

Strike Support Growing For G.E. Workers

The General Electric Corporation, with the backing "of elements of the federal government, a large spectrum of the business community and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce" is engaged in "a concerted, calculated effort to make labor the public scapegoat for inflation."

This warning was issued by Lane Kirkland, National Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO, at a GE strike-support rally at the Del Webb TowneHouse in San Francisco. The rally was called to kick off a nationwide fund drive asking for \$1.00 per member from all unions throughout the country. This money is sorely needed by those who are out on the bricks and the key to continue this successful strike will be the financial and moral support of union members everywhere.

Over two million dollars has been received since the rally. Union members in Japan are even sending over money to help support this strike.

The members of the 12 unions involved made every attempt to settle at the bargaining table before going out on strike. They have since offered to submit the issues involved in the four-week-old strike to binding arbitration, but G.E., the nation's fourth largest manufacturer, refused the offer.

The G.E. workers actually lost "financial ground" during the last three year contract. In 1966, the G.E. workers won a 13% increase over a three year period, but since that time the cost of living has gone up 13.3 per cent so the people are worse off today than they were three years ago.

Kirkland tore into G.E.'s attempt to promote an image of itself as a public servant and a fighter of inflation. He reminded the group of 200 trade union leaders at the rally about when G.E.'s top officials were convicted and jailed for price-fixing involving \$100 million in 1963. He also informed them that G.E.'s profits after taxes have climbed about 200 percent since 1960. He also noted that the rate of return per dollar invested by G.E. has been about 15 percent a year. They have also announced just recently that they are going to have to raise prices on most of their appliances. Does this sound like a company who is interested in fighting inflation?

One of the union's main charges against G.E. has been their position on making one take-it-or-leave-it offer and not changing one thing. G.E. has been receiving a great deal of heat over this issue so they were smart enough to change that position and make a second offer. The offer was totally inadequate and no better than what was originally offered but at least they changed it for appearance's sake.

G.E. can hold out for a long time and they will do everything in their power to break this strike and the power of the labor movement. If we allow G.E. to get away with this, we will all feel the effects in our nego-

(Continued on Page 2)



utility reporter

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Don't Buy G.E. Products



The above photo shows some of the people in attendance at the San Francisco Stewards' meeting. From left to right are: John Wilder, Assistant Business Manager, and Shop Stewards Dick Madden, Gene Sheldon, Art Bates and Al Apodaca.

YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN SUPPORT FOR STRIKERS NEEDED

By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

A rash of travel assignments and a bout with the "flu" caused me to miss our November press deadline.

During November I attended meetings in various locations on West Coast utility negotiations and Labor-Management relations, state and federal tax reform needs, internal I.B.E.W. jurisdictional matters and the California environmental crisis. All of these matters directly affect the interests of our

members.

Stewards' Conferences for U.-S.B.R. and East Bay Division were also attended. Both were good meetings and December's schedule includes conferences for Sacramento, Colgate and San Francisco Divisions.

On the organizing front, my staff reports that it looks like we will achieve our 1969 goal—13,000 members by December 31st.

Our Membership Survey is being programmed by my office in consultation with the University of California and we expect the mailing to go out on schedule—around the first of the year.

While some technical difficulties have arisen concerning how the forthcoming Local 1245 Death Benefit program will be set up and handled, the Executive Board will work this out so that the \$500.00 benefit will be available to deceased members' beneficiaries as soon as a date for initiation of the program can be set.

We are in negotiations with Pacific Tree Expert Company, a number of public power agencies and with X-Ray Engineering Company.

On the national bargaining front, two large electric utilities are in

(Continued on Page 2)

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SAN FRANCISCO STEWARDS MEET

Larry Foss, Business Representative, opened the meeting by introducing the guests and outlining the material that will be covered in the meeting.

The first speaker of the evening was Ronald T. Weakley, Business Manager-Financial Secretary. He spoke on how and why the decision was made by the Executive Board to use a survey of the total membership for the 1970 negotiations. It is hoped that the results of this survey will be a tremendous aid to the negotiating committee and to the elected officers of Local 1245. It is the Board's opinion that it is important to know the attitude and desires of all of our members and that these will be a support to the Unit recommendations made at the Unit meetings.

Norm Amundson, from the Center of Labor Research at the University of California, Berkeley, gave a synopsis of what is in the survey and how they worked it out. This survey was done by Local 1245 in consultation with the Center for Labor Research. Norm and Ron answered questions from the Stewards on the survey.

L. L. Mitchell, Senior Assistant Business Manager, described the functions of the actual negotiating committee and explained the problems in terms of conflicting recommendations from the units and related how the survey might be of great assistance to the committee in these areas.

The meeting concluded with a brief discussion on communications and its importance to the Local. It was stated that this is one of the purposes of the survey.

Strike Support Growing for G.E. Workers

(Continued from Page 1)

tiating sessions next year.

The only way we are going to bring G.E. to the bargaining table with some responsible offers, is to get them where they live and we mean the pocket-book.

A successful boycott of G.E. products is the only answer and machinery is available to make it successful. We will list below George Meany's guidelines for boycott action and if you have any questions or should you want to participate, contact Dave Reese at Local Union headquarters or talk to your own Rep.

Specific instructions for implementing the AFL-CIO's nationwide boycott of all General Electric and Hotpoint products have just been issued by AFL-CIO President George Meany to assure proper handling of the consumer boycott.

