

# Wage Negotiations Between Local 1245 and P.G.&E. in Progress

The following information on the wage negotiations between Local 1245 and P.G.&E. is a duplication of Negotiating Bulletin No. 2 which has been posted on the bulletin boards. Many of our members have not seen the posting and are entitled to know what's going on. At press time, there have been no meetings since May 13, but there was a meeting scheduled for May 27.

The Executive Board, after hearing the recommendations of the Negotiating Committee, determines when it's time for the proposal to be submitted to the membership for a vote. When this time arrives, we encourage you to exercise your right and privilege as a member of Local 1245 and vote. We ask you to weigh the information of the negotiating committee and the Executive Board very carefully and then cast your vote.

Local Union 1245 and Pacific Gas and Electric Company Bargaining Committees met on Thursday, May 8, and Tuesday, May 13, to continue negotiations on the 1969 wage question.

Both parties set forth economic arguments in support of their separate positions. Union contended that the cost of living, including taxes, has risen so rapidly that the employee's actual spendable earnings are not reflecting any real consideration for increased productivity or for an "annual improvement factor," designed to raise the

general standard of living for all PG&E employees.

Company contended that its wage structure has more than kept pace with the rises in the cost of living, that it is well up near the top of the range of comparable utility rates and that the Company's costs have also risen rapidly due to inflation. Differences arose over which expenditures paid by the employee should properly be weighed-in with the cost of living figures to show the employees' net spendable earnings picture.

Company contended that the reductions in employees' pension premiums and the rise in Company contributions to hospital and medical premiums should be taken into account concerning the availability of spendable earnings. Union countered that most such plans are now fully paid by most other employers and should not therefore be discounted from the 1969 general wage increase.

The basic arguments over the wage issue have now been set forth by the parties. The parties recessed meetings between May 13 and May 27 in order to give each side adequate time to evaluate and analyze the opposing data and arguments set forth in the two previous meetings. It is expected that the next meeting, to be held on Tuesday, May 27, will provide tangible discussion over the amount of the wage increase to be negotiated as a tentative settlement of the current negotiations.

## YOUR *Business Manager's* COLUMN

### "New Left Movement" Plans "Summer Work-In"

By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

There is some noise around that certain elements in the "new left movement" are going to attempt to infiltrate the ranks of U. S. workers through a "Summer Work-In" program this year.

Our information reveals that a detailed step-by-step plan has been developed which sets forth the objectives of the program; how to find job openings, what jobs to seek, how to get a job and what to do when on a job.

The general idea is to establish communications between "activist

student groups" and workers to form possible future alliances through "identity of interests," etc.

One of the problems here, it seems to me, is to find any appreciable number of "activist students" who can mix their militant organizing zeal with muscular production in a manner which will develop "lasting alliances" between students and workers directed toward the cause of busting up "the establishment" and substituting some vague arrangement in its place.

We are not too much concerned about all of this because we know that the great majority of those kids who will go to work for employers in our jurisdiction this summer, will do so for the usual reasons, i.e., to earn some money and to learn how to do the job.

It is interesting to note that the electrical manufacturing and utility industries were suggested as prime sources of the kind of place of employment best suited to the mechanics of the "Summer Work-In" program.

We hope that our employers do not become overly-exercised regarding this thing because some good kids may lose employment opportunities this summer if some "front office G-men recruiters" get carried away with their grilling techniques and shoot down said

(Continued on Page 2)



# utility reporter

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Arthur Gorman, left, is shown receiving his 65 year pin from Ron Fields, president of Local 1245 of the I.B.E.W. Brother Gorman is 89 years young and still going strong.

Arthur Gorman received his 65-year pin at the Executive Board-Advisory Council meeting of Local 1245, I.B.E.W., on May 3, 1969. The meeting was held in Concord, California.

Brother Gorman was born in Ontario, Canada, on July 18, 1880. He was one of 13 children in the Gorman family. His family moved to Michigan in April of 1881. Art and four of his brothers eventually became linemen, so you can see that the Gormans raised quite a healthy breed of boys.

Art and one of his brothers was sworn into Local 335 of the I.B.E.W. in Missouri in February of 1902. Brother Gorman worked in many parts of the United States and Canada during his career as a lineman, but the largest percentage of his working life was spent in the Alameda and Oakland area in California. He has lived in Alameda since 1935 and doesn't plan on pulling up stakes in the near future.

As you can well imagine, Art has many interesting stories to tell about his work history. He was in charge of a crew doing some of the electrical work on the Bay Bridge when it was being built. He also did some of the electrical work in one of Henry Kaiser's ship yards and he tells of the morning that Kaiser came up to him and said: "I don't know one end of a ship from the other, but I can sure build them."

Art retired on October 1, 1945, and since that time he has been enjoying his retirement. Every time Art receives a 5-year anniversary pin from the I.B.E.W. he tells us that he will see us in five years for the next one. This time was no exception as he announced that he would see us in 1972 for his 70-year pin and there is no doubt in my mind that he will be there.

Brother Gorman is very proud of the fact that he is a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. We in the Brotherhood are proud of the fact that he has been a member for over 65 years and we salute him for his service to our organization.

## Taxation with Little Representation

Tax reform is a subject which is in the minds of most Americans today. Why is this? Because the tax bite is starting to hurt and hurt bad. The American working man is hard pressed to pay his bills and live comfortably, despite receiving wage increases which his Union has fought hard for at the bargaining table. The cost of living has increased at such a rapid rate that there is no appreciable improvement in his "real income."

