Shown above from left to right are: Raymond Yamada, Interpreter, Nobuo Ishihata, Trade Union Division, Labor Policy Bureau, Ministry of Labor, Japan, and L. L. Mitchell, Business Manager of Local 1245. Mr. Ishihata, whose visit was arranged through the State Dept., was interviewing Brother Mitchell on Utility L. L. Mitchell, Business Manager of Local 1245.

**P.G.&E. NEGOTIATIONS PICK UP**

Just before the holiday break, negotiations began to pick up. Some progress has been made in connection with a number of subjects under consideration. However, a great amount of work lies ahead to resolve the remaining differences between Company and Union.

**Wage and Contract Committee**

Tentative agreement has been reached on such issues as funeral leave, jury duty and appearance as witnesses. They have also made progress on the revision of the grievance procedure. One million, twenty-two thousand, six-hundred and thirty-five.

Company has made written counter proposals on such subjects as holidays, shift premium, payment for work performed during rest periods and establishment of regular, system wide, joint labor-management meetings.

With respect to wages in general, Union submitted a proposal of 12.4% general wage increase and also proposed to reduce the number of wage rates and establish a wage schedule to provide a minimum spread between rates of pay. The company indicated an intent to stay within the Federal guidelines and an interest in establishing a committee to work on wage schedules in the interim, but not during current negotiations. The question of term was discussed and it was agreed that the matter of term was dependent on all areas of settlement.

**Benefit Committee**

Union proposed early retirement, effective January 1, 1974 at age 62 with no reduction in pension regardless of length of service. Union also proposed provisions for early retirement at age 52 and an age and service formula for improving spouse’s pension.

Union proposed additional language on the L.T.D. program outlining intent and wage continuation.

Union proposed that the Blue Shield hospital plan be improved as opposed to their self fund proposal.

Negotiations were to resume on January 8, 1973. Additional information will be available at the Unit meetings.

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The California AFL-CIO today spelled out a 10-point program to "assure equality of sacrifice and fundamental justice" in meeting the energy crisis.

In letters sent this week to Governor Reagan, all state legislators and other officials, John F. Henning, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, said that the Federation is "deeply disturbed over the thousands of workers made jobless by industries claiming limited energy sources."

In the present period of "national political disruption," Henning said, the country "must not permit either massive unemployment or governmental contempt for the jobless."

He also warned that the country "must not invite the disruptions that would inevitably follow industry control of energy allocations."

Describing labor’s 10-point program as a series of "first steps to assure equality of sacrifice," Henning called for:

1. Action to boost the maximum weekly unemployment insurance benefit to two-thirds of average weekly wages in California, noting that this principle already applies to workmen’s compensation and unemployment disability insurance payments. The average weekly wage is now $180. The maximum unemployment benefit should be $210, he said.

2. A flat extension of the duration of unemployment benefits from 26 to 39 weeks without tying the additional 13 weeks into any trigger mechanism requiring general unemployment to rise to certain levels before the extended duration period lapses.

3. Assurance of adequate representation of working people and their representatives on any state body empowered to administer emergency energy programs.

4. Insistence that the emergency energy body establish procedures for review of complaints by workers in communities adversely affected by the emergency.

5. Placement of consumer representatives on energy action bodies.

6. Compilation by the State Human Resources Development Department of data regarding unemployment.

7. Insistence that companies prove they cannot reduce energy consumption without the displacement of workers.

8. Insistence on the maintenance of workers’ safety laws to prevent industry from violating safety in the name of energy conservation.

9. Insistence on adequate standards to preserve environmental integrity to prevent polluters from running loose in the name of energy conservation.

10. Opposition to any scheme that would ration fuel by taxation.

"The destruction of the purchasing power of low and middle-income groups cannot be tolerated," he said.

**Business Manager’s COLUMN**

HAPPY NEW YEAR

L. L. MITCHELL

This holiday season has given us time to evaluate our efforts during 1973 and also to plan for 1974 and on into the future. I hope that everyone had a good holiday season and that 1974 will hold many good things for the members of Local 1245 and their families. We will continue to make every effort on our part to make that happen.

Hopefully, we will see both legislative and economic improvement in this country in 1974. Our members will face some major decisions this year as the fuel shortages and ecological issues become more critical. I urge all of the members to study the issues and to become more active in making their thoughts known to law-makers. Hopefully this may help to make 1974 more productive than 1973.
State Federation maps '74 legislation program

The California AFL-CIO will press for a major boost in unemployment insurance benefits during the 1974 legislative session to protect California workers being laid off by the snowballing energy crisis and will reintroduce a number of measures vetoed during the 1973 session, including those calling for collective bargaining rights for teachers and unemployment insurance for farm workers.

These are just some of the legislative goals set by the Executive Council of the California Labor Federation at a two-day meeting at the Spa Hotel in Palm Springs, December 11-12.

