

Policy Statement on the 1970 Elections

The year 1970 is a crucial one regarding the effective continuation of Organized Labor as a great public service instrument in our free society. Labor represents working people and exists for the primary purpose of serving workers' economic and social interests.

Too many "soothsayers" have sought to "con" working people into actually believing that our working people's own organizations are their enemies, rather than their only true friends.

The Officers of Local 1245 are well aware of the challenges of the anti-labor forces in our country who are mounting a massive campaign to capture the Congress and our State Legislatures as a result of the 1970 General Elections.

In the year 1968, believing that a non-partisan approach to political education and action and a "low key" call for responsible citizenship participation in the election process was enough, your Officers refrained from making a real fight over the issues which trouble our people and from calling upon the membership to make a fight, rather than participating in "passive" election contests.

The policy is changed to the extent that while your Officers will continue to respect our general non-partisan approach to election contests, we shall also call the shots as we see them in order to properly implement the provisions of Article I, Section 2, of our Local Union's Bylaws which our people voted into existence in 1959. That vote was taken right after California Labor defeated the infamous so-called "Right-to-Work" Constitutional Amendment—Proposition 18 in California in 1958.

1958 was also the year when Labor elected Edmund G. "Pat" Brown to the Governorship of California by a million-vote landslide and retired ex-Senator William F. Knowland from active political life.

In 1962, California Labor had much to do with the defeat of Richard Nixon, who ran for Governor after his defeat by John F. Kennedy in the Presidential race of 1960.

During the middle "Sixties" when working people found themselves enjoying the happy results of an unprecedented rise in our national and state economies and as we began to look for other issues to consider in our elections, we began to naturally divert our interests toward relatively minor issues which have much less real impact on our economic and social needs.

We began to listen to and to follow political baloney peddlers who played on every prejudice, every insecure feeling and every divisive interest which could be developed through agitation and the force of money spent in hammering away through newspapers, magazines and the radio and TV news media against those things which we necessarily must protect for our own economic survival.

As a result, Reagan was elected to the Governorship of California.

Weakley Leads Delegates' Vote

Balloting in the Local Union Election for Delegates to the International Convention of the I.B.-E.W. resulted in the following individuals being elected:

DELEGATES

Ronald T. Weakley	2140
Leland Thomas Jr.	1373
Roland W. Fields	1351
L. L. Mitchell	1307
John H. Zapian	1028
Joan Elizabeth Bynum	926

Henry B. Lucas	852
C. P. "Red" Henneberry	810
Frank S. Anderson	807
Merton A. Walters	760
Shirley M. Storey	746
Mark R. Cook	711
Frank A. Quadros, Jr.	689
ALTERNATES	
J. K. McNally	658
Howard Darrington, IV	620
Herbert E. Dickenson	585
Thomas R. Fleming	563
James E. Gibbs, Jr.	536
Albert G. Callahan	527

The judge of the election was Eugene Sheldon and the tellers who counted the ballots were:

Robert J. Azevedo, Anthony A. Campos, John R. Crawford, Art A. Fahrner, Paul A. Kelley, Sarah L. Kelley, Francis P. Brady, Thomas C. Conwell, Jr., Ross Kilpatrick, Ronald W. Rector, James F. Wilburn, Ronald R. Bernstein, David E. Hurst, and Rodney R. Trowbridge, who was unable to take part in the actual counting of ballots due to illness, but was involved in the committee meetings for setting up the election.

Additional information on the tally may be received at the July unit meetings.

Please send any corrections of name, address or zip code to P.O. Box 4970 Walnut Creek, Calif. 94596

(Name)

(Street Address)

(City)

(State and Zip Code)

The people helped him gain a majority in the State Legislature and gave him his chance to cut taxes, reform state government, improve our children's educational opportunities, reduce racial tensions, reduce our crime rate and take "politics out of government."

During the Reagan term, this Local Union kept its faith with what appeared to be majority opinion among its membership. We did not "rap" Reagan.

It is the present position of the Officers of Local 1245 that Reagan has failed as Governor of California and that he should be replaced in November of 1970. We also believe that the majority of our Union's members agree with that position.

His major efforts have served to cause economic trouble for our members and his stock in trade is obviously the intensification of division among Californians which cannot longer be afforded if California is to pull itself out of the present political, social and economic mess.

On the national scene, we found many in our house voting for Richard Nixon in 1968. Organized Labor supported Hubert Humphrey and almost defeated Nixon. Since that fateful day when he became President, Local 1245 has played down opposition to him. Our real opposition goes back for many years as a result of his record in the House, the Senate and during his service as Vice President of the United States.

Nixon's promises to "bind up our wounds," to end the Vietnam mess, to curtail crime in our streets, to "keep America moving" and to stop "cronyism" in the White House found Local 1245's Officers again trying to give Nixon a fair chance before taking out after him on the record.

That policy, too, is undergoing change at the Officer level of Local 1245 and from now on, Nixon's record will become a matter of close examination and opposition, where properly warranted.

Unemployment has risen to serious levels, a real recession is in progress, the stock market is shot, the housing crisis grows, racial tensions grow, crime grows, the Asian mess is escalated and finally, Nixon moves to add the Supreme Court to the list of controlled elements of his administration.

Only the Congress remains as the last hope in a chain of complete takeover by Nixon as he proves that the warning of our late President Dwight D. Eisenhower, set forth just before he left office, was a real one.

"Ike" warned against the growing power of the "military-industrial

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The above photo shows some of the Shop Stewards in attendance at the Shasta Division Stewards' Meeting. The main topic of the meeting centered around the current negotiations and there was some good discussion on this subject.

Shasta Division Shop Stewards Meet

The Shop Stewards from the Shasta Division met in Redding, California, on June 6, 1970, at the Holiday Inn. Lee Thomas, Business Representative, opened the meeting by having the Stewards introduce themselves and then Lee introduced the guests.

Ron Fields, President of Local 1245, was the first speaker of the morning and he made comments about varied subjects relating to the members of Local 1245.

Ron Weakley, Business Manager, made some opening comments regarding the condition of the economy of the United States and California

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complex," which threatens the basic guarantees set forth in the Constitution of the U.S.A.