If you read the newspapers and listen to the propaganda of "Big Business" you're told that "the Unions are to blame." I say hogwash! If the only reason prices are being raised is to cover "labor costs," why then are

(Continued on Page 3)

Please send any corrections of name, address or zip code to P.O. Box 584 Walnut Creek, Calif. 94597

(Name)

(Street Address)

(City)

(State and Zip Code)

## What's Right About Today?

Pick up a newspaper, turn on the TV, listen to the radio, get involved in a conversation and you mostly hear, see, read or talk about what's wrong in the world today. News about murder, war, sit-ins, student strikes, racial prejudice, legitimate and illegitimate white back-lash, high crime rates, drug addiction, problems at work, problems at home, alcoholism, unfair taxation, et cetera, permeates the negative world we seem to be living in today.

Air pollution and water pollution are two of the major problems that our Nation is faced with today. These are minor issues when compared with mind pollution. Until we solve the problem of mind pollution, these other issues will remain unsolved.

Mind pollution is spreading through our country like terminal cancer and we will die a slow and painful death unless we take some sort of antidote.

What is mind pollution? In a word, it's negativism. Pick something apart and look for a flaw and the chances are very good that you will find one. This is normally a healthy activity unless you get carried away with it. If you start looking for just the faults of something, it won't be long before that's all you will see.

I'm not inferring that we should accept or be satisfied with the "status quo." On the contrary, I think it's healthy to find fault with something if you can offer constructive criticism which will lead to something better.

Suppose we were to declare June 5 as "Look for something good in everything and everybody day." I believe that most of us would be in for a refreshing experience. If we can forget for just a moment all of the problems that we face in this day and age and search for the positive aspects of life, we might get that "breath of fresh air" or "shot of adrenalin" or "new outlook on life" that is necessary to face and cope with the challenges of tomorrow.

Sounds a bit trite and corny doesn't it? Well, a little triteness and corn never hurt anybody.

The next time you overhear or become involved in a conversation, listen for the positive aspects. If you hear none, interject a few and see what happens.

It's time for all Americans to re-assess their position on today's problems. Each of us can help solve them if we emphasize "What's Right About Today."

Editor



### EAST BAY SHOP STEWARDS MEET

The above picture shows a general view of the Shop Stewards from the East Bay area. The meeting was held in Walnut Creek on April 21, 1969.

Many items of interest were discussed. Among these items was a presentation by John J. Wilder, Assistant Business Manager, on the function of the Review Committee. L. L. Mitchell, Senior Assistant Business Manager, spoke on the Apprentice Program and the then forthcoming wage negotiations.



### the utility reporter

Telephone (415) 933-6060



RONALD T. WEAKLEY . . . . .	Executive Editor
KENNETH O. LOHRE . . . . .	Managing Editor
L. L. MITCHELL . . . . .	Assistant Editor
M. A. WALTERS . . . . .	Assistant Editor
JOHN J. WILDER . . . . .	Assistant Editor

Executive Board: Roland W. (Ron) Fields, Leland Thomas Jr., Andrew A. Clayton, Herbert E. Dickenson, Anthony Boker, James M. Lydon, James H. Fountain.

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## MOST STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE AND CONCERNED ABOUT OUR COUNTRY

*With all the talk and adverse publicity about college student irresponsibility and unrest, demonstrations and so on, the responsible and admirable students are overlooked and even ignored. Yet the great majority of students are in the latter category—serious, responsible and certainly admirable.*

*The current Drexel Technical Journal, a student-produced quarterly publication of the Drexel Institute of Technology, clearly shows the concern of engineering students about the state of mankind and the attention of a student body to the world outside its academic halls. The editorial, in the current issue, speaks for itself.*

### MAN AND HIS MACHINES

*Automation, a relatively recent development in our nation's economic history, has, since its inception, become a serious problem for labor forces. When automation first started to displace workers from their jobs, many people failed to realize how potentially detrimental this adverse effect could be. Our nation's economic leaders contended that automation would provide its own solution to the labor problems it created. By increasing productivity, automation would boost the nation's economy and consequently create more jobs.*

*To some degree, automation has achieved its projected absorption of displaced workers. However, this relocation of displaced workers has not been able to keep pace with the rate of jobs being eliminated by our ever advancing technology. Recent studies have shown that in the United States alone automation is responsible for the elimination of approximately forty thousand jobs a week or over two million jobs a year. With our growing technology, these figures continue to increase and our national unemployment continues to multiply.*

*Fields such as the Service Industries, which have thus far absorbed a large portion of the displaced workers, have more than doubled their size in the past twenty years and are now becoming flooded with excess personnel. Displaced workers are quickly running out of fields in which to seek work and the inevitable upgrading of the overall labor force is not helping the situation.*

*By now, it should be clear to one and all that automation has displaced, is now displacing and will continue to displace men from their jobs. And, it is becoming increasingly difficult for these displaced laborers to find new jobs. We can no longer take it for granted that automation will create new jobs and consequently balance the employment situation. We face a rapidly growing and very serious unemployment problem and our advancing technology has created this problem. We, as the technological leaders of tomorrow, have an obligation to society to find some means of controlling the monster we have created. Procrastination and apathy will not save our economic system—only action will help!*

M.M.M.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is from the April issue of Technician Engineer, I.B.E.W.

## YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN

### "New Left Movement" Plan "Summer Work-In"

By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

(Continued from Page 1)

good kids because they may not come up with all the "right answers" during their interviews.

So far as our Local Union is concerned, we do not take kindly to the idiotic suggestion that our members are supposed to be a bunch of docile dummies who, as "captives of the establishment," need to be "liberated" by a bunch of "Summer Work-In" kooks.