Stressing the fact that the GE strike is "of vital importance to the entire labor movement" and that is "success or failure . . . will be heavily influenced by the energy and dedication with which the trade union movement pursues the boycott campaign, Meany summarized the rights and restrictions of boycott participants as follows:

- You have a right to advise consumers, by picketing and handbilling, that there is a labor dispute with General Electric, that a retail store is selling G.E. products, and that you request the consumers not to purchase G.E. products.
- You have a right to engage in such picketing and handbilling on the pedestrian walkways at the customer entrances of a retail store selling G.E. products during the hours that store is open for business.
- You have the right to advise the manager of a retail store of your

intention to engage in such picketing and handbilling.

- You have the right to request the manager of a retail store to exercise his managerial discretion to stop purchasing and selling G.E. products.
- You are forbidden to address a retail store's employees and deliverymen except to advise them that you are not requesting them to refrain from performing services.
- You are forbidden from requesting a total boycott of a retail store selling G.E. products. The appeal must be limited to a boycott of G.E. products.
- You are forbidden from any form of physical interference with consumers, employees or deliverymen or otherwise engaging in any obstruction or disturbance.
- You are forbidden to threaten a retail store manager with any form of economic reprisal for continuing to handle G.E. products.

Among other things Meany advised trade unionists to bring the boycott to a retail store's attention before commencing picketing or leafletting and to stick with the language used in sample handbill and picket signs dispatched to all AFL-CIO central bodies and nationally chartered affiliates last week.

Editorial

How do you go about paying tribute to a group of men, especially when they are the administrative staff of Local 1245, and not be accused of apple polishing, playing politics and many other complaints that might stem from an editorial such as this? There is no sure way to do it, but let's give it a go.

The season of Christmas is one in which many gifts are given and many thank-you's said. In keeping with this tradition of Christmas, let us consider the gifts that Local 1245 and consequently all of its members have received throughout the years—the gift of lives wholly dedicated to the concept that people are entitled to representation that will secure a fair wage and working conditions for its members.

All too often, we seem to have to wait for someone to die before we say words of praise and thanks for their efforts. It's time we say something while Ron Weakley, L. L. Mitchell, Mert Walters and John Wilder are still with us.

You might wonder why we limit the praise to these four men. What about the staff or the Executive Board or the individual men and women who have come and gone who are spending or have spent a great deal of time and effort toward making this organization go? For one thing, space prohibits it; secondly, it is probable that we would leave someone out and that wouldn't be right.

The members of Local 1245 have come a long way since 1952 when Ron Weakley was first elected Business Manager. We have risen from the status of a "second class" Local, with second class wages and benefits; to one of the most respected Locals in the entire Labor movement as well as the I.B.E.W., with first class wages and benefits for the members.

This progress was not just a "product of the times," but rather a result of long hours and hard work. Ron, Mitch, and Mert each have over 18 years with Local 1245 and John is the junior member of the administrative team with 9 years on the staff of the Local.

They have done a tremendous job for us over the years and we should all be thankful for the quality leadership they have given us.

Ken Lohre, Editor

YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN SUPPORT FOR STRIKERS NEEDED

By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

(Continued from Page 1)

the spotlight. Florida Power and Light is being struck by I.B.E.W. System Council U-4. Money and other issues are involved and at press time, the strike has been in progress for over seven weeks with no settlement in sight.

Local 47 of the I.B.E.W. has negotiated a tentative settlement on a wage opener with Southern California Edison. Balloting is in progress on a 7½% wage offer and the results will be known on December 19th. The new wage schedules will be effective on January 1, 1970, if accepted by the membership of Local 47.

Rising prices, taxes, interest rates, insurance premiums, etc., continue to erode the purchasing power of our peoples' paychecks.

1970 will find Local 1245 in negotiations with nearly all of our employers and wages will be one of the top issues in bargaining.

While none of our employers are "patsies" at the bargaining table, none of them are in the same class as General Electric. This outfit is arrogant, violently anti-labor, has

a record of conviction for price-fixing and is just plain mean.

The I.B.E.W. and Local 1245 are standing squarely behind the nearly 150,000 G.E. workers who are out on strike for a very reasonable set of demands which G.E. can well afford to meet out of its swollen profit bag.

Should G.E. win this time, Labor can expect many other employers to try the same tactics and use the G.E. thing as a prop for the argument that the "wage spiral" must be stopped. The fact that the "price spiral" is always way ahead of any wage catchups is ignored by some of the fuzzy-minded apologists for big business who figure that if a lie is told over and over, it will become a truth.

Christmas wasn't very merry for the I.B.E.W. members out on strike at Florida Power and Light nor for the G.E. workers who are on the bricks all over the country.

I hope all of our members and their families will have a Happy Holiday Season and that 1970 will be a year in which peace will become our major national objective, both at home and abroad.



the utility reporter

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UNDERGROUNDING BUDGET INCREASES

Pacific Gas and Electric Company has budgeted \$9 million for 1970—half a million dollars more than in 1969—to convert existing overhead electric distribution lines to underground on main traveled streets and civic, recreation and scenic areas within its territory.

The new allotment makes a total of \$25.5 million budgeted by the Company in the first three years of the systemwide undergrounding program.

The program is set forth in a document filed with the California Public Utilities Commission. Amounts are designated for each city and for the unincorporated areas of the 47 counties served with electricity by PG&E.

The amounts are determined on

a fair share basis according to the number of PG&E electric customers in each locality.

At present 186 of 198 incorporated cities and 35 of the 47 counties in the Company's electric service area have enacted ordinances to establish undergrounding districts. Construction has been completed or is in progress on underground conversion projects in the majority of these communities.

In addition to the \$9 million budgeted for 1970 PG&E will carry over any amounts budgeted for the communities in 1968 and 1969 that have not yet been invested in conversion work. Each community and county will be informed by the Company's local office of the amount set aside for conversion work in its area.

