

# Utility Reporter

APRIL, 1973  
 OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA  
 VOL. XXI, NO. 4  
 Official Publication of I.B.E.W.  
 Local Union 1245, AFL-CIO,  
 P.O. Box 4790,  
 Walnut Creek, Ca. 94596



## Kathy Hill Wins \$50.00 Prize



This photo shows Bus. Rep. Orv Owen, right, presenting Shop Steward Kathy Hill, San Jose Clerical, with a check for \$50.00. Kathy is the first person to win the Unit attendance contest, and her husband Jack, who is also a Shop Steward, is shown reaching for but not quite getting a hold of the check.

## Local 1245 Renews Competitive Scholarship Contest

The Executive Board of Local 1245, IBEW, has announced the fifth 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 1973. A copy of your diploma or a letter from your high school stating that you will graduate in 1973 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 be Labor's Position on Nuclear Generation?"
6. Essays should be submitted on 8 1/2"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 Friday, July 2, 1973.

(See Page Two for Application Blank)

## Free Legal Advice for 1245 Members

by KEN LOHRE

For many years Local 1245 has been represented by the law firm of NEYHART, GRODIN, BEESON & JEWEL. The firm specializes in labor law problems, that is, those arising out of the collective bargaining agreement. In addition, the firm also handles the legal problems of individual Union members as distinguished from the legal problems of the Union as a whole. Most frequently, Union members have need for legal consultation in such matters as accidents, on and off the job, family relations, wills, dissolutions and crimes.

Local 1245's arrangement with the firm is that the attorneys will consult with the Union members either by telephone or in their offices without charge. If it is determined that there is a need for legal work to be done, the member may then have the firm do it at the minimum bar rates, or may make arrangements with other attorneys. Five attorneys are now specializing in the legal problems of individual Union members. Stewart Boxer, Peter Elkind, Brian Leary and Howard Jewel maintain full time office hours at 1330 Broadway, United California Bank Building, which is located in downtown Oakland. The office phone number in Oakland is 452-2888. Frank Brass maintains full time office hours at 100 Bush Street, Shell Building, San Francisco, California. The phone number of the San Francisco office is 986-4060.

## YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN THE ENERGY CRISIS L. L. MITCHELL

Making predictions can be hazardous. To do so often leaves the predictor with egg on his face. However, nearly every government, industrial and economic expert is stating we will have an energy crisis in the U.S.

Many believe the crisis is already here. Reading of temporary shortages of gasoline in certain areas, curtailment of interruptable gas customers, bans on connection of new gas customers in a number of cities and brown outs in densely populated areas may be more than indicators that a crisis can develop.

In attending the conferences of the utility unions, both IBEW and others, we find many of the employers in real trouble because of the energy problem and this of course affects the employees as well. The natural gas shortage is a problem to both gas and electric utilities. In addition to this, the utilities face major problems in regard to facilities siting and the other environmental concerns.

Some few say the energy crisis is one of low prices for energy rather than a lack of energy sources. It is true that primary energy sources

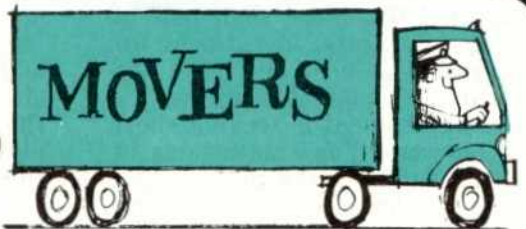
such as coal, oil, water power, uranium, solar energy, oil shale etc. are still available but except for solar sources they are certainly not finite. Further, research on utilization of the resources mentioned have not yet produced proven means to utilize them all nor use certain of them in the manner required under present environmental demands.

What is done to answer these problems will have a direct bearing on all of us in the utility industry. Our jobs and our future promotional opportunities will be directly affected.

The utilities have embarked on the most ambitious research and development program in their history. Sixty-one million dollars have been pledged by 96 companies toward financing the Electric Power Research Institute through which all segments of the electric utility industry including federal, state and local cooperatives will participate. This group will be most important in providing future energy needs of our nation. It is estimated that some 75 million in 1973 and

(Continued on Page Two)

**... HAVE YOU MOVED?**



MY NEW ADDRESS IS:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO:

P.O. BOX 4790, WALNUT CREEK, CALIF. 94596

APPLICATION  
for  
LOCAL UNION 1245, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD  
OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, AFL-CIO, COMPETITIVE  
SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

Sponsored by  
LOCAL UNION 1245, INTERNATIONAL  
BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, AFL-CIO

P. O. Box 4790 Telephone  
Walnut Creek, California Area Code 415  
94596 933-6060

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby make application to enter the Competitive Scholarship Contest sponsored by Local Union 1245, I.B.E.W., AFL-CIO:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Init.)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Home  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip#) Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PARENT \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

WORK LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

I GRADUATED OR WILL GRADUATE FROM \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL IN \_\_\_\_\_

WHICH IS LOCATED AT \_\_\_\_\_

I EXPECT TO ATTEND \_\_\_\_\_ COLLEGE OR SCHOOL

LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

(Candidate's Signature)

This is to certify that I am a member in good standing of Local Union 1245, I.B.E.W. and the Candidate, whose name is signed to this application is my \_\_\_\_\_ and graduated during the term ending \_\_\_\_\_ 1973.