Further, we don't need to be told what's wrong with "the establishment." Practically all of our union's working time and resources are expended in opposing and correcting the abuses perpetrated by "the establishment" on our members and the general public of which they are a respectable part.

We work with students all the time—good students, that is. We also try our best to help the summer work programs while at the same time, keeping in mind that our first and proper organizational responsibility is to our family wage earner members.

Should any "activist students" wish to do so, we can arrange for them to attend certain of our meetings in order to give them a forum to offer their points of view. We won't deny them their right to speak by heckling them, shouting them down, physically attacking them or otherwise emulating what

they do when speakers of opposite views are standing before them.

If such types show up on the job and actively pursue the purposes and programs of their "Summer Work-In" thing, they will enjoy a much less than hospitable reception—that's for sure.

As Union members and citizens, we have enough troubles these days without being bugged by any "new left activists" whose negative destructive approaches to needed National reforms are resulting in giving aid and comfort to the "extreme right activists" who couldn't develop any more effective supporters if they paid them salaries. (There is some reason to suspect that perhaps they do.)

As I have stated in the past, our Union's membership is in the process of change, age-wise, and we shall have plenty of responsible young people who will develop "identity of interests" with the "over-30" members, through the internal democratic and progressive procedures found in the structure and operation of Local 1245.

Our basic policy regarding extremism in any form, be it from the right or the left, is that we shall not be pushed or pulled by such elements for any reason so long as we have the capability and common sense to withstand such attacks.

# Taxation and Representation

(Continued from Page 1)

we hearing reports of the highest percentage of profits ever recorded by most businesses?

The voice of big business, The Wall Street Journal, recently admitted that while wages are lowest in non-unionized areas, "the biggest price increases are coming where unions are weak or where labor costs are not even a major consideration."

News about profits does not hit the front pages. Sensational reports of strikes and large settlements by Unions which will "raise the cost of living," doesn't leave enough room.

The average citizen is starting to squawk, so the politicians are making all sorts of noises about tax reform to keep their constituents pacified. Many of the political representatives at the State and Federal level are making honest attempts at introducing real tax reform measures which would reduce or eliminate the inequities that exist in the present tax program, but it still appears that, "Them what has will still get," and the rest of us will continue to pay.

We shouldn't be satisfied with a slice of bread when we can have the whole loaf. The citizenry has become aroused and it must stay that way until all of the loopholes have been closed.

President Nixon recently made public his tax plan and we must give him credit for including a call to repeal the 7% investment credit to business on new plant and equipment. This is a significant step in the right direction and it points out an awareness of the tax loopholes that Labor has been pointing out for years and also a need to close the loopholes and provide the working man some relief from the heavy tax burden that he has been carrying for years.

What can and has to be done to bring about the needed changes in the present tax structure? A contact must be made with your representatives in Congress. We know that you have heard this "old bit" before and that you have good intentions of writing to your Congressman but somehow most of you just don't seem to have time.

Ron Weakley, Business Manager of Local 1245, under the charge of the Bylaws of our Union, has taken the time to write to certain key Congressmen and Senators and except for Senator George Murphy of California and Senator Howard Cannon of Nevada, all of them have taken the time to give Bus. Mgr. Weakley a reply.

Copies of Ron Weakley's letter and replies are reprinted in the space below. It was sent to Representative Wilbur Mills, Chairman, and to all California members of the House Ways and Means Committee, as well as to four U.S. Senators.

March 4, 1969

Congressman Wilbur D. Mills, Chairman  
House Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20025

Dear Congressman Mills:

A large percentage of the 12,000 members of Local Union 1245, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers are deeply disturbed by the reports of affluent individuals escaping their fair share of Federal taxes through the various loopholes found in our Nation's tax laws. They are concerned over the excessive Federal tax losses and the resultant transfer of the tax burden to individuals in the low and middle income brackets, that is, to the working men and women of America.

Because of the ever increasing tax burden they must bear, these working men and women are now demanding meaningful reforms in our Nation's tax laws. Reforms which will: (1) close the loopholes benefiting only the more affluent members of our society and (2) ease the tax burden on those less able to pay. To this end we recommend for your consideration and support, the provisions of H.R. 50, H.R. 147 and H.R. 3700 to ease the tax burden on those less able to pay the ever increasing tax assessments.

Very truly yours,  
RONALD T. WEAKLEY  
Business Manager

RTW/gb

bcc: Recording Secretary  
Unit Recorder—Unit 1111 Fresno  
Same letter to: Senator George Murphy  
Senator Alan Cranston  
Senator Alan Bible  
Senator Howard W. Cannon  
Congressman James Corman  
Congressman James Utt

March 11, 1969

Mr. Ronald T. Weakley  
Business Manager  
IBEW Local 1245  
Box 584, Walnut Creek,  
California 94597

Dear Mr. Weakley:

Thank you very much for your letter concerning tax reform proposals now before the House Ways and Means Committee.

I am strongly in favor of the enactment of these proposals, and will extend every effort in this regard.

I appreciate your interest and comments.

Sincerely,  
JAMES C. CORMAN  
Member of Congress

JCC/cj

April 14, 1969

Mr. Ronald T. Weakley  
Business Manager  
IBEW Local 1245  
Box 584  
Walnut Creek, California 94597

Dear Mr. Weakley:

Thank you for sharing your interesting views on tax reform with me. I'm convinced that we need a comprehensive reform of national, state and local tax systems to eliminate the very real inequities of our present systems. These inequities do place an unfair burden on many middle and lower income Americans and their families.

Since tax legislation originates in the House of Representatives and must first pass that body, you may wish to also advise your Congressman of your views.

