

# The Assault On Tax Privileges

Some of the mightiest citadels of privilege are under siege as Congress considers tax reform.

After years as a perfunctory paragraph in political speeches, tax reform—especially the closing of loopholes benefiting mainly the wealthy—is now intertwined with important objectives of important political interests.

Nixon Administration and congressional leaders have promised support for a major tax reform bill at least by the end of the 91st Congress in 1970. Chances of a bill were further enhanced and the timetable speeded when reform advocates linked it to retention of the surtax on personal income.

Keeping the surtax is a key legislative objective of the administration in its battle to curb inflation—"the number one domestic problem" in the words of several administration officials.

By the time the House passed the surtax extension bill by a mere five votes on June 30, the administration had pledged to move ahead on its tax reform schedule with a second set of proposals to be presented by mid-summer. President Nixon offered a first set of proposals April 21 and the plan at that time was to submit a broader plan by November 30.

The Senate Finance Committee approved the surtax bill July 17, but Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) said he still stood by a June 24 resolution of the Democratic Policy Committee that the surtax be held up until accompanied by tax reform. The policy committee schedules legislation for Senate consideration.

The administration agreed June 12 to include tax relief for the poor with the surtax bill as a sweetener to gain support for surtax extension.

Ultimately, at least three sets of tax reform proposals will have been considered by Congress.

- A three-volume set of recommendations prepared by the Treasury Department in the Johnson Administration. President Johnson took no position on them and they were passed along to the Nixon Administration.

- A tax reform bill currently being hammered out in the House Ways

## YOUR *Business Manager's* COLUMN

### OPERATION COMMUNICATION

By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

Tentative plans are being made for our forthcoming Unit Officers' Conference which will be held on October 18 and 19 at Konocti Harbor Inn, Lake County, California.

This conference is designed to provide additional communication and education to our Unit Chairmen and Unit Recorders who form the key links between the membership and the Executive Board and Advisory Council of Local 1245.

While our planning is in the early stages, it is known that subjects such as conduct of Unit meetings, Union structure, Union history, etc., will be on the conference agenda.

The Executive Board, the Advisory Council, the Business Staff and the Trustees will be in attendance along with a potential of 76 Unit Chairmen and 76 Unit Recorders. Should either a Unit Chairman or a Unit Recorder be unable to attend, a Unit Vice-Chairman may serve as an alternate from that Unit.

Besides attending the work sessions devoted to important sub-

jects, the delegates will have the opportunity to mingle, to communicate with people from other areas and to learn more about our Union's principles and goals.

Another communication effort is also in the mill. The Executive Board has decided to conduct a membership attitude survey regarding our peoples' desires for improvements through our 1970 bargaining activities, etc.

The survey will go to all members of Local 1245 and it is intended to reveal meaningful information which will be used to supplement Unit recommendations regarding 1970 bargaining programs and to better inform the leadership as to the attitude of the members on the job.

The form and content of the survey have not yet been worked out. It is expected that it will be mailed out some time after the first of the year and the results will then be compiled for delivery to our various negotiating committees as soon as reasonably possible.

There is no doubt that a serious communication gap exists in Local 1245 between the membership and the leadership. One factor is the apathy which exists among many members just as it exists in fraternal organizations, churches, political bodies, etc.

It is hoped that the Unit Officers' Conference and the membership attitude survey will help to reduce apathy and to bridge the communication gap in our house before we enter the major collective bargaining arena in 1970.

We're moving rapidly to the 13,000-membership mark as a result of the efforts of the Stewards, Representatives and key leaders of Local 1245.

Let's keep up the good work so that when we head for the bargaining tables in 1970, we'll have as much membership strength as possible to work with.

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)



# utility reporter

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and Means Committee. Several proposals called "tentative decisions" already have been announced.

- The Nixon Administration proposals.

There could also be a set of Senate tax reform proposals by the time the issue is through the Finance Committee. Many senators have offered bills.

The tax reform proposals to date range broadly and include cuts in the oil depletion allowance, tax relief for the poor, curbs on tax-exempt foundations and a minimum income tax.

The minimum income tax has been offered as a way to bridge the gap between those outraged at the total tax avoidance by a relatively few wealthy individuals and supporters of specific tax benefits which allow some to escape taxation.

The towering symbol of privilege and preference in the minds of many taxpayers is the system of mineral depletion allowances, particularly for oil and gas producers. The Treasury ranks these allowances fourth in dollars among all tax benefits. Depletion allowances cost the government \$1.3 billion in 1968, according to a Treasury study released in January.

Chairman Wilbur D. Mills (D-Ark.) of the House Ways and Means Committee, promised during debate on the surtax that there would be reform legislation in every area including mineral and extractive industries.

In the Senate, Chairman Russell B. Long of the Finance Committee is a strong supporter of the oil depletion allowance.

A possible compromise between opponents of changes in depletion or any other tax benefits and opponents of large-scale tax avoidance is the minimum income tax. Both the Treasury under President Johnson and the Nixon Administration proposed to limit the degree to which tax benefits

(Continued on Page 3)



The above photo shows the Advisory Council in action. From left to right, the people shown are: Andy Clayton, Herb Dickenson, Howard Jewell, guest speaker from the law firm of Neyhart, Grodin & Beeson, the top of Tony Boker's head and Lee Thomas.

## Ad Council Meets In Sacramento

The Advisory Council of Local 1245 met at the Sacramento Inn on the 2nd and 3rd of August. The council members gave their oral reports to the group.

On Saturday, August 2, Howard Jewell and Frank Brass from the Law Firm of Neyhart, Grodin and Beeson, which is the firm that the Local has on retainer, spoke to the group on Workmen's Compensation laws and the services that the firm provides for the general membership. We are preparing an article for next month's Utility Reporter which will explain in detail the benefits provided by the law firm.

The meeting was held in Sacramento as a result of a recommendation by an Advisory Council member at the May meeting of the Council. The purpose of the change in meeting sites was to allow members from the Sacramento area to observe the Council in action and to meet the members of the Executive Board, the Business Manager and his staff.

Unfortunately, the meeting date conflicted with the opening day of deer season and very few guests were in attendance.

A new movie entitled "Storm," which was filmed by PG&E during last winter's storms, was shown to the group after lunch. The film is the saga of men struggling against the elements to keep vital power links open. Many of our members work under these conditions and it was interesting to see a tribute to the men for their efforts during these storms.

The meeting provided a great deal of information for the Advisory Council members to take back to the Unit meetings in the form of a report to the membership.



