Nine California Labor Federation
Bills Enacted in 1971

Listed below with a brief explanation are the nine bills which were sponsored by the California Labor Federation and enacted in 1971. On page seven of this issue you will find a detailed explanation of the improvements in Workmen's Compensation and Disability Insurance.

Workmen's Compensation

AB 486—Provides the biggest increase in the program's history. It raises the temporary disability maximum from $87.50 to $105 a week and the permanent disability maximum from $52.50 to $70 a week.

It increases a widow's death benefits from $20,000 to $25,000 and the death benefits for a widow with dependents from $25,000 to $28,000. It also reduces the retroactive waiting period from 49 to 28 days. These benefit increases will exceed $71 million annually and mean an annual cost increase to employers of $111 million.

AB 486 contains the first increase in temporary disability benefits since 1976 and the first increase in permanent disability benefits since 1979.

AB 975—Provides that damage to hearing aids is compensable under workmen's compensation.

AB 981—Provides reimbursement for lost wages, room and board, and travel when an injured worker is required to give a deposition in a case.

Disability Insurance

AB 1423—Will increase maximum weekly disability insurance benefits for a worker hurt off-the-job from $87 to $105 a week, the biggest increase in the program's history. This will boost benefits by about $18 million a year. This is the first increase in benefits in this entirely worker-funded program's history. This will boost benefits by about $18 million a year.

AB 975 contains the first increase in temporary disability benefits since 1976 and the first increase in permanent disability benefits since 1979.

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This is flattering and rewarding from the point of view of effecting outside influences. However, it does not provide much in the way of knowledge of our success in communicating with our members, which is the real purpose of our paper.

Each Representative, in his report to me, is supposed to let me know about your comments regarding the paper. Each month I receive virtually the same information. No specific complaints or comment. Occasionally a Representative will report that a particular article stirred interest from an individual or a small group. Maybe this is all that can be expected. Yet, this is your paper and we would like to receive more comments, whether it is good or bad.

Our paper is a monthly and can
The Advisory Council of Local 1245 met at the Concord Inn on February 26th and 27th, 1972. This was a regularly scheduled meeting with a special order of business. The Local paid special tribute to two past presidents of Local 1245, Jim Gibbs and Ron Fields, along with the Officers and E-Board members who served with them, were guests at the meeting. Ron and Jim each addressed the Council.

Ron Fields received a plaque in honor of his dedicated service as President of Local 1245. Ron urged the members not to lose sight of the principles and purpose on which this Local was built.

Jim Gibbs received his Local 1245 Retirement Scroll, as he is retiring early from PG&E this month. Jim, while speaking to the Council, indicated that his early retirement was possible only because of the many benefits and improvements that Local 1245 had negotiated over the years.

The balance of the Advisory Council meeting was “business as usual” and the results were reported at the March Unit meetings.

San Jose Stewards Meet

(Continued from Page One)

and encouraged active participation on the part of Stewards and all members of Local 1245 to educate themselves on the issues and to actively support the candidates of their choice.

Mitch warned that the working men and women have been stirred up and deceived by politicians on the emotional side issues, which they do nothing about anyway, and then they pick the pockets of the workingmen and reduce the effectiveness of the benefits and wages which Union members have fought hard for at the bargaining table.

Brother Mitchell pointed out the imminent threat to the collective bargaining process as we know it today and stated that unless the members of this Local Union and all Unions across the country start voting for a candidate on the basis of his position on Labor and their right to bargain freely, they will lose this right and if they think employers take advantage of them now, they haven’t seen anything yet.

Assistant Business Managers John Wilder and Larry Foss gave reports on Interim Negotiations and the Review Committee, respectively. Three hundred and twenty-nine thousand, one hundred and twenty. Both topics were of considerable interest to the Stewards and many questions were asked.

The Stewards of Local 1245 are the backbone of this organization and their time for Saturday meetings such as this one and their efforts on the job are greatly appreciated.

The membership and the Utility Reporter

L. L. MITCHELL

not hope to compete with the public press or current news. It is intended to treat the major issues and subjects of concern which are of a broad and lasting import. We believe that the labor press has a message on vital issues of our time and its record of analysis on local and national concerns are more often right than those of the public press whose views, by reason of economic necessity, are colored by the number of ads they must print in order to stay in business.