What is happening in our country today gives proof to the theory that when the Congress allows big business to set profit-inflated prices, the Pentagon to call the tune of our foreign policy and the bankers to set interest rates which are atrocious, then the Congress is engaged in dereliction of its Constitutional duty.

Nixon vows to try, with the help of the industrialists, the military brass, the bankers and his unlimited election money bags, to capture a firm majority in the Congress which will make certain that his policies will become the way of life for all Americans at our economic peril and yes, even at our people's domestic and world survival peril.

Your Officers have decided to take off the gloves and fight to help see to it that the Congress of the United States shall again assume its Constitutional authority before it is too late to do anything about it.

We ask your support and that of all members who feel it proper to stand behind the new policies set forth here.

We also have a new policy regarding meaningful support of the AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education—COPE.

Now, we find that COPE offers the only possible effective organized solution to the growth of the anti-labor forces in government which are locked up in support of the reactionary policies of the present Federal administration. There is no other practical alternative available.

We feel, as Officers who are presently privileged and directed to offer leadership in the political arena, that we must seek all possible support among those members who believe as we do, that "it's time for a change."

One way to gather membership support among those who have "had it" is to ask that the COPE membership drive which costs \$1 per member in voluntary contributions become a meaningful effort within the house of Local 1245.

Voluntary COPE dollars will go to Congressional election programs backed by Organized Labor at the Federal level, where any voted dues dollar contributions out of Union treasuries are forbidden by laws passed over twenty years ago. These laws have served to restrict Labor's efforts while giving a "free ride" to the big money boys, and one of the main architects of this law situation was now-President Richard Nixon.

COPE membership books will be made available to interested Stewards and to interested members.

Direct requests to the Business Office will also be honored as they are received either through letters or telephone calls.

The UTILITY REPORTER will henceforth carry information as to the actions and records of those who presently hold Congressional office. It will also carry comment regarding those who aspire to Congressional office.

Your Officers believe that the citizen-members of Local 1245 are deserving of a much better shake in the state and federal political arena.

We mean to do our utmost within the laws of the land and within the laws of Local 1245 to help see to it that the next Congress does its proper job under the real "law and order" provisions of the Constitution of the United States.

We ask your help in this necessary endeavor and we shall spell out our program during the coming months prior to the November General Elections.

We ask that you join with us in our 1970 effort because we believe that the way things are going, all that we may have accomplished over past years and what we may accomplish this year and beyond is seriously threatened by politicians who would turn back our economic and security progress through legislation designed to put our people down from a hopeful middle-class situation to the dreary days of the not-so-long-ago situation where many of our members were part of the "poor class."

Officers of I.B.E.W. Local 1245



This photo shows some of the tellers alphabetizing the envelopes which contained the ballots which would determine who would be delegates to the International Convention of the I.B.E.W. This was just the beginning of a long hard task.

HELP!

The U.S. Post Office Department recently opened a new and larger facility in Walnut Creek, and, effective July 1, 1970, has changed our Post Office Box Number and Zip Code as follows: P.O. Box 4790 Walnut Creek, California 94596

Will you please help us by changing your records and correcting your present supply of self-addressed envelopes to the above mailing address both for Local Union 1245, I.B.E.W., and the "Utility Reporter."

NOTICE

We have received information of late that a certain few of the members of Local 1245 have been caught working in the jurisdictions of other IBEW Local Unions without a proper clearance. Such improper actions are subject to penalties as outlined in the IBEW Constitution. All members are advised to take notice of this warning. It is not only a violation of the IBEW Constitution to chisel work from others who must also make a living but it is immoral to moonlight at the expense of men who are suffering from a serious unemployment problem.

Ron Weakley,
Business Manager

Service With A Smile

The following letter has been received from Miss Fifi Paree, Manager of the Seymour Nudist Camp for girls.

Gentlemen:
I wish to express my sincere thanks to you for the excellent service your linemen performed last summer. It was explained to us that the transformer on the pole next to our swimming pool was of a special type that had to be dusted twice a day, oiled once a week and have the bolts tightened every ten days.

A Mr. Watt explained to me that unless the transformer was dusted regularly the dust would coagulate with the paint which would set up a chemical imbalance of the hydrofoil and cause a great deal of trouble. I am happy to report that your line crew faithfully stopped every morning and afternoon and spent 15 minutes dusting the transformer.

While this operation was being carried on a Mr. Volt stood on top of the truck cab overlooking the 8-foot fence around our camp and carefully warned the girls around the pool not to get too close to the transformer.


Your crews always were very conscientious in making repairs. On one occasion a cross arm broke on a pole next to the tennis court where some of the girls were playing tennis. Nine men with three ladder trucks worked 4 hours to replace the cross arm. They had quite a little trouble making the repairs, as they would put up a cross arm, put a level on it, then unbolt it and install another. A Mr. Shock explained to me that unless the cross arm was absolutely level the wires to the transformer by the swimming pool would sag, the power flow would be uneven and as a result only half the swimming pool would be heated while the other half remained cold.

Evidently we have a special type meter by the swimming pool. The meter reader told us it had to be read once a week by two men so that an exact average of power could be calculated. One of your meter readers is rather clumsy, because during last summer he fell over two lawn chairs, a picnic table and a garbage can while walking over to check the meter.

I wish to thank you again for the wonderful attention your line crews and meter readers gave us last summer. I have been assured that all the men will be on the job again this summer. I understand that last summer two men passed up their vacations just to make sure that our electrical equipment worked promptly.


(Signed) Miss Fifi Paree, Manager
Seymour Nudist Camp

From Columbia Chapter Newsletter.



the utility reporter

Telephone (415) 933-6060



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Nixon's Housing Program

A City family with an income of less than \$12,000 a year can no longer afford to buy a new house or rent a family-size unit in a new apartment building.

This includes 80% of all urban families.

Even with the odds against them, many such families do buy or rent in new buildings. The result is either impossible budgeting or financial disaster.

The stark fact of 1970 is that for the first time the huge middle class, as well as the poor, is being priced out of the new private housing market.

Thousands of individual families are feeling the impact.

A house that sold for \$20,000 five years ago, now is frequently offered at \$25,000.

