U.S. JOBS LOST DUE TO UNFAIR COMPETITION

In a major address before the First Annual Appliance Suppliers Conference in June, 1971, Joseph S. Wright, Board Chairman of Zenith Radio Corporation, revealed yet another aspect of the thorny imports problem.

Since the beginning of the Japanese invasion into the U.S. consumers electronics market, many American manufacturers, fighting to survive, were forced by this competition first to purchase components from Japanese sources and, when this measure proved insufficient, to make or procure their sets in Japan and other foreign nations. An alarming movement of American plants to Asia has taken place, providing incentives including cheap labor. This trend is growing.

"Lacking some change in our government's trade policy, which should include the effective enforcement of all applicable existing laws," Mr. Wright says, "more and more of our productive facilities for serving the U.S. market will have to be located in foreign countries, and our current understated trade balance deficit in consumer electronics will increase from $1-billion-plus to between $3.5 and $4 billion by 1976."

The Zenith head explains that American manufacturers cannot gain access to Japanese markets as easily as Japanese makers can sell their products in this country. He explains:

"In order to support her invasion of the U.S. TV set market with the use of extremely low pricing policies, Japan has maintained a closed market to imports of television products and has fixed and kept domestic prices at artificially high levels. With a closed domestic market, insulated against foreign competition, domestic prices can be easily fixed at a high figure.

"If the Japanese market were open as is the case in this country, television receivers could be manufactured in the United States and successfully sold in Japan at competitive prices. The Japanese Electronics Industry Association admits that large screen TV receivers made in the U.S. could be delivered to a Japanese importer for a total cost of about $449, even prior to the April tariff reductions. Similar large screen Japanese sets have carried list prices of from $1,200 to $1,600 in Japan. A similar large screen Zenith set carries a suggested retail price of $579.95 in the U.S.

"It would, therefore, appear that Japan would be a great place for U.S. TV manufacturers to sell sets, but even with the recently lowered tariffs a whole host of barriers still prevent American entry into the Japanese market. Our attempt to enter the market of several years ago was blocked. A recent market study indicates that, while some of the barriers to our entry have theoretically eased somewhat, there are still clear-cut obstacles. Japanese government regulations still block free entry of necessary repair parts, and the Japanese are notorious for applying what they call "administrative guidance" to influence sales outlets in their handling of imported goods," Wright declares.

Technician Engineer
Membership Contest Begins $50 Prize

The Executive Board actions taken at their October meeting were approved by a majority of the Units at the November round of Unit Meetings. Among these actions was a motion which authorized the giving of a $50.00 prize to a member if he or she locates their membership card number in the then current issue of the Utility Reporter.

The purpose of the contest is to increase interest in and reading of the Utility Reporter. In researching the practicability and ins-and-outs of this contest we determined that it is very easy to scan a page and see a printed number such as 156005, so we have decided to use a unique code order, contains approximately forty numbers over the phone. All requests for membership card numbers and for new cards. The work of the computer, which will in turn notify the Bus. Rep. or mail a request for a duplicate card to the Local Union headquarters.

Explanations

The number will be chosen by the computer from the “label run” which is used to mail out the Utility Reporter. The file, which is in a file order, contains approximately 5000 members’ records. A box containing the numbers 1 thru 15,000 will be kept in the Board Room and at each regular Board meeting a member will be drawn and this number will be fed into the computer, which will in turn print out the card number of the corresponding member. This number will then be given to the editor and published in the newspaper. At this time, up until the next utility, nobody will know the name of the member who has the card number which is printed in the paper.

As you can see, we have taken extensive precautions to avoid the chance of anyone claiming that the “thing was fixed” or that “someone was notified.” Only the winner of the contest (and it’s not talking) will know the number corresponding with the card number.

Since the Staff and members of the Executive Board are on the regular members list and no one can predetermine whose number will be chosen they will not be excluded, but if they should win, they will give it to their favorite charity. Another precaution to avoid criticism of the contest.

Contest Rules

1. The dues of the winner must be current and if the card number picked by the computer belongs to an inactive member no prize will be given that month.
2. The member must notify the Local Union Headquarters by letter, phone or in person by the 20th of the month in which his or her number appears.
3. The Board reserves the right to make the final decisions should any complications arise out of this contest.