BUSINESS DOMINATED WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE DODGED PRICES, QUALITY

By Sidney Margolius
Consumer Expert for
Utility Reporter

Working families didn't get much help and consideration in their struggle with present high food prices from the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health.

The much-publicized conference early in December was noticeably dominated by food corporation executives. Many were from companies that had bitterly fought "truth in packaging" and other consumer protection, such as General Foods Corp., McCormick Co., Campbell Soup Co., and the meat packers.

Just as shocking were the attitudes of some of the U.S. Agriculture Dept. representatives at the conference. They sided with the businessmen in fighting off proposals aimed at reducing prices.

The president of Campbell was the chairman of one of the most important panels affecting your pocketbook, that on staple foods. McCormick was represented on several panels. McCormick is the company that invited the House Commerce Committee to see how "difficult" it would be to make standard-size packages. That "demonstration" helped kill the standardized-weights provision of the original packaging bill, which would have made it easier for you to compare values.

General Foods is the company whose then chairman wrote that "Let's Keep Politics Out of The Pantry" article in *Look* when the packaging bill was under consideration. The article argued that the public eats "so well and so con-

veniently for so little." Bet you didn't know you did.

Some of the recommendations that came out of the conference were still useful. Many of those dealing with the food problems of the poor stressed the immediate need to expand food-stamp and other emergency programs. The fact is that some 25 million Americans have incomes so low that they may have difficulty getting enough to eat in this winter of high food prices.

But many of the recommendations were simply for more education in nutrition.

This is dodging the real problems, of course. While nutritional education is desirable, no amount of "education" really can take the place of more reasonable prices. **Low-income people already are better buyers than middle-income and richer people.** They buy more calories and more protein and other nutrients for the dollar than other income groups, as shown by U.S. Agriculture Dept. studies.

One of the food-industry panels at the conference even made its major recommendation a proposal that the food industry establish a "Food Council of America" to tell people how to shop for food.

It is difficult to imagine such an industry council telling consumers not to buy sugar-coated cereals because they are 45 per cent sugar, or watered "fruit drinks" or flavored rice that comes to \$1 a pound when you figure out the real cost.

Where nutritional and shopping information is really most needed and useful is at the point of sale, which means right on the package

label.

Most urgent need is to require that labels state the percentages of each ingredient in the product. Low-income families especially often tend to buy products that seem cheap like frankfurters and lunch meats, unaware that these usually have 30 per cent fat, 10 per cent water and thus only 60 per cent of the higher-quality nutrients.

Too, working mothers often buy TV dinners and similar ready-to-eat foods without realizing that these provide only about half the meat or other protein food recommended for a normal serving, and are filled out with inexpensive low-nutrition ingredients.

Nor can a mother who thinks frozen chicken pot pies seem reasonable really know, under present labeling, that these contain only 14 per cent chicken meat; that canned beef stew really is only 12 per cent meat, that "Noodles with Chicken" is only 9 per cent chicken; that ready-to-eat fish cakes which look cheap have only about 60 per cent of the protein value of a standard home recipe.

It is noticeable that the nutrition-quality of American diets has been going down in a period of relative affluence, even as the marketing and use of such low-nutrition food products has increased dramatically.

One of the industry-dominated panels at the conference said that the main purpose of food labels is to "provide information that will promote its use." But what consumers want is labels that give them more information on what's really in the box.

buyers'
bailiwick

It was also remarkable that at a conference concerned with food and nutrition problems held in a time of severe inflation, practically nothing was said about the high prices of food. Giving food stamps to the poor is all right with industry. That means that manufacturers and stores sell more products. But it also means that the public is subsidizing and even perpetuating high food prices.

The plain fact is that food prices are too high. Certainly they are too high in comparison to the traditional spread from price "spread" from farm to market. Farmers used to get 50 cents of the retail food dollar, and distribution took 50 cents. In recent years farmers have gotten only 37-40 cents, while distribution has taken 60-63 cents. Reducing the marketing margin to the former 50-50 ratio alone could reduce present food prices as much as 20 per cent.

Noticeably wasteful food marketing practices also show that food prices are higher than they need be. These include unnecessary processing; unnecessary sales promotion costs which have ballooned in recent years at both retail and manufacturing levels; proliferation of products which has added to both processing and retailing costs; unfair federal milk-price orders which put a higher farm price on milk for family use than for manufacturing purposes, and other wasteful and price-raising practices.

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Drivers Irked by High Costs and Stamp Tricks

By Sidney Margolius
Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

Car owners are complaining about the high price of gas this year, the practices of some stations which conceal price rises by offering bonus stamps, and the confusion about claims of high octane rating.

While the oil companies are warning that we'll pay more if Congress takes away their special depletion tax loophole, prices already are up to 35-42 cents a gallon, depending on grade and brand, in many areas. (Under the depletion allowance, oil companies can deduct 27½ per cent of their income. Thus, many of them pay little or even no income taxes.)

One reader is especially indignant about the practice of some gas stations in claiming to offer three, four and even eight times the usual number of trading stamps.

"When you are enticed into a station with that kind of advertising, you find when you pay your bill that the price has been boosted from one to three cents a gallon to pay for the extra stamps," he complains. "That's taking unfair advantage of the motoring public."

Your only alternative is to note the price on the pumps of stations offering bonus stamps, and if it has been raised, drive out.

Fortunately, gasoline prices do recede during the winter. There is more competition as producers dump gas to make room in their storage facilities for fuel oil.

Drivers always have worried about whether to buy regular or premium, and which brand gives the highest octane rating. The octane rating is the measure of the anti-knock quality.