A two-bedroom apartment that rented for \$160 in 1965 now rents for about \$210 or more.

Some typical experiences

What this has meant to people seeking a home to buy or an apartment to rent is shown in the experience of several typical families.

Five years ago, when his second child was born, a young department store employee who earned \$8,400

a year — \$700 a month — went looking for a three-bedroom house in the suburbs. He found a ranch house for \$20,000 that even had a little paved terrace at the back. The monthly payment for mortgage, interest, taxes and insurance came to \$180 a month.

This year another young couple expecting their second baby also went house hunting. He earns \$8,000 and his wife another \$1,200 by working part time as a waitress. There was nothing at \$20,000 unless they went to an impossible distance from his job or bought in an area likely to flood.

Any single-family house that they liked at all cost at least \$28,000. Then they found an attractive townhouse—a row house—for \$24,000. They wanted it, but the monthly payments came to \$234. With their combined income at about \$775 a month they could not swing it. They angrily returned to the prospect of life in a one-bedroom apartment with two babies.

"On a typical \$21,000 mortgage at 8½%, the monthly payment would be \$220.21 a month. Many working families simply cannot afford to pay this much. Further-

more, many families could not get a mortgage at an interest rate as low as 8½%.

The major factors in skyrocketing home costs:

Every element in housing has soared—land, labor, materials and money.

However the two biggest and fastest growing items in the cost of new homes are land and mortgage charges. Interest rates have soared to the point that an average family may be asked to pay as high as 12% interest on the money they borrow for a mortgage. On a \$25,000 house, a rise in the interest rate from 7 to 8% can mean as much as \$5,000 added to the total cost of the home.

While construction workers' wages have gone up substantially in recent years, less labor is needed today in home building and the percentage of the cost of a new home that goes to pay the wages of the men who build it has actually DECLINED from 33% of the cost 20 years ago to 18% today.

Nationwide, the price of a typical lot has gone up about 31% in the last two years, and some of the most desirable land has nearly doubled in DuPage County, outside of

buyers'

bailiwick

Chicago, land that sold for about \$2,500 an acre as recently as 1965 now often goes for \$5,500 to \$6,000 an acre. This is the kind of land that might go into a tract development. Nationally, the Dodge Building Cost Service in New York estimates the increase in land costs in the last two years at between 10 and 20%.

We need more than 2,000,000 new housing units a year to provide for a growing population and to replace housing that has decayed.

As home buyers are priced out of the Market, demand for new homes has slackened, and housing starts have slowed considerably. This means construction workers will be laid off, and the economy will take another serious downward trend, deepening the combined recession-inflation that we are now experiencing.

Midwest Regional News

Dollar Rock: The Grooviest Sound of All

By Sidney Margolius

Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

The current big crop of teen-age children, one-fourth of our population, now has over \$22 billion from jobs and allowances to spend, the Rand Youth Service estimates.

As a result, teen-agers have become the target of some very high-pressure merchandising that is doing damage to families even beyond the waste of money. From rock records and concerts to pimple cures, and including "muscle" cars, expensive engagement and even "pre-engagement" rings, horoscopes, dandruff lotions and other commercial phenomena, teen-agers have become one of the most exploited groups in our population.

The greatest irony is the way "the Business Establishment" is cashing in on the anti-establishment kids. The advertising agencies, manufacturers and radio and TV stations have seized upon the restlessness of today's teen-agers to sell and sell hard.

The merchandisers don't need to fight the youth rebellion. They take it over. Want to be a hippie? There now are hippie clothing shops in most towns. They'll sell you fringed leather vests for \$15, maxi coats for \$60, "love beads" for \$5. Want peace? VO-5 offers its new "Peacemaker Shampoo," complete with peace symbol. Want to be "in" with your generation? There are huge rock music festivals like the Woodstock festival in every region now, complete with fatalities, and in every city, nightly rock concerts, often at \$5 a ticket.

The festivals represent a revealing alliance between large corporations and investment firms who finance them, and some of the hardest-rock and most lewd groups like the Rolling Stones. This British group can ring up a million dollars just in advance sales on a record. They can also draw a million dollars in teen-age money to a concert with tickets as high as \$8.

There are four major media used to manipulate America's 26 million teen-agers: TV for toiletries, cars, beer and cigarettes; movies for fashions; radio for the big profitable sound and teen-age magazines like *Seventeen* for almost anything.

Much of the problem of this kind of exploitation arises from the pre-occupation of teen-agers with music. Teen-agers spend over \$1 billion a year for records alone, without even counting the new boom in cassette tapes. The average girl spends about \$50 a year; a boy, about \$40, marketing experts report. It is not unusual today for a teen-ager to own \$200 to \$300 worth of records.

Not even subteens are safe from the commercialism of the new "youth culture" industry. The fashion, record and even cosmetics manufacturers are driving hard to capture the dollars of the 9 to 13-year-olds. This age group has become one of the three main divisions of the rock market—so-called "bubblegum rock."

Rock records don't come cheap. An album by a popular hard-rock group like The Jefferson Airplane lists for \$5. Such expenditures are a frequent cause of family disputes today.

As well as the rock groups, many disc jockeys cynically exploit young

people for their money. Some of the disc jockeys use their popularity not only to promote records but soft drinks, cosmetics, cars and other products with special appeal to the youth market.

One of the latest commercial ventures that has attracted kids' dollars (and those of some adults) are horoscopes, tarot cards, zodiac games and all kinds of merchandise with your zodiac sign. Computer-planned horoscopes have become a booming business; available even in department stores. Even food manufacturers now are offering zodiac medallions with "your own astro-sign" for a box top and \$1. The sign of Aquarius is really a dollar sign.

You Are Nominated

Who is going to counter the commercial exploitation of young people? It may not be the teachers to any decisive extent. They tend to rely on industry-provided classroom materials for teaching consumer education and related subjects. More than one out of five large corporations now supplies teaching aids to schools, such as discussion kits, films and booklets. Some corporations even provide speakers and prizes. At least one has given teachers travel awards; another, scholarships to workshops.

Teachers often are naive about such materials and even when not, are uncertain where to turn for guidance. In one recent teacher training course in which I participated, 11 of 14 other speakers were from industry or commercial magazines.