# Pitts Urges Heavy Voter Registration in Labor Day Message

By Thos. L. Pitts  
Secretary-Treasurer

California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

Barely six weeks ago, our nation's technical know-how eclipsed all of its previous very substantial achievements by placing men on the moon — an accomplishment that's somewhat comparable in its implications to Christopher Columbus' voyage to the New World in 1492.

As we celebrate Labor Day, 1969 this weekend, trade unionists — whether members of the many unions directly involved in our space efforts of the past decade or not—can take particular pride in the flawless performance of the Apollo 11 flight because it was a 100 percent union-made project in keeping with our national policy of encouraging free trade unions and free collective bargaining.

Heartening as this "giant step for mankind" is to all of us, however, it does not diminish and must not obscure the many very real problems confronting us right here in California and in the nation at large.

On the contrary, achievement of the goal we set for ourselves nearly 10 years ago to be realized "within this decade" provides positive proof that we can meet and solve the many pressing and potentially explosive problems confronting us domestically as a nation if we only exert the will to dedicate our resources to them.

In California, as elsewhere in the nation, we face very real and very immediate air and water pollution problems in the Los Angeles basin, along the once beautiful coastline of Santa Barbara, in the San Francisco Bay Area and in the Sacramento delta.

Just within the past year, thanks in part to the farm workers' desperate fight for survival against a callous and heartless corporate farm oligarchy, we have become acutely and apprehensively aware of the excessive use of DDT and other deadly pesticides.

In short, the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat in some of the most habitable areas of our state are in jeopardy.

All of these issues are vital to trade unionists because they are vital to life itself. No one needs to be told that good wages and working conditions would be meaningless in an environment befouled with air and water pollution and food laden with invisible poisons.

Most trade unionists, indeed most citizens, know perfectly well that if we have the technology to put a man on the moon we also have the technology to meet and correct the crucial environmental problems confronting us here on Earth.

But this is only true if we can prevent the myopic greed of special interests from compromising our best interests for their own selfish ends.

As trade unionists, we learned the hard way — through trial and torment — that the most effective way of fighting those who in blind pursuit of profit would pollute the environment or exploit their fellow citizens is through legislative action and at the ballot box.

That's why this Labor Day it seems far more appropriate that we cele-

brate the victories that working men and women banded together in labor unions have won in the past not by recounting those landmark victories one by one but by facing squarely up to the problems confronting us today and taking action now to meet them with bold, constructive, common sense solutions that benefit the health and welfare of all.

Specifically, this means the initiation now of an unparalleled, on-going voter registration campaign to prepare for the crucial elections of 1970.

Next year's elections will largely determine whether the decade of the 70's is to become a decade of progress or a decade of pussyfooting. This is because reapportionment of California's congressional seats — including the creation of at least six new ones — as well as all seats in both houses of the state legislature will be determined by those elected to represent us in the state legislature in 1971.

If the political complexion of that legislature is preponderantly reactionary, we can expect only that such issues as "student unrest," and "law and order," will be met by the massive overkill solutions of those who believe that the only way to solve a problem is to pave it over or obliterate it.

And the insidious thing about legislative bodies bent on repression is that their repressive inclinations tend to carry over to other fields, like education, social insurance, mental institutions, public health, and, last but not least in our concern, labor law and those state agencies charged with enforcing it.

This possibility constitutes a very real cause not just for concern but for active involvement by all California trade unionists now. For years we have fought for and won major improvements in wages, working conditions, fringe benefits and legislation to protect the interests of working men and women. These hard won gains have benefited virtually all of the nation's workers. But now they are in peril.

We are also engaged in a fight for basic reforms in both our state and national tax structures — reforms to reduce the excessive property tax on owner-occupied homes, to prevent corporations from shoving their tax burdens along to consumers in the form of price increases, and to bar the rich from escaping all taxation completely, among other things.

To win, we need a resurgence of the unity, dedication, and perseverance of individual trade union members that has provided the formula for victory in our past battles. These qualities are already evident among our embattled farm workers and among the valiant trade unionists who are fighting the union-busting efforts of the publisher of the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner.

During the coming year I earnestly hope all of us can take heart from these struggles and become actively involved in the push for real social progress which the potential of our economy puts clearly within the grasp of working men and women willing to fight for it.

After all, in fighting for tax reforms, for solutions to environmental problems, for improved safety and jobless pay standards, and for a stronger educational system we're fighting for ourselves and our children. Surely it's worth an all out effort.

## Union Label Week Pledged

I am a Union worker and I shall not undermine the welfare of my fellow brothers and sisters. Across these United States man labored too long and too hard for me to destroy their gains by purchasing non-union.

I am a Union family man who has been blessed with a decent living. I have come to enjoy better things because of the devotion, dedication and the desire of those before me who labored to provide a standard of living unparalleled in the world. I shall not destroy all their efforts and render helpless all causes they so earnestly fought to win for workers.

I am a trade Unionist and refuse to reward those who have opposed my existence and way of life. I will not permit my union-earned dollars to penetrate the walls of those establishments where a Union Card is the same as a "No Vacancy" or

a "Not Welcome Sign!" As a man who believes in the dignity and rights of men, before I buy I shall look for the Union Label, Shop Card, Store Card or Service Button. In so doing I will strengthen the security of men and women who believe as I in the goals of the free American labor movement.

I am a member of organized labor and will never forget I would not be able to purchase the amount of products I do without a union job and, therefore, common sense and a deep commitment to the ideals of our movement demand I purchase those products which will further our cause.

I will support and strengthen my fellow brothers and sisters by using a simple tool — the Label Golden Rule — "Buy Union Products and Use Union Services as You Would Have Union Wages Paid Unto You!"

## LEAKAGE

Major tax benefits and the Treasury's estimate of federal revenue lost in the 1968 tax year:

- Capital gains for individuals—\$8.5 billion.
- Charitable deductions — \$2.2 billion.
- Exemption of interest on state and local bonds—\$1.8 billion.
- Depletion allowances—\$1.3 billion.
- Farm losses and capital gains —\$800 million.
- Accelerated depreciation on real estate—\$750 million.

## Tax Tips

Have you bought a house since 1966? Did you have to pay extra "points" to get the mortgage? If so, you can now deduct those points on your tax return for the year in which you paid them, just as long as it was not prior to 1966. To get a refund, file an amended tax return on Form 1040-X, showing what you paid in points. From now on, points paid to get a loan are automatically deductible, just as other interest charges are.

### ATTENTION

The new Physical Wage Scales effective July 1, 1969 are printed and available and those who have already received them should correct them as follows:

The rate on Page 9, Schedule II—Substations, was not printed in the new wage booklet. The rate of \$192.15 per week should be written in opposite the stations listed.