As we have pointed out several times, most cars operate satisfactorily on regular grade. "Regular" now is as high in octane rating (95.9) as the premium gases of several years ago. Too, a number of surveys have shown that there is little difference among brands of the same grade.

In fact, there is even more difference in price than in octane rating, the latest survey, by the Nassau County, New York, Consumer Affairs Department, confirms. The highest price by no means indicates the highest octane rating, and even on the same brand prices can vary 5 per cent and more among different stations.

The survey was cited by Nassau Consumer Commissioner John Occhio-

grosso recently in support of a Federal Trade Commission proposal to require stations to post octane ratings.

Sometimes you may pay for premium gas but not get it. The Nassau County inspectors found that often the consumer did not receive premium gas from the premium pump but got either an adulterated or mixed gas. There is no way you usually can tell unless your own state or local authorities regularly check the octane ratings by taking samples.

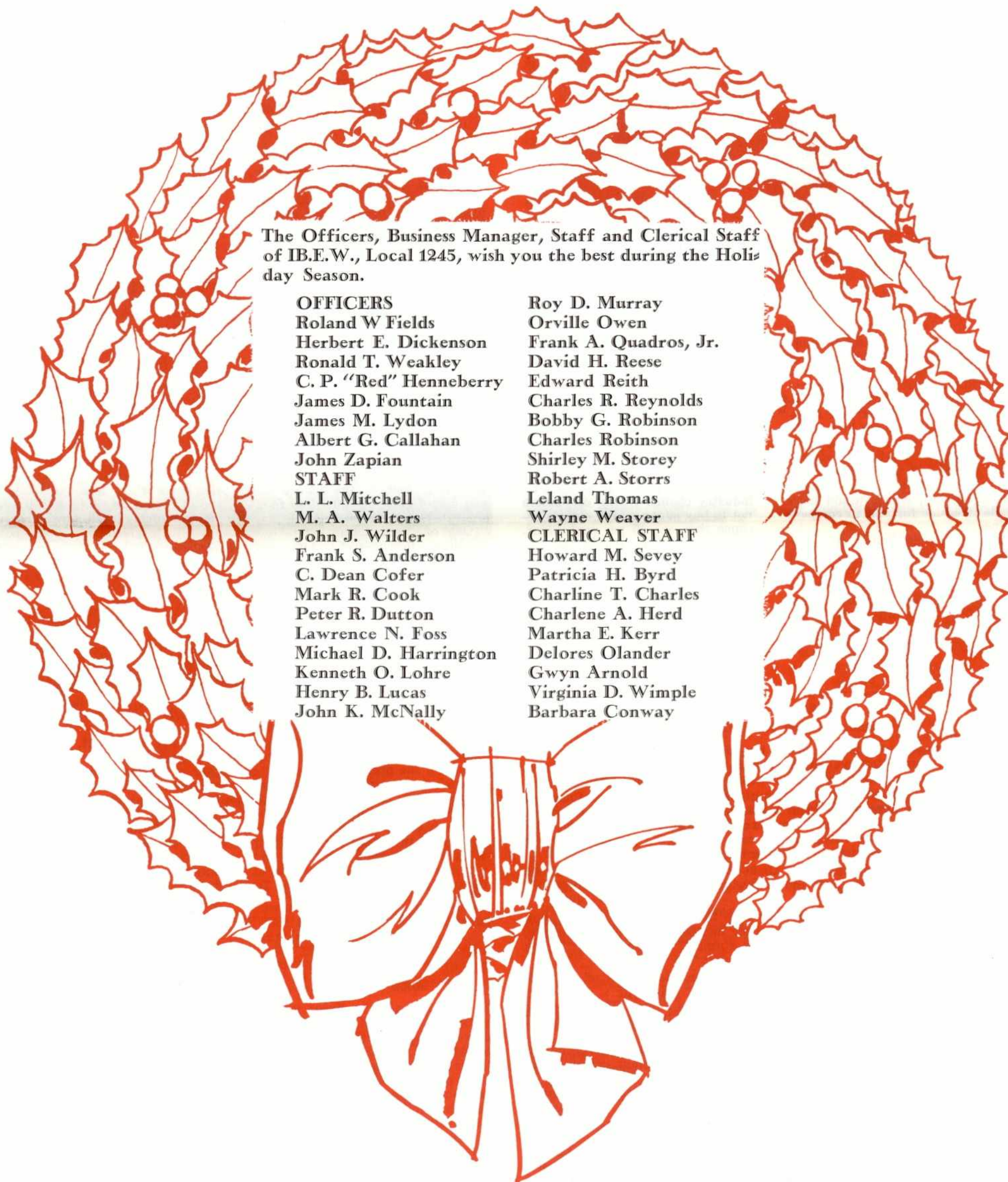
Some states, notably Florida and Virginia, do have regulations and regularly check octane ratings. The proposed FTC requirement for posting ratings on the pump would make it easier for the authorities to determine whether a premium gas has been mixed with regular, Occhiogrosso says.

His inspectors bought samples of premium gas of the major brands sold in their area; and after testing found these ratings:

	Octane	Price
Amoco	100.4	41.9¢
	100.8	40.9
Esso (Extra)	100.7	38.9
Gulf (No-Nox)	99.7	39.9
	99.6	39.9
Mobil	100.0	41.9
	99.7	38.9
Shell	100.2	41.9
	100.4	37.9
Texaco	99.6	36.9
	99.7	39.9
Flying A	100.2	35.9
	100.3	37.9
Sunoco 260	102.3	38.9
	102.0	40.9
Sunoco 230	98.3	35.9
	97.0	37.9
Hess	100.4	35.9
	100.5	35.9

(Continued on Page Seven)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



The Officers, Business Manager, Staff and Clerical Staff of I.B.E.W., Local 1245, wish you the best during the Holiday Season.