Parent's signature and Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

# Pension Benefits

Part IV

Every Pension Plan describes the conditions under which employees may be permitted or required to retire. The accepted normal retirement age today is 65. This, no doubt, is due to the fact that 65 was adopted by Social Security in 1935 as the age of eligibility for benefits.

Some Pension Plans provide mandatory retirement at age 65, while others do not. There is no "ideal" age for retirement. Individuals differ greatly in their capacity for work in their later years. Some are quite vigorous at 70, while others find it difficult to carry a normal work load at 60. Retirement is a difficult adjustment for some older workers. They may lack other interests and hobbies and feel they are being put out to pasture, while others can hardly wait to get the hell out. In any event, a normal retirement age is needed as a base to fund a pension and also provide a date for an employee to plan for his retirement.

## EARLY RETIREMENT

Most plans provide an early retirement option. This option in recent years has become a major issue for workers. The trend is more and more workers wish to retire at ages less than 65. There are a number of problems with early retirement. Recalling the first article of "Pension Benefits" in the January issue of the **Utility Reporter**, an example was used that assumed a worker, age 65, would live on the average approximately 15 years. Using the same life expectancy table, a worker who retires at age 55 is expected to live a little over 21 years. This means that the period for funding his benefit is shortened by 10 years and the benefit paid would be lengthened by 6 years.

Most of these early retirement options are a reduced pension because of the additional cost to provide full benefits. The reduction is usually on an

(Continued on Page Seven)

## YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN

### THE ENERGY CRISIS

L. L. MITCHELL

(Continued from Page One)

118.9 million in 1974 will be spent in industry research alone.

Coal gasification is getting major attention and importations of liquified natural gas will play a big part in meeting short range shortages. Experiments with extraction of Kerogen from shale should be underway in six tracts in Wyoming, Colorado and Utah once legal steps have been concluded to allow the government to put these tracts out to bid.

Kerogen has characteristics of regular petroleum crude oil, but after extractions from the shale it requires special transportation and refining due to its texture which is much like molasses. There are also huge volumes of shale residue which must be disposed of. This again means vast sums of money to be spent on R & D to provide the technology for making practical use of this product.

In an effort to meet legal requirements on environmental controls and to meet objections of many of their critics the utilities spent 2.1 billion in 1972. More than half of this was on capital investment for underground lines and air and water quality control facilities.

The government is seeking short term answers. The applications of research funds to the nuclear fast breeder reactor is expected to provide operating plants by 1980. The supply of uranium produced is supposed to buy the time needed to develop a fusion process for generation of electricity which will be at least 35 years away at best.

The Rand report said unless consumption of electricity is curtailed sharply—by at least 60 percent of projected demands for the year 2000 — California will face a full blown energy crisis. The report says the state will need 23 new electric power plants of 1,200 mega-

watts by the year 2000 even if substitute means are found for air conditioning, water heating, home heating etc. If the substitute is natural gas, we still face a problem for we are using up these reserves faster than new ones can be found.

Most experts anticipate no significant increase in oil and gas reserves in the U.S. over the next 15 years. Even Canadian and Alaskan oil will do little more than keep us even with demands for the No. American continent.

I will predict that the utility industry is going to face rough sledding in the next few years. Our members' security can be affected in a number of ways by both public policy and the decisions made by our employers. The industry is going to be under attack because the cost of the products we supply to the consumers are bound to rise under the conditions which exist. The quality and the service will also be criticized.

I would hope our employers realize the necessity of full communications and joint action by the Unions and the Company in developing programs needed to promote and advance the industry. I would also hope our members recognize the common interests of the Employer and the employee in many of the problems which are appearing.

I would stick my neck out and predict that there will be an energy crisis, but further that management and labor within the industry will join more closely together to meet their common needs. We will still maintain an arm's length relationship on traditional bargaining issues but in the end both must recognize the dependence of one to the other. Joint activity in promoting the industry with considerations for the security of the employees must benefit both parties, and this will come to be.

## The Health Care Crisis


Less than 10 years ago—in 1965 the average patient's cost for a day in a general hospital was \$45. Today, it is \$105.30, an increase of more than 130 percent. Ten years ago, the average hospital stay was a little less than \$300. Today, it is about \$800, up about 160 percent.

In 1965, most general practitioners charged \$6-\$7 for an office visit. Today, it is \$10-\$12, an average increase of almost 100 percent. Cost of visiting a specialist in his office (and who can get sick these days without seeing a specialist?) is about double that of a GP and going up commensurately.

Over-all, health costs have risen an average of 11.6 percent a year for the past three years. Health has been the fastest rising item on the Consumer Price Index. There is no evidence that the soaring, and alarming, cost of health care will be arrested soon.


Early in his first year in office, President Nixon warned "... unless

(Continued on Page Six)



### the utility reporter

Telephone (415) 933-6060



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# Some 'Helper': \$1.20 for 36 Cents Worth of Noodles

By Sidney Margolius, Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

Supermarket shelves and airwaves are being saturated with more new versions of Hamburger Helpers and Skillet Dinners. The success of the original Hamburger Helper consisting mainly of potatoes has stimulated introduction of similar products based on noodles, rice, macaroni, dried tomatoes, dressings for baked chicken and seafood, Oriental vegetables and so on.