On Page 31 the wage rate for Labor Foreman—A, starting rate, should be changed to \$167.75 from \$166.75



the utility reporter

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# We Get Letters

Mr. Ronald T. Weakley  
IBEW Local Union 1245  
P.O. Box 584,  
Walnut Creek, California 94597

Dear Ron:

**CONGRATULATIONS!**—on winning a wage increase for Union members, as mentioned in last issue I received of the Utility Reporter.

Now if it were only possible to win a (cost of living—**increase**) for the **retired** members, whom **remain** on a **fixed-income**, an **income (constantly decreased)** by the **ever increasing** cost of living. The gains of the last (Pension Agreement) will soon be completely destroyed by **creeping inflation**.

Am enclosing a clipping from the last issue of Life Magazine, which will give you, our Union, and PG&E Company something to seriously consider. Its "hard" to make ends meet on a small fixed income.

Fraternally Yours,  
L. J. Goins

Mr. L. J. Goins  
721 West "D" Street  
Lemoore, California 93245

August 8, 1969

Dear Brother Goins:

Thanks for your letter of August 1st. I fully agree that the last increase we were able to gain for our retired members will be wiped out by inflation.

Having done what we could during our recent negotiations, it now falls to the U.S. Congress to raise Social Security benefits to offset inflation and to improve the standard of living for retired people in this Country.

Our Union is involved in pressing Congress to raise the benefits quickly and adequately. President Nixon is suggesting a much lower raise than the AFL-CIO and he needs some prodding, too.

I would advise you to write to your Congressman and Senators, as well as to President Nixon, expressing your views on this important subject matter.

Fraternally,  
Ronald T. Weakley  
Business Manager-Financial Secretary

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Unit 2314, Hayward, submitted a motion to the Executive Board at their July meeting to the effect that the Utility Reporter should print articles or letters from the membership. The Executive Board concurred with the intent of the motion and pointed out in the answer to the unit that there is a "WE GET LETTERS" column in the paper at the present time and that we do accept letters from members for publication under accepted rules.

Please feel free to write us a letter and express your feelings. We will be looking forward to this type of membership participation.

## Employers Crime Wave

Employers increasingly choose to disregard the National Labor Law's ban on discrimination against employees for union activity. This development, which indicates that many employers find it more to their advantage to violate the law than to abide by it, was voiced by Frank W. McCulloch, Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board. He expressed particular concern about "calculated and deliberate violations of the law . . ."

Mr. McCulloch asked: "Does this mean there is a crime wave in American industrial relations?" He declared: "The fact is that many many more employees were illegally discriminated against in 1968 than in 1938, 1948 or 1958." 8129 employers are charged with illegally firing employees for union activity in 1968. This is the highest rate of illegal employer activity in the thirty-three year history of the National Labor Relations Board.

Could these calculated and deliberate violations of the labor law indicate that the employers know that this Administration will not take action against their violations?



The above photo gives a partial view of the Advisory Council which met in Sacramento. See page one for story and photo.

## Tax Privileges Under Assault

(Continued from Page 1)

could be used. Such a plan could avoid arguments over specific benefits. Though Chairman Mills has expressed a preference for changes in the preferences themselves, the Ways and Means Committee has already said it will include a minimum tax in the House bill.

Both the Treasury Department under former President Johnson and the Nixon Administration came up with proposals to remove many of the nation's poor from the tax rolls.

Under the Nixon proposals—attached to the surtax extension bill in an attempt at compromise with tax reform proponents—the exemption would gradually be removed as a taxpayer reached levels of income above the officially defined poverty standard.

Even more important potentially than a change in the oil depletion provisions would be a limitation apparently in store for capital gains, the most important tax benefit from a revenue standpoint. The Ways and Means Committee already has considered tougher treatment for profits from the use of capital, and Chairman Long of the Senate Finance Committee has made a change in his primary objective.

A major overhaul of estate and gift taxation seems to be gathering support. The earlier Treasury proposals included a recommendation for consolidation of estate and gift taxes and a general rate reduction to benefit middle-income families. Neither the Nixon Administration nor the Ways and Means Committee had made any proposals in the area by mid-July, and consideration of any change appeared unlikely until next year.

Reprinted from Toledo Union Journal —Congressional Quarterly

## "Welfare Reform" and "Manpower Training"

AFL-CIO President George Meany made the following comment on President Nixon's messages on "Welfare Reform" and "Manpower Training" sent to the Congress:

"The President has forcefully turned the public's attention toward a major problem in America and has established laudable goals for his Administration. This itself merits commendation.

"The AFL-CIO is deeply concerned for those in America who live in poverty and do not enjoy the nation's general affluence. We have long shared, and vigorously pressed, the view that the nation's existing welfare system is grossly deficient and in need of comprehensive reform.

"We only wish that the President's proposals met that need and would accomplish a substantial and lasting improvement in the condition of the nation's poor. Unfortunately, they do not.

"The Presidential messages recognize the problems confronting the nation, but suggest solutions that fall far short of the need.

"If Congress were to accept the proposed new structures, it would have to vastly increase the sums requested, for no adequate solutions are possible at a bargain-basement price tag.

"But even the structures will fail for they make no provision for the basic need—decent jobs and living wages for those working at the bottom of the economic ladder. Instead of forcing America's worst employers to pay a realistic minimum wage, it is proposed that the taxpayer support those employers who pay sub-standard wages. Certainly the government must not subsidize employers who pay less than a living wage with public money raised through taxes."



# "OAKPORT"—EAST BAY'S G



Shown above is Charles "Speedy" Duncan, warehouseman at "Oakport."



John Musgrove, meter shopman and Shop Steward in the Gas Meter Shop, is shown repairing a gas meter.



The above view of "Oakport" was taken from the gas ho service center. This photo was taken by a cameraman from the

The Oakland Service Center, better known as the largest District headquarters in the PG&E System, East Bay Division, Central District, serving Alameda, Piedmont, Alameda and Emeryville which serve natural gas customers.

The center was developed on a 15 acre site in Alameda, California at a cost of more than \$2 million in 1963. It's an operations base now for more than 100 gas and electric service personnel, engineering and maintenance employees, warehousing people and "operating" departments.

Many of our members operate or drive pieces of motorized equipment based at the center. This equipment as aerial platform units used for conventional or streamlined electric distribution, fork lifts, trenchers, backhoes, loaders, trucks and a foot remote control rig for washing transmission lines.

Our members in the Central District warehouse supplies used by the gas and electric departments.

The center also includes a gas meter repair shop where 4,000 meters are checked and serviced each month, a "pre-fab" shop in which crossarms are fabricated, outdoor storage facilities for materials and building.