Many believe we should limit our subject matter to interim negotiating subjects, grievance settlements and articles closely related to our own membership job activity. There is no question that these are important and I’m sure we should have done more in the last few months on these items. On the other hand, unemployment, the loss of job opportunities by multinational corporations moving to foreign soil, labor legislation—both state and national — can and do have a lasting effect on us in Local 1245, as well as others in the labor force.

We are not masters of our own destiny by reason of what we can bargain with a single employer. Our welfare is tied to that of the whole society and changes in Social Security, National Health Care, tax reform, safety, etc., affect us all. We believe these should be discussed in our paper and that if we show bias in our reporting, it is at least directed at what we believe is the interest of people and not for gaining advertising.

We would hope our point of view on these issues would be weighed by you and as citizens you would consider them in your decisions when you are called upon to contact legislators, when bills are under consideration and when you consider the candidates for public office.

Labor will face many problems in 1972. They have already started. We, as laboring men and women, can have an effect if we are properly informed and do our part. So for those of you who care to write, I would welcome your criticisms and comments on what the content of our paper should be.
Local 1245 Renews
Competitive Scholarship Contest

The Executive Board of Local 1245, IBEW, has announced the fourth annual competitive scholarship contest.

The purpose of this contest is to provide a grant in aid for scholarships to college, thereby making financial assistance available toward the attainment of a higher education.

1. The grant will be as follows:
   $250.00 per year for four (4) years, as long as a C (2.0) average is maintained and the parent maintains their membership in good standing in Local Union 1245.

2. In order to be a candidate in this contest, you must be a son or daughter, natural, legally adopted or the legal ward of a member of Local Union 1245.

   You must also be a high school senior who has graduated or is graduating in 1972. A copy of your diploma or a letter from your high school stating that you will graduate in 1972 must be attached to your scholarship application.

3. The Scholarship Grant will be made only to that candidate who intends to enroll in any college certified by their State Department of Education and accredited by the local Accrediting Association.

   Applications may be secured by addressing the Recording Secretary of Local Union 1245 or by calling the Union Office or by using the form printed in the Utility Reporter.

4. Checks will be paid directly to the college upon presentation of tuition bills to the Local Union.

5. All applications shall be accompanied with a written essay, not to exceed five hundred (500) words, on the subject, “What should organized labor’s role be in the ecological or environmental movement?”

6. Essays should be submitted on 8½”x11” paper, on one side, preferably typed and double spaced with applicant’s written signature at the conclusion of the essay.

7. Applications and essays must be mailed to the Local Union, P.O. Box 4790, Walnut Creek, California 94596, by registered or certified mail only, and be received no later than 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 1, 1972.

Read me and weep, read me and laugh.
Pass me by and I die upon the wind.
Headed for a furnace blaze,
Or a reconstitution phase.
I am Paper.
Poor man’s sympathy, brave man’s sword.
Peace tables’ holdings and prosperity’s greed.
The realized thought
and scribbled wisdom of a sage.
I am nothing but white or green
or maybe blue.
A ransom page or a crepe parade
signaling someone’s recognition,
or the bull-like dogma
of a politician.
I’m the park bench hobo’s umbrella;
I’m the coming out announcement
of some Cinderella.
I’m the aspiration and the signalled doom,
Da Vinci’s genius and Einstein’s boom.
Cellular fibers woven into pages,
The written knowledge of all the ages;
Kindness, hatred, truth that rage;
The rage and riches and blank white pages.
I am Paper.
### International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