Realistically, you yourself are going to have to do the consumer-educating necessary to counter the widespread exploitation. How?

The basic way to teach children a sense of values is to include them in family money discussions. They learn that family money must cover a number of needs, including their own. They also then are more cooperative in trying to achieve family goals.

Also teach them to be skilled shoppers. Youngsters usually are interested in learning how. It is especially useful to show them how to read the labels of toiletries, and to show them that the ingredients in the low-cost private brands of toiletries which you buy (I hope you do) are much the same as those in TV-advertised expensive brands.

In anti-acne preparations, one of the most frequent teen-age purchases, show that the basic treatment is frequent face washing and avoidance of foods which may aggravate the condition, and that the basic ingredients of most of the preparations are the same. These usually are a combination of sulfur and resorcinol (or salicylic acid), sometimes with hexachlorophene (to kill bacteria).

In the final analysis, and even though these are outside influences to contend with, your children ultimately are going to follow your example—mainly, whether you plan purchases or buy impulsively; buy the most-advertised name or compare ingredients and values.

Finally, don't take horoscopes seriously. Fortune cookies are more reliable. One I recently got in a Chinese restaurant said: "Beware of a schemer with a smile."

GIVE A BUCK \$ TO COPE \$

By **KEN LOHRE**

What is COPE? Why does it exist? Why is Local 1245 suggesting that you consider giving one or more of your hard earned dollars to this organization?

As to why you should give to this particular organization—the answer is simply that the future of Local 1245 and all other Unions could hang in the balance of COPE's ability to elect "friends of Labor" (I prefer to say friends of the workingman or woman) in the coming National and State elections.

Now to the first question—what is COPE? The initials C-O-P-E stand for Committee on Political Education. The parent organization is part of the AFL-CIO, and their wages are paid by the AFL-CIO. The local COPE organizations are made up of members of the various Central Labor Councils and the State AFL-CIO employees and their work is either voluntary or part of their assigned job duties.

Why does COPE exist and what does it do? COPE researches the voting records and positions of all political candidates in both National and local elections regarding labor laws and labor endorsed legislation.

Their function is to get this material and supply it to the Local Unions so that the members can be aware of whether or not a candidate will be for or against the workingman when he is in office.

COPE is also directly involved in the campaigns of many candidates whose election is the key to control in the House, Senate or equivalent local bodies.

Why is Local 1245 suggesting that you consider giving one or more of your hard earned dollars to COPE? To answer this question, I will use some material from an article in "Memo from COPE." These are just a few of the examples of anti-labor bills that are in the hopper waiting for the House and Senate to end up under the control of the conservatives.

There's no shortage of crucial issues in the 1970 political campaign. But, for working people, no issue surpasses that of basic labor law.

Most of us can't read legal jargon without reaching for some aspirin. "Whereases" and "hereinafters" are simply too dizzying to cope with. They are for the lawyers.

Yet, labor laws are right there at the workplace with you. They affect your job and the conditions under which you work. They affect your union and its ability to function, to represent you on the job and at the bargaining table.

So, they really affect your wages and conditions, your living standard and your family's security.

Good labor law helps you. Bad labor law hurts you.

Over-all, present labor law—despite some glaring draw-backs—is beneficial. But it won't be for long, if the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and its allies in Congress have their way. It will be turned into an instrument of repression.

They're rounding up a neck-tie party—yours and your union's.

It will be a public hanging, scheduled for 1971 if conservatives capture the congressional and senatorial elections next November.

Already, dozens of bills are in the hoppers in Congress to restrict the rights of workers and their unions.

In addition, bolstering them and in effect providing a rallying point, is a massive so-called "labor law reform" study prepared by the Chamber. It proposes a series of specific changes in labor law.

Its aim is to reverse almost every section of labor law that gives unions some parity with employers. It has no other form of unifying theme.

For purposes of analysis, the most significant sections of the Chamber's lengthy report are broken down into three categories, those affecting organizing, the use of economic weapons, and the practice of collective bargaining.

Following is a partial list of anti-worker bills—and the legislators who introduced them—now in the hoppers of the U.S. Senate and House.

S 103—Griffin (R-Mich.)

● To establish a so-called "labor court," abolish the NLRB, and put labor affairs under the Judiciary Committee now headed by Sen. James Eastland (D.-Miss.).

S 426—Fannin (R-Ariz.)

● To prohibit all card checks to determine representation by requiring NLRB-conducted election in all cases.

S 817—Fannin (R-Ariz.)

● A "back to work" bill. It assumes that union members who are on strike would elect immediately to go back to work no matter what the settlement. Hence, it requires that a back-to-work vote be taken after a 30-day strike. This would encourage employers to sit pat and refrain from true collective bargaining.

S 1483—Fannin (R-Ariz.)

● To amend the Internal Revenue Code to deny tax-exempt status to labor organizations which use membership dues or assessments for any political purposes, including registration and get-out-the-vote efforts. It is aimed squarely at COPE.

S 1532—Gurney (R-Fla.)

● To revise the National Labor Relations Act to make product boycotts by labor organizations an unfair labor practice.

S 2203—Murphy (R-Calif.)

This bill has three kinds of anti-labor provisions.

● 1. Certain restrictions are placed on farm workers' unions to make it all but impossible for them to ever secure recognition and certain that, even if they do, they will never function effectively.

● 2. Other restrictions would immobilize the various organizations and individuals who sympathize with the plight of farm workers, by forbidding such activities as the grape boycott. These provisions flagrantly transgress the rights of free speech and assembly guaranteed to all Americans by the First Amendment.

● 3. The bill also contains the shopping-list of amendments to the Labor-Management Relations Act that a gaggle of employer lawyers have been peddling for years. These amendments have no particular relevance to farm workers, but the employer lawyers who obviously drafted S. 2203 evidently found irresistible the temptation to include these shopworn proposals.

S. Joint Res. 15—Griffin (R-Mich.)

● Senator Griffin is interested in creating another Senate Select Committee—outside of the Senate Labor Committee—to begin an investigation of the labor movement and its collective bargaining procedure.