The automotive department headquarters is also situated at the center.

There is a large cross-section of "bargain" items in the "Oakport" yard. Many of our members are going through some of the 18 apprenticeship programs of Local 1245.

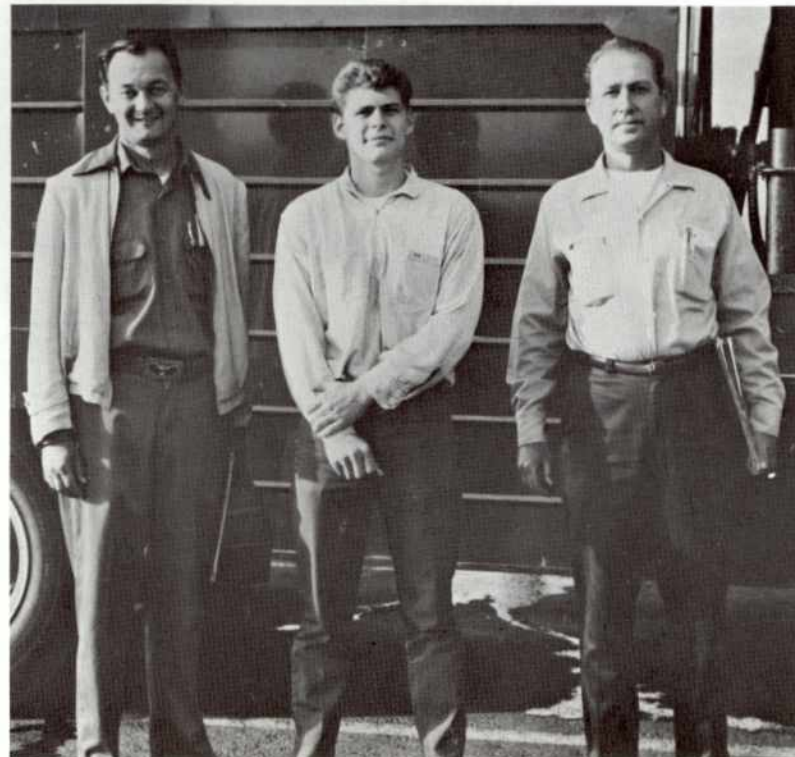
Between 85% and 90% of the people who have joined Local 1245 have done so. The efforts of the members to maintain a high level of Union organization and appreciation of the job that they are doing and we



From left to right are: Jack McNally, Business Rep., Leroy Foster, Shop Steward in the Gas dept., John Cole, Cable Splicer and Shop Steward, "Red" Henneberry, Electrician and Advisory Council member for East Bay, and Pete Dutton, Business Representative.



Frank Lehne, Apprentice Lineman, left, and Pete Krusi, Lineman, are shown just before they leave the yard in their "bucket" truck.



Shown above from left to right are: Bob Deering, Steve Green, and Harold Easley, Shop Steward.



The above photo shows a Labor-Management discussion in front of the building. From left to right are: Jim Keys, Central District Manager, Electrician Representative, P. A. Zimmerman, acting Electric Supt., J. W. Dutton, Business Representative.



# 'S GIANT SERVICE CENTER



taken from the gas holder, which is across the freeway from the a cameraman from the PG&E News Bureau.

center, better known as "Oakport," is one of the largest in the PG&E System. This center is in the Central District, serving the four-city area of Oakland and Emeryville which has 170,000 electric and

located on a 15 acre site at 4801 Oakport St., Oakland, of more than \$2 million and was completed in 1965. It is now for more than 650 PG&E employees—mechanical personnel, engineering groups, construction and warehousing people and the clerical forces for the

employees operate or drive some of the more than 300 equipment present based at the center. They work on such equipment as units used for washing and working on electric distribution lines. They operate cranes, forklifts, loaders, trucks of various types and a 95-ton washing transmission lines.

The Central District warehouse handle material and equipment for the electric departments—more than 5,000 different

types of equipment, including a gas meter repair shop, at which more than 100 meters are serviced each month; a transformer repair shop in which crossarms are made for electric line construction; facilities for material, and a large operations

department headquarters for the East Bay Division of PG&E.

A large section of "bargaining unit" classifications in the PG&E System are represented by the 18 apprenticeship programs negotiated by

representatives of the people at Oakport who are eligible to join the union. The efforts of the shop stewards and members of the Union organization does not go unnoticed. We are doing and we wish them continued success.



Management discussion in progress at the Oakland Service Center. From left to right: District Manager, East Bay Division, Jack McNally, Business Representative, J. W. Gangwer, acting Gas Supt., and Pete Dutton.



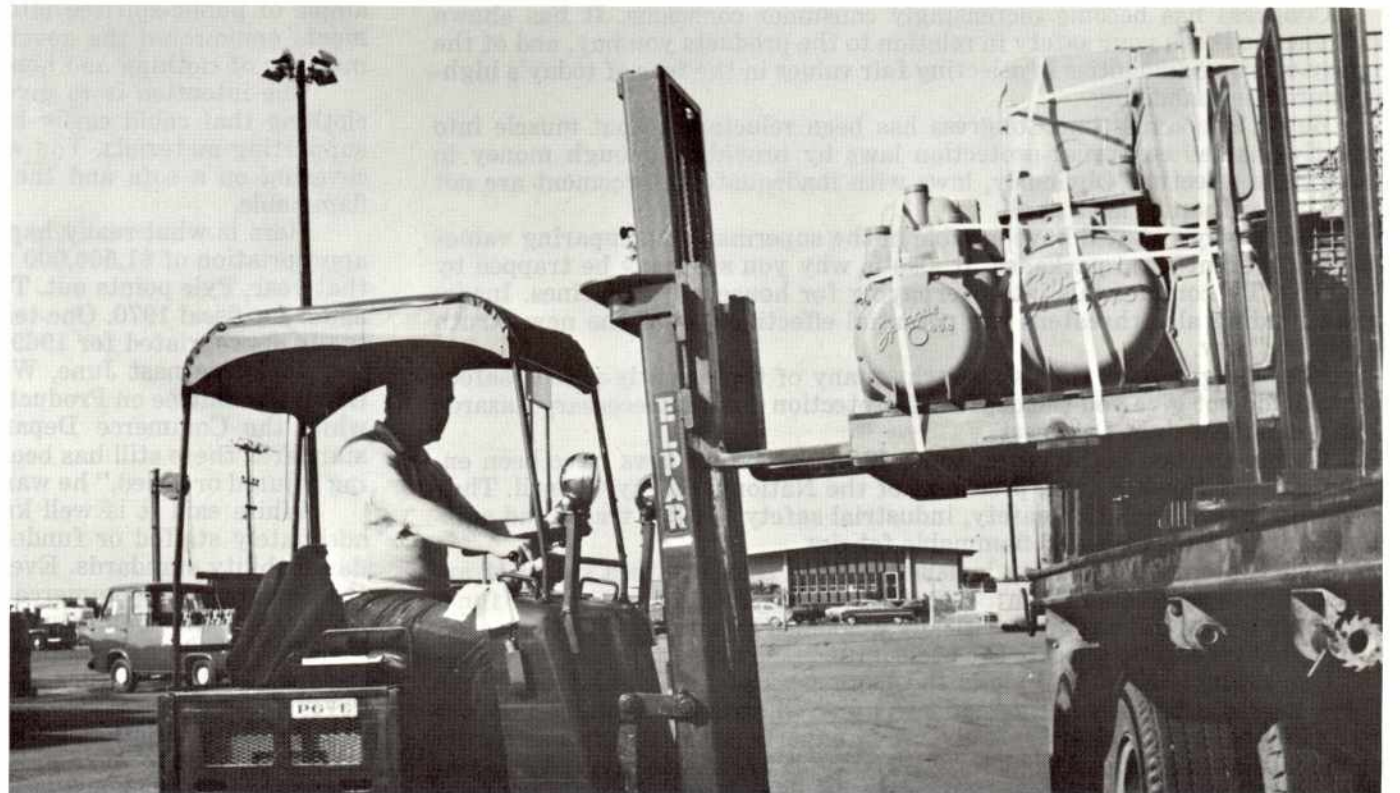
The above photo shows Wally Hunter, Meter Shopman, repairing a 5-B tin meter at the Gas Meter shop.