All you add is the meat, manufacturers say. You really add the money. The fact is, the advertising-dominated public again has been persuaded to pay astonishing prices for ordinary ingredients such as potatoes and noodles. Hamburger Helper may help the manufacturer but not the consumer.

In one case you pay 57 cents for a product consisting of about 6 ounces of noodles plus a little more than an ounce of dried sauce which is basically cheese and bouillon. At 57 cents for 7 ounces, the Helper comes to \$1.30 a pound or much more than the price of the pound of hamburger you add for what is supposed to make five servings. Since the value of the packet of cheese sauce is about 12 cents, you really are paying 45 cents for six ounces of ordinary dried noodles, or at the rate of \$1.20 a pound. Dried noodles, of

course, bought under their own name, are worth 36 cents a pound.

The Hamburger Helpers based on diced or sliced potatoes are an equally impressive achievement in commanding a high price for very little convenience. Even if a housewife didn't want to dice or slice ordinary potatoes for cooking with hamburger, canned potatoes are available for 18 cents a pound can, and dried potatoes at 37 cents a half-pound box. In contrast, a Helper providing mainly diced potatoes and onions is 51 cents for 6 ounces, or at the rate of \$1.36 a pound. Even this year ordinary potatoes are 15 cents a pound.

For the cheeseburger macaroni Helper, after deducting the value of the cheese sauce, you pay 32 cents for actually 9 cents worth of macaroni. In another "skillet dinner" you pay 89 cents for about 9 cents worth of rice plus a dried tomato sauce.

The Oriental skillet dinners also are expensive. One brand gives you, in effect, 32 cents worth of noodles for 59 cents. Another consists mainly of a 28-ounce can of chow mein vegetables packaged in an additional box with a packet of sauce. The sauce is mainly starch and flavorings, including imitation chicken flavor. For this combination, to which you "just add chick-

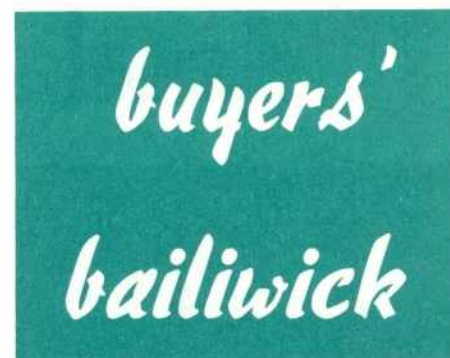
en," you pay 95 cents. If you simply bought the same amount of ordinary canned chow mein vegetables you would pay 63 cents.

The manufacturers also are promoting Helpers for sea food. The tuna Helper is merely our old friend dried noodles again, this time with some carrots and peas and a dried white sauce. You supply the can of tuna.

Pathetically, there is little additional convenience in any of these products. In every case the helpers are merely ordinary noodles, macaroni and rice which have to be cooked. Often young housewives buy these products because they aren't sure how to make the sauce. But easy-to-use ingredients such as cheddar cheese, tomato sauce, cottage cheese and herbs are available at relatively low expense. Of course, you may not be able to buy imitation chicken flavoring readily, but you could always use a few bits of real chicken.

## Beware Meat 'Patties'

Another way food processors are getting more money for less meat in this time of high meat prices is with beef and veal patties which are not really all meat. For example, one brand of patties actually has water, soy flour, vegetable protein and various flavorings



added. Even with these inexpensive ingredients, such patties often are \$1.20 a pound. There is nothing wrong with extenders such as soy flour. But we can add them ourselves and not pay meat prices for them.

It's also wise to watch out for other meat products with added ingredients that raise the price unduly. One retailer adds garlic to a sausage mix and raises the price 10 cents a pound at Easter, Supermarket News reported. Or butchers may add green pepper, onions or other seasonings to hamburger patties, give them fanciful names, and charge more.

In times of high meat prices, it also is important to watch the amount of fat in hamburger, and weights of packaged meats. In one recent year, the major variations from marked weights found by the Nassau County, N.Y., consumer affairs department, were in packaged meats, with over twice as many shortweights as overweights.

## COURTS ORDER PYRAMID REFUNDS BUT NEW PLANS ERUPT

By Sidney Margolius, Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

Remember Glenn Turner and his Koscot mink-oil cosmetics and Dare to be Great motivation course? And William Penn Patrick's Holiday Magic cosmetics sales plan in which many people invested as much as \$2,500 and more in hopes of making big money?

As previously reported in this publication, both these organizations have become the subject of numerous legal actions by state authorities and suits by investors trying to get their money back.

Koscot and Holiday Magic are two of the largest of many "pyramid" selling plans that have burgeoned in recent years. In general, such plans promise profits from recruiting other people to invest.

Now, in separate actions, two courts have ordered that investors who sued these companies on various complaints must get refunds.

But working families and their older children seeking to make some extra money or looking for jobs had better be warned that even as activities of some of the older pyramid plans are being restrained, new ones are cropping up.