S 1892—Thurmond (R-S.C.)

● To place unions under anti-trust laws and make strikers and their leaders liable for fines and/or jail.

At present, it does not usually pay an employer to try to delay arbitration by filing a court suit seeking to enjoin the arbitration, for the courts have been clear that they will interfere with arbitration only in the most extreme cases. Going to court on such matters is costly and time-consuming for unions.

● Yet, the Chamber proposes a new law that would require the courts in every case to engage in extensive inquiries into whether an issue should be declared arbitrable.

After years of labor law by injunction, Congress in 1932 removed the federal courts from the labor injunction business. The courts since have refused to issue injunctions against so-called "breach of contract" strikes.

● The Chamber seeks to allow such injunctions again in a direct attack on the basic right to strike.

The COPE booklets are at the Local Union headquarters and will be distributed soon. Contact your Business Representative, Unit Chairman or the Local Union Office for these booklets. Please give COPE your support.

Stewards' Meetings Held To Discuss Negotiations

Shasta Division Stewards Meet

(Continued from Page One)

and how it affects our membership. He also covered the current political situation and how it is related to our difficulties in bargaining with PG&E this year.

Ron also explained the relationship of E.S.C. to the Marine Engineers Benefit Association and gave the Stewards some background information on the M.E.B.A.

A general discussion of many subjects followed. The Stewards raised the issue of agency shop and many other items involved in the current negotiations.

L. L. Mitchell, Senior Assistant Business Manager, gave a report on the 1970 negotiations. Mitch spoke about the "pros and cons" of both Union and Company proposals.

Art Keiser, Personnel Manager for PG&E in Shasta Division, gave a presentation on his feelings regarding the first sections of both the Physical and Clerical Contracts and he related these to the Supervisor, Shop Steward and member relationships.

Dave Reese, Business Representative, showed a National Safety Council film on water safety and then gave a short presentation on safety.

L. L. Mitchell continued his report on negotiations in the afternoon. The Stewards' participation was very good as they asked many questions and engaged in discussions on the current negotiations.

Lee Thomas closed the meeting by making some comments to the Stewards about their functions as Stewards. He also thanked them for giving up their Saturday to attend the meeting.



Shown above from left to right are: L. L. Mitchell, Sr. Asst. Bus. Mgr., Leland Thomas Jr., Bus. Rep., and Ronald T. Weakley, Bus. Mgr., speaking to the Shop Stewards from Shasta Division. There was a good discussion on the current negotiations.



This photo shows more of the Shasta Division Shop Stewards.



Leland Thomas Jr., Bus. Rep., and Ron Fields, President of Local 1245, are shown addressing the Stewards at the meeting in Redding.

N. Bay Division Stewards Meet



This photo gives a general view of most of the Stewards at the North Bay Division Stewards' Meeting.

Corbett Wheeler, Business Representative, opened the meeting by asking everyone present to introduce themselves. There were 40 people present at the meeting and the men came from all over the Division to attend the meeting.

Ron Weakley, Business Manager and Financial Secretary, was introduced and asked to comment on negotiations. Ron suggested that it should be an informal meeting and that he would make just a few comments and then open it up for questions and discussion. His opening comments centered on the Company's offer to the Engineers and Scientists.

The discussion began and the first point made by the Stewards was their desire for Agency Shop.

The Stewards stated that the members in their Division felt very strongly about this subject.

Mike Peevey, candidate for State Senator from the 4th District, spoke to the group about his candidacy for the State Senate and asked for their support.

The meeting continued with questions from the Stewards to Ron Weakley and Manny Mederos, the two members of the General Negotiating Committee present at the meeting. The Stewards asked many questions relating to all aspects of negotiations and the group participation was excellent.

Corbett Wheeler closed the meeting by asking their continued support and thanking them for their continued activity in behalf of Local 1245.



One of the Stewards is shown asking a question about the status of Agency Shop in the current negotiations.



Shown above from left to right are: Troy "Tiny" Blakeley, 1st Operator, Ronald T. Weakley, Bus. Mgr., Corbett Wheeler, Bus. Rep., Mike Peevey, candidate for State Senator, and Manuel Mederos, member of Union's General Negotiating Committee and Review Committee.



Both Physical and Clerical Stewards are shown in the photo above.

Must We Choose Between Anarchy and Repression?

EDITOR'S NOTE: Twenty years ago, Margaret Chase Smith made a statement on the floor of the U.S. Senate which was heard around the world. Her "Declaration of Conscience" centered on the activities of the now Late Senator Joe McCarthy. His anti-Communist movement had taken such a hold on the American people that almost everybody suspected everyone else of being a Communist; especially those who chose to express a little different viewpoint from that of the "average" American. Recently, Senator Smith felt that it was time to remember that statement and address the Senate again.

Following is full text of an address by Senator Margaret Chase Smith (Rep.), of Maine, delivered on the floor of the U. S. Senate on June 1, 1970:

Twenty years ago on this June first date at this same desk, I spoke about the then serious national condition with a statement known as the "Declaration of Conscience." We had a national sickness then from which we recovered. We have a national sickness now from which I pray we will recover.

I would like to recall portions of that statement today because they have application now 20 years later.

I said of the then national condition: "It is a national feeling of fear and frustration that could result in national suicide and the end of everything that we Americans hold dear."

Surely that is the situation today.

I said then: "I speak as briefly as possible because too much harm has already been done with irresponsible words of bitterness and selfish political opportunism."

That is not only the situation today, but it is even worse, for irresponsible words have exploded into trespass, violence, arson and killings.

I said then: "I think that it is high time for the United States Senate and its members to do some soul-searching—for us to weigh our consciences—on the manner in which we are performing our duty to the people of the United States, on the manner in which we are using or abusing our individual powers and privileges."

That applies today. But I would add this to it—expanded application to the people themselves, whether they be students or construction workers, whether they be on or off campus.

I said then: "Those of us who shout the loudest about Americanism in making character assassinations are all too frequently those who, by our own words and acts, ignore some of the basic principles of Americanism—the right to criticize; the right to hold unpopular beliefs; the right to protest; the right to independent thought."

That applies today—and it includes the right to dissent against the dissenters.

