Leadership Conference Successful

Local Union President Ron Fields called the Unit Officer’s Conference to order at 9:00 a.m. on October 2, 1971. The two day program was held at the historical Claremont Hotel in Berkeley, California, the sight of several Local 1245 conferences throughout the years.

The Executive Board, the Business Manager and his Staff, the members of the Advisory Council and the newly elected Unit Chairmen and Unit Recorders were in attendance at the meeting.

The meeting was a multi-purpose affair with a central theme of leadership training. Emphasis was placed on running a Unit meeting and the understanding of the forms and their purposes.

It was also set up to provide an opportunity for Unit Officers to meet with the elected leadership of the Union and the various functions or duties of the Officers and the Executive Board were explained at the Conference.

The Conference was designed to provide a forum whereby the people in attendance had the chance to question any policy or action of the Local Union and the various functions of duties of the Officers and the Executive Board were explained at the Conference.

Knowing the importance and function of the Unit Meeting, the membership can see why Local 1245 spends the time, effort and money necessary to hold leadership training conferences such as the one in Berkeley.

The Conference was a review of the affairs of Local 1245 as an ongoing, democratic, progressive Labor organization whose main purpose is to serve as their voice. The day-to-day, month-to-month and year-to-year policies and expenditures of Local 1245 are voted upon and ratified at the Unit meetings held each month.

The structure of Phase 2 of the New Economic Policy has been announced but little, if any, has been done to clarify what will happen once the various control bodies begin to function. At this writing no limits or guidelines have been set.

Business Manager Mitchell Elected

Vice President of California, AFL-CIO

L. L. Mitchell

The Executive Council of the California Labor Federation, at its October meeting, elected L. L. Mitchell, Business Manager of Local 1245, as a vice president of the Federation. This new office will not affect his position as Business Manager of Local 1245; it merely adds to the many duties and responsibilities that Brother Mitchell has as Business Manager.

While this new office is an additional load, there is great value and importance to the membership of Local 1245 in having Mitch in a position to make known the feelings and attitudes of our members.

We have not always been in agreement with both the California AFL-CIO and the national AFL-CIO and now we will be in a better position to at least express our views and possibly have some influence on others. This will also give us a chance to get better acquainted with our brothers and sisters in the Labor movement and to understand their problems and needs.

Brother Mitchell considers his election to this Board an honor and will serve in a manner consistent with the ideals and needs of Local 1245’s membership.
The IEBE Founders' Scholarship

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers offers its members a maximum of twelve Founders' Scholarships annually for university study leading to bachelor's degrees in specified fields. The number of scholarships awarded each year is determined by the number of qualified applicants. One scholarship is awarded for each 25 qualified applicants or major fraction thereof. They will be granted each year on a competitive basis to qualified candidates from all branches of the IEDEV.

The IEDEV Founders' Scholarships honors a small group of skilled and dedicated wiremen and linemen who in November 1891 organized the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The scholarships are worth $1,250 per year for up to four years of study each or until a bachelor's degree is attained, whichever comes first. They may be used in any accredited college or university which offers a curriculum leading to a Bachelor's Degree in the following fields of study: Engineering courses B.S.AERO-Sp.E. Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering B.C.E. Bachelor of Civil Engineering B.S.C.E. Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering B.S.Ch.E. Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering B.E. Bachelor of Engineering B.S.E. Bachelor of Science in Engineering B.E.E. Bachelor of Electrical Engineering B.S.E.E. Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering B.E.S. Bachelor of Engineering Science B.S.E.S. Bachelor of Science in Engineering Science B.M.E. Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering B.S.M.E. Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering B.S.B. Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering B.S.B.A. Bachelor of Science in Accounting B.Arch. Bachelor of Architecture B.B.A. Bachelor of Science in Business Administration B.S.B. Bachelor of Science in Business Administration B.B.A. Bachelor of Science in Business Administration B.S.C. Bachelor of Science in Economics B.I.D. Bachelor of Industrial Design B.S.I.M. Bachelor of Science in Industrial Management B.S.I.R. Bachelor of Science in Industrial Relations B.S.Met. Bachelor of Science in Metallurgy

The Founders' Scholarship Program is an adult program for qualified members. It is open to sons and daughters of members unless the sons and daughters are themselves qualified.

Eligibility

The IEDEV Founders' Scholarships are open to IEDEV members who have been in continuous good standing for at least four (4) years by the time they begin college study or an original member of a local union chartered less than four (4) years. It is further required that apprentices shall have completed a full, formal apprenticeship as established in their trade and area.

Qualifications

Applications must be submitted to the IEDEV Founders' Scholarship Committee at 1125-15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 on official Application Forms available from the local unions or on request from the IEDEV Office. To be considered as qualified candidates in the scholarship competition, candidates must pass the SAT administered by the College Entrance Examination Board and are responsible for registering to take their SAT tests and for paying all fees for the test. The test dates for 1971 and 1972 are as follows:

- December 4, 1971
- January 8, 1972

Candidates must register to take the SAT test four to six weeks in advance of the examination dates. Further information about the SAT tests and registration forms are available at leading High Schools and at many Colleges. If unobtainable in your area, registration forms may be obtained by writing the College Entrance Examination Board at either Box 892, Princeton, New Jersey 08540, or Box 100, Washington, D.C. 20044.