I will support tax reform measures in the Senate, and I'm grateful for your interest in this vital matter.

Sincerely,  
ALAN CRANSTON

March 26, 1969

Mr. Ronald T. Weakley  
Business Manager  
IBEW Local 1245  
Box 584  
Walnut Creek, California 94597

Thank you for your recent letter expressing the concern of your membership over the inequities that result from present loopholes in the tax laws.

As I am sure you know, in-depth hearings have been undertaken by the House Ways and Means Committee on a number of tax reform proposals designed to eliminate loopholes and promote equity in the tax structure. I share your members' concern in this area, and am following developments closely.

You can be sure that your views will have my very careful attention when H.R. 50, H.R. 147, H.R. 3700 and other tax reform proposals come before the Senate for consideration.

Cordially,  
ALAN BIBLE

Mr. Ronald T. Weakley  
Business Manager  
International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers  
Box 584  
Walnut Creek, California 94597

Dear Mr. Weakley:

I have your letter of March 4th. On the 18th of February, the Ways and Means Committee started hearings on the subject of tax reforms. These hearings are to encompass the entire subject of the tax structure and it is anticipated that they will continue for at least one year. I believe you will find of interest the enclosed copy of my Washington Report, in which I discuss this in detail.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,  
JAMES B. UTT  
Member of Congress

JBU:F5

A bloc of over 12,000 voters has great appeal and power over most politicians and our demands for tax relief will not go unnoticed. You can and should further implement this power with an individual letter to the right people, but if you don't, at least you know that your Union is on the job for you.

Editor

## The Free Rider's Psalm

The dues paying member is my shepherd,  
I shall not want.  
He provideth me with rest days and vacations,  
So that I may lie down in green pastures  
Beside the still waters.

He restoreth my back pay.  
He guideth my welfare, without cost to me.  
I stray in the paths of the non-righteous,  
For my money's sake.

Yea, though I alibi and pay no dues  
From generation to generation,  
I fear no evil, for he protects me.

The working conditions which he provides,  
They comfort me.

He anointeth my head with oil of seniority,  
The eight hour day, the vacation agreement  
And the forty-hour week.

And my cup runneth over with ingratitude.

Surely his goodness and loving kindness  
Shall follow me all the days of my life

Without cost to me.  
I shall dwell in his house forever  
And allow him to pay the bill.

# Local 1245's Advisory Council Se



The Negotiating Committee for wage bargaining with PG&E was introduced to the Advisory Council on the 2nd of May. Standing from left to right, the members of the committee are: Howard Darington, IV, Ed Horn, Jim Kuhn, Dick Fleming, alternate, Ray Smith and Harry Welton.

## Advisory Council—Function and Purpose

The Advisory Council is an important part of the make-up of Local 1245. The purpose of this group is defined in Article V, Section 6 of the By-laws of Local 1245. It reads as follows: "The purpose of this Council shall be to meet and discuss the business of the Local Union, and to inform the Local Union Executive Board and Business Manager of the business being carried on by the Units.

"This Council may make recommendations to The Executive Board on policy or other matters related to the functions of the Local Union. The Local Union Executive Board shall advise the Advisory Council of the action taken or progress made on such recommendations. These Advisory Council functions shall in no way conflict with authority of the Executive Board or the Business Manager."

The Council also serves as a "check and balance system" when a Unit recommendation has been voted non-concurrence by the Board. The Unit has the right to refer the recommendation to the Advisory Council for their consideration. The Council then hears the recommendation and takes a vote as to whether or not they support the action of the Board. If the Council were to vote against the action of the Board, the Unit recommendation would be submitted to the general membership for a vote. This democratic system does not exist in all Unions and we believe that this is an important outlet for the membership.

All Advisory Council members or alternates give a report of the activities, safety problems, political climate and general attitude of the membership.

The Council member reports the accomplishments and problems of Local 1245 back to the membership at the Unit meetings.

The Advisory Council meets four times a year for the above stated purposes. Due to resignations, changes of locations and the like, the up-to-date list of Advisory Council members is listed below.

### LOCAL 1245'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

#### SAN JOAQUIN DIVISION

Albert G. Callahan

#### COAST VALLEYS DIVISION

Royce R. Herrier

#### PIPE LINE OPERATIONS

John M. Burnett

#### SAN JOSE DIVISION &

CITY OF SANTA CLARA

Percy R. Rome

#### ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA

TRANSIT DISTRICT AND

EAST BAY MUNICIPALITIES

Donald D. Phillips

#### EAST BAY & MATERIAL CONTROL

DIVISIONS

Cyril P. Henneberry

#### SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION &

GENERAL OFFICE DEPARTMENT

Sylvester S. Cruz, Sr.

#### STOCKTON DIVISION &

CITY OF LODI

James A. Coe

#### TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF THE

CITY OF SACRAMENTO

Wilfred Nunez

#### PACIFIC GAS TRANSMISSION

COMPANY

Paul E. Felkins

#### HUMBOLDT DIVISION

Howard J. Darington, IV

#### SHASTA DIVISION

Terrance L. Scott

#### SIERRA PACIFIC POWER COMPANY

Jerry G. Norlen

#### DE SABLE DIVISION

Orphie Pierson

#### DRUM DIVISION

Stanley P. Justis

#### COLGATE DIVISION

Ronald J. Livengood

#### NORTH BAY DIVISION

Raymond J. Smith

#### SACRAMENTO DIVISION

Jesse K. Tackett, Jr.

#### SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY

DISTRICT

Ronald M. Vierra

#### UNITED STATES BUREAU OF

RECLAMATION, REGION II

Carl H. Cook

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES

Charles T. Tallon

#### CITIZENS UTILITIES COMPANY

OF CALIFORNIA

Bernie R. Cook

#### PG&E GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

Dale H. Bassett

#### TREE TRIMMERS

Irving Gene Bingham

#### IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

Leland B. Kline

#### PG&E CLERICAL-AT-LARGE

Thomas R. Fleming

#### PG&E SAN FRANCISCO ELECTRONIC

DATA PROCESSING CENTER

Charles Eldred



Russell Fox, standing, is shown commenting on the wage negotiations policy which was discussed at the Council meeting. Russ is an alternate for Advisory Council member Albert Callahan from San Joaquin Division.



Cyril (Red) Henneberry, standing, is shown addressing the Council on his views of the policy for wage negotiations. "Red" is the Advisory Council member from the East Bay area.

# *erves as Voice of the Membership*



Left, Andrew A. Clayton, Recording Secretary of Local 1245, is reading the minutes of the last Advisory Council meeting. Roland "Ron" Fields, President of the Local, presides over all of the Advisory Council meetings.



Ron Weakley, Business Manager of Local 1245, is shown reporting various points of interest to the members of our Local.



The above picture gives a partial view of the Advisory Council members and Staff of Local 1245. The Advisory Council is elected by the membership for a term of 3 years.



Lucky Eldred, standing, is shown making some comments on the wage policy for the negotiations with PG&E.



Royce Herrier, Advisory Council member from Coast Valleys, is shown giving the report of the activities in his area.



The above picture shows Dave Reese, Bus. Rep., left, and Jack McNally, Bus. Rep., right, descending a pole after giving a demonstration on pole top rescue. The observers are members from Concord Cable TV.

## We Get Letters

Rt. 1 Box 497B  
Woodburn, Ore.  
April 7, 1969

Local 1245 Brothers:

Please allow me to say a word of thanx for your great work in obtaining for us ex-P.G.&E.'s an adjustment in our pensions. It was a pleasant surprise and kind of nice to think that even after you're gone, there are some great guys who go to bat for you.

Once more thanks and good luck and best wishes

from  
GEORGE S. WARLAND  
Ex-East Bay Division

April 17, 1969

Mr. George S. Warland  
Route 1, Box 497B  
Woodburn, Oregon 97071  
Dear George:

Thank you for your nice letter of April 7th. It is a source of great satisfaction for myself and my fellow Union leaders to be able to serve our retired members who helped organize and build Local 1245.

We hope you are enjoying your retirement in Oregon and we hope that the improvements negotiated in your behalf will help ease the economic problems faced by you and others whose fixed retirement incomes are being eroded by inflation.

Having concluded our bargaining on the PG&E Pension and Insurance Plans, we shall now press for improvements in the Social Security system through support of Labor's efforts in Congress this year.

Best Wishes,  
RONALD T. WEAKLEY  
Business Manager

Porterville, Calif.  
April 29, 1969

L.U. 1245 I.B.E.W.  
Dear Brothers,

After having read our B.M. letter in Journal. I must confess I am one of 12,000 members who have not been heard from for some time.

You know when a fellow retires he just slows down a little each year. So after nearly 10 years I am getting pretty slow.

I do want to thank the local for the 20 percent increase in my P.G.&E. Co. pension. It is a nice feeling to belong to a Local such as 1245 which continues to negotiate for old fellows who are retired.

I wish you the best of success in the future in organizing the ones who do not carry a card and their share of the load, and all future negotiations.

Yours sincerely,  
G. E. SHACKLEFORD  
Card No. 269015

Portland, Ore.  
May 9, 1969

1776 Keesling Ave.  
San Jose, Calif.  
May 12, 1969

Mr. Ronald T. Weakley  
Box 584  
Walnut Creek, Calif.  
Dear Mr. Weakley:

In behalf of myself and the P.G.&E. Retirees Club, San Jose Division, I want to extend to you and your hard working committee our appreciation and gratitude for obtaining an adjustment in our Company pension during the recent negotiations with P.G.&E. This increase will certainly help in offsetting in part the ever increasing cost of living which has been and still is making it very difficult for people on medium fixed incomes to meet necessary expenses.

I am sure all retired P.G.&E. employees through the system are grateful to the union for the effort exerted in their behalf.

Again, thanking you very much, I am,

Sincerely,  
ROBERT A. MYATT  
Sec'y-Treas.  
P.G.&E. Retirees Club  
San Jose Division  
(I.B.E.W. withdrawal  
card No. 328107)

May 15, 1969

Mr. Robert A. Myatt, Secretary-Treasurer  
PG&E Retirees Club, San Jose Division  
1776 Keesling Avenue  
San Jose, California 95125  
Dear Sir and Brother:

Your letter of May 12 was received and very much appreciated. Copies will be sent to my fellow Committeemen in order that they too will be able to note that our highly respected, retired members have not forgotten the value of organization as witnessed by the results of our long and fruitful pension and benefit negotiations.

Clubs such as yours provide a valuable back-up for Local 1245's efforts in behalf of its retired members.

We wish we could have done more than we did for all of our people, particularly those who must meet rising living expenses with fixed incomes. We never forget that the monetary and personal support of those who organized and helped build our Union over the past years has been, in large part, responsible for the great strides we have made since we first banded together for mutual protection and advancement over a quarter-century ago.

Business Representative Orville Owen will deliver this note to you in person and bring to you and your fellow Club members my personal best wishes and those of my fellow Officers and Committeemen.