#### Local 1245

**Statement of Recorded Cash Receipts and Disbursements**

**For the Year Ended December 31, 1971**

**General Fund**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$159,595.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Union Portion of Receipts:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;A&quot; Members Per Capita</td>
<td>$56,290.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;B&quot; Members Per Capita</td>
<td>$1,199,926.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiation Fees</td>
<td>9,118.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reinstatement Fees</td>
<td>124.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference in Dues</td>
<td>637.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference in Initiation Fees</td>
<td>17.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency Fees</td>
<td>296.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Dues—Outside Line</td>
<td>13,600.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,199,911.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reimbursements to General Fund:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts held for Members' Credit to be refunded</td>
<td>$4,842.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members' Credits applied to Dues, etc.</td>
<td>(2,522.29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings, Interest</td>
<td>5,896.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividends</td>
<td>123.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$4,842.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refunds and Reimbursements:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Expenses from I.O. for OPE Fund</td>
<td>44,663.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Fund for Organizing Expense</td>
<td>351.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severance Plan Forfeitures</td>
<td>624.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workmen's Compensation Insurance</td>
<td>4,881.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>720.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>2,338.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$61,948.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Portion of Receipts:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;A&quot; Members Per Capita</td>
<td>$113,075.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;B&quot; Members Per Capita</td>
<td>307,350.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiation Fees</td>
<td>9,114.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>DBAF Fees</td>
<td>52.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reinstatement Fees</td>
<td>24.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference in Per Capita</td>
<td>74.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difference in Initiation Fees</td>
<td>111.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agency Fees</td>
<td>90.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$429,866.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Receipts</td>
<td>$1,691,726.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Receipts and Balance</td>
<td>$1,851,321.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursements—Schedule 1</td>
<td>1,622,403.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Balance December 31, 1971</td>
<td>$228,916.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Affiliation Fees**

- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers: $453,848.30
- California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO: 11,520.00
- California Labor CPDE, AFL-CIO: 600.60
- Central Labor Council of Alameda County, AFL-CIO: 1,647.00

**Details of Balance—General Fund**

- Wells Fargo Bank, Commercial Account: $76,120.00
- Wells Fargo Bank—Savings Account: 49,536.33
- Wells Fargo Bank—Savings Certificate: 101,500.00
- Change Fund: 1,500.00
- Contingency Fund: 1,500.00
- Petty Cash Fund: 100.00
- Returned Checks for Collection: 60.20

**Total per Preceding Page**

**$228,916.53**

**Schedule 1**

**Statement of Recorded Cash Disbursements**

**For the Year Ended December 31, 1971**

**General Fund**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>$457,480.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotels</td>
<td>8,822.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>18,774.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Transportation</td>
<td>2,270.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automobile Expenses</td>
<td>34,473.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking and Tolls</td>
<td>2,742.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mileage @ 12c per mile</td>
<td>3,135.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to Replacement Fund</td>
<td>27,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Insurance</td>
<td>8,647.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Registrations</td>
<td>1,183.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moving Expenses</td>
<td>673.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Examinations</td>
<td>79.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>557,701.91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research and Education**

- Utility Reporter: $23,667.55
- Public Relations: 2,306.48
- Subscriptions and Publications: 2,855.45
- Shop Steward Conferences: 491.78
- Salaries Reimbursed: 5,019.06
- Transfer to Scholarship Fund: 2,400.00
- Scholarships Paid on Behalf of Scholarship Fund: 750.00
- Shop Stewards' News Letter: 2,685.01
- Miscellaneous Meeting Expenses: 342.42
- Legislative and Educational: 970.72
- Film and Recorder Expenses: 103.17
- Unit Officers Conference: 767.72
- Salaries Reimbursed: 7,401.70
- Other Expenses: 306.74
- Analyze PG&E Clerical Grade Index and Cross Hetch Index Plans: 306.74
- Dues for Membership to: 25.00
- Women's Club: 5.00
- International Labor Press Ass'n: 30.00
- National Safety Council: 40.00
- Association of California Consumers: 25.00
- California Labor Press Ass'n: 10.00
- International Shade Tree Conference: 25.00
- Public Employees' Council of California: 12.00
- IRA: 48,058.81

**Office Expenses**

- Clerical Salaries: $79,161.67
- Rent to IBEW Energy Workers Center, Inc.: 18,000.00
- Telephone and Telegraph: 32.52
- Postage and Meter Expense: 3,083.11
- Supplies and Printing: 13,595.87
- Equipment Maintenance: 1,784.88
- Equipment Rental: 2,501.70
- Furniture and Equipment: 3,050.00
- Data Processing: 2,819.17
- Janitor Service: 3,008.41
- Medical Examinations: 120.50
- Security Patrol: 1,000.00
- Personal Property Taxes: 196.87

**Details of Balance—General Fund**

- Wells Fargo Bank, Commercial Account: $76,120.00
- Wells Fargo Bank—Savings Account: 49,536.33
- Wells Fargo Bank—Savings Certificate: 101,500.00
- Change Fund: 1,500.00
- Contingency Fund: 1,500.00
- Petty Cash Fund: 100.00
- Returned Checks for Collection: 60.20

**Total per Preceding Page**

**$228,916.53**
REPORT FOR 1971

MEREDITH & RUBIN

STATEMENT OF RECORDED CASH DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1971