Membership Cards

We anticipate an avalanche of requests for membership card numbers and new cards. The workload of the office force prohibits the giving of membership card numbers over the phone. All requests for card numbers will be handled in the usual manner. Namely: Notify your Shop Steward, who will in turn notify the Bus. Rep. or mail a request for a duplicate card to the Local Union headquarters.

Price Commission Info

Price and Rent Stabilization

It is the purpose of President Nixon’s new economic policy to achieve a goal of holding average price increases across the economy to a rate of no more than 2½ percent per year. It is expected that all persons will voluntarily comply with the provisions contained in the Economic Stabilization Act.

The Act provides a list of exemptions from controls: Raw agricultural products, seafood products, custom products and services, exports, imports, and pricing rates, damaged and used products, Government property, real estate, securities and financial instruments. Also some miscellaneous items such as: Dues paid to nonprofit organizations, insurance premiums charged for life insurance, antiques and art objects.

The Cost of Living Council has established a Price Commission, which is composed of seven members representing the public, and who issues regulations, administers complaints, and renders judgments. The following are the members of the Price Commission:

C. Jackson Grayson, Jr., Chairman of Price Commission, Dean of the Business School of Southern Methodist University.

William Scarno, President of the National Municipal League and former Governor of Pennsylvania.


Marina Whitten, Professor of Economics at the University of Pittsburgh.

Wilson Newman, Vice Chairman of the Board of the National Bureau of Economics Research.

Robert F. Lanzieri, Dean of the College of Business at the University of Florida.

The Cost of Living Council provided a three-tiered system for monitoring post-freeze prices.

1. Prior notification and approval: Companies with sales of $100 million or more—1300 firms. 45% of total U.S. sales.
2. Post-report (quarterly): Companies with sales of $50-100 million—1100 firms. 5% of total U.S. sales.
3. No report—subject to spot check: Companies with sales of less than $50 million—10 million firms. 50% of total U.S. sales.

Service and Compliance Administration

The Internal Revenue Service (3000 IRS Field Officers) will handle complaints arising out of Phase II.

YOUR Business Manager’s COLUMN

POLITICS AND YOU

L. L. MITCHELL

(Continued from Page One)

We must decide what the issues of a campaign should be and not let the candidates evade the discussion of subjects which are paramount to our welfare.

The candidates who equivocate, pit class against class, or promise special interests because of campaign funds should be ruled out as unfit to serve the general public.

We must be led down the garden path by speech writers and make-up artists who prepare the candidates for T.V. appearances and political rallies. We should decide the issues and the priorities of need. No one should be misled by red herrings andphony issues tailor-made by the candidate to influence our votes.

We must examine our national conscience. What do we really feel with regard to the domestic crisis of unemployment, mental illness, the ghettos, the slums and national health? Above all, we must examine any bond programs which provide inequities and loopholes whereby the poor support the government and exempt the rich in terms of paying for social reforms we need to provide for the general welfare.

We must listen to the candidates’ speeches, analyze what they say and determine if they are saying anything at all; and finally, we must vote on a day. This means we must be registered and knowledgeable.

Safety Director Tupper of the I.R.E.W. ended his speech on safety at a recent gas conference with this paraphrase of a famous general: “We have met the enemy and he is us.” This can apply to many of us if we do not exercise our rights and duties as citizens. Let us make a pledge that in the coming year we view both the candidates and issues with candor and do our duty on election day.

CALIF D.I.S. UNDER FIRE

(Continued from Page Eight)

Pat Brown’s tenure. And in Reagan’s proposed budget for the coming year, 23 new people are scheduled to be cut from the division.

The Assembly investigation pointed toward a general pattern of lax enforcement, inadequate regulation and serious understaffing in the DIS.

I hope the Governor’s belated investigation convinces him of the need for action that many legislators have seen for a long time.

I said last week, “I am the man, finally responsible. All comes back to me, as the head of the government. And so you can fix the blame wherever you want to fix it if something hasn’t been done.”

Perhaps now he is ready to live up to that statement.
Sky Crane used in tower construction

by Mark Cook

A few pictures are worth a thousand words. What do you do when you have to build a line that goes through hard-to-reach terrain? This was the problem that Pacific Gas & Electric Company was faced with on the construction of a 500-KV line out of Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. A secondary consideration was to build the line and not scar the mountainsides with access roads. The protection of the natural environment and the ecology was essential. So, the best approach was to use helicopters. This Sikorsky Sky Crane was brought in from Oregon where it was being used in logging inaccessible areas and the building of roads was not desirable. In about five days, this Sky Crane set 23 towers for the 500KV line and in addition it also set 39 ninety-foot poles for a 230-KV line.