I said then: "The American people are sick and tired of being afraid to speak their minds lest they be politically smeared. . . . Freedom of speech is not what it used to be in America. It has been so abused by some that it is not exercised by others."

That applies today to both sides. It is typified by the girl student at Colby College who wrote me, "I am striking with my heart against the fighting in Cambodia, but I am intimidated by those who scream protests and clench their fists and cannot listen to people who oppose their views."

I said then: "Today our country is being psychologically divided by the confusion and the suspicions that are bred in the United States Senate to spread like cancerous tentacles of 'know nothing, suspect everything' attitudes."

That applies today—but it must be expanded to the people themselves. Twenty years ago it was the anti-intellectuals who were most guilty of "know nothing" attitudes. Today too many of the militant intellectuals are equally as guilty of "hear nothing" attitudes, of refusing to listen while demanding communication.

I said then: "I don't like the way the Senate has been made a rendezvous for vilification, for selfish political gain at the sacrifice of individual reputations and national unity."

That applies today. But I would add that equally I do not like the way the campus has been made a rendezvous for obscenity, for trespass, for violence, for arson and for killing.

I said then: "I am not proud of the way we smear outsiders from the floor of the Senate and hide behind the cloak of congressional immunity and still place ourselves beyond criticism on the floor of the Senate."

Today I would add to that. I am not proud of the way in which too many militants resort to the illegalities of trespass, violence and arson and, in doing so, claim for themselves a special immunity from the law with the allegation that such acts are justified because they have a political connotation with a professed cause.

I said then: "As a United States Senator, I am not proud of the way in which the Senate has been made a publicity platform for irresponsible sensationalism."

Today I would add that I am not proud of the way in which our national television networks and campuses have been made publicity platforms for irresponsible sensationalism—nor am I proud of the counter criticism against the networks and the campuses that has gone beyond the bounds of reasonableness and propriety, and fanned—instead of drenching—the fires of division.

I have admired much of the candid and justified defense of our Government in reply to the news media and the militant dissenters—but some of the defense has been too extreme and unfair and too repetitive, and thus impaired the effectiveness of the previous admirable and justified defense.

I said 20 years ago: "As an American, I am shocked at the way Republicans and Democrats alike are playing directly into the Communist design of 'confuse, divide and conquer.'"

Today I am shocked at the way too many Americans are so doing.

I spoke as I did 20 years ago because of what I considered to be the great threat from the radical right—the threat of a government of repression.

I speak today because of what I consider to be the great threat from the radical left that advocates and practices violence and defiance of the law—again, the threat of the ultimate result of a reaction of repression.

The President denies that we are in a revolution. There are many who would disagree with such appraisal. Anarchy may seem nearer to many of us than it really is.

But of one thing I am sure: The excessiveness of overreactions on both sides is a clear and present danger to American democracy.

That danger is ultimately from the political right, even though it is initially spawned by the antidemocratic arrogance and nihilism from the political extreme left.

Extremism bent upon polarization of our people is increasingly forcing upon the American people the narrow choice between anarchy and repression.

And make no mistake about it. If that narrow choice has to be made, the American people, even if with reluctance and misgiving, will choose repression.

For an overwhelming majority of Americans believe that:

Trespass is trespass—whether on the campus or off.

Violence is violence—whether on the campus or off.

Arson is arson—whether on the campus or off.

Killing is killing—whether on the campus or off.

The campus cannot degenerate into a privileged sanctuary for obscenity, trespass, violence, arson and killing, with special immunity for participants in such acts.

Criminal acts, active or by negligence, cannot be condoned or excused because of panic, whether the offender be a policeman, a National Guardsman, a student or one of us in this legislative body.

Ironically, the excesses of dissent on the extreme left can result in repression of dissent. For repression is preferable to anarchy and nihilism to most Americans.

Yet, excesses on the extreme right, such as those 20 years ago, can mute our national conscience.

As was the case 20 years ago when the Senate was silenced and politically intimidated by one of its members, so today many Americans are intimidated and made mute by the emotional violence of the extreme left. Constructive discussion on the subject is becoming increasingly difficult of attainment.

It is time that the great center of our people—those who reject the violence and unreasonableness of both the extreme right and the extreme left—searched their consciences, mustered their moral and physical courage, shed their intimidated silence and declared their consciences.

It is time that with dignity, firmness and friendliness, they reason with, rather than capitulate to, the extremists on both sides—at all levels—and caution that their patience ends at the border of violence and anarchy that threatens our American democracy.

In Memorium

Name	Date of Death
Frank F. Crnich (Humboldt)	2-27-70
Glenn P. Ingraham (Sierra Pacific Power)	3-12-70
Donald Hoebel (DeSabra)	3-15-70
William Johns (General Constr.)	3-20-70
Robert R. Parker (General Constr.)	3-21-70
Pinkey Rapoza (East Bay)	4-8-70
David C. Lastrup (Humboldt)	4-13-70
R. L. Snodgrass (General Construction)	4-29-70
Delbert Hatfield (General Construction)	5-10-70
William D. Ballantine (Pipeline Operations)	5-31-70
James P. Decker (San Jose—Retired)	6-1-70
Eugene J. Smith (San Jose)	6-3-70

Crime's Breeding Grounds

Unless the nation launches a "full-scale war on domestic ills, especially urban ills," its cities will take on the characteristics of fortresses and change into places of terror.

That warning does not come from scare mongers or shrill merchants of cheap thrill literature. It comes from the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence headed by Milton S. Eisenhower, brother of the late president and recently retired president of Johns Hopkins University.

The commission was appointed in the summer of 1968 by Pres. Lyndon Johnson after the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

In its report it said its gloomy prediction of what will happen to the nation's cities will come to pass unless the country takes "the massive action that seems to be needed" to build the "humane city-societies of which we are capable."

If the nation cannot free itself "from other obligations" quickly enough to turn to massive programs for the cities "we should now legally make the essential commitments and then carry them out as quickly as funds can be obtained," the commission said.

The latest findings of the commission were based on an extensive detailed national study of crime, especially homicide, assault, rape and robbery. This type of crime, the study showed, is primarily centered in the large cities, is increasingly committed by males between 15 and 24 years of age, and stems "disproportionately from the ghetto slums where most Negroes live."