In the Koscot case, a settlement proposed by a federal court in Pittsburgh provides for transferring the assets of a number of Turner companies to a West Indies real estate company he owns. This company would then issue stock to people who had bought distributorships in any of Turner's other firms.

Some 60,000 investors already had filed complaints against vari-

ous Turner enterprises. Many of the court actions had been taken by various state attorney-general offices on behalf of individual investors. Sixty suits filed in federal courts were consolidated in the Pittsburgh case. By the end of 1972 Turner was reported also to be fighting law suits in 30 states.

Turner also is involved in a number of other pyramid plans. One is KIB (KASH IS BEST). It sells cash discount credit cards through distributorships which cost investors \$5,000 each, Ohio Attorney General William Brown charged. He asked an Ohio court to close down the plan. Other companies identified by Brown as connected with Turner include Sew Smooth, Wes Ware, Those Who Dare and I-Do-Mor. Another company set up by former Turner employees is called Dynamic in Motion. Most of these firms sell motivational tapes consisting of a series of recorded inspirational messages.

As the result of a suit by Attorney General William Scott, an Illinois court has ordered Holiday Magic to reimburse anyone who invested more than \$2,500 and can show he made the investment because of "false, deceptive or misleading representations," United Press reported.

Lawsuits against Holiday Magic also have been filed in a number of other states. In Ohio one man sued for damages, alleging that he was told he could expect to earn \$263,000 a year through the marketing program and by recruiting additional distributors. He says he

paid \$3,000 for a master distributorship plus additional sums for dues and sales training.

The Federal Trade Commission also has made a complaint against Holiday Magic. As previously reported here, Patrick also is involved in Sta-Power and in Bob Cummings, Inc., a vitamin-selling pyramid plan.

But new plans are cropping up constantly, using some of the basic selling methods of the older plans with new variations. One plan based on selling an oil additive to service stations is using college placement offices, vocational schools and newspaper ads to recruit young men. This firm which

had been active in California now has moved into the East. It even got a major university in Long Island, N.Y., to permit use of its facilities to recruit new graduates.

A main technique used by this organization is to offer jobs selling the additive but then tell interested youngsters that they must first take a training course. Subsequently, applicants find they must pay a fee for the course.

This company also recruits by using help-wanted ads for "Administrative Assistants." Ironically, the new ads have appeared in some of the same newspapers that have published stories exposing activities of earlier pyramid plans.

Copyright, 1973, by Sidney Margolius

## Court System Biased

The New York Times recently proved what most poor people have known for years—that the court system in this country benefits the rich.

The Times study showed that:

More lenient sentences went to defendants who could afford private lawyers than for defendants who had to accept court-appointed lawyers.

Harsher sentences were imposed upon people who commit "common crimes" such as burglary, auto theft, and small-time drug selling than for "white collar" crimes such as embezzlement, securities fraud and illegal kickbacks.

"The guy who steals packages from the back of a truck is going to get four years, and the guy who steals \$45,000 from his stockholders is going to get three months," said United States Attorney Whitney North Seymour, Jr.

The differences in sentencing go beyond violent and non-violent crimes and are based on incongruities in the law which favor persons of higher economic and social status.

Pennsylvania AFL-CIO News

# Local 1245 and U.S.B.R. Region 2 Establish

## TRACY



The following people were present at the Labor-Management meeting at Tracy Field Div.: Robert Mason, Chief of Tracy Field; Ray Stroh, Chief of Tracy Pump; Dale Anderson, Chief of Water Opr.; Don Simpson, Admin. Ofcr.; James L. Brown, Supvsr.-Elect. Eng.; Dudley Lions, Jr., Chief Opr.; W. E. Fullmer, Canal Supt., Tracy; Paul Jones, Canal Supt., Los Banos; Jerry Taylor, Pers. Ofcr.; Bill Peitz, Chief Shop Steward and C&I Mechanic; Jack Barger, Canal Mtman.; Carl Schleiss, Mtman.; John R. Speirs, Electrician; Tom J. DeMerville, Electrician (O'Neal); Henry B. Lucas, Bus Rep.

## SHASTA



The following people were present at the Labor-Management meeting at Shasta Field Div.: Felix Dashen, Chief, Shasta Field Division; H. Leeman, Chief Operator; Nola Matthews, Personnel Mgmt. Specialist; Leroy C. Ferguson, Plant Mechanic; Bob Lamphill, Electrician; Ron Clarno, Utilityman; H. B. Lucas, Bus. Rep.; Dudley Mums, Chief Civ. Eng. Br.; John H. Lineback, Plant Mechanic; Willie R. Stewart, Bus. Rep.; Tom Gamble, Chief O&M Branch; David Lyngholm, Head, Electrical Maintenance; Dave Prosser, Head, Mechanical Maintenance; Donald Brent, Administrative Officer.



## WILLOWS



The following people were present at the Labor-Management meeting at Willows: C. Carlson, Chief O&M Willows; Joel C. Berry, Admin. Ofcr.; Berry, Irrigation Manager; Ed Carpenter, Foreman II; George N. Bradshaw, Gen. Clerk-Willows O&M; William C. Hart, Pro. art, Bus. Rep.; Hank Lucas, Bus. Rep.

