: $1,217,037.19
- **Total of Receipts and Balance**: $1,211,123.04

### Cash Balance December 31, 1967:

- **General Fund**: $98,996.35
- **Replacement Fund**: $35,197.97
- **Staff Pension Plan Fund**: $3,850.52
- **Fund for Organizing Expenses**: $818.05

### Details of Balance-General Fund:

- **Bank statement less outstanding checks**: $66,509.55
- **Wells Fargo Bank-commercial account**: $32,683.70
- **Deposits after close of bank statement**: $6,831.00
- **Cash on hand**: $1,421.42
- **Contingency fund**: $1,421.42
- ** Petty cash**: $1,421.42
- **Total**: $98,996.35

### Other Information:

- **Statement of Recorded Cash Receipts and Disbursements**: For the Year Ended December 31, 1968
- **Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Equity**: For the Year Ended December 31, 1968
- **Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Equity**: As at December 31, 1967

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**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**

**LOCAL NO. 1245**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1968**

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**MEREDITH & RUBIN**

2525 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, Calif. 94109
February 5, 1969

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**Utility Reporter-March, 1969-Page Four**
al Report for 1968 reprinted

Nevada Irrigation District 55.00 55.00
Sacramento Municipal Utility District 74.33 74.33
Mereg Irrigation District 250.42 250.42
CSP Redding 30.00 30.00
X-ray engineers 675.00 294.76 969.76
Panhandle gas transmission 57.94 1,386.17 1,444.11
Irrigation Line 138.32 81.21 219.53
Sacramento Transit Authority 11.20 11.20
Citizens Utilities Co. 1,799.47 1,799.47
Oroville-Wyandotte Irrigation Dist. 138.32 81.21 219.53

Supplies:
P.G.&E. Company: $1,066.30 $11,643.49 $12,709.80
S.P.P. Company: $ 5,023.20 $11,643.49 $16,666.69
Other: $ 5,023.20 $11,643.49 $16,666.69

Other Expenditures:
Legal fees $8,840.36
Audit fees $100.00
Hale rentals $11,572.34
Refunds $3,460.00
Waste & pension plans—staff & clerical $15,899.95
Group life insurance—forwarded $3,894.00
PRD service charges $10.08
Irrigation District $2,000.00
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation $31.64
City of Berkeley $4.40
City of Oakland $35.10
Advanced dues $168.16
State Compensation Insurance $6,842.69
Cal. Public Utilities Commission Hearings 9.45
Bond $137.50
Air travel accident insurance $325.00
Cancel outstanding checks drawn against Bank of America commercial account $389.88
Burglary insurance $9.00
Fire insurance—office contents $190.00
O.O. organizing—to be reimbursed $7,050.00
Transfer to Building Fund & Energy Workers Center, Inc. $47,997.00
Transfer to Fund for Organizing Expenses $1,045.64 106,777.32
Total Disbursements $1,218,737.96

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL NO. 1245 STATEMENT OF RECORDED CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1968

GENERAL FUND:
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1968

Salaries $1,066.30 $10,144.02 $11,210.32
Expenses $14,709.15 $83,606.04 $98,315.19
Total $15,775.45 $93,748.06 $109,523.51

STAFF PENSION PLAN FUND:
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1968

Salaries $1,066.30 $10,144.02 $11,210.32
Expenses $14,709.15 $83,606.04 $98,315.19
Total $15,775.45 $93,748.06 $109,523.51

REPLACEMENT FUND:
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1968

Salaries $1,066.30 $10,144.02 $11,210.32
Expenses $14,709.15 $83,606.04 $98,315.19
Total $15,775.45 $93,748.06 $109,523.51

CHRONICLED FUND:
FOR THE YEAR ENENDED DECEMBER 31, 1968

Salaries $1,066.30 $10,144.02 $11,210.32
Expenses $14,709.15 $83,606.04 $98,315.19
Total $15,775.45 $93,748.06 $109,523.51