The commission stressed, however, that causes are sociological, not racial: "When poverty, dilapidated housing, high unemployment, poor education, overpopulation and broken homes are combined, an interrelated complex of powerful criminogenic forces is produced by the ghetto environment." In addition to the disastrous nature of life in the slums, the commission offered some other "informed judgments" on the reason for the increase in crime:

Rapid social change has led to a "breakdown of traditional social roles and institutional controls over the behavior of young and old alike, but particularly the young."

Law enforcement agencies have not been strengthened sufficiently to cope with the increase in violence.

There has been a breakdown in the public belief, especially in the slums, that rule-making institutions are entitled to rule.

The commission concluded: "Public and private action must guarantee safety, security, and justice for every citizen in our metropolitan areas without sacrificing the quality of life and other values of a free society."

The warning has been clearly sounded. Unless the nation commits itself to pouring massive aid into the cities, into the ghettos, into the legal and judicial systems, the prospect of violence and terror and disruption continues to menace the future.

(Union Electrical World 1-1-70)



Ralph Pinkston Indentured As Apprentice Lineman

Shown above (on right) is Local 1245 Member RALPH PINKSTON being indentured into the Area Training Program for Apprentice Linemen by the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee Chairman MIKE KELLY of I.B.E.W. Local 47.

The indentureship occurred on June 4, 1970 and marked the commencement of three years of intensive training for Brother PINKSTON in the Apprentice Linemen Training Program sponsored jointly by the California-Nevada Line Constructors Chapter of N.E.C.A., and District Nine of the I.B.E.W., with graduation into Journeyman Lineman classification upon successful completion of the training program.

With experience of approximately three years in the Groundman classification at the time of taking entry examinations, PINKSTON rated highest of all Local 1245 Members who made application for entry into the Area Training Program, and was the first of Local 1245 applicants to be indentured. Others who were successful applicants will be indentured as additional job opportunities become available.

We congratulate Brother PINKSTON on his successful qualification for entry into the program, and extend to him, and other 1245 members who will later join him in the program, our best wishes for the successful completion of all training requirements.

Collective Bargaining System Is Being Challenged

Once again, the enemies of organized labor are blaming the nation's inflationary economic situation on labor. The collective bargaining system is being challenged.

The familiar foes of organized labor once again are placing full blame on unions for some of the misfortunes that exist today in this nation. We are being accused of singularly producing and stimulating the inflationary economic situation which now is still running rampant, apparently regardless of administration efforts to bring things to a halt. Because we seek higher wages to maintain financial stability in order to keep our families clothed and fed and with a decent roof over our heads, we are blamed for the inflation in our economy.

Most people would agree that members of organized labor are not different from other average citizens of this country. We are confronted with the same basic daily problems and tribulations that nearly everyone faces in attempting to earn a decent living and make our nation a better place in which to live.

Our record over the years has shown that we are very much concerned with the various national and local problems facing the people. Indeed, we, as union members, have a proud heritage in solving these very problems. Today, most Americans have, and take for granted, pensions, vacations, holidays, good wages, and other benefits. This is so because working people before us had the courage and the foresight to organize, sacrifice, and establish the collective bargaining process which, in no little measure, is responsible for much of the good life we enjoy.

However, we realize much is yet to be done within the ranks of organized labor to improve the lot of all working people. But before the American trade union movement can devote full time to accomplishing its goal and ambitions, many obstacles must be overcome.

One obstacle is the constant voice saying that unions keep demanding higher and higher wages and hence inflation goes on and on. We believe it natural for us to assume that as long as huge profits are being made from the productivity of workers in plants and on job sites, we are not being over demanding in asking for a fair share of those profits to keep pace with living costs.

In an attempt to undercut the ability of unions to help their members keep pace with rising living costs, the public is being subjected to a line of propaganda that all unions are bad and that members are not being

protected in job security. A nation-wide campaign is being waged to place labor arbitration in the hands of labor courts. Certain persons in government circles and in the business sector favor anti-labor legislation which would destroy the collective bargaining system which is guaranteed by law to workers.

Now is the time when complacency and apathy should be cast aside by union members. We cannot sit back and let the gains of the past be taken away from us. If we do nothing and let our organization down, we are going to discover one day that we no longer have benefits to enjoy.

The task is cut out for us. It is not an easy task ahead. But if we are to survive the anti-labor onslaught, we must work in all ways possible to assure our employment, wages, and security.

—Charles H. Pillard

REAGAN SEEKS TO AX SAFETY ENGINEERS AS DEATHS CLIMB

(Continued from Page Eight)

a backlog of six months' work.

Reagan Administration spokesmen at the hearing attempted to justify the cutbacks on grounds that an absolute increase in the number of on-the-job deaths and injuries was inevitable so long as the population of the state increased.

Henning said he was appalled at such a contention and pointed out that the very function of the Department of Industrial Relations and its Division of Industrial Safety and Division of Industrial Accidents was to combat on-the-job injuries and deaths both in terms of reducing their absolute numbers and in reducing the percentage of California workers adversely affected by them.

The Safety Scene

Safety Facts For Local 1245 Members

STUB SERVICE FUSIBLE PLUG NIPPLE

In recent weeks, the Local Union office has received inquiries on safety, with regard to the installation of the Stub Service Fusible Plug Nipple. This fitting is intended for use on the end of 3/4" steel stub services, in place of the Mueller Line Stopper Extension.

The Local 1245 Safety Committee, at their joint meeting with PG&E's Safety Committee, raised numerous questions in respect to this item on the agenda.

Company stated they have approximately 1400 of these fittings installed in various locations throughout the system. The problem first encountered—leakage between the plug and jacket—has been resolved.

As was indicated above, Union's Committee posed several hypothetical problems in the area of potential hazards, with which our members in the field felt they would be working.

These questions were not primarily on the installation of the unit itself, but rather on what problems would be faced when a crew went out to extend the service.

The main concern was—is there a possibility of the Plug and "O" Ring being damaged or weakened during the initial installation of the Nipple, through overheating, which would allow gas to leak by? And if this did occur, what would happen to the employee when he attempted to make his weld to complete the service?