First, two small helicopters were used to transport the men and material to construct the footings for the massive steel towers. When the footings were completed, the towers were assembled in one-half sections on the ground. Then the sections were picked up by the Sky Crane and flown into the tower sites. There a ground crew, previously flown in by small helicopters, were ready to guide the section into place. With the use of guy lines and "spud wrenches" by the men on the ground, the positioning of the tower by the pilots above, and the bolting of the tower of the already built footings, the procedure went very well. These sections weighed eight and one-half tons and safety was of the utmost importance. Direct ground-to-air communication was used and the giant helicopter was manned by three pilots, two in the nose and one in the center, when the helicopter reached the tower site. The center pilot took over and he controlled the positioning and the lowering of the tower section. Upon the completion of each tower, a small helicopter came in and picked up the crew working on the ground and flew them to the next site.

In case you want to avail yourself of the use of a Sky Crane, be prepared to pay a fee of $3000.00 per hour with a guarantee of three hours per day. How about travel time of the Sky Crane? Same charge, $3000.00 per hour. The small helicopters? You get off cheap, only $190.00 per hour.

Members of Local 1245 manned this job but it was difficult to identify them by name. There will be more of this type of construction in the future and we hope that we will be able to get the names of the members on the job. We appreciate the cooperation of Elmer Isaac, Karl Dies, Bill Clark, and the Market Street office for making the pictures available.

The photos on the left and right of this page show a sequential pictorial story of the building of a tower line out of Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. The story starts in the upper left hand corner with the "Sky Crane" at the materials yard and ends in the lower right hand corner with a finished product.
The Tri-dam project is a joint development of the Oakdale Irrigation District and the South San Joaquin Irrigation District.

Donnells, Beardsley and Tulloch are the three dams and power plants which make up the project. The upper works of the project (Donnells and Beardsley) are on the middle fork of the Stanislaus River and Tulloch dam and power plant is located on the main stream of the Stanislaus, 45 miles below Beardsley Dam.

The project is located in what has to be one of the most beautiful spots in California. The photos show the magnificent winter scenes they enjoy this time of year.

The fishing is good but the access is a problem except for Tulloch. There is a marina at the Tulloch reservoir where boats can be launched.

The members of Local 1245 who work for Tri-dam have located in the area because of the calm, serene setting and because it is many miles from the hustle and bustle of the big city. There are times when all is not calm and serene, and the men have to really push to keep the water and power flowing.

Negotiations were completed with Tri-dam in November and the results were ratified by the members on November 23, 1971.

The negotiating committee consisted of Homer Northcutt and Pete Dutton, Business Representative.

The members received a 6% general increase effective November 14, 1971.

The following improvements were made in other areas:

1. Sick leave
   a. Maximum accumulation from 30 to 120 days
   b. Payment for 1st day of illness

2. Vacation
   a. From 3 wks. after 10 yrs. maximum to 4 wks. after 15 years

3. Health and Welfare
   a. Change to usual, customary and reasonable fee concept
   b. Co. will pay for any increase in cost for dependent coverage

The number of members at Tri-dam is small but our Local has a philosophy that all men have the right to organize and we are willing to represent them. The more groups that are organized helps to bring up the general wages and working conditions in the industry.
MEMBERS ON THE JOB


Charles Atmore is shown alongside of his truck.

Shop Steward Jack Abshier is shown inside the maintenance shop.

Glen Lenert, operator, left, is shown explaining some of the switches on the control panel to Pete Dutton.

Ralph Reimer, elect. tech., is shown posing with Electrician Pat Northcutt, right. Pat is the negotiating committee member.

TULLOCH

The slight ripple on Tulloch Reservoir makes for an interesting effect on this photo.

This photo shows Tulloch Dam, power house and part of the afterbay.

Shown above is Goodwin Dam which forms an afterbay for Tulloch Reservoir in order to regulate the discharge down river.

Utility Reporter—January, 1972—Page Five
Hard Times

The Third Convention which met in Cleveland in 1893 voted to recommend to the membership a raise in per capita tax of 15 cents. One of the mistakes of the early days was providing that Constitutional amendments had to be submitted to every member—with a two-thirds affirmative vote required for adoption. That was no adoption, but, as everyone knows, a practical vote for self-destruction. The Third Convention was quite discouraging. The country was being plunged into a severe economic depression, the effects of which extended well into 1897, and many old members were forced to drop out of the organization. The number of our NEBW local unions had grown to 60, the membership had not increased. Unemployment had had its effects and following the Cleveland Convention it was decided to keep down expenses and hold conventions only every two years in the future.