On all registration forms for the SAT, prospective candidates must use the IEDEV code number “0485” and in Item 9 of the form write “IEDEV Founders’ Scholarship.” This will insure that the candidate's test results will be reported to the IEDEV Scholarship Committee for consideration.

Applicants must submit records of their high school and college level work (if any) along with application and any other forms. High school records may not be submitted until the marking period in which the final semester is written, unless such explanatory notes are clearly printed on the face of the records. If the candidate has completed a formal apprenticeship training program as a member, records of apprenticeship classes and recommendations from his instructor would be helpful.

Applicants are required to submit a complete personal resume of their notable activities to date.

Applicants are required to submit an essay of between 250 and 500 words explaining, “How the Founders' Scholarship will benefit the Brotherhood and the Electrical Industry.” Essay must be double spaced and typewritten.

For information those members who are interested in applying for the scholarship must move quickly. Please contact Jack McNally for official blank.


The utility reporter

L. L. MITCHELL

January 8, 1972

Executive Editor
Managing Editor
Assistant Editor
Assistant Editor
Assistant Editor
Assistant Editor
L. L. MITCHELL

Executive Board: Roland W. (Ron) Fields, Leland Thomas Jr., Mickey D. 

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Buying Clubs seek to reduce prices

By Sidney Margolius, Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

In times of severely high prices as now, there is renewed interest among families in trying to beat high living costs by getting together in buying clubs. In the last two years, such clubs and co-ops have been springing up all over the country. Some are successful. Others do not fare as well.

Young people especially are showing an interest in buying as a group. One of the best of these co-ops, reports Philip Dodge, an official of the Cooperative League of the U.S.A. He tells about the Oakland Co-op near the University of Pittsburgh—virtually a general store staffed mostly by young volunteers but saving its members money on food, basic clothing items, school materials, and other student needs.

Some student co-ops own their own student residences, as well as their own food stores. Students at the University of California in Berkeley operate an apartment house and also own several stores. In fact, most of the large universities now have student co-ops of one kind or another, performing a great variety of services from operating clothing and book stores to leasing refrigerators for dorm rooms and running their own food stores.

But older people too are using the cooperative idea in some useful ways to cut the cost of living. The advantage to them is a large, well-organized group, which makes it possible to meet the needs of the masses. As examples, there are the “natural” food stores which are springing up all over the country to provide for organic produce and other health-oriented products.

Some of these stores are operated by the students of the universities which sponsor them, or by the employees of the university. But many of them are operated by the members themselves, or by the local communities, or by the state governments.

But the cooperative idea in some useful form is also being used in the community. It is being used in the community in the form of buying clubs, which are groups of people who buy together in order to get better prices. These clubs are often started by the unemployed, or by the poor, or by the elderly, or by the disabled, or by the sick.

Some of these clubs are successful, and some are not. But all of them are doing something to help the people who are trying to live on a limited income.

The newest trend in co-ops is the “direct charge” depot which started in Ottawa and spread to other Canadian cities and U.S. cities. Instead of selling retail prices and getting a rebate at the end of the year, members of co-ops pay a weekly fee to operate the depot or store and pay the wholesale price for their purchases. So far this type of co-op has demonstrated success in a number of cities, but there have been failures, too. The difficulties are that a large family may be able to save more than a small one or a single person who pays the same membership fee.

A cup of coffee that keep you from your mate

By Sidney Margolius, Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

While some medical authorities for a long time have questioned the claims and even effectiveness of many household remedies sold without prescriptions, government authorities at long last are getting braver about changing the laws.

Recently Dr. Charles Edwards, head of the Food and Drug Administration, told a Congressional committee that the FDA had sought to seize Exceldrin P.M., Asper Sleep and Ornex because manufacturers had indicated in ads that these were something “new.” But when charged with failure to comply with “new drug” requirements the manufacturers then contended that the products were not new but consisted only of well-known ingredients.

One of the most revealing incidents, showing how manufacturers reformulate, reregulate and rename old ingredients, is the case of Vivarin. This product is being promoted as a “more exciting woman,” “a more exciting man,” “a more exciting woman.” If you have come to realize that you may be “boring your husband to death.”

But it turned out that the main active ingredient in Vivarin, as in many similar stimulants, is caffeine, at three times the cost of a cup of coffee which even an empty stomach finds easily digestible.

Sometimes doctors themselves seem to become captivated by a particular over-the-counter medicine when it is simply a brand-name version ofstandard ingredients. Such is the case with Maalox, a widely-used combination of aluminum hydroxide, magnesium oxide and sodium, which outsells many similar products that cost less.

While antacids for indigestion and laxatives are probably the most widely-promoted over-the-counter medicines, yet another heavily advertised group is nonprescription sleeping pills. Most of these merely have a mild antihistamine as the chief active ingredient and are “essentially ineffective in the dosages used.”