This photo shows Bob Landry, Warehouseman and Shop Steward, talking with Business Representative Jack McNally.



Pictured above are: from left to right, John Miller, Wayne Greer, Shop Steward, Jack McNally, Bus. Rep., Doug Moffitt and Darryl Land. The men in uniform are Gas Servicemen.



The above picture shows Bob Holbrook loading some recently repaired meters onto a truck for delivery to some outlying warehouse.



# Only 11 and Already Disillusioned

By Sidney Margolius  
Consumer Expert for  
Utility Reporter

Talk about frank "consumerists"! Business associations and corporations currently expanding their consumer education activities in the schools will have their work cut out for them when they encounter some of today's grammar school kids.

The businessmen, and teachers under their influence, may well find that they have to deal with a generation of youngsters already skeptical of advertising, mainly because of long exposure to unbelievable TV claims, but also because of their own early experiences.

By courtesy of Professor Richard L. D. Morse of Kansas State University, a leading consumer-education authority, we got hold of a set of student opinions on labeling and advertising collected by an enterprising fifth-grade teacher.

The project came about during a science class discussion of synthetic and real sponges. One of the fifth-grade boys declared, "you can't trust a label. The manufacturer would probably lie and say it was real when it wasn't." Most of the other students expressed similar distrust, Dr. Morse reports. Several days later, as part of a discussion of the difference between factual and opinionated material, the students were assigned to write their opinions about labeling and advertising.

Their opinions may irritate or delight you, depending on your view of advertising practices. But they will inform you as to these kids' reactions and attitudes.

"I feel they shouldn't write on the labels like best equipment you can buy. The laundry products don't show the washing of the clothes, only the finished product. The way they advertise about things like soap when they should tell the people about stopping smoking and

world affairs. They keep changing the celebrities so people think because they use it they themselves should use it."

"I don't think the companies should put labels on dresses like they will not shrink or will last a long time. Then they shrink or unravel. I think they should tell the truth like pure cowhide or fake cowhide."

## Business in the Schools

Quite apparently business organizations are going to waste a lot of time and money with their intensified school-program plans. Like the American Retail Federation. (The kids have me talking like them.) The retailers waged one of the angriest, stubborn fights against the new "truth in lending" law and successfully delayed its passage for several years. Now they are taking a new tack of doing consumer "education" and are conducting a pilot program in the Rochester, N. Y., public schools, starting with kindergarten.

Kindergarten may already be too late. In any case, if businessmen want to get kids to believe what they say about their products, they would do better to educate the manufacturers of baseball mitts, soap and cigarettes.

Especially interesting are their reactions to TV. This is a group that has never known a world without TV, and has gotten most of its impressions from the big eye. But TV apparently has not really brainwashed them. In some ways it seems to have made them more skeptical. In the comments below note also the real resentment of cigarette commercials, distrust of soap commercials, and widespread disillusionment about baseball mitts. The more polite comments are from girls.

"My opinion is about a racing track. The label on the box said that the hand controls would not bust. But they did. And they said

that the power pack was guaranteed for a half a year. But it was three weeks before it ran down. I hate that darn smelly store."

"I needed a glove. It cost 30 dollars and there was one that was on sale and it really cost 25 dollars but we got it for 10 dollars and it was guaranteed. But the first day all the strings broke."

"I think if they would take off about smoking and say something right about it like that one they say about cancer so people don't smoke because it takes away your life. Like I don't see why they put it on TV when you can go to a store and get it."

"Sometimes labeling is wrong and some is right. Like on baseball mitts. My brother has one that says pure leather, but it's not."

"Some people just put advertising on TV because they want you to buy it. Like Tide. They think it's great. But I think it's terrible. And on smoking, one advertisement says you should not smoke and on another they say how good some cigarettes are."

"I wouldn't give a penny for some things. Like the finny baseballs. Last time I bought one it said non-tear covering, and the second week I had it the covering came off."

"I don't think they tell the truth. Like Zest, or the other soap. They take the glass part of the mirror on the soap. And on Zest they take the back of the mirror to the soap."

"I think labels are sometimes wrong. For instance, different kinds of labels on laundry products that you can get stains out. I end up with more stains than you started with."

"I think they should take off bad advertising. They shouldn't pay so much to a famous person when a normal person can do it just as well."



"My opinion on labeling things, they should tell what it is made of or what's in it. Otherwise should not sell them because people get gyped. They tell lies on TV all the time. They try to urge you to buy stupid junk that is no good. It looks like it came from the dump in one week. They must have a lot of nerve to make dumb-stupid stuff that is no good. They come to your house and act crazy for nothing, like an ape."

"I don't think they should spend all of that money to advertise it when people can see it in a store."

"On baseball goods or something like that they put it genuine leather but some isn't. Sometimes they don't put the prices on everything."