Quinn Jansen served as Grand President from 1893 to 1894, with Henry Miller taking the post of Grand Organizer. Wirhmen and linemen, all at this time were being organized into separate local unions, and in cities where the number was large enough. Disputes began to arise quite often, however, between the inlinemen and wirermen as to which branch had the right to enroll those members of other branches of the trade not numerous enough to organize locals of their own. These disputes showed strongly at the Third Convention.

In 1894, Secretary-Treasurer Kelly reported a loss for the year of $408,650 which was made up by loans from various members and locals. With many obligations to be met, Kelly wrote, “It was under such circumstances, when the very life of the organization depended upon it, that I modestly permitted my two hundred contacts and building associations to meet the checks and get out the Journal with the proceedings of the Convention . . . .

Wages and working conditions were still far from favorable. Local Union 1 of St. Louis reported as late as 1897 that the wage of an electrician in the building trades was still only $2.00 a day.

It should be noted here, however, that general conditions of work in the industry and the safety record for Electrical Workers were beginning to improve. In 1894, the adoption of a journeymen's and apprentice system, in which the early unions had to fight were almost unsurmountable. These conditions took their toll. When the Fourth Convention convened in Washington, D.C., in 1895, only 11 delegates representing eight local unions attended the roll call and the treasury showed a deficit of $1,016.

Our Brotherhood was certainly at its lowest ebb. After four years of unending, heartbreaking effort, the new union was right back where it started, with the same number of local unions as were represented at the meeting in St. Louis where the National Union was founded.

It is amazing that our union did not fall completely apart. It most certainly would have, had it not been for that stalwart of our Brotherhood, Grand Secretary J. T. Kelly, who somehow managed to keep the struggling union going, with the strength and encouragement of a few more members who refused to give up their dream of a strong national union and a better life for all.

The 11 delegates to the Washington Convention proceded to correct some of the mistakes made at the Third Convention, and adopted a national financial policy. The death benefit for the wife of a member, which had proved too heavy a burden for the treasury, was abolished. The minimum initiation fee was raised to $100 and the term of apprenticeship was extended to four years. The purpose of this was to establish an apprenticeship system and to effect better conditions in the industry and to rid the trade of its large numbers of unskilled and incompetent mechanics, the National Constitution adopted at the First Convention, established a minimum term of three years' training under the supervision of a journeyman before an applicant could become eligible for membership.

In addition to the severe depression which was ravishing the country in 1894 and 1895, the hostility of employers and the anti-labor prejudices of the courts against the labor organization were among the factors which slowed the growth of our union. Wages and working conditions were still far from favorable. Local Union 1 of St. Louis reported as late as 1897 that the wage of an electrician in the building trades was still only $2.00 a day.

One early account tells of the experience of one member traveling by boxcar to Cripple Creek, Colorado, in an effort to find work. He was hauled out of the car and searched. When an IBEW card was found in his pocket, he was thrown into a boxcar and body searched. When the Fourth Convention convened in St. Louis in 1896, only 11 delegates representing eight local unions attended the roll call and the treasury showed a deficit of $1,016.

As promised last month, this article will give you some general information on our affiliations with other Labor organizations. Please let us know what you think of this series and what you think we should cover next.

For more information on “Your dues dollars,” watch the next issue for more info on “Your dues dollars.”
MEMBERS’ Participation Page

Editor's note: The "Members' participation page" is a new feature of The Utility Reporter. We will print the contributions of our members, such as letters to the editor, poems and pictures, etc. It will be up to the members to keep this page going and if the response is as good as it was this month, we will have no problem. In the December issue we ran a column entitled "Some questions for our readers" and it seems we have some excellent poets and photographers.

WILL MAN EVER KNOW WHY?
By Joseph Lafferty
Just before the Earth is dead,
About the time Man is too weak to hold up his head;
He will think back to when the Earth was green;
To when the Skys were clear and the rivers clean;
To the time before the Skys turned brown and Earth grey;
Back before the carbon-monoxide night took over the day.
He will then raise his eyes to the smoke choked Sky, And pray to God and ask Him why, Why must the Earth die?