CHRONICLED FUND:
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1968

Salaries $1,066.30 $10,144.02 $11,210.32
Expenses $14,709.15 $83,606.04 $98,315.19
Total $15,775.45 $93,748.06 $109,523.51

STAFF PENSION PLAN FUND:
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1968

Salaries $1,066.30 $10,144.02 $11,210.32
Expenses $14,709.15 $83,606.04 $98,315.19
Total $15,775.45 $93,748.06 $109,523.51

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL NO. 1245 STATEMENT OF RECORDED CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1968

EXHIBIT B

STATEMENT OF RECORDED CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1968

REPLACEMENT FUND

Cash Balance December 31, 1967 $1,422.03
Receipts:
Transfer from General Fund $2,402.00
Interest $1,465.34
Refunds on author's permits $1,460.00
Insurance recovery $99.35
Total of Receipts and Balance $7,547.53

Disbursements:
Purchase of new automobiles, cost less trade-in allowances $40,155.56
Cash Balance December 31, 1968 $35,591.97

Specific object--Ironworkers Savings Association $35,591.97

EXHIBIT C

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Cash Balance December 31, 1967 $3,964.19
Receipts:
Transfer from General Fund $2,402.00
Interest $1,465.34
Refunds on author's permits $1,460.00
Insurance recovery $99.35
Total of Receipts and Balance $7,547.53

Disbursements:
Purchase of new automobiles, cost less trade-in allowances $40,155.56
Cash Balance December 31, 1968 $3,964.19

Specific object--Ironworkers Savings Association $3,964.19

EXHIBIT D

STAFF PENSION PLAN FUND

Cash Balance December 31, 1967 $33,818.53
Receipts:
Transfer from General Fund $33,818.53
Interest $818.53
Total of Receipts and Balance $33,818.53

Disbursements:
None
Cash Balance December 31, 1968 $33,818.53

Specific object--Ironworkers Savings Association $33,818.53

Utility Reporter—March, 1969—Page Five
Labor Opposes Uniform State Credit Law

(Continued from Page 3) proposed code:

1—Shop for lowest rates on loans and installment purchases. Especially avoid the small-loan companies that charge as much as 42 per cent a year. The Federal Truth-in-Lending law will help you when it becomes effective on July 1, by showing you what the annual rates charged by various lenders and sellers are. Already Household Finance has closed up its Tennessee offices because the forthcoming requirement to show the true annual rates may have caused a conflict with that state’s legal 10 per cent interest limit, the Credit Union Magazine reports.

2—Beware deficiency judgments. If you ever find yourself unable to keep up payments, it may be better to try to find a buyer yourself. Not only do you avoid repossession fees, but you can give more attention to selling the item at the best price than even a scrupulous finance company can.

Don’t think you can clear off a debt simply by returning the merchandise. This is dangerous unless you first get a written release from any additional obligation.

If your purchase is repossessed, write to the finance company asking that it take steps to get the highest possible resale price. Or if your state requires that repossessed goods be sold at public auction if you have paid half your debt, it would be a safeguard to have a friend bid if other offers are unreasonably low.

Energy Workers Center, Inc. Gives
First Annual Financial Report

MEREDITH & RUBIN Certified Public Accountants 2225 Von Ness Avenue San Francisco, California 94109

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE I.B.E.W. LOCAL UNION 1245 ENERGY WORKERS CENTER, INC. 1218 BOULEVARD WAY WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

We have examined the Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth of the I.B.E.W. Local Union 1245 Energy Workers Center, Inc. at December 31, 1968 and the Statement of Income and Expense for the period then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and included such tests of the records and such other auditing procedures as we deemed necessary in the circumstances.