"On detergents they say it will get stains out but it doesn't. And they say some cigarettes are lowest in tar but it isn't. And on cigarette packs they say: 'Caution, cigarettes may be a hazard for your health'."

"A lot of advertisers try to prove that their product will work by going on TV. And some of them cheat just to get people to buy it."

"They advertise too much. And they take too long and disrupt TV shows. Some spend too much money on people they want to go on the show. Most commercials could never be true."

"On diet foods they should not lie about it just to get more money. It is really cheating. When you are going on a diet and are trying to lose weight all you do is gain it."

"When advertising house to house to sell something big like a dishwasher sometimes they will cry to you."

## Congress Passes Consumer Laws; Then Starves Them

By Sidney Margolius Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

Congress has become increasingly consumer conscious. It has shown awareness of both your safety in relation to the products you buy, and of the money-wasting difficulties in selecting fair values in the face of today's high-pressure merchandising.

But at the same time Congress has been reluctant to put muscle into recently-enacted consumer-protection laws by providing enough money to make them effective. Obviously, laws with inadequate enforcement are not much better than no laws at all.

That's why you still have trouble in the supermarket comparing values among different-sized packages. It also is why you still may be trapped by deceptive TV commercials into overpaying for household medicines. Inadequate funding also threatens the potential effectiveness of the new "truth in lending" law.

Most dangerously, this is also why many of the recently-passed safety laws still do not give you the degree of protection from unnecessary hazards that you have a right to expect.

Within the last eight years, some 43 major safety laws have been enacted, reports Howard Pyle, president of the National Safety Council. They cover fire safety, radiation safety, industrial safety, health, traffic and aviation safety, autos, tires and flammable fabrics.

Pyle contends that safety legislation often passes with a storm of applause only to be greeted by an awesome silence when it comes time for funding. Many a good bill has been critically weakened by an appropriations committee that refused to allocate the needed funds, he says.

One example cited by Pyle is the Highway Safety Act of 1966. When it was passed, Congress authorized two hundred sixty-seven million dollars to fund it through fiscal 1969. Many safety experts felt that this was hardly enough for a thorough job, but were encouraged because it marked a beginning for this needed legislation. But in the final appropriations bill, the total three-year budget for the Traffic Safety Bureau was ninety-two million dollars, far short of the two hundred sixty-seven million dollars promised by Congress three years before.

The 1967 amendments to the Flammable Fabrics Act are another example of public-spirited intentions undercut by lack of funds. The amendments empowered the government to tighten the restrictions on the flammability of clothing and home furnishings.

The intention is to give you greater protection from buying not only clothing that could easily burn, but also flammable household fabrics and supporting materials. You would have more assurance that both the fabric covering on a sofa and the foam rubber underneath would not be highly flammable.

Here is what really happened. The language of the law authorized the appropriation of \$1,500,000 for 1968. But, no funds at all were appropriated that year, Pyle points out. The law authorized \$2,500,000 for fiscal 1969 and again for fiscal 1970. One-tenth of the amount authorized, \$250,000 was actually appropriated for 1969.

Just this past June, William V. White, executive director of the National Committee on Product Safety, testified at Congressional hearings that while the Commerce Department is working on improved flammability standards there still has been no change. Meanwhile, "a lot of people are being injured or killed," he warned.

White said it is well known that the Commerce Department was not adequately staffed or funded to conduct the necessary work of improving flammability standards. Even the appointment of an advisory committee to the Secretary of Commerce to implement the new law was delayed almost a year, and the committee has met just once.

"We would have expected something like this to have transpired in a matter of months rather than a year or more," White told the House Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee.

Safety legislation is not the only consumer-oriented legislation that suffers for lack of money, Pyle says. The "truth in packaging" law, passed in 1966 to help the housewife with comparison buying, is in financial trouble. Last year a staff of two people limped along on \$50,000, trying to do the massive work outlined in the Act. This year no money whatsoever has been

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## Consumer Laws—Financially Starved

(Continued from Page Six)

allotted to the Act. Any government staff who work on it will have to be borrowed from elsewhere.

The Consumer Federation of America also has expressed its fear that inadequate funds to put "truth in packaging" into effect will further reduce the already limited help this new law gives consumers.

The Federal Trade Commission has assigned only five people to work on packaging and labeling, Edward Berlin, the federation attorney, recently testified before the House of Representatives. Thus, the packaging law enacted in 1966 did not become fully effective until this past July 1. Even now, manufacturers and stores are still being allowed to continue to sell non-conforming packages if already packed.

Under the most favorable circumstances, passing a consumer law is just a beginning. Pyle feels that often people who hail the passage of laws do not realize that the intended reforms may largely still go undone. Or, that they may take an unduly long time to go into effect.

A complacent public is not likely to give Congress the urging it needs to invest actual funds in safety and other consumer protection programs.

The complexity of governmental operations makes it difficult to keep track of funding for laws supposed to protect consumers. This complexity also makes it difficult for people to express their concern to officials and legislators who have some influence on the funding of such laws. But it can be done.

One way is to get in touch with your Congressman. Another is to write to Mrs. Virginia Knauer, Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs, at the White House Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. It is her job to represent consumers to the Bureau of the Budget and other governmental groups.

## Mexican Border Plants

While it is true that many people know that American industry is busy building plants in such areas of the world as Hong Kong, Korea, Thailand and Taiwan, China, there are very few who fully realize the extent to which this same thing is going on in our good neighbor to the south, Mexico, and the reasons for this whole thing happening.

In 1965 the Mexican Border Development Program was started and was heralded as a vehicle for improving United States-Mexican relations and dissolving joblessness in high unemployment areas.

Since that time there have been more than 100 Companies that have established plants just south of the 1,800 mile Mexican-U. S. border. These plants run the complete gamut from plastic flowers to television sets and include such products as gloves, toys, cabinets for stereos and a full range of electronic products. Included in the companies establishing plants south of the border are such big names as Westinghouse, Motorola, Fairchild, RCA, Raytheon, Litton Industries, Control Data, and Transatron. Mattel, the toy manufacturer is making Barbie dolls in a 100,000 square foot factory in Mexicali.

There are five major areas that are operating centers in Mexico. They are Nuevo Laredo near Laredo, Texas; Piedras Negras, near San Antonio; Matamoros, near Brownsville, Texas; Reynosa, near McAllm, Texas; and last but not least Juarez, near El Paso, Texas. RCA is building a plant at Juarez, Mexico that is expected to be completed in July 1969 and will eventually hire about 1,000 people.