Several years ago an idea was put forth for discussion on the establishment of a Labor-Management meeting, wherein the Shop Stewards, the Business Representatives and various levels of Supervision would meet on a regularly scheduled basis. The object of the meeting was to establish better lines of communication and to eliminate some of the problems that were being caused by a breakdown in communication between management and labor at all levels.

The concept was agreed upon in the 1970 negotiations and put into effect on a trial basis. It was so successful that it was incorporated into the bargaining agreement on June 25, 1972. Each Field Division in Mid-Pacific Region 2 of the United States Bureau of Reclamation has their own meeting.

Although philosophies of the two parties may vary, the differences are not so much that they cannot co-exist and complement one another.

The discussions are very open and to the point, and all criticisms are taken as constructive and not personal. The agendas are open but the meetings are not designed to take the place of the grievance procedure.

This is not to say that there are no problems, and some very heated discussions take place. Problems

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# Publish Successful Labor-Management Meetings

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still come up, but they are usually resolved within the confines of what the agreement and common sense dictate.

The membership is not always getting the answer they want to hear, but they do get an answer within a relatively short period of time.

A side benefit of this program has been better communication between the Stewards and the Union. The Business Representative has established a better line of communication with the Stewards as well as with all levels of Supervision within the Bureau.

The "proof of the pudding" or the success of the meetings has been proven by the fact that since the program was started, there have been no formal grievances filed.

The "new concept," which has been so successful, would not have been possible except for the support given the meetings by the enlightened top level management in Mid-Pac. Region of the Bureau.

An important by-product of the meetings is that it has improved employee morale, productivity, and membership.

The success of this program in the Mid-Pacific Region of the U.S. B.R. should be an example for all of us in the Labor-Management field to emulate.

## FRESNO



The following people were present at the Labor-Management meeting at Fresno Field Div.: Harvey Williams, Chief of Operations; George Hunter, Head of Friant Section; Irv Curran, Canal Supt. (Orange Cove); Ed Williams, Canal Supt. (Lindsay); E. J. Wilson, Canal Supt. (Delano); Lynn Whipple, Admin. Officer; Evelyn Chamblin, Personnel Asst.; Carl Cook, Chief Steward, Electrician; Jim Beasley, Maintenance Man; Lloyd Gammel, Mech., Dam Operation; Frank Belknap, Canal Maint.-Opr. Gen. MPE; Herschel West, Canal Maint.; John McManus, Bus. Rep.; Hank Lucas, Bus. Rep.; William C. Hickerson, Sac. Ofc. Person. (Mgmt.)

## FOLSOM



The following people were present at the Labor-Management meeting at Folsom Field Div.: H. B. Lucas, Bus. Rep.; Ed Axtell, Chief, Folsom Fields Div.; Dorothy Weisinger, Secty.; Dewey J. Music, Administrative Officer; Ed Pruett, Ground Maintenance; Alf Croxes, Chief Maint. Br.; David Poore, Mechanical Engineer; Norman Miller, Chief Shop Steward, Elec. Test; James R. Lineback, Shop Steward, Mechanical; Chester A. Wright, Shop Steward, Electrical Maint.; Wilbur Stufferind, Shop Steward, Operators.



Labor-Management meeting at Willows Field Div.: Warren Foreman II; George Skidmore, Maint.-Dam Mech.; Dorothy Williams C. Hart, Project Const. Engr.-Willows; Willie R. Stew-

# Bargaining Roundup

## PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

### Gas Street Department

Latest proposal from Company still being studied by Local Union office.

### Terminal Operators

No change since last reporting.

### General Construction Lines of Progression

**Civil, Gas & Hydro:** Union has received Company's listings of classifications of equipment for Gas and Line Department. Union's committee met on April 18 and will meet again on May 8 to go over these listings and prepare a counterproposal.

**Field Office Operation and Process Centers:** No change since last reporting.

### Marysville Gas Load Center

Attempting to arrange meeting with Company.

### Technicians

No change since last reporting.

## SIERRA PACIFIC POWER COMPANY

General wage negotiations meetings were held on April 3 and April 4. Tentative agreement was reached on a 6.5 wage increase for all bargaining unit employees. The committee consists of Carol Myers, Ronald L. Borgognone, Robert Holliday, Wesley Griffin, John Stralla and John Wilder. Membership is presently balloting on this issue. Consolidation of Gas and Water Department meeting was held with the Company on April 12. Agreement is being prepared for signature.

## CITIZENS UTILITIES COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA

Benefit Committee. Charges that were filed with the National Labor Relations Board have been heard. The Board recommended that the parties take this disagreement to arbitration. The Board also stated that they will watch how this case proceeds to see whether they should take any further action.

## MOUNT WHEELER POWER, INC.

Negotiations will begin May 3, 1973. The Union's committee is composed of G. Bush, T. Gust, T. Thomas assisted by John Stralla and John Wilder, Asst. Bus. Mgr.

# Sacramento - Drum Stewards Meet



The photos above and below show most of the participants of the joint stewards' meeting.



Shown above from left to right are: L. L. Mitchell, Bus. Mgr., Mert Walters, Sr., Asst. Bus. Mgr., and Ed Fortier, Bus. Rep.