GAS AND OTHER SALARIES AND EXPENSES:

Other Salaries and Expenses:
- Executive Board
- Steward
- Advisory Council
- Grievance Committee
- Trustee Committee
- 500 KV
- S.P.P. Apprenticeship
- Trial Board
- PG&E Wage and Contract
- 3.88
- 570.40
- 36.32
- 2,646.37
- 612.42

(continued)

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL NO. 1245

STATEMENT OF RECORDED CASH DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1971

GAS AND OTHER SALARIES AND EXPENSES:

Other Salaries and Expenses:
- Executive Board
- Steward
- Advisory Council
- Grievance Committee
- Trustee Committee
- 500 KV
- S.P.P. Apprenticeship
- Trial Board
- PG&E Company:
- City of Redding
- City of Lompoc
- Tele-Vue
- Teleprompter
- Community Antenna Co.
- 3.88
- 2.50

TOTAL SCHEDULE 1

$13,248.33

$13,248.33

$1,622,405.46

(Continued from Page Five)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payroll Taxes:</th>
<th>(continued)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employees</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Tax</td>
<td>$84,137.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>(16,248.38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Unemp.</td>
<td>2,857.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Tax</td>
<td>84,187.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forwarded</td>
<td>(16,250.39)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDF</td>
<td>2,903.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Union</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FICA</td>
<td>16,260.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cal. Unemp.</td>
<td>2,049.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemp. Tax</td>
<td>841.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welfare and</td>
<td>$15,403.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension Plans</td>
<td>(14,145.01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Life</td>
<td>8,843.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>(27,338.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Life</td>
<td>73,867.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>20,815.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Balance</td>
<td>87,443.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Statement of Recorded Cash Receipts and Disbursements

#### For the Year Ended December 31, 1971

**Repayment Fund**

- Cash Balance December 31, 1970: $21,424.01
- Receipts: $27,600.00
- Interest: $1,595.10
- Disbursements: $50,619.52
- Cash Balance December 31, 1971: $10,925.65

**Savings Account**

- Total as Above: $10,925.65

---

**Scholarship Fund**

- Cash Balance December 31, 1970: $6,695.48
- Receipts: $2,400.00
- Interest: $280.17
- Disbursements: $7,621.15
- Cash Balance December 31, 1971: $10,925.65

**Details of Balance:**

- Wells Fargo Bank—Savings Account: $50,619.52

---

### Statement of Recorded Cash Receipts and Disbursements

#### For the Year Ended December 31, 1971

**Funders for Organizing Expenses**

- Cash Balance December 31, 1970: $850.30
- Receipts: $36,160.00
- Interest: $494.46
- Disbursements: $1,380.92
- Cash Balance December 31, 1971: $1,029.62

**Details of Balance:**

- Wells Fargo Bank—Savings Account: $1,029.62

---

### Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity

#### Local No. 1245

**Energy Workers Center, Inc.**

**International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers**

- 2525 Van Ness Avenue, Room 215
- San Francisco, California 94109
- Telephone: 771-2577
- January 25, 1972

**Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity**

**At December 31, 1971**

**Assets**

- Cash and Cash Equivalents
- Bank Loans and Advances
- Rent Deferred
- Prepaid Expenses
- Total Cash and Investments
- Total assets

**Liabilities**

- Short-term Notes Payable
- Long-term Notes Payable
- Current portion of Long-term Debt
- Total Liabilities

**Net Worth**

- Paid-in Capital
- Retained Earnings
- Total Net Worth

---

**Statement of Income and Expense**

**Year Ended December 31, 1971**

- Income Sources:
- Expenses:
- Profit Before Income Tax
- Income Tax Expense
- Net Income

---

**Energy Workers Center, Inc. Annual Financial Report**

**To the Board of Directors**

**of the I.B.E.W. Local Union 1245**

**Energy Workers Center, Inc.**

**1218 BOULEVARD WAY**

**WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA**

We have examined the Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth of the I.B.E.W. Local Union 1245 Energy Workers Center, Inc., at December 31, 1971 and the related Statement of Income and Expense for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and included such tests of the records and such other auditing procedures as we deemed necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the assets, liabilities and net worth of the I.B.E.W. Local Union 1245 Energy Workers Center, Inc., at December 31, 1971 and its income and expenses for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted auditing principles and on a basis consistent with that of preceding periods.