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Local 1245 Continues Steward Education Program

SACRAMENTO

Business Representative Dean Cofer opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. with an explanation of the purpose of the meeting. A packet of educational material was presented to each Steward in attendance at the meeting. Representative Cofer explained each piece of material very briefly and pointed out those items which would be discussed in depth later in the meeting.

Each Shop Steward introduced himself and gave his work location and classification after Dean introduced the guests in attendance.

The first order of business was a discussion on the first sections of the contract regarding general principles described in Titles 1-5 in both the Physical and Clerical contracts. Questions were asked as the material was covered and either brother Cofer or Business Manager Weakley gave the answers.

Immediately following lunch, Ron Weakley, Business Manager-Financial Secretary, spoke to the group about a wide variety of subjects which ran from the question of automation and its effects on the members of Local 1245, to the common issues expected in the 1970 negotiations. Business Manager Weakley told of the contacts he had made with Union leaders in Canada who invited him to visit their headquarters in Montreal. He also informed the group about the G.E. strike and the need for moral and financial support.

Ken Lohre, Business Representative, followed with a brief description of the preparations for negotiation with P.G.&E. on "Indicative Duties" for the clerical forces of the Customer Services Line of Progression.

Dave Reese, Business Representative, reported on his assignment in the areas of apprentice training and safety. He told the group some of the gruesome details of several recent accidents.

The balance of the day was spent discussing various sections of the contract.

A special "thank you" needs to be said to those Stewards who give up their Saturdays and weeknights to attend these Stewards' meetings. The Stewards play a key role in the successful operation of this Union and for this we say thanks.



Dean Cofer, Bus. Rep., is shown speaking to the Sacramento Shop Stewards.



Business Manager Ronald T. Weakley is pictured speaking to the Stewards in Sacramento, bringing them up to date on his activities on behalf of Local 1245.



Dave Reese, Bus. Rep., is shown answering some questions regarding safety problems.



Ken Lohre, Bus. Rep., is reporting on the progress of "clerical duties" negotiations.

The picture on the right is actually a combination of many photos which show most of the participants at the Sacramento Stewards' meeting. We thank them for giving up Saturday to further their training as stewards of Local 1245.



SAN FRANCISCO



Shown above is Norm Amundson, guest speaker at the San Francisco Stewards' meeting. Norm works at the Center for Labor Research, University of California, Berkeley.

The photos on the right show more of the speakers and participants at the San Francisco Stewards' meeting. From left to right are: Ronald T. Weakley, Bus. Mgr., L. L. Mitchell, Sr. Asst. Bus. Mgr., Larry Foss, Bus. Rep., John Zapian, Treasurer of Local 1245, and Shop Steward Mike Condon.



Brotherhood = Success

The combined efforts of the San Jose Clerical and San Jose Physical units resulted in the Social Highlight of the year for Local 1245's calendar of events and for San Jose Division's list of activities.

Over 225 people attended the second annual San Jose Dance and a good time was had by all. Popcorn, chips, dips, rolls, sliced ham and sliced roast beef were the culinary offerings of the evening.

Nickel beer and three drink tickets for a dollar provided enough beverages to wash down the food and create a pleasant glow for most of the participants.

Larry Hope, Chairman of the San Jose Clerical Unit, appointed the chairman for the dance and some of the committee members and has asked that each person who helped out be named and thanked for their help.

Margaret Greathouse was the chairwoman and did quite a job making the dance the great success that it was. Her committees and helpers were: **Decorating;** Pat and Mac McKenzie, Dave Hyde, Bob Morrow, Chuck Greathouse, Loretta and Harold Hayes, Carl Rosker and Don Barnes, — **Refreshments;** Kathy Arellano, Kathy Hill, Bonnie Welton, Pat Hyde and Loretta Hayes, — **Bartenders;** John Gillio, Larry Hope, Glen Hanson, Dennis Ikerd, Harry Welton, Bob Martin, Gene Simonetti, Jerry Caravelli, Don Barnes, Percy Rome, and Mac McKenzie, — **Ticket Sales;** Kathy Hill, Kathy Arellano, Pat Hyde, Bonnie Welton, Lanai Rosker and Joyce Lohre, — **Clean Up;** Jack and Kathy Hill, Dennis Ikerd, John Gillio, Percy Rome, Chuck Greathouse, Ed Fortier and Bob Morrow.

The dance was such a huge success that on the following Monday everyone was asking when the Union was going to put on the next one. With this type of enthusiasm, it appears that the same group will be putting on a Spring Dance, so watch for the notices in your area.



The above photo shows Larry Hope, Unit Chairman for San Jose-Clerical, left, and Percy Rome, Advisory Councilman, presenting a bouquet of flowers to Margaret Greathouse, center, for her work as the Chairwoman of the dance.

Nader Assails Business For Looting People

By Sal Perrotta

When consumer protagonist Ralph Nader assails the nation's business for "calculating slide rule looting of people" he runs the stock exchange gamut from autos to wieners.

And when he scolds, it's not just that there's too much fat in wieners or too much chrome on autos but because the health and safety of consumers are in deep peril.

A wave of disbelief rippled through a standing-room-only crowd at Rodger Young Auditorium in Los Angeles last month as the consumer crusader declared that rodent remains have been found in meat products and that a car's bumper protects the driver and passengers at only two miles per hour.

"Hundreds of millions of dollars are being swindled from the public through consumer fraud," said Nader, sponsored here by United Auto Workers Local 887 in conjunction with the Association of California Consumers.

"Not only are people not getting their money's worth but are being subjected to fraud bordering on criminality."