Joseph Lafferty works in the Substation Department for PG&E in San Jose. Joe has been a member of Local 1245 since 1965. Good work—send us some more.

TAKEN FOR GRANTED
Written February 1, 1970
Byrene M. Guiberson
Copyright Applied For
3444 E. Lewis Avenue
Fresno, California 93702

The scourge of Alcohol
I am a harmless-looking bottle of wine,
With an attractive label and lovely shine.
I am socially accepted, without reason or rhyme,
Although I play the "lead" in the "Role of Crime."
The many brutal acts I contribute to,
No other narcotic can equally do.
I have many cousins—champagne, whiskey and beer—They demoralize our youth and incite them with fear.
However, when it comes to murders, kidnapping and rape—
Most of THESE crimes from the wine bottle escape.
And there is nothing that pleases me more,
Than to be placed on the shelf of a grocery store.
There, I am tempting to both young and old,
And whenever I'm used, I start to take hold.
Many a "Wino", now filthy and weak,
Is no longer accepted by the upper "peak":
Yet, the social drinkers laughingly say,
"Can you imagine me, getting that way"
But one out of eight (the ratio becomes less)
Will find themselves in a similar mess.
Only the help of God can take away
The curse of drink we have today.
Total Abstinence, Knowledge and Truth
Are the only weapons for guarding our youth.

—By Byrene Mae Guiberson
3444 Lewis Avenue
Fresno, California 93702

Mrs. Guiberson is the wife of retired member Richard Guiberson who retired in 1957. We are happy that they still take interest in our paper and thought enough of us to allow us to print these excellent poems.

GET INVOLVED
Attend your next Unit meeting

Utility Reporter—January, 1972—Page Seven
Division of Industrial Safety

Motorcycles can be Dangerous

Editor’s note: Many of our members ride motorcycles and many more will be soon. They are quite the fad. We thought our members should be aware of the following facts before they turn their spouse or children loose on a “harmless little motorbike.”

CHICAGO—Nobody likes being told what to do and motorcycle riders are no exception. Nevertheless, the National Safety Council would like the nation’s motorcycle riders to know the results of some interesting material gathered by the Council’s statistical department. It may help convince them that helmets and motorcycle driving instruction can assist in saving their lives.

More than 2.5 million motorcycles are now registered in the United States. This figure is only eight per cent higher than the 1969 figure. However, during 1970 motorcycle deaths rose by 18.9 per cent while other vehicle occupants deaths were down by 3.8 per cent.

What is the most important factor in motorcycle accidents? What is the most predominant type of motorcycle accident? Where does the material gathered by the Council’s statistical department. It may help convince them that helmets and motorcycle driving instruction can assist in saving their lives.

August are the months when most motorcycle accidents take place. It should come as no surprise that June, July and August have the highest fatalities in motorcycle accidents as the weights of the vehicles decreased.”

Motorcycle Facts, two thirds of the riders killed in the state suffered skull fractures. This type of injury predominated. Motorcycle fatalities in the state of Washington dropped 49 per cent following enactment of a state law requiring motorcycle riders to wear protective helmets. The number of motorcycle riders in the study suffering fatal head injuries was reduced 61 per cent.

What is the relative safety of different brands of motorcycles? The information on this subject is inconclusive. However, an Oregon study has stated, “. . . there was a tendency for higher percentages of personal injury accidents as the weights of the vehicles decreased.”

Of special interest to the riders of the state of Washington, the number of helmeted riders increased from 25 per cent to 45 per cent. It is impossible to check the accuracy of these figures but it is safe to assume that the increase is due to the enforcement of the law.

One recent accident that brought to light the importance of helmet use occurred at a downhill speedway in California. A motorcycle rider, wearing a helmet, lost control of his vehicle and was thrown over the guardrail. He was not seriously injured.

The study also showed that the number of motorcycle accidents decreased 40 per cent in the state of Washington following the enactment of a helmet law. The number of helmeted riders increased from 25 per cent to 45 per cent. It is impossible to check the accuracy of these figures but it is safe to assume that the increase is due to the enforcement of the law.

In summary, it is clear that motorcycle accidents can be prevented by the use of protective helmets. The National Safety Council urges all riders to wear helmets and to take advantage of the instruction available at their local schools and motorcycle clubs.

On a more general note, it is important to remember that motorcycle accidents are often caused by the fault of others. Drivers of other vehicles are frequently guilty of a traffic violation. Motorcyclists are infrequently responsible for accidents.

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