# Headed for Depression?

Where is the country heading, with still galloping inflation, profiteering running wild, but millions unemployed, and many more destitute, yet wages are being held down?

Up to now, it has been only organized labor, and groups like the senior citizens' organizations, and a few groups that speak for the poor that have been warning the country of what lies ahead.

Therefore we were a bit surprised, almost shocked recently to see a large advertisement in the Wall Street Journal bearing a headline shouting, "HOW TO BEAT THE DEPRESSION THAT IS SURELY COMING!"

The ad read in part:

"Think of it! Five million Americans are currently unemployed. Seventeen million are on relief and 20 million more are living under poverty conditions! That's one-fifth of the population. Twenty per cent of the nation already in the throes of depression, and that figure is growing daily!

"In Dallas, 25 per cent of the office space is vacant. One of America's 50 largest banks is reported about to close down . . . In New York and other big cities, landlords are abandoning once lucrative properties. In the world of high finance, where the goal was diversification and the watch-word was acquisition, the cry is now divestiture. Pare down! Lighten the load! Get ready!

"Look at the plight of our cities. Municipal governments virtually bankrupt! A shortage of housing, an over-abundance of people, a racial problem that is growing worse instead of better! Air and water polluted. Education deteriorating. Drug usage and violent crimes still on the rise."

Unfortunately the advertisement was not proposing any solutions to any of the problems cited but rather was addressed to the greedy plutocrat with advice on how to take advantage of the economic situation, thus:

"The question is no longer, 'Is it going to happen?' The question is 'What are you going to do about it when it does?' Not next month or next year, but right now? What are you going to do to prepare yourself, to keep your holdings intact, and even make money from the opportunities that invariably present themselves during a depression? Are you going to sit back and hope it will go away or are you going to rear back and do something about it?"

"You can, you know. It is possible! You don't have to be a millionaire to turn the depression to your advantage! In every depression, there have always been men who made money while others were going broke. There have always been businesses that flourished while others were going under. There have always been stocks that were going up while most were going down.

"And there have always been men living securely and well while others were scuffling merely to stay alive! There are techniques to use, there are methods that work! You don't buck the tide, you swim with it. You don't fight the depression. You join it! And you do it with knowledge. With know-how. By knowing what to do and how and when to do it!"

It turned out that the ad was for a book on "How to Beat the Depression That Is Surely Coming!" by Dr. Robert Persons, Jr., a former business analyst editor of Business Week magazine.

While the tone of the ad obviously appealed to the fears and greed of individuals with money who want to preserve their position at any cost, the ad did confirm that not only is the labor movement convinced that President Nixon's economic policies are heading the country for disaster, but many in the business community take the same dim view, even if their answers on what to do about it may be vastly different!

As the ad points out:

"Right now, there are more economists than you would suspect who are utterly convinced that the depression is coming, and soon; and as desperate as the present administration is to have you believe otherwise, the economic indices from here and abroad support that contention right down the line!"

When people in the business community start talking like this, it's high time that the people in the Nixon administration in Washington reverse their course to what appears to be certain disaster.

—From the Union Advocate



Business Manager L. L. Mitchell is shown responding to questions from the stewards, with Bus. Rep. Ed Fortier looking on.

# Editorial Potpourri

## MEAT BOYCOTT

The meat boycott is over and the prices are somewhat unchanged. Meat prices were frozen at an all-time high. The fact that the boycott did not bring prices down should not be construed as a defeat for the consumer groups and ultimately the consumer themselves. Two weeks prior to the boycott, the administration had a policy of not interfering with food prices. The day before the boycott was to begin, meat prices were frozen.

The publicity that the boycott received was tremendous. It has been years and years since so many people in this country joined together on one issue. The power of consumers as a group was felt and should be remembered. It is just unfortunate that it takes such an extreme situation to bring them together for concerted action.

## HEALTH CARE CRISIS

How can we boycott the \*zx? doctors?

Looking at the events which brought about the meat boycott, it is a wonder that more clamor hasn't been created by the alarming increases in the cost of health care. The costs of health care are up and the quality is down. The percentage increases in health care costs are far greater than those at the meat market.

The only problem with a boycott in this situation is that you would be putting your life on the line. When a person is critically ill they must have medical care. The fact that a boycott is not practical should not stop the consumer from generating such an outcry that the administration will again open its ears and hear the people say that they want the Health Security Act passed.

Get mad again, Mr. & Mrs. Consumer, help push H.R. 22 and S-3 and let them know in Washington that you will settle for nothing less.



The members of Local 1245's negotiating committee for bargaining with the City of Lodi are shown above from left to right: Gary C. Mai, David Comer, and Hank Lucas.

## PENSION BENEFITS

(Continued from Page Two)

actuarial equivalent basis; that is, the retirement benefit is reduced by an amount that will result in the same ultimate cost to the plan as if the worker retired at the assumed normal retirement age.

Most actuaries estimate that reducing the normal retirement date (with no reduction in benefits) by one year would cost in excess of 8% of the total cost of a Pension program.