Company's answers to all of Union's questions were in essence the same. All of the required information for the correct method of installation of this Nipple will be in their Gas Standard Book, and if these rules are followed closely, no one should get into trouble.

Company added that if Union hears of anyone who has been told to work on it and has not been instructed fully on the correct installation procedure, they wanted to know about it.

In light of this answer, and also in line with the policies of the leadership of Local 1245, we are posting below the rules covering the proper installation of this Nipple:

INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

1. Weld nipple containing plug on end of stub service.
2. To prevent damage to fusible plug during welding operation, **keep center area of nipple cool with wet rag.**
3. Air test stub service and cap.
4. Wrap according to standard procedure.
5. For purpose of identifying stub services containing fusible plugs, apply a single width wrap of white permacel tape to cap end over wrapping.

EXTENSION OF SERVICE

1. Remove field wrapping back to yard applied pipe coating.
2. **Loosen cap slowly** and check for effectiveness of seal. If no gas, remove screwer cap and cut off threads. **CAUTION: Do not cut off more than threaded portion of nipple.**
3. Weld additional service pipe to stub end.
4. To prevent damage to fusible plug during welding operation **keep center area of nipple cool with wet rag.**
5. When service is completed, including installation of service cock, heat center area of nipple to cherry red color. **DISC METAL MELTS AT 420 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT.**
6. Purge completed service through service cock. Verify complete melt of DISC by listening for normal amount of gas flow during purge operation.

PRECAUTIONS

1. NEVER INSTALL WITH THREADED END UPSTREAM.
2. DO NOT TEST OR PRESSURIZE FROM THREADED END.

Your Safety Committee realizes the fact that for every change in work procedures, or adoption of new equipment or materials by the employer, on which we receive reports or questions, there are many times that number we never hear about.

These rules were entered here for your benefit and personal protection. **USE THEM.**

While on the subject of communications between the members and the leadership of Local 1245, one area of major concern is the reporting of accidents and unsafe work procedures. The members of your Safety Committee know that the reports they receive are only a fraction of the total number of accidents and unsafe work practices going on every day throughout our jurisdiction. But their hands are tied. They cannot function effectively without your help. Remember, reports do not have to be fancy, or on a special form. All we need is the basic factual information.

If you think this problem of reporting accidents is unique only in this Local Union, read the following and note what is happening in other parts of the nation:

A Senate investigation of on-the-job safety in American industry has disclosed that reports of work accidents are often inaccurate and deceptive.

If the testimony taken so far is typical, the National Safety Council report of more than 2,200,000 work accidents last year, including 14,000

fatalities, is only a fraction of the true picture. Witnesses from six trade unions have told investigators of the lack of effective reporting and enforcement procedures and demanded that Congress enact a Federal occupational health and safety law.

The witnesses appeared at a recent field hearing on job safety in New Jersey. The hearing was conducted by U.S. Senator Harrison Williams of New Jersey, Chairman of the Senate Labor Subcommittee. Williams is the sponsor of a job safety bill now being considered by the Senate.

Twenty-nine union witnesses brought testimony from locals of the IAM, IUE, Steelworkers, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, the Auto Workers, and the Longshoremans.

George Almeida, manager of IAM District 47, Newark, New Jersey, was the lead-off witness. He stated, "If there were adequate national reporting of occupational deaths, illnesses, and injuries, the present picture, shocking though it is, would probably be twice as bad as it now appears."

Almeida's testimony on the lack of effective accident reporting was supported by testimony from a panel of Steelworkers representatives. One, from Carteret, New Jersey, reported that at some plants, an injured worker is not logged as a lost-time accident unless he is out of work for one week. He added, "So you have guys with crutches or with their arms in slings being brought to work so that your lost time reported is not a true picture of the accident rate."

A steelworker from Perth Amboy, New Jersey, noted that union safety representatives are rarely informed of a scheduled state inspection.

Witnesses also told of companies receiving safety awards for millions of accident-free work hours, while dozens of employees were nursing injuries.

Senator Williams heard of the "pathetic lack of muscle" given to union safety committees. An Oil Workers shop steward from Rahway, New Jersey, called the safety committee at his plant "a joke." He explained:

"They have no authority to shut anything down. They can only make recommendations. The recommendations are carried on the books for months and months and months. The slogan in the plant is 'safety comes first, after production and profits.'"

The cost of job safety was also cited by an officer of an Electrical Workers local. He pointed out that during the recent negotiations with General Electric, GE refused to discuss job safety as a non-economic issue. As an economic issue the cost of a safety program would be charged against the wage offer.

The union witnesses told the subcommittee about faulty and unsafe equipment, improper use of personal protective equipment and lack of decent first-aid facilities at many plants.

And so the story goes, on and on, all over this nation. No doubt you recognized some of the illustrations and problems in this article which have affected you.

It points up the main idea of safety. That is—safety is a personal thing; take care of it and don't abuse it.

All the leadership of this Local asks is that you let them know what is going on and they will do everything in their power to back you up.

REAGAN SEEKS TO AX SAFETY ENGINEERS AS DEATHS CLIMB

Despite the fact that 759 California workers died as a result of on-the-job injuries last year, and that the lost time injury rate rose between 1968-69 and both the number of workers killed and the number injured have risen steadily since 1967, the Reagan Administration wants to wipe out the jobs of 23 safety engineers and make a number of other drastic slashes in the Department of Industrial Relations that would cripple worker protections.

These proposed slashes were the focal point of a hearing before the Senate Finance Subcommittee Wednesday at which John F. Henning, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, protested the proposed cutbacks.

Henning pointed out that work deaths rose four per cent—from 730 to 759—last year and that Californians hurt on the job rose 2.2 per cent from 930,000 to 950,000.

William C. Hern, Governor Reagan's Director of the State Department of Industrial Relations, admitted under questioning that in the Oakland office of Labor Law Enforcement five deputy labor commissioners have a backlog of 300 cases each and that in Fresno each of three deputy labor commissioners have a backlog of 450 cases each.

In connection with similar slashes proposed in the Division of Industrial Welfare, all 12 IWC agents present at the hearing indicated they each had

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