All of our retired members are always welcome to attend our Unit Meetings to keep in touch with our active members. We also stand ready to provide any assistance or services to our retired members within our capabilities.

Good luck and good health to you and to all of our retired friends in San Jose Division.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
RONALD T. WEAKLEY  
Business Manager

RTW/gb



Four twenty-year anniversary pins were received at a recent San Jose Area - General Construction Unit meeting. Pictured above from left to right are: Mariano Soberanes, Tony Boker, Executive Board Member at-large, Clifton Oliver, Dale Bassett, Unit Chairman, Herschel Beckham, and Earl Lovett.

# WHERE INFLATION HURTS

By **SIDNEY MARGOLIUS**  
Consumer Expert for  
Utility Reporter

Working families are becoming bitter and disturbed about the inflationary squeeze that has hit a new high this spring. Letters to this column show noticeable anger over prices and taxes.

What bothers people most? Food prices. Letter after letter cites the difficulties of feeding a family adequately on modest budgets at today's cost. Much of the bitterness is directed at supermarkets for obvious juggling of prices in a pretense that good buys are still available.

Soaring tags on homes and the new high mortgage rates of 7-8 per cent are other recurring complaints. So are taxes, as families find themselves squeezed between rising prices and the combination of federal income surtax and rising local sales and property taxes. A movement even is under way to send tea bags to Congressmen in a modern version of the Boston Tea Party which protested taxes in colonial days.

**PORK AND EGGS:** "My hard-working husband makes an honest \$3.30 an hour and we are a family of four, but let me tell you what it really is like to live on \$6500 a year," one angry wife writes. "Papa hasn't had a new suit in seven years, and I haven't had a new coat in 16 years. Meat is a luxury. Pork is still reasonable? How much pork can you eat, and we are sick of eggs."

Unfortunately, the worst is still ahead. This is going to be a

summer of terribly high food prices. Usually food prices go down a little in March and go up in the summer. But this year food prices jumped in March. This is a clear warning of extraordinary price jumps in store.

Don't knock pork and eggs. This summer you're going to wish you could afford pork. Eggs will be higher, too, but still one of the best protein buys, and useful for stretching expensive meat.

But the real solution will have to come, not from combining eggs and meat, but from Congress. U. S. Rep. Leonor Sullivan of Missouri, one of the most determined consumer spokesmen, has warned that if inflation continues unchecked Congress will not tolerate further inaction by the Administration. Rep. Henry Reuss of Wisconsin especially has criticized the Agriculture Department policy of subsidizing corporate farms not to grow crops, as contributing to the rise in food prices.

**ADS RAISE COSTS:** Ronald Rapp, a retired labor representative, writes that he now has found that there is more to shopping than putting cans and boxes into a cart. Now that he often helps his wife shop, he has found "many discrepancies in prices" in the supermarkets including inordinately high charges for small cans and packages and for highly-advertised products.

He has found stores' own brands cheaper and usually packed by the same companies that process the advertised brands.

"The big packers spend fortunes for ads in magazines, newspapers, radio and television which adds to the cost of every can or box," he points out. "A good example is the latest soap ads with Eddie Albert on one and Arthur Godfrey on another, selling products about which they know nothing. The most idiotic commercial was the girl in an airplane throwing Salvo into a washing machine. I believe Procter & Gamble have come up with a 'better' washing powder at least every two years. My wife fell for the 'Fantastic' ads only to find out the fantastic thing was it would do none of the things shown on TV."

**TAX PROTESTS:** There are many protests over present high taxes and the loopholes which permit many wealthy people to pay low or even no taxes. Fred Schoer is especially bitter about the high levy on single persons—"those of us on our own and living away from home." On earnings of \$8300 he paid \$1500 in taxes last year.

It is true that rates are higher for single taxpayers. This young man fortunately has an income a little above average. But many single people find that taxes now are their largest expense item. While married couples do get a lower rate by filing a joint return, they also feel the present tax bite keenly. The dependency exemption has not been increased from the present \$600 in many years, while the cost of maintaining a child has risen to about \$1000. This is why labor representatives are urging that the exemption be raised to \$1000.

Another recommendation that



would help single and moderate-income taxpayers especially, is the AFL-CIO proposal to increase the minimum standard deduction to \$700 for a single person. If the exemption remains at \$600, this would give the single worker the first \$1300 tax free, instead of \$900 as now. If the exemption is raised to \$1000, the single taxpayer would have the first \$1700 tax free.

The two proposals would also help families with children. The loss of income to the government from increasing exemptions and minimum deduction would be made up by closing some of the most glaring loopholes for wealthy taxpayers. These include the 7 per cent tax credit for businessmen buying new equipment; the oil and mineral depletion allowances; the present full tax exemption on income from state and municipal bonds; the lower rate on capital gains such as stockmarket profits, and the special deductions for real estate and sideline farming and livestock investments by non-farmers.

So if you send a tea bag to your Congressman, also tell him your proposals for tax reform. Incidentally, business-writer Elmer Roessner, an economical backer of tax reform, suggests drying out a used tea bag and sending that.

## MAY BUYING CALENDAR: CAR OPERATION COSTS ZOOM

By Sidney Margolius

Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

Be careful in the use and care of your car this spring. Virtually all car operating costs are rising, led by the recent nationwide hikes in gas prices, and higher tags on tires. These actually have gone up in price seven months in a row, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports.

Repair costs are rising too, with the auto industry coming under increasing fire for cheap production practices that add to your service bills. In the latest blast, a conference of AAA clubs charged that low-grade insulation used on auto ignition systems is responsible for millions of vehicle breakdowns in wet weather. Better-quality insulation is available which with better placement and protection of ignition components could prevent many ignition failures due to wet wires.