Whether they make you sleep or not, the public certainly is buying a lot of them. There is now a huge assortment on the market, including such widely-advertised brands as Soromin, Nyvot, Compoz, Mt. Sleep, Nervine, Sta Kalm, Quiet World, Dormin and Sleep-Eze. Actually people could fool themselves at less cost by buying the private-brand antihistamine “sleep” products for as little as $1 instead of paying $2 for the advertised brands.

However, there may be other dangers than inflated prices in overmedicating yourself with nonprescription drugs. Dr. Edwards has warned that the overuse of “mood drugs” is becoming increasingly acute. He attributes this to the “hypnotism” of television commercials. For example, he cites the case of Vivarin, where the highest frequency of sale takes place nowadays more often is in the omission of relevant facts. Instead of paying $2 for the advertised “most effective ingredient” — aspirin — found in many brand-name digestive products, sometimes in combination with the bicarbonate of soda (baking soda) on the bottle or box.

Yet none of the government agencies, including the Federal Trade Commission which has the major responsibility over advertising, have stepped in to do the misleading commodities. This advertising that takes place nowadays more often is in the omission of relevant facts than in the actual commission of a deception. Thus, manufacturers of pain-relieving products advertise over and over that they have more of the “most effective ingredient” or “the ingredient that doctors recommend” without saying that this much-boosted “ingredient” is merely aspirin.

The first step in cleaning up some of the misleading medical advertising would be to require that if the manufacturer claims highly-effective ingredients in ads, he must name them. Presently, he is required to name the active ingredients on the labels but not in his ads or TV commercials.

Many retailers now offer an increasing number of household medicines packaged under their own brand names at sharply lower prices. If you are dealing with a reliable store that you know that you are getting an equivalent product is to read the list of ingredients on the bottle or box.

If you do, you may observe that many of these advertised products are simply old-time remedies, like the bicarbonate of soda (baking soda) found in many brand-name digestive products, sometimes in combination with our old friend, that famous “most effective ingredient” — aspirin.

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Claremont Conference Provides Education

L. L. Mitchell, Business Manager of the company, addresses the group and brings the meetings to a close. His activities on behalf of the company were much appreciated.

President Ron Fields was kept very busy with his duties as chairman. He is shown here replying to a question from the floor.

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This San Francisco delegation, from left to right, consists of: Jay Burton, Advisory Council member, Ray Xuereb, Thomas Xuereb and Business Representative Frank Quadros. Ray was the winner of the Local's scholarship contest.

See if you can find your Unit officers in this photo. If you don't know what they look like, please attend your next Unit Meeting.
Frank Brass, Attorney for the Law Firm—Neyhart, Grodin, Beeson and Jewell, is shown explaining the legal benefits available to Local 1245 members.

Stewart Boxer, left, and Frank Brass are shown fielding legal questions on workers' compensation, etc. L. L. Mitchell, Lee Thomas and Jack Graves are shown looking on.

Willie Stewart, Executive Board Member-at-Large, is shown standing between President Fields, left, and Bus. Mgr. Mitchell giving a sub-committee report.

Bud Gray, Treasurer, is shown giving his report on the finances of the Local and his activities in that area since he took office.

Stan Justis, standing at the mike, is giving a report on the Advisory Council and its various responsibilities.

Another pictorial example of the active participation from those in the audience at the Leadership Conference.
Joan Bynum, Trustee, is explaining how she and the other two members of the Trustee Committee come in every other Thursday and go through all the vouchers presented for payment. They scrutinize all checks to see that they are in accord with the policies and by-laws of Local 1245.

Ray Xuereb, left, winner of Local 1245's 3rd Annual Scholarship Contest, is being congratulated by President Ron Fields.

Assistant Business Manager Mert Walters is shown reporting on the Occupational Health and Safety Act and on the actions of the Legislature as it pertains to workers.

Lee Thomas, Vice President, had the responsibility of covering the "chairing of Unit meetings" and he covered all of the problem areas and made many suggestions as to how to run a successful meeting.

Standing at the mike is C. P. "Red" Henneberry, Executive Board Member-Central Area. Red is giving another sub-committee report.

Mark Burns is shown giving a report on the function of the Safety Advisory Committee.
WHO AM I?—I AM YOUR ENEMY
I am more powerful than the combined armies of the world.
I have destroyed more than all the wars of the nations.
I am more deadly than bullets or missiles, and I have wrecked more homes and jobs than the mightiest siege of guns.
I steal more than five billion each year in the United States alone.
I spare no one. I find my victims among the rich and poor alike, among the young and old, the strong and weak, the high-level and low-level workers.
Widows and orphans know me well.
I rise to such proportions that I cast my shadow over every field of labor, professional as well as non-professional, from the humblest laborer, to the Nuclear Scientist.
I kill thousands of employees every year.
I lurk in unseen places and do my best work silently.
I am relentless.
I am everywhere on the land and sea and in the air, in the home, on the job, on the streets and highways.
I breed sickness, degradation, and death.—Yet, few people make a real effort to avoid me, or even take me seriously.
I destroy, crush, maim, I give nothing, I take all.
I am your worst enemy.
I AM CARELESSNESS.
I AM THE UNSAFE PERSON.
(Now that you know who I am watch out for me.) . . .