This whole thing is made possible by a loop-hole in the tariff regulations of the United States, that previous to this time have been applied to Korea, Formosa, and Hong Kong. This loophole allows raw materials and unassembled parts to be sent outside of the U. S. for fabrication into products and then returned for sale in the U. S. at a tariff rate far below what would normally be levied against imported products. The Mexican government, quick to recognize the possibility of many jobs at an increased rate of pay, allows the free import of manufacturing machinery and unassembled parts and has eased its restrictions that such operations have to be half Mexican owned.

Even though the Mexicans do have and levy an income tax on the Company's earnings, the Companies are not worrying because these taxes are more than made up for in reduced wages. The minimum wage at Juarez where RCA is building is \$2.55 per day or about .32 cents an hour. The total cost to the company per day about \$3.27 per day including all benefits.

An example of what this does is shown in the fact that Electronic Control Corporation that pays \$1.80 per hour in their plant at Eules, Texas, pays only 32c per hour in Juarez, Mexico. This has enabled them to win two big contracts from Japanese Companies who can't bid low enough in spite of their own low wages!

What can be done to combat this move of American industries, that has already cost about 20,000 jobs in the United States is not fully known at this time. The fact that the Border Development Program has not done what it was intended to do is quite obvious to American authorities and labor unions. The AFL-CIO did get a promise last summer from the Mexican Labor leaders that they would try to raise their wages along the border up to those on the U. S. side of the border. Nothing has come of this, however, because the Mexicans know only too well that to do this would eliminate the main reason why American industry is moving across the border—namely "low-wages." The U. S. Government is sensitive to the unions' feelings on this matter and has done nothing to encourage industry, but neither has it done anything to discourage it. They are fearful of damaging U. S.-Mexican relationship.

The AFL-CIO has made several recommendations to try to rectify the abuses and failures that are taking place across the border and on this side of the border where unemployment has actually increased since the advent of this program. However, at the time of this report the U. S. has done nothing.

—I.B.E.W. Clear Vision

## Wage Cheating by Employers at New Peak

Employers are violating the wage-hour laws at a greater rate than ever before, the Dept. of Labor learned in a report from Wage-Hour Administrator Robert D. Moran.

Investigations by Moran's Wage & Hour and Public Contracts divisions showed that 477,434 workers—a record total—were illegally underpaid by \$89 million in fiscal 1969.

The violations occurred under the minimum wage, overtime and equal pay sections of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Public Contracts Act, Service Contracts Act and the equal pay law forbidding and the equal pay law forbidding discrimination against women workers.

The \$89 million underpayment figure was topped only once—in fiscal 1966, when covered workers were cheated of \$90 million, by design or inadvertence.

The latest violations were uncovered by department investigators in spite of the fact that no additional inspectors have been hired by either the Johnson or Nixon administrations since 700,000 new business establishments were added when the wage-hour law was amended in 1966.

### Lost Wages Unmentioned

The report made no mention of lost wages recovered by court action, but not much more than a third of the underpayments ever is recovered. At the end of fiscal 1968, \$53 million of the \$83 million due underpaid workers remained uncollected, it was reported.

Federation economists noted that some of the increase in violations uncovered may be due to the informational campaign launched by the Labor Dept. and the AFL-CIO when the new amendments took effect.

The latest report, they said, shows the continuing need for sustained inspections and more staff.

### Inspections Drop

Moran's report shows that the number of establishments checked by inspectors dropped from 75,022 in fiscal 1968 to 72,520 in 1969. Department inspectors rarely visit more than a small percentage of business places in any one year and must rely largely on complaints.

The \$89 million in underpayments breaks down as follows: 27.5 million in minimum wages, \$55 million in overtime, nearly 2 million due employees of federal suppliers under the McNamara-O'Hara Service Contracts Act, and \$4.6 million under the equal pay law for work performed by women at lower rates than comparable work by men.

### Previous Figures

The figures for the previous fiscal year were \$20.4 million, \$55 million, \$2.6 million and \$2.4 million, respectively, for a total of \$80 million.

The report showed nearly half the underpaid workers—207,234—did not set the minimum wages they should have been paid. The fiscal 1968 total was 619,000 workers.

Overtime pay violations affected 208,000 workers in 1969 as against 296,000 the year before. There were 14,000 Service Contract Act violations compared with 12,000 in 1968 and 16,100 in equal pay violations versus 7,000 in 1968.

Moran praised more than 1,000 compliance officers for working "tirelessly and under all types of conditions" to ferret out law violations. However, he noted, "finding violations is not our goal. We are more concerned with improving the level of compliance" through information programs.



The above photo, which was taken at the "California State Association of Electrical Workers" conference, shows from left, George Smith, President of the Association, Congressman Phillip Burton, guest speaker, and Albin Gruhn, President of the California Labor Federation. Local 1245's delegates were: Ron Weakley, Tony Boker, James Lydon, Dave Reese and John Zapian. The central theme of most of the speakers was: "Be prepared for the 1970 elections." They believe that the immediate future of labor is at stake."

## DEATH IS BECOMING A LUXURY

Death is becoming a luxury the poor cannot afford.

This is the conclusion drawn from surveys made throughout the country by affiliates of the Continental Association of Funeral and Memorial Societies (CAFMS) and was the main item on the agenda of the association's directors in Chicago last month.

"The poor pay much more proportionately for funerals and cemetery space than those in the middle and high income groups," says author Ruth Harmer of Los Angeles who is CAFMS president.

"They are the victims of a type of emotional blackmail which has resulted in debts which sometimes take decades to pay."



# The Safety Scene

## HERB DICKENSON SAVES GRANDSON'S LIFE

It was June 29, 1969 in Fresno, California, one of those blistering hot days, that the oldtime residents of the area had grown accustomed to. But to Brian Dunn, a recent newcomer to the valley, the heat was unbearable. He just couldn't find any way to cool off.

In the back yard of the home he was visiting, was a 18' x 36' swimming pool. So Brian decided to take a dip, thinking this might cool him off. Normally this would have been a great idea, but you see, Brian Dunn is 22 months old.

Following is an account of that Sunday afternoon, as it was related to us by Herb and Millie Dickenson.

Herb is a Light Crew Foreman in Fresno, and serves this Local Union as the Executive Board member from the Southern Area. Herb and Millie are Brian's grandparents.

Herb had been working around his yard, and had just finished pruning some shrubs, when he stepped through the back gate to talk to his neighbor.

Millie was in the house visiting with her two daughters and her mother.

Little Brian and his six year old cousin, Bekki Nelson, walked out into the yard to see what their grand-dad was doing. They found him in the neighbor's yard. When Herb noticed them, he told them, "You ought to get back in the house 'cause it's too hot out here for you."