The Council also:

- Went on record to give full support to the National AFL-CIO's position calling for the resignation or impeachment of Richard M. Nixon.


- Endorsed the Californians for Consumer Health Protection, the state level organization of the Committee for National Health Insurance which is seeking to win enactment of the Kennedy-Corman National Health Security Act of 1974.

- Endorsed the Transport Workers' Union of America's strike against the Trans World Airlines.

- Endorsed the Martinez Health Center in Contra Costa County.

- Endorsed the Martinez Medical Group as secretary-treasurer of the Independent Labor Federation which represents the state's 1.6 million AFL-CIO union members, said the Federation would introduce legislation calling for an increase in the present $90 maximum unemployment insurance benefit to $120 computed in steps to assure workers two-thirds of their lost wages.

The State AFL-CIO will also seek legislation to increase the maximum duration of unemployment insurance benefits from 26 weeks to a uniform 39 weeks, end any special trigger mechanism for the additional 13 weeks. It will also call for legislation to increase the unemployment insurance tax rate to an amount sufficient to fund the increased benefits.

Hunting, said the California AFL-CIO, will also reintroduce measures vetoed during the 1973 session which would:

1. Repeal the Stull Act provisions on teacher evaluation;
2. Provide collective bargaining rights for teachers;
3. Require firms advertising that they do business in Spanish to provide contracts in Spanish as well as English;
4. Liberalize workmen's compensation coverage for domestic and gardeners;
5. Provide workmen's compensation coverage for news vendors;
6. Assure free choice of physicians in workmen's compensation cases; and
7. Provide unemployment insurance for farm workers.

The Federation will also introduce new measures calling for:

- Secret ballot elections for farm workers;
- A comprehensive energy use bill;
- Repeal of the so-called "domestic quit" disfranchisement from unemployment insurance coverage. This measure is aimed at eliminating a disqualification of the existing unemployment insurance regulations that disfranchises a woman from unemployment insurance coverage if she quits her job because her husband is transferred from say Bakersfield to San Francisco;
- Legislation to require a refund of insurance premiums where cancellation is involved;
- Repeal the present five percent state sales tax on gasoline which was imposed in July 1, 1972 and which is in addition to the seven cents per gallon State tax already levied on gasoline.
- Eliminate the workmen's compensation benefit deduction from social security benefits.

(Continued on Page Seven)

GUEST EDITORIAL

Whose fault is Energy Crisis?

Editor's Note: The following article appeared on the editorial page of the Toledo Union Journal and we thought it contained some facts not available in the daily papers.

The historic significance of today's energy crisis in the United States is only now beginning to be dimly understood and it comes at a time when President Nixon can find no more profitable exercise than blaming Congress for it.

The facts are otherwise. Highly qualified members of the House and Senate have laid down the story of what has happened over the past three years in irrefutable terms.

By the time Minnesota Democrat who is a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, charged that "a lack of cooperation, or even response from the Administration in delivering reports on legislation before the Committee has stalled efforts to get bills, including energy bills, before the Committee, and out to the House floor."

Karth lays direct responsibility for this on the Office of Management and Budget which is supposed to clear reports on how pending legislation would affect the Executive Department's plans prior to holding hearings on them.

Karth said that a Committee report had shown that the Nixon Administration had given its reports on only 127 bills out of 417 bills and that out of 25 key bill requests "only seven have been received."

On the Senate side, Sen. Henry M. Jackson, chairman of the Committee on interior and Insular Affairs, was even more specific as the President's charges related to the energy crisis. Jackson pointed out that in mid-1970, Senator Jennings Randolph, West Virginia Democrat, had introduced legislation calling for creation of a National Commission on Fuels and Energy. Its purpose was to make a comprehensive study of the nation's energy needs and how best to meet them.

The Nixon Administration opposed the bill, declaring that it was making its own study through the Domestic Council. "If such studies were made by the Domestic Council," Jackson said, "they have never seen the light of day."

Armed by the lack of action on the part of the Administration, Randolph and Jackson, in 1971, with the support of 50 co-sponsoring Senators, set up a joint investigative Committee of Senate committees involved to hold hearings on a wide range of energy problems. "These hearings," Jackson said, "have laid the groundwork for the legislative program now moving through Congress."

Jackson himself wrote the President in June of 1971 asking for a full-scale "in-depth study and assessment of national security, foreign policy and domestic energy policy implications of our growing dependence on imported crude oil and petroleum products from the Middle East and elsewhere."

In the face of Senate efforts to authorize the setting up of mandatory allocation controls over fuels in shortage, the Nixon Administration insisted that direct government control over fuels was undesirable. Jackson traced further efforts by the Senate to pass for an energy action that met with half-hearted Administration action such as the creation of an energy troika "of Messrs. Ehrlichman, Kissinger and Shultz, which never really functioned."