The millions bilked from the public in 1968 alone, he said, was 10-fold of all the money taken in all reported bank robberies for the year.

Nearly every industry, business and product has come under Nader's scrutiny since launching his one-man consumer campaign five years ago when he hit hardest at the automotive industry in his best-selling book, "Unsafe At Any Speed," a scathing account of safety dangers in autos.

A plus for his audience here was a devastating criticism of Governor Ronald Reagan, accused of "massive demagoguery."

"How can there be a governor who diverts attention to so-called

student violence but constantly ignores air and water pollution and urban sprawl?" he asked.

"Perhaps, because he has mastered, in the truest sense, the art of mid-20th Century demagoguery."

He posed another question concerning Reagan's failure to recognize the urgency of environmental pollution:

"What are we to do, put a beard on them (the problems) and call them students? If he ever gave a speech on air pollution his chief recommendation would probably be that we shouldn't inhale."

He added that "it's time for working men and women, students and other voters of California to take a big step forward (in next year's gubernatorial election) for the benefit of the rest of the nation as well as California."

While blasting the auto industry appears to be his favorite topic, Nader covered a wide variety in his address.

Of the food industry, he said: "They color, tenderize and further preserve foods, all of which do little, if anything, for nutrition. The public should become more critical and nutritionally informed of the foods they buy and added benefit would be a reduction in food costs."

On credit buying: "It isn't only loan sharks who cheat the people but the businesses behind the marble pillars, the big finance companies, banks and insurance firms. And it's not just high interest rates that hurt us but the blatant illegality in lending. If all the charges (in loans and financing) were properly labeled, 75 percent of all lending would be illegal."

Warranties and guarantees: "They're hardly worth the paper. Try to find a lawyer who would handle your \$2,500 lemon, a car
(Continued on Page Seven)



This photo gives an over-all view of the crowded dance floor.

WHO BENEFITS MOST FROM CAPITAL GAINS?

Trade unionists who own a few shares of stock are kidding themselves if they think they benefit more than they are hurt by the nation's present capital gains tax loophole.

This was demonstrated graphically by the National Committee on Tax Justice in testimony presented to the Senate Finance Committee recently.

The Committee presented a table showing that persons in the \$10,000 to \$50,000 adjusted gross income class receive only four percent of their total income from capital gains.

In contrast, individuals with adjusted gross incomes ranging between \$50,000 and \$100,000 got 17.1 percent of their total income from capital gains; those in the \$100,000 to \$1 million income category received 42.3 percent of their income from capital gains; and those in the over \$1 million class

got 72.2 percent of their income from capital gains.

The unfairness of the capital gains provision are principally two, namely:

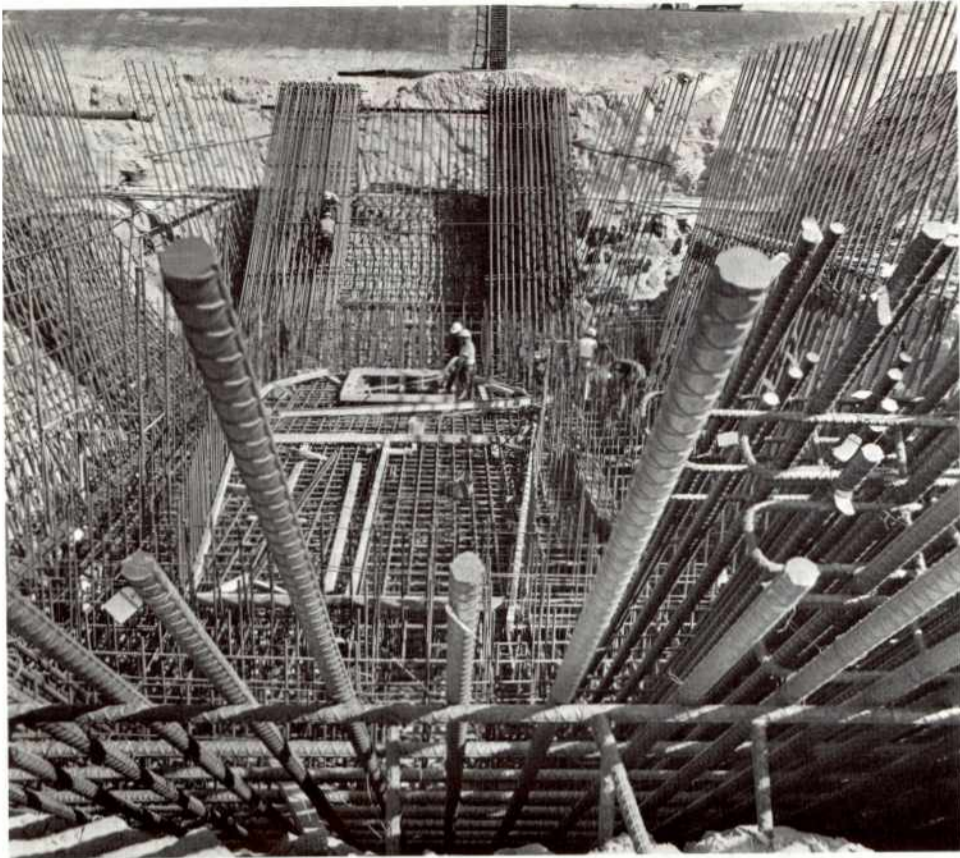
1—Only 50 percent of the profit is taxable on securities or investments held more than six months, with the remaining one-half being tax free.

2—The tax rate on capital gains cannot exceed 25 percent regardless of the amount of the seller's total income.

The result of this tax loophole alone costs the United States Treasury \$8.5 billion a year, according to U.S. Treasury Department estimates, the Committee said.