Your Corporation began operations during the quarter ended December 31, 1965. The building which was transferred to your Corporation was purchased by I.B.E.W. Local Union 1245 during June, 1968. All transactions involving the building from the date of its purchase have been included in the Statement of Income and Expense of the Energy Workers Center, Inc., even though some of the transactions were on behalf of the Building Fund of I.B.E.W. Local Union 1245. Depreciation has been computed for the fourth quarter of 1968 only.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the assets, liabilities and net worth of the I.B.E.W. Local Union 1245 Energy Workers Center, Inc. at December 31, 1968 and the income and expense for the period then ended, as described in the prior paragraph and in accordance with generally accepted auditing principles.

Respectfully submitted
MEREDITH & RUBIN


ASSETS

Cash in Bank—Commercial account $ 3,958.33
Wells Fargo Bank—commercial loan 52,000.00
Land $ 109,749.91
Building—cost 52,000.00
Building—depreciation 109,339.91
Furniture & Office Equipment—at cost 2,346.28
Carpets—cost 2,639.23
Carpets—depreciation 2,146.28
Total Assets $167,444.52

LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH

Cash contributed by I.B.E.W. Local Union 1245 $ 23,677.43
Wells Fargo Bank—building loan 70,176.55
Total Liabilities 1,582.00
Cash contributed by I.B.E.W. Local Union 1245 $ 70,818.75
Gain for period—Statement of Income and Expense (above) 1,189.79
Total Net Worth 72,008.54
Total Liabilities and Net Worth $167,444.52

IT'S KITE SEASON—Bugs Bunny's a "not-so-crazy" safety conscious rabbit in Pacific Gas and Electric Company's new kite fun booklet that's available free to young kite flyers at all PG&E offices. Here Brent Searway, Jr. and Jane Gustafson get the message on kite-building and safe kite-flying from Bugs and PG&E troubleman Patrick Feeney.

Energy Workers Center, Inc., even though some of the transac-

...
**Master Apprenticeship Agreement Signed**

The Master Apprenticeship Agreement between Local 1245 and PG&E was signed effective March 1, 1969.

If you had said twenty years ago that we would have a Master Apprenticeship Agreement by 1969, people would have said that it was impossible. The signing of this agreement proves that the "impossible" can be achieved if you have men of vision and drive leading your Union and members of the same nature to back them.

Included in the 1966 General Negotiations was a settlement between Company and Union to reach a final understanding in the area of apprenticeships.

Since that time, the committees have been meeting and the guidelines for all of the programs, with the exception of the Apprentice Cable Splicer Program, have been set and agreed upon. The Cable Splicer Program is being worked on and will be approved at a later date.

The Company will apply the provisions of automatic progression to unassigned Journeymen, effective Jan. 1, 1969, to employees who would have received progression had this agreement been in effect.

A description of the various Apprentice Programs will appear in the April issue of the Utility Reporter.

**P. G. & E. Steps Up Underground Work**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company has budgeted $8.5 million in 1969 to convert existing overhead electric distribution lines to underground on main traveled streets and civic, recreation and scenic areas within its territory.

The company announced its plans for the conversion program in a document filed with the California Public Utilities Commission.

The new figure is one half million dollars more than PG&E set aside for this work in 1968.

Amounts budgeted for each city and the unincorporated areas of the 47 counties served with electricity by PG&E are included in the document. Each community and county will be informed by the local PG&E office of the amount set aside for conversion work in its area. The distribution of the total sum budgeted is determined by the number of PG&E electric customers in each locality in relation to the total number of the company's electric customers.

The Commission authorized the essential features of a proposal by PG&E for a uniform, system-wide undergrounding program in September, 1967. At present 129 of 198 incorporated cities and 25 of the 47 counties in the company's electric service area have enacted ordinances to establish underground districts.

In addition to the $8.5 million budgeted for 1969 PG&E will re-budget all of the amounts budgeted for the communities in 1968 that have not yet been invested in conversion work.

In undergrounding for new developments, PG&E arranged with subdividees during the first half of 1968 for the installation of underground electric facilities to serve about 85 per cent of the new single-family homes and about 90 per cent of the new multi-dwelling units scheduled for construction in the company's service territory.