An increasing number of plans are establishing a negotiated percentage in place of the actuarial reductions. An example—the P.G.&E. Retirement Plan provides an early retirement option. An employee may elect this option anytime between the ages 55 to 65. For each year he retires before his 65th birthday his pension would be reduced 3%. This means that an employee who retires at age 60 would have his normal pension reduced by 15%.

Another method of providing early retirement is using a formula which combines age and years of service. When age and years of service equal a specified number, an employee could retire with no actuarial reduction for age applied to his pension. Here again cost is involved and this method by itself does not provide early retirement to all participants.

Another area of concern with early retirement is Social Security and how it is affected. An employee who retires early and does not pay into Social Security the last few years before age 65 will probably receive less in Social Security benefits than if he worked until 65.

With these problems of cost, negotiated pension plans have in the last few years made some gains in providing a better deal for those who want out early. Automation and technological changes in some industries have brought pressures to subsidize early retirement. The argument that early retirement reduces the work force thereby creating more jobs has been used, but industry doesn't seem to care about unemployment when it may cost a few extra bucks.

# Health Care Crisis

(Continued from Page Two)

action is taken . . . we will have a breakdown in our medical care system affecting millions." Unfortunately, the administration has done little of a substantive nature in the intervening years to counter the health care crisis that has long since arrived.

The crisis in cost is amply demonstrated by the figures above. But there is more. Health expenditures per person in the U.S. averaged \$394 in 1972, or \$1,576 for a family of four. Treatment and recovery from a coronary now averages more than \$16,000 (enough to cause a relapse).

Even something as commonplace as an appendectomy has become a matter of high finance. To bid your appendix farewell in New York today costs \$1,200.

## HIGH COST PLUS INEFFICIENCY EQUALS HEALTH CRISIS

This fact illustrates a key point in any discussion of harnessing health costs and changing the structure of health delivery: It is not just catastrophic illnesses that require new forms of coverage and delivery, but all types of health care. Everything about it is costly beyond the means of most Americans.

Does the sky-rocketing cost mean that health care is improving as a consequence? In some instances, yes. Sophisticated, expensive equipment and treatment have been developed to contain some major diseases (most of this development, however, has come from the federally-financed National Institutes of Health). But over-all, the answer is no. In certain key indicators of the general health of a nation's people, the U.S. has slipped badly. In 1950, our nation had the fifth lowest infant mortality rate in the world. Today, we are 15th among nations. In 1950, we were 13th in male life expectancy. Today, we are 27th. We rank 7th in the death rate of mothers in childbirth. Interestingly, all the countries that rank ahead of the U.S. in these and other major health indices have a national health program.

As devastating as the soaring cost of health is the lagging method of health care delivery. None of the marvelous new equipment, nor the progress in cure for major diseases, has made important impact on the crazy-quilt way health care is administered.

The sheer inefficiency of the distribution system would wreck any other industry, and itself contributes heavily to the cost crunch. Hundreds of general practitioners, and specialists, in one community, for example, may all be paying for the same extremely costly equipment, far more than is required to serve the community's needs. All that fancy equipment has to be paid for, and in the end, the health consumer coughs up for the medical profession's conspicuous consumption.

Compounding these problems is a serious shortage of health personnel and a maldistribution of the supply. There is a shortage of 50,000 doctors, 20,000 dentists, 150,000 nurses and 280,000 other health specialists and professionals. By 1980, these shortages are expected to increase by 50 percent. The imbalance of distribution is glaring. In New York City, there is an over-all ratio of 278 doctors per 100,000 population. But in the densely populated ghetto areas the ratio is only 10 doctors per 100,000 residents. Nationally, there is one doctor to every 12,000 persons in the inner cities, but one for every 200 persons in well-to-do suburbs. The poor simply do not get proper medical care. Rural areas, too, suffer. Some 115 rural counties have no doctor.

So, health care costs are going out of sight, and health care delivery is as out of date as the ox-cart. The combination adds up to a crisis in health care in the United States.

Various proposals have been offered to meet this crisis. Only one will deal with it fully and frontally, the Health Security program supported by the AFL-CIO. It has been introduced in the House by Rep. Martha Griffiths (D.-Mich.) as H.R. 22 and in the Senate by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D.-Mass.) as S. 3.

Other major plans have been proposed. One by the Nixon Administration relies on the private health insurance industry—and that's like leaning on a broken crutch. The other by Sen. Russell Long (D.-La.) supposedly would cover "catastrophic" sickness, but doesn't really do it.

Memo from COPE

Editor's Note:

In the May issue of the Utility Reporter we will print descriptions of the three Health Care proposals being discussed in Washington. The Country is in the middle of a Health Care Crisis and it is very important that you educate yourself on this subject.

## Robert A. Anderson

from San Jose Clerical, could have won \$50.00 if he had noticed his Union membership card number in the March 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.

## LOOK FOR YOUR CARD NUMBER



# The Safety Scene

## ANOTHER ARGUMENT FOR SEAT BELTS



## Recall Campaigns Miss Used Car Buyers

Unsuspecting used car buyers throughout the nation may be buying cars with possibly defective engine mounts, or faulty rear axles, or steering wheel spokes that may break, or air heaters that may emit carbon monoxide, or other possibly life-threatening flaws.