Respectfully submitted,

**MEREDITH & RUBIN**

**Certified Public Accountants**

2525 Von Ness Avenue, Room 215
San Francisco, California 94109
Telephone: 771-2577
January 25, 1972

---

**Notes:***

1. The accounts are maintained on a cash basis. Assets and liabilities consist of those arising from cash transactions and all other material assets and liabilities. Depreciation has been computed on depreciable assets, at $100 per month on automobiles and 5% per year on furniture and equipment. Prepaid and delinquent dues and unpaid operating expenses are not included in this statement.

2. The accounts of the union are maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and on a basis consistent with the circumstances.

3. The accounts are maintained on a cash basis. Assets and liabilities consist of those arising from cash transactions and all other material assets and liabilities. Prepaid and delinquent dues and unpaid operating expenses are not included in this statement.

4. The accounts of the union are maintained in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and included such tests of the records and such other auditing procedures as we deemed necessary in the circumstances.
Attorney Explains Workmen’s Compensation and Disability Benefits

In light of the recent changes in the Workmen's Compensation Act passed by the State Legislature last year, we have asked Stewart Boxer of the law firm of Neyhart, Grodin, Beeson & Jewel to prepare an article on the implications of these changes. We are setting out below the article as prepared by Stewart Boxer:

The California Workmen’s Compensation Act was first adopted in 1911. Prior to that time, a worker who tried to sue his employer for damages resulting from a work injury had to avoid a number of legal obstacles. First, he had to prove that the injury resulted from his employer’s negligence. He could not recover if it was found that his negligence, or the negligence of fellow employees, contributed to the injury. If the worker had “assumed the risk” by accepting employment under conditions which he knew to be dangerous.

The Workmen’s Compensation Act provides benefits for any injury “arising out of and in the course of employment,” whether the employer is negligent or not. It also eliminates the employer’s defenses of contributory negligence, the negligence of a fellow employee, or assumption of the risk.

The employer can no longer be sued for damages in court. In the event of a dispute over liability for benefits, the employee or his attorney may file an application with the Workmen’s Compensation Appeals Board which has authority to hear and determine the case.

The immunity against court damage suits extends only to the employer of the injured worker. If the employee’s injury is due to the negligence of some third party (i.e., someone other than his employer) he may still sue the third party as in any personal injury suit. For example, an employee is injured by a falling object in the workplace, and his employer is not at fault. His injury arose out of and in the course of employment, he is entitled to Workmen’s Compensation benefits. If his injury was due to the carelessness of a third party, he may still sue the third party for all damages (medical bills, lost wages, pain and suffering, etc.). However, any amount the injured employee receives in Workmen’s Compensation benefits will be deducted from the proceeds he receives from the negligent third party and paid over to the employer or the employer’s insurance carrier. The potential for a third party suit exists in other less obvious situations. There is a developing law of product liability which makes the manufacturer of a dangerous product liable for damages caused by any defects. Often, a worker is not aware of the possibility of third party recovery in such cases, and it is therefore most important that he consult an attorney with respect to his rights.

The Workmen’s Compensation Act defines an “industrial injury” as any injury or disease which is the result of work or working conditions. The injury may be either “specific,” i.e., occurring as the result of one incident, or exposure which causes disability or need for medical treatment; or “cumulative,” i.e., occurring as the result of repetitive mental or physically traumatic activities extending over a period of time, the combined effect of which causes disability or need for medical treatment. It is possible to have injury without external physical force, as through harmful ingestion or inhalation. The occurrence and aggravation of occupational diseases, such as silicosis, asbestosis and lead poisoning, are compensable, as are other infectious and non-infectious diseases caused by the occupation. Mental disturbances, traceable to the employment and damages to artificial members, are also injuries.

Both recurrences and aggravations are compensable. In cases of recurrence, the compensation payable in the event of a recurrence depends on the degree of risk involved.

The principal types of benefits which apply in ordinary cases are:

2. Temporary disability indemnity.
3. Permanent disability indemnity.

An injured worker is entitled to receive all medical, surgical and hospital services necessary to cure or relieve of the effects of the industrial injury, including reasonable transportation expense incidental to treatment. "Reasonable transportation expense" is now defined by the Act as that amount which the employer or insurance carrier will pay the injured employee 12 cents per mile plus any bridge tolls incurred in traveling to and from the doctor. Unfortunately, however, the insurance carrier is not subject to income tax on the medical treatment the employee is to receive. However, an injured worker who is dissatisfied with his change may request one change of physicians through the employer or insurance company.