Manufacturers tend to blame ignition problems on inadequate maintenance by car owners. But the car makers have the technical know-how to produce ignition systems that would resist deterioration and moisture, Robert Kretschmar, an AAA official, reports.

Here are tips on holding down car operating costs, and on buying opportunities:

**GASOLINE:** After all the revelations of rigging and deception in oil-company "giveaway" games, only the most compulsive gambler, anxious for action anywhere, would continue to buy gas on the basis of such "contests."

The surest way to win, or at least to restrain your rising costs in the face of this year's big price boost, is to buy the lowest-price gas that suits your engine requirements, so there is no ping or knock on acceleration. Most private-brand gasolines are close to the advertised brands in octane rating for the same grades—regular vs. regular, and premium vs. premium.

Nor does the average car on the road really need premium or high-test gas. As we have previously pointed out, the rating of both grades has been increased each year, with slightly greater increases in the regular, so that regular is now the equivalent of premium gas back in the 1950's. Unless your engine has a very high compression ratio, such as more than 9 to 1, premium gas provides no actual benefit for its higher price.

It's worth conserving all the gas you can this year, for the sake of your own budget and also to help push prices back down again. Even before the latest price increase, oil-company profits have been running 8 per cent ahead of a year ago, despite the higher federal income taxes, too.

As well as avoiding jackrabbit starts and sudden stops, one of the best gas-savers is to avoid low-gear driving. This means upshifting promptly, or in the case of automatic shifts avoiding prolonged driving under 20 mph. At such speeds automatic-shift cars consume gas excessively.

A well-tuned engine also will use less gas. The tune-up should pay special attention to ignition spark timing; compression pressure of each cylinder; automatic choke adjustment; spark plugs; distributor points, and driving belts such as fan and generator belts, to make sure of proper tension.

It doesn't pay to drive on a near-empty tank; gas evaporates. But don't fill up all the way either, since a full tank slops over.

**TIRES:** The cumulative effect of successive price increases on tires this year has resulted in a startling jump over last spring's tags. Some brands of better-grade tires now actually cost \$4 more than a year ago, with medium-grade tires \$1.50 to \$2 higher.

The relatively new glass belt tires are now increasingly available as replacement tires, and are expected to become standard equipment on some of the new cars this summer and fall. The glass belt tires have two plies of fiberglass in addition to two plies of either nylon or polyester fiber.

The fiberglass belts stabilize the tire tread and provide longer tread wear. Those made with polyester cost more than glassbelt tires with nylon; from \$35 to \$50 a tire with polyester, and \$25 to \$35 with nylon. The polyester has some advantage in that it does not tend to "flat spot" while standing, as nylon does, although both provide a strong cord.

You do have at least one sale opportunity to save on tires for summer driving, in the annual Decoration Day tire sales.

With these high prices, it will pay you to rotate tires frequently to prolong wear; at least every 5000 miles if not more often.

**FOOD BUYING CALENDAR:** Meat prices are going up again. Pork is still relatively reasonable this month. Turkey also still is in heavy supply. Broilers continue to be a family standby, with many stores offering specials at least once a month. When stewing chickens or fowl are close to the price of broilers, they are a better buy because they yield more edible meat than do the small birds.

Whole broilers are a better buy than parts, with breasts next best value. Here is a comparison at recent prices:

	Price per lb.	Cooked Meat Yield	Price Edible Meat
Whole broilers	.43	50 %	.86
Cut-up breasts	.67	63.4%	\$1.06
Cut-up legs	.62	53.3%	\$1.16

# The Safety Scene

## WILL THE FAMILY COME OUT ALIVE?

Most parents would be upset if their children's school did not hold fire drills. Yet the same parents rarely teach their children how to escape from their homes and apartments where fire is 68 times more frequent than in schools.

The National Safety Council suggests that families map out escape routes from their homes and practice them often.

When people are unprepared by fire drills, they may follow dangerous routines in an emergency. Instinctively, they flee down hallways and stairs that may quickly fill up with deadly smoke and hot gasses. Worried about brothers, sisters, or children, they re-enter burning buildings.

Other fire victims, who underestimate the speed of fire, try to squelch fires themselves before evacuating their homes. In one reported case, a housewife who found a chair smoldering in her living room ran to a neighbor's house to get help. The two women returned to lug the chair safely out-of-doors and complimented themselves on their quick action. Later, however when the mother went upstairs to awaken her two napping children, she found them dead from breathing the toxic fumes that had risen up the stairway.

To avoid similar mistakes in a crisis, consider the following tips from the National Safety Council's home department:

- Call your family together now, and map out an escape route, and try to find an alternate route, usually a window for each room of your house. Since you cannot count on using a hall or stairway to escape, the secondary routes are especially important. Pay special attention to escape ways from the bedrooms, but don't forget seldom-used areas such as the basement or attic.
- Take the family through the house to outline possible exits. While walking through, be sure that exits are not blocked by rubbish or furniture and that doors or windows have not been painted or nailed shut.
- During your tour, point out danger areas in your home such as stairways, halls, clothes chutes, or elevator shafts where air, and consequently fire, can flow freely.
- Decide on who should help small children, old people, or invalids in case of crisis.
- Set a meeting place outside the house in event of fire so that no one will return to a blazing house to rescue a person who is already safe.
- Emphasize that the whole family should be out of the house before taking time to call the fire department. Teach everyone how to notify the fire department by both telephone and closest alarm box. They should memorize the number of the nearest fire department, but all homes can display the number near the telephone. Instruct family members to give the house number and street location exactly if they phone. When they use an alarm box, someone should stay at the box to direct firemen when they arrive.
- Teach everyone to test their bedroom door before opening it into a hallway. If the door's panels or knob feel warm, leave the door shut. A small rug or clothing may be stuffed along the bottom to keep heat or smoke from entering. If the door does not feel warm, you should open it with caution. But always turn your head away from the opening, and brace yourself so that you can quickly close the door if hot air rushes in.
- If doors cannot be opened, the family should be ready to exit onto porches or ledges where they can wait for rescue. Teach them the proper way to open windows to porches. If windows and screens cannot be budged, remind the family that they can push them out with the legs of a chair. Use a shoe to clean remaining glass fragments out of the window frame.
- Have everyone practice how to get out of a window. First, throw a leg over the sill, and then back out. Never go out head first. Only as a last resort, drop from an upper floor window. If you must drop, be sure that the ground below the window is clear. Back out of the window, while holding onto the sill and then drop. Practice from a ground window only.
- Everyone should know what to do if their clothing or someone else's catches fire. It is best to smother these fires by rolling in a coat, rug, or blanket. Even rolling on the ground will help. By lying down you can keep flames from reaching your face. Running only fans the blaze.
- Remember a fire drill only once or twice may not be enough, especially to train your children. In a Chicago suburb a few years ago, a family of seven with five children under age 10 escaped from their burning house within two minutes after the alarm was sounded. They exited swiftly because they had held a home fire drill every month for five years prior to the emergency. Your family can meet this test, too, if it will practice fire drill plans until escape routes become second nature to each family member.

**Editor's Note:** This article is a reprint from the April issue of TELEPHONE LINE, Local Union 1504 I.B.E.W., Indianapolis, Indiana.

## Can A Refrigerator Actually Kill?

By Sidney Margolius

Refrigerators and freezers look harmless enough. But under certain circumstances these familiar fixtures of every kitchen can become killers, judging from some of the investigations of the National Commission on Product Safety.

An abandoned or unused refrigerator or freezer can become a killer if children crawl in and become trapped. But also, charges have been made that a refrigerator which leaked current killed one homeowner when his body was in contact with kitchen sink plumbing at the same time.

A new outbreak of deaths among children trapped in unused refrigerators and freezers has revealed that the present Federal refrigerator safety law is dangerously incomplete.

At least ten children lost their lives during a recent ten-week period after becoming trapped in refrigerators or freezers with mechanical latches, the Commission reports. The law requiring magnetic latches, which a trapped child could push open, applies only to refrigerators manufactured since 1958, and not to the 50 million older ones in American homes.

Nor does the law apply to freezers. To my personal knowledge, a number of them are now lying unused in garages and basements. These usually were bought from food-freezer plan promoters. When the plans were discontinued the families either did not have the cash to re-stock the freezers or found that the operating costs outweighed the usefulness to them of a separate freezer.

Even though not required by law, the majority of freezers now on the market are made with magnetic latches. But if you have a freezer or refrigerator not in present use, which has a mechanical latch, or if you discard or "junk" one, you need to "child-proof" it.

If you aren't going to use the unit again, the best precaution is to promptly remove the doors. If the unit will be out of use temporarily, you can place it so the door is against a wall, and then wrap around it an ordinary chain secured with padlock. Or you can secure the door to the cabinet with self adhesive filament tape, or other methods.

A number of simple ways to "child-proof" such a unit are described in a Public Health Service pamphlet, **Preventing Child Entrapment in Household Refrigerators**. You can get this for 5 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

The other cause of concern is the accidental electrocution of a Massachusetts man who became grounded between the refrigerator and sink pipe when he was attempting to fix a faucet.

At recent public hearings held by the National Commission on Pro-

duct Safety, investigators said that the refrigerator was leaking current. This happened, the investigators reported, because an electric wire inside the compressor was positioned against the casting holding the motor. During years of vibration of the motor, the wire had become worn through by rubbing against the casting, according to the report.

The compressor, an "ISM" model was manufactured by the Tecumseh Products Co. This company makes most of the compressors used in various brands of refrigerators and other cooling appliances.

The manufacturer says that this compressor design is no longer being manufactured. Some arguments also have been made that this tragic incident may be an isolated one, and due to peculiar circumstances.

Nevertheless, some similar compressors are in operation in many refrigerators and possibly other cooling devices. If any do leak current, the dangers can be increased if a housewife happens to be mopping a wet floor and comes in contact with the refrigerator, or touches another grounded fixture or appliance.

The Commission has advised that any indication of current leakage in a refrigerator (or other household appliance), such as shock, erratic performance or a "tingle" when you touch it, should be a warning to have the appliance tested. You can have this done by your local utility company or a licensed electrician.

If your present refrigerator is not grounded, this would be advisable. But this too should be done only by a utility company or a licensed electrician.

## The Miracle of Life

A LOT goes on during a given period of time in the body of an adult of average size. Here is what you accomplish in just 24 hours:

Your heart beats 103,689 times.  
Your blood travels 168,000,000 miles.

You breathe 23,040 times.  
You inhale 438 cubic feet of air.  
You eat 3.25 pounds of food.  
You drink 2.9 quarts of liquids.  
You lose .87 pounds of waste.

## Inside Figures

You speak 4,800 words, including some unnecessary ones.

You move 750 muscles.  
Your nails grow .00046 inch.  
Your hair grows .01714 inch.  
You exercise 7,000,000 brain cells.

And all this miraculous activity can be stopped, never to start again, by an accident that can happen in a split-second.

It's something to think about; something to do something about.  
Work safely!