Moreover, it pointed out that less than 10 percent of American taxpayers receive any of the benefits of this multi-billion dollar windfall while more than 90 percent of the remaining taxpayers foot the bill.

California AFL-CIO News



PATTERNS IN STEEL will be provided by Pacific Gas and Electric Company's atomic power plant at Diablo Canyon in San Luis Obispo County. These contractors' men are installing reinforcing bars for the nuclear reactor containment structure of the first of two planned million-kilowatt generating units. The rods range up to 2 1/4 inches thick. Concrete walls of the structure will average 3 feet in thickness. The unit will be completed in 1973.

Reno Unit Holds Christmas Party

Unit 3311 in Reno, Nevada, has in years past had a knack for staging good Christmas parties and this year was no exception. This year's party was held on December 13, 1969, at the V.F.W. Hall, Verdi, Nevada. There were approximately 180 people in attendance at the party and everyone enjoyed themselves very much.

Fourteen door prizes were given away at the party and this added excitement to the already pleasant evening.

None of these affairs could happen if it were not for the hard working committees. The committee members for Reno's Christmas party were Mickey Binyon, Chairman; Gloria Miller, Ethel Larsen, Richard Melillo and Carl Kelly.

Most of the food was prepared and donated by the members and their wives.

Yerington Unit Has Party

Yerington - Ft. Churchill Unit 3313 held their annual Christmas party on December 20, 1969, at the 20-30 Club in Yerington, Nevada.

There were 35 people at the party and everybody had a ball. Several door prizes were given out during the evening.

The committee for this party consisted of Jim O'Flaherty and Bruce McCloud. The members and their wives provided the food and even the music.

Drivers Irked by Octane Claims

(Continued from Page 3)

Occhiogrosso points out that the Hess samples his department tested did not always quite meet the advertised claim of "THE FIRST CERTIFIED 101 OCTANE PREMIUM GASOLINE IN AUTOMOTIVE HISTORY." But, in all fairness, the Hess price was relatively low.

Sunoco, although its price too was not high relatively, tended to vary more than the others because of its custom-blending (the same pump supplies different premium or regular).

Amoco, while higher in price, is the only brand that does not rely on tetraethyl lead for octane rating. Instead, it is blended with benzene (which increases its rating) to avoid the engine deposits sometimes caused by leaded gas.

"Without knowing the octane ratings the consumer is left in a jungle of claims, and his decisions are made on a hit-or-miss basis," Occhiogrosso warns. Products of other commodities are required to list ingredients; why should oil companies be exempt?

That there is not much important difference between brands of the same grade, or between private brands and advertised brands of the same grade, is demonstrated by the fact that the different distributors often buy from the same producers. One court case revealed that the Perkins gas stations bought their gas from Standard of California, which sold the same gas to Signal Oil, which in turn resold to Western Hyway Oil Co., which in turn also supplied the Regal Stations. So all these dealers were really selling the same gas.

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Nader Attacks Big Business

(Continued from Page Six)
that falls apart 23 different ways, and if you do, try to get your case into court."

What then, if any, is the consumer's redress?

"Organization," was Nader's reply.

"The gross imbalance of representation will continue unless strong organizations, like labor unions and the Rural Electric League get young again.

"Labor grew in the 30's, became entrenched in the 40's, matured in the 50's and in the 60's began to lose interest and enthusiasm for social reform.

"Of course ardor lessens with fight after fight but if there is any organization which can represent the public today it is labor."

The 35-year-old lawyer and former college researcher and instructor, also charged that the settlement of the smog suit between the federal government and the auto makers "is worthless."

Retained by the Los Angeles County supervisors to aid in their efforts to halt the out-of-court settlement, Nader said that the consent agreement entered into by the government and the auto industry "is a basic fraud."

"It will be a consent judgment without any policing," he said. "The whole enforcement process is so mythical as to be subject to severe satire."

He based his statement, he said, on the fact that there are only six lawyers in the antitrust division of the Justice Department to oversee such complex agreements.

The agreement would prohibit manufacturers from conspiring to delay or obstruct development and installation of anti-smog devices in automobiles.

The county has filed a \$100 million damage suit against the manufacturers and sought to quash the out-of-court settlement.

—Los Angeles Citizen

**COMPLETE AND RETURN
YOUR MEMBERSHIP
SURVEY BOOKLET!**

TO BUILD A BIG FIST...



—Utility Reporter

The Safety Scene

WILL YOU BE NEXT?

With the advent of automation and the intense push for greater profits on the part of management, the emphasis on more production per man hour of work is stressed. The first level of supervision, the Field Foreman, General Foreman, etc., are under terrific pressure to make their crews more efficient and more productive. It is at this point that the Safety First procedures and practices the employer claims is of primary importance in the minds of their supervisors, is too often forgotten. In order to keep the superintendent off his back and get out his quota of work orders, some first level supervisors will condone shortcuts or violations of safety first rules, as long as nothing happens.

And this is the way it will continue, until YOU decide you've had enough. It doesn't do much good to complain about the problem at a unit meeting because quite often nearly a month has elapsed after the violation and we need the information NOW. We have to have the facts—the date, time, location, persons involved, the infraction in question, witnesses, etc.—in order to take care of the problem effectively. Get these reports into the hands of the Shop Steward immediately, if one is available. If not, call your Business Representative. In any event, don't wait before getting someone to work on the problem. Remember, someone else may be injured or even killed doing the same thing that you thought was hazardous.

There is another contributing factor to an accident besides faulty equipment, negligence, and carelessness. That is the attitude of some supervisors. A few of them believe they have the powers of the Lord, that is, they can give life and take it away. A couple of them were right in this assumption, because lives were lost.