The amount paid to the injured worker is based on the degree of the injury, the length of time he has been out of work, and the likelihood of recovery. The amount paid to the injured worker is based on the degree of the injury, the length of time he has been out of work, and the likelihood of recovery.

Temporary disability indemnity payments are determined by the employee’s earnings before the injury. The maximum amount is $105.00 per week for injuries sustained after April 1, 1972. The rate of compensation is determined by the injured employee’s earnings. For example, in order for an employee to be entitled to the maximum rate of $105.00 per week, his earnings must be $101.54 per week. If the employee’s earnings are $161.00 per week, he will be entitled to something less than $105.00 per week. How much he will receive is based upon a formula that is set out in the Workmen’s Compensation Act.

Where the effects of an injury cause a loss of earning power, impairment of the normal use of a member, or a competitive handicap in the open labor market, there is at least a partial permanent disability. The degree of disability is determined by the Workmen’s Compensation Appeals Board. The employee’s occupation, the age and occupation of the worker, and his ability to compete in the open labor market are considered in computing a rating. The Workmen’s Compensation Act provides for temporary disability for injuries occurring before April 1, 1972, and permanent disability for injuries occurring after April 1, 1972.

The increase in benefits will take place in the event of a permanent disability. Although the maximum rate of compensation is increased from $52.50 per week to $70.00 per week, it is possible for a person to receive the same dollar amount in benefits that he would have received under the old law. Under the new legislation, unless an injured employee receives a permanent disability in excess of 9 1/2%, he will receive the same amount in dollars as he did under the old law. The increase in benefits is made where the permanent disability rating is in excess of 10%.

Another significant change in the law was the increasing of death benefits for widows and dependents of employees whose accident occurred in death. For injuries sustained after April 1, 1972, and resulting in death, the benefits in cases of total dependency is $25,000.00. This is an increase of $5,000.00, the former benefits being $20,000.00. Where the decedent left a widow and one or more minor children, the benefits increased from $23,000.00 to $28,000.00. In addition to death benefits, a burial expense of up to $1,000.00 is allowed. The law also makes a provision for those only partially dependent on the employee for support.

Compensation benefits are not subject to income tax.

Other Legislation

SB 51—Will protect California car owners against fraudulent auto repairs. It creates a new Bureau of Automotive Repair within the Department of Consumer Affairs which is charged with investigating complaints and making needed regulations as well as licensing and investigating dealer agents and repair shops. This bill was the major consumer legislation enacted at the 1971 session.

AB 710—Requires that rapid transit facilities must provide ready access for the physically handicapped. This bill requires that all rapid transit districts must be designed to accommodate the physically handicapped.

AB 853—Prohibits bus stops on freeways unless certain safety conditions exist.

Utility Reporter—March, 1972—Page Seven
Accidents cost Americans about $27.7 billion last year, according to preliminary figures released in February by the National Safety Council. The Council’s estimates for 1971 reveal that 114,000 were killed and 10.8 million people suffered disabling injuries as a result of accidents in the United States. Of those injured, 400,000 suffered some degree of permanent impairment ranging from partial loss of use of a finger to blindness or complete crippling.

The total price tag on accidents, the Council said, includes wage loss of $7.5 billion; medical expense of $3.1 billion; administrative and claim settlement costs of insurance, $6.0 billion; property damage in motor-vehicle accidents of $4.3 billion; property lost in fires of about $2.29 billion; and the indirect costs of work accidents of approximately $3.9 billion.

It was estimated that all accidents in 1970 cost Americans $27.0 billion.

The total number of accidental fatalities was unchanged from 1970, according to the figures contained in the 1971 Preliminary Condensed Edition of Accidents Facts, soon to be published by the National Safety Council.

In the four principal classes of accidents, motor-vehicle deaths (55,000) increased by less than one-half of one percent; public deaths (21,500) decreased two percent; and deaths in the home (26,500) and work (14,200) showed no change from 1970.

A breakdown of statistics in the four accident classes reveals the following:

**Motor-Vehicle**
The death rate per million miles was 4.7, the lowest on record, and a 4 percent decrease over 1970, despite a 4 percent increase in the number of motor-vehicle miles traveled.