Nationally, only about 25 per cent of the new homes to be constructed in 1968 will have underground electric service, according to a national committee report.

Efforts made by PG&E during the past eight years have reduced the extra cost of undergrounding to the developer from $600 to approximately $110 per lot on the average in new subdivisions.

A proposal by PG&E for a further reduction in the charge for underground installation and service in new residential areas is pending before the CPUC.
Safety Awards Received

Thirty-eight of our members, who are Sub-foremen or Light Crew Foreman in the San Jose Division, received Safety Awards from PG&E Safety Committee.

None of their crew suffered an industrial injury requiring medical attention or was involved in an avoidable automotive accident throughout the year.

The Sub-foremen received a decal as a token of appreciation and recognition by the Company. The decal is to be attached to the nameplate of their trucks.

The following members received the award:

**CREW FOREMEN RECEIVING AWARDS FOR 1968**

**CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**GAS**
- John Christmon
- Joseph Silva

**ELECTRIC**
- Guido Panighetti
- Robert W. Gorini
- Irwin H. Martin
- Edward C. Tradler
- Patsy I. Phay
- Frank E. Caayo
- Bernard J. Gaffney
- Albert J. Miller
- Frank R. Bledsoe

**PENINSULA DISTRICT**

**GAS**
- Jerry Cole
- Robert Parsons
- Antonio Cardon

**ELECTRIC**
- Morris Champion
- William Fasshauser
- Frank Ferrario
- Roland Fields
- Victor Mazz
- Edward Pohley
- Michael Thompson
- David Wright
- Bruno Ricci

**COAST DISTRICT**

**GAS**
- Richard W. Kealm

**ELECTRIC**
- Knowlton Shore
- Vernon Friddle
- Russell Bassinger
- Roy Castiglioni
- Roy Tolbert
- Eugene Smith

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The National Accident Fatality Toll

Deaths increased in the 5-14 and 15-24 year age groups; no change in the 75-years-and-over age group, occurred in the other age groups. There were increases in fires, burns, drownings and falls, a decrease in railroad deaths; no change in water transport, air transport and firearms fatalities.

**Railroad Accidents**

Yearly totals are not available, but in the first six months of 1968, the Federal Railroad Administration reported 683 highway grade crossing fatalities, compared with 802 during the same months of 1967. Reports from state motor vehicle departments indicated there were 1,420 deaths associated with about 1,600 in the previous year.

**Airplane Accidents**

Fatal accidents during 1968 in the domestic passenger-carrying operations of scheduled air carriers claimed the lives of 358 passengers and 24 crew members. The passenger death rate per 100,000 passenger miles, based on preliminary information, was 6.0.

**Home Accidents**

Killed — 28,000, down 500 from 1967.
Injured — 4,200,000.
Cost — $1,500,000,000.

Deaths decreased in the 0-4, and 75-years-and-over age groups; increases occurred in the other age groups except for the 65-74 year age group which showed no change.

There were decreases in deaths from falls, mechanical suffocation, and poisoning by solids and liquids; an increase in fires, burns; no change in poisoning by gas and firearms.

**Fire Losses**

The value of property destroyed by fires in 1968 was $1,829,000,000, or 7 per cent more than in 1967.

Accidental deaths are classified on the basis of an international standard, titled “The International List of Diseases and Causes of Death.” An Eighth Revision of this standard, which became effective in 1968, has a number of important changes which will affect the way accidental deaths are counted.

It is too early to tell how much these changes will affect the totals, but the overall change will be down. The figures in this report are based on information reported to the Council by state agencies, some of which have changed over to the Eighth Revision of the standard and some of which still reported on the Seventh Revision. Therefore, it is believed that the figures shown are somewhat higher than they will be when the official count is released by the National Center for Health Statistics in 1970.

**EDITOR’S NOTE**: Everybody involved in the above statistics used to think that it couldn’t happen to them. If you don’t think safety, live safety, and work safety, you’re liable to be one of next year’s statistics.