This happens because many owners who have been receiving recall notices by certified mail simply have not been having the possible recall-related defects examined or corrected. These cars, after a while, may be sold to private parties or traded in on new models. The new owners of these used cars may have no knowledge that recall campaign letters were ignored by the previous owners.

The extent of this problem is spelled out in the article, "Must Recall Campaigns Bypass the Used Car Buyer?" appearing in the October issue of *Traffic Safety* magazine, a publication of the National Safety Council. The author is Jim Kielty, road safety supervisor in the Council's public information department.

"During fiscal 1972," according to Kielty, "domestic and foreign automobile manufacturers issued recall notices for more than 14 million cars. More than 30 million cars have been issued recall notices for the inspection and correction of possible safety defects since passage of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, the federal legislation pertaining to car recalls."

What has been the response to the recall campaigns? "The auto makers," says Kielty, "estimate that about 90 per cent of the owners of new cars ... bring in their vehicles for the necessary, serious repairs. With cars four or five years old, the figure falls to about 50 per cent."

The author cites one owner who received a notice for a possibly defective air heater in her six-year-old Corvair. The notice pointed out that the air heater may have become defective and that, if this happened, exhaust fumes might enter the passenger compartment. But this owner did not want to spend the time or money to have the heater examined for the possible defect. Instead she decided to practice her own form of preventive maintenance: she now drives with a window rolled down.

What will be the result of her ignoring the recall notice? "If she does not tell the dealer or the next owner that the car has a potential safety hazard," says Kielty, "its next owner will be driving around unaware that the car he has just bought may be a death trap."

In preparing the *Traffic Safety* article, Kielty discussed the problem with several dealers. "Only one out of 10 Chicago-area car dealers contacted," according to the author, "claimed to provide both inspection and necessary recall-related repairs before putting the trade-in cars out on their used car lots."

How then can the used car buyer make sure the car he is considering has had necessary recall-related corrections performed? He can have the dealer check the car's serial number against the warranty processing centers of the manufacturers. Their data banks contain the serial numbers of all recall-repaired vehicles.

"Unfortunately," Kielty notes, "most used car buyers don't even realize how many different types of cars have been involved in recalls. Nor do they know enough to ask the dealer to check the particular car against the manufacturers' data banks."

The government has provided some assistance. All the vehicles involved in recall campaigns are listed in five separate issues of *Motor Vehicle*

This accident report and accompanying photographs are printed here as glaring proof that seatbelts can prevent injuries and fatalities, if they are used.

Fortunately, the only injuries sustained were a bruised right arm, shoulder, and knee.

On December 11, 1972, at 9:45 p.m., Hank Lucas, Business Representative for Local Union 1245, was traveling along Interstate 5, between Stockton and Tracy, when a series of events involving three separate objects—a parked diesel truck and trailer, a speeding driver, and Hank's car—led up to the pictured results.

Hank was driving in the far right lane of this three lane Freeway when he noticed a set of headlights coming up behind him at a very high rate of speed. Just as this car was at the point of passing Hank, it swerved across the lanes toward him. The only place left to go was off onto the highway shoulder, which Hank did. Within

the elapsed time of about a split-second, the driver of the speeding car regained control and sped on by. Hank started to move off the shoulder and back onto the Freeway when he saw the parked truck. In an attempt to miss it, he pulled the car to the left, but it was too late. He caught the left rear wheel, causing, as was stated on the Highway Patrol report, "slight damage to wheel." The car made one complete revolution in mid air, landing upright on its wheels. It then started spinning end for end until it came to rest back off of the right shoulder, approximately 310 feet from point of contact. Also in its travel it removed 55 feet of the Division of Highways 6 foot chain link fence, and 4 steel posts, one of which came through the car window and speared Hank's briefcase which was sitting on the passenger side of the car.

The operator of the truck who watched the whole thing take place stated: "I never thought I'd see anybody get out of that car alive."

**Safety Defect Recall Campaigns.** These are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, in Washington, D.C. Each issue costs from \$.30 to \$.60.

What more can be done to correct the situation? The author makes the following suggestions:

"(1) All used car dealers should make sure the necessary recall-type maintenance work has been performed on all the cars they sell. Dealer associations should require this. A more drastic method would be to make it a legal requirement.

"(2) Insurance coverage might be refused to those vehicles that have not had possible defects corrected. This system also could easily include those cars sold by one private party to another.

"(3) States with mandatory motor vehicle inspection should refuse to pass cars that have not had recall defects corrected. In the District of Columbia, the government is sponsoring a pilot program to provide car owners with this incentive."

More needs to be done to assure used car buyers that the vehicles they purchase are free from recall-related defects. "If unsafe vehicles continue to be only partially controlled in the present erratic fashion," Kielty concludes, "unnecessary and avoidable traffic deaths will surely result."

**Editor's Note:** In reference to this, if you have difficulty in obtaining any information from the individual you purchase a used car from, contact your Business Representative for assistance, as the Local Union has on file in their research library the issues of the recall campaigns.



Glenn Larson, center, is shown with friend and family at a retirement party honoring Glenn. Brother Larson was a member of Local 1245's Safety Advisory Committee and served the Local for many years. Good luck in your retirement.