Despite the death rate decrease, however, the cost of automobile accidents to Americans was $14.3 billion compared with $13.6 billion in 1970. The 1971 figure includes wage loss, medical expense, administrative and claim settlement costs of insurance and property damage.

There were approximately two million disabling injuries last year, about the same as in 1970.

According to the Council’s preliminary estimates, more than 30 percent of the auto deaths, 17,700, were from accidents in urban areas (cities and towns with more than 2,500 population); about 70 percent, 57,300, were from accidents in rural areas and towns under 2,500 population.

An estimated 10,400 pedestrian deaths last year was unchanged from 1970, and the 44,600 nonpedestrian fatalities was up by less than one-half of one percent.

The highest number of deaths by age, 16,900, was in the 15 to 24 years group, an increase of about 2 percent. There were 13,900 fatalities in the 25 to 44 years age grouping, compared with 13,700 in 1970.

**Home Accidents**

The death toll as a result of occupational accidents was estimated at 12,000, unchanged over the past two years, and the number of disabling injuries, 22,000, was comparable to 1970.

The fatality total, excluding agriculture, was approximately 11,900, 1,200 of which occurred in manufacturing industries. Including the deaths from business fires, the total cost of occupational accidents was estimated at $8.9 billion.

In addition to the 14,200 workers killed, 41,500 died as a result of off-the-job accidents—bringing the death total to 55,700. Workers injured in both types of accidents numbered 5.5 million.

**Work Accidents**

In the home last year, accidents were fatal to 26,500 persons, injured 4 million, and cost Americans about $1.9 billion. Falls were responsible for more than one-third of deaths; fires, burns, more than one-fifth; and other types, two-fifths.

Almost a third of those killed in the home, the Council said, were persons 75 years old or older. Children under five and persons 45 to 64 years each accounted for about one-sixth of the fatalities. The remaining third were between five and 44, and 65 and 74.

**Public Accidents**

Approximately 21,500 persons were killed in public non-motor-vehicle accidents and some 2.7 million suffered disabling injuries, including 60,000 permanent impairments, during 1971. Wage loss, medical expenses and administrative and claim settlement costs of insurance were $1.6 billion, unchanged from 1970.

Falls, again, were a major contributor to fatalities, causing about one-fourth the deaths, while nontransport drownings accounted for another one-fifth.

Transport accidents (rail, air, water and others not involving motor vehicles) accounted for another one-sixth.

The highest number of fatalities was among persons over 75 years old. Present indications are that in 1971, as in earlier years, accidents were the fourth most important cause of death, exceeded only by heart disease, cancer and stroke, and were the leading cause of death for both males and females 11 to 35 years old.

**The National Accident Fatality Toll**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>1971</th>
<th>1970</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Accidents</td>
<td>114,000</td>
<td>114,000</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle</td>
<td>55,000</td>
<td>54,800</td>
<td>+*2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public non-motor vehicle</td>
<td>21,500</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>26,500</td>
<td>26,500</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>14,200</td>
<td>14,200</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Less than 0.5 percent

Note: Motor-vehicle totals include some deaths also included in the work and home totals. This duplication amounted to about 3,200 in 1971 and 3,500 in 1970.

All figures are National Safety Council estimates.

**Eugene A. Erto**

could have won $50.00 if he had noticed his Union membership card number in February issue of the Utility Reporter. This month’s number is as well hidden as it was last month. Don’t miss out, read your Utility Reporter.

**Will You Be Next?**

NOVEMBER 13, 1971

A male worker required medical treatment to his back muscles as a result of a strain placed on him while in the process of “stacking” ten-foot lengths of galvanized conduit on a rack.

DECEMBER 8, 1971

A tree company employee was attempting to secure himself after climbing an oak tree when he lost control of his tie line.

He fell approximately 35 feet before striking a “tree-house” that had been built by children in the area.

Another employee, also in the tree, prevented the injured employee from falling further when he grabbed the injured’s safety line. He then lowered him to the ground where first aid was administered.

The injured was flown out to a hospital in a helicopter that was nearby being used by the Utility Company.

He sustained two broken ribs, a cracked shoulder blade, loss of one tooth, and numerous cuts and bruises.

DECEMBER 13, 1971

A hose company employee, while installing the plastic molding over an underground riser, the employee working on the ground was struck in the neck by a piece of said molding when it broke loose from the hand line as it was being hoisted up to the workmen on the pole.

Twenty-six stitches were required to close the neck wound.