Just seconds after this, Millie happened to look out the window, and saw to her horror, Brian floating face down in the pool. She threw open the sliding screen door with a bang, loud enough for Herb to hear it in the adjacent yard, screamed for Herb, and jumped into the pool to rescue Brian.

Herb got to the poolside just as Millie was lifting Brian out, and onto the side. Herb attempted to check his pulse, also watched for a rise and fall on his stomach that would indicate breath, but to no avail. Herb said at this point, all he could think of was that he had to get the water out of Brian's lungs fast. So he scooped him up by the heels and suspended him this way for a couple of seconds. Nothing came out.

He layed him on his stomach and pressed on the small of his back. Nothing came out.

He rolled him over on his back and started mouth to mouth resuscitation. The first breath didn't work, so he repositioned Brian's head with more tilt, and started again. The passage was open now. After five or six breaths there was no reaction, so Herb reached over with his free hand and started cardiac massage. Much to Herb's relief, the first depression brought up fluid through the mouth and nostrils. He rolled Brian over to clear his mouth, checked his tongue, and resumed giving mouth to mouth resuscitation.

Brian is a big lad for his age, so Herb had to place his cheek against his nose, as he couldn't cover both the mouth and nostrils adequately. Consequ-

ently, while administering mouth to mouth in this manner, he could feel fluid coming out of Brian's nostrils against his cheek.

At this point in relating the story to us, Herb said, "You know with all the confusion and apprehension going on around you and inside your own mind, you do these things by instinct. You don't always have your Hard-Hat around with the sequence and rhythm for mouth to mouth and cardiac massage written handily on the inside. Believe me I kept saying little prayers all the time I was working on Brian."

In reference to the confusion that accompanies an accident such as this, Herb, while administering First Aid, directed one of his daughters to call the Fire and Police Departments, while the other daughter, along with her grandmother, were attempting to pull Millie out of the pool, as she had gone into shock.

These are just a couple of things you don't have to face while working on Resusci-Ann at a Safety First Meeting.

After seven or eight more mouth-to-mouths, Brian gave a little moan. A few more brought up more fluid through the nostrils. Six or seven more and Brian made a little sneezing sound. And finally, after seven or eight more breaths, Herb could detect shallow breathing. As Herb was receiving resistance from Brian, he had to start a new rhythm of breathing to coincide with Brian's.

When he had gained normal breathing on his own, they wrapped him in a blanket and were in the process of moving him into the house, when the Police arrived. They laid him on the living room floor, on his side, as Herb wanted to watch him closely for the emission of any fluids and also to the rise and fall of his stomach.

At this point the Fire Department arrived and set up their inhalator. They turned it on gently and placed it about six inches from Brian's mouth. An ambulance arrived shortly, and after the Fire Department determined he was ready to move, they started for the hospital. Just as they were going out the door, Brian opened his eyes for the first time, and looked around.

Herb stated, in telling this story, "I know I made some mistakes and if it would have happened under different circumstances, I would have probably followed the correct procedure. But it didn't and we were lucky."

"I can't stress the importance enough to the people who read this story, of learning the correct methods of administering First Aid in all types of injuries. I might add, that giving mouth to mouth resuscitation is not as critical an operation as some believe it to be. Especially on a child."

"I will never forget that day, as long as I live. It would be a heck-of-a-thing to face the rest of your life, knowing you failed in saving a life; especially when you had been given the opportunity to get the training in a First Aid meeting, and didn't pay attention. I don't think I could."

## Tetanus Can Be Deadly

We all know gardening is good exercise and a relaxing hobby. But gardening can also expose a person to an extremely painful illness, even death, from tetanus.

Tetanus, more commonly known as lockjaw, is due to a deadly poison produced by a micro-organism that is found almost everywhere. Many persons carry the germ in their intestines and so do many cattle, horses, and other domestic animals. Soil can be a source of tetanus infection, especially if it has been treated with animal fertilizer.

Many people think tetanus results only from a cut by a rusty nail or similar object. This is a dangerous fallacy because tetanus can result from a very slight wound or scratch. The tetanus germ needs only a very slight break in the skin to enter the body.

Deaths from tetanus have resulted from such things as a peck from a chicken, an insect bite, a scratch from a rosebush thorn or a small crack in the skin. Some disease-causing wounds have been so slight that the patient was unable to recall any injury and no trace of the wound remained when the patient was examined.

Puncture wounds like those

caused by a nail or a splinter, gunshot wound or particles from an explosion are particularly dangerous. These wounds carry the tetanus organisms deep into the body where dead or dying tissue and the absence of oxygen provide an ideal environment for growth of the disease. Automobile injuries and burns are also favorable for development of tetanus.

In acute infections of tetanus, the period necessary for the germs to grow and cause symptoms varies from five to ten days. Initial symptoms may include pain or tingling around the wound, restlessness, irritability, stiff neck, fever, considerable sweating, tightness of the jaw, and mild stiffness in arms and legs. When the disease is further advanced, spasms of the facial muscles and jaw muscles occur. The muscle spasms progress to include extremities, back and abdomen. The spasms are extremely painful and easily precipitated by noise, movement or touching the victim. In later stages, the spasms cause difficulty in breathing and swallowing. Death is most commonly caused by pulmonary complications.

No one need die from tetanus.

The disease is completely pre-

## PG&E Safety Record Wins High Praise

The National Safety Council's Award of Honor, the council's highest award, has been presented to Pacific Gas and Electric Company for its record in reducing the frequency and severity of on-the-job accidents.

PG&E has won three of the National Safety Council's Award of Honor plaques since 1954.

During the 1968 calendar year, PG&E substantially reduced its ac-

countable with proper immunization. Three injections of tetanus toxoid are needed, the first two injections a month apart, and the third injection six months to one year later. A booster shot every ten years thereafter maintains adequate protection. When an injury occurs which might result in tetanus, a booster should be given. Tetanus toxoid is relatively painless and free of reaction.

Union members and their families are urged to have tetanus immunization—or to bring their immunization up-to-date.

cident frequency rate and reduced the severity of accidents, according to the National Safety Council.

"Safety is everybody's job and one that pays dividends in many big ways. Safe work habits make jobs easier and more productive and improve our service to customers," Sherman L. Sibley, the utility company's president, said in accepting the award on behalf of all PG&E employees. Raymond W. White, manager of the company's safety department, transmitted it on behalf of the National Safety Council.

A second award from the Edison Electric Institute honoring PG&E for its large reduction in 1968 of accident frequency over the average of the past three years was accepted by Sibley. It was the fourth time PG&E has won the EEI accident reduction award since 1955.

Present for the awards ceremony were the managers of all PG&E's 13 operating divisions.