We have had lead men or subforemen tell us that after certain supervisors have been out on the job site chewing them out on some petty point and generally making life miserable for them, they invariably take it out on the rest of the crew. They have stated they know they are wrong in doing this, but they have to let off steam somewhere. This is human nature.

You can see how this would affect the rest of the crew, starting with bitterness toward each other right on down through personal carelessness to an accident.

This problem must be handled in the same manner as the one previously mentioned; that is, through prompt and accurate reports of these incidents. It is literally impossible for your Business Representative to resolve the problem without facts. No doubt you have heard the term, "personality conflict." Well, this is what your Representative gets as an answer to your problem, if he hasn't been supplied with the facts surrounding the case.

Now that we have blasted the employer fairly well, let's move to the other side of the ledger.

It may come as a shock to you, but there are a few of our members who pay little or no attention to safety first programs, or have no interest in statistics.

Statistics have been compiled and published to show that more persons have been killed, injured, or placed in conditions that contribute to their ill health than in all the wars in history. In most cases, they didn't have to go further than 25 miles from their homes to get it. The impact of safety first, whether on the job or in the home, really doesn't hit them until they talk to a woman who has lost her husband, or has a friend or relative who is minus a leg, an arm, or an eye.

In most cases, this will make believers out of them.

Remember, we are here to do the best possible job for you that we can. All we're asking for is SUPPORT and AMMUNITION.

In the July issue, we gave you a resume of the accidents which have occurred since January 1, 1969. The following report covers the period ending December 1, 1969.

July 23, 1969

An Equipment Operator and a Helper were trapped in a trench cave-in. Both men were taken to the hospital. One of them required three days of hospitalization. Although the excavation was under 5 feet in depth, the rule states that shoring should be made available, if soil conditions warrant.

September 9, 1969

A troubleman received minor injuries when a helicopter in which he was riding crashed. He was knocked unconscious, but the pilot was able to get him out of the aircraft before it was demolished by fire.

September 15, 1969

An Equipment Mechanic received a fractured skull and collarbone while in the process of disconnecting a drive shaft on a line truck that was stuck in the sand. The truck's transmission had become locked up in the reverse gear when an attempt was made to "rock" it out of the sand. When the Mechanic released the U-bolts on the universal, he caught the full force of the torque on the shaft.

October 1, 1969

Three General Construction employees were injured when they received minor electrical shocks. They stuck a 20-foot piece of pipe into a "hot" 12-KV line. They were gas employees, and had not been instructed in this work procedure.

October 7, 1969

A Tree Company employee received major burns from an electrical contact with a 12-KV line near a tree that he was trimming.

October 24, 1969

An employee injured a finger while in the process of loading poles. He caught it between the pole and pole skid.

October 31, 1969

A Subforeman and Lineman were in the process of stripping out a pole prior to removing it when it fell prematurely with both men on it. The Lineman suffered a fractured vertebra. The area had recently been graded and the pole was not in the ground at sufficient depth.

Several accidents have occurred since November 1, 1969, including one fatality, that are still under investigation. They will be reported on in the next issue of the Utility Reporter.

BIRDS.

Although this accident occurred in Southern California, and not to one of our members, it doesn't mean it couldn't have.

According to the Division of Industrial Safety, in a report by them, workmen, upon completing a job at the Twentynine Palms Marine Base Communications Center, had left some fine strands of Copper wire laying around on the ground. The birds found it ideal for tight, sturdy nests, which they built in the arm-like structure of a pole-top 4160 volt air switch. The wind blew some of the loose copper strands into the line, overhead, thus energizing a metal operating arm for the switch. The accident occurred when the lineman contacted the "hot" metal operating arm while he was in contact with a grounded surface.

No doubt this man, when he returns to work, will have learned the importance of giving thorough visual inspections to the job at hand, before commencing work.

HE LEARNED THE HARD WAY.

Winter Brings Carbon Monoxide Hazard

In a recent survey of road equipment in the central and northern Sierra Nevadas, more than one third of those tested showed very hazardous levels of carbon monoxide, according to Charles E. Farrell, DIS industrial safety engineer at Stockton. Farrell checked vehicles using lengths-of-stain detector tube. He found in one that the tube registered a concentration of 600 parts of carbon monoxide per million parts of air, and in several the CO level was between 100ppm and 200ppm. The permissible concentration is limited to 50ppm (the threshold limit value).

"Every winter there are a number of highway accidents that cannot be explained, but the cause may be carbon monoxide poisoning," Farrell said. Last winter, for example, he recalled the operator of a snow plow on highway 4 in Alpine County who died of an apparent heart attack. But tests of his winterized cab later showed 600ppm of carbon monoxide.

The basic rule to avoid the danger of CO poisoning is through ve-

hicle maintenance and repair. Farrell also suggests that vehicle owners should periodically test cabs for CO levels. Length-of-stain detector tubes are simple to operate, but if one is not available, then aid should be sought from either insurance company specialists, safety consultants, or engineers of the DIS.

Vehicle operators should be alert to the CO danger and to the symptoms of CO poisoning, Farrell warned. Any unexplained fatigue accompanied by drowsiness or of CO can cause nausea and vomiting, dizziness, and then unconsciousness and coma after three or more hours of exposure. Extremely high concentrations of CO, however, can cause unconsciousness and even death very quickly, so the early warning signs of CO poisoning might occur almost simultaneously with the advanced reactions.

Death or serious illness from carbon monoxide poisoning every winter needlessly afflicts operators of trucks, highway maintenance vehicles, and snow plows despite widespread knowledge of the danger and the simple steps to avoid it.