It was not until last June that Governor John Love was appointed as head of the Energy Policy Office.

Now the energy crisis is upon us and we are in the midst of a scramble as to what to do about it.

While the recriminations between the President and Congress are of deep political importance, an even more important aspect of the energy crisis is how serious it is and what consequences it can have for the country in terms of foreign policy and the domestic economy.

The Arab embargo on oil as part of its effort to blackmail the United States and other nations into an anti-Israeli posture is of immediate concern. The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, most knowledgeable union in the oil energy field, has already warned against yielding to Arab blackmail as has a group of seven leading American economists who go so far as to recommend countermeasures against countries "committing hostile acts of embargo."

On the domestic front, despite optimistic talk by the Administration, the situation is no less ominous. The rationing on an even tighter scale than during World War II appears possible. Workers who live far from their jobs and depend on private cars to get to them will be faced with intolerable situations in the absence of mass transportation which has been allowed to decay.

Shortages of power may compel many industries to shut down or curtail operations with a resulting loss of jobs, the extent of which is inexcusable at present. Already the plastics industry which depends on petrochemicals for its raw materials, is warning that jobs losses of 1,600,000 may result.

How Congress and the Administration respond to the huge energy problem before it must be of vital concern to every worker and, for that matter, to every voter next year.
The cosmetics industry has long been a kind of privileged sanctuary. Until recently, patients and over-the-counter medicines have been required to list on labels at least some of their ingredients. cosmetics manufacturers have been able to get away with listing none in most cases. They always argued that their formulations were "secret" and in any case they were selling "hope." A few manufacturers and retailers have finally have listed ingredients in recent months.

Now, as the result of a Food and Drug Administration rule, between now and March 31, 1975, as manufacturers clear out current stocks, new labels will have to list ingredients in decreasing order of prevalence. Manufacturers will have to use the same name for the same ingredient. For example, hydrogenated lanolin, which could be described by at least seven other names, will appear on the labels by that name only.

The main purpose of the new rule is to help consumers with allergic reactions see what ingredients products may contain which may be risky to them. A second reason is to help FDA locate products or ingredients which may cause injuries or frequent allergic reactions.

Food

A calculated decision by the Nixon Administration to seek higher farm prices by limiting supply in 1972, an election year, is costing American consumers dearly. Frank Fernbach, an economist for the Steelworkers, says the Administration deliberately allowed prices to rise with the "smell" of higher wages being carried with them.

Incompetence alone could not have resulted in the current situation of food shortages and soaring prices. Fernbach asserts. In the first half of 1973, he points out, grocery store feeds have risen at the almost unbelievable rate of 47.5 percent. Since early last year, Fernbach charges, the American consumer has been able to help other nations without curtailing its own food consumption or subjecting Americans to significant food price increases. But this year has been different, and by mid-1973 Uncle Sam's cupboard of surplus farm commodities was bare, Fernbach observes.

Soaring food prices—the chief cause of the nation's supercharged inflation—result from many factors, including the worldwide demand for and supply of food, he says. But many agricultural policies which the United States pursues—should be substantially revised and improved. Moreover, organized labor cannot accept the view that farm prices never should be curbed when wages, salaries and other prices are subject to controls, he notes.

"This domestic area is particularly a matter of concern since mismanagement by our own government has substantially abetted the food price crisis at home," Fernbach says in the Federationist, the AFL-CIO magazine.

The United States supplies about 90 percent of all the soybeans entering world markets, the major source of high quality protein for raising livestock and poultry, Fernbach notes. When crop failures overtake several nations simultaneously—such as recently occurred in Russia and elsewhere—a severe food crisis is inevitable.

As the leading agricultural producer of the world, the United States generally has been able to help other nations without curtling its own food consumption or subjecting Americans to significant food price increases. But this year has been different, and by mid-1973 Uncle Sam's cupboard of surplus farm commodities was bare, Fernbach observes.

Since early last year, Fernbach charges, the American consumer has been the victim of "colossal mismanagement" on the part of the agricultural policy makers.

"Why, in the face of exploding domestic and foreign demand and the resulting higher prices, did the United States to seek to meet these demands, the Administration pay attention to the fact that the world's food production is about $24 billion last year to keep 60 million acres of farmland out of production?"

"Why, with the government imposing a nationwide system of price and controls on the grounds that a national emergency exists, were agricultural products exempted from controls from 1971 to this day—even though soaring farm prices have done so much to trigger our worsening inflation?"

Food commodity exports in 1972-73, during a time of limited supply, were the overriding causes of the U.S. farm and food price rises, Fernbach says.

"The billion-dollar wheat sale to the Soviet Union consummated last year is a classic case of Administration bungling," he notes.

Despite a predicted bumper 1973-74 crop, experts see no basis for optimism—at least in the short run—and believe farm and food prices will continue to rise. Indeed, the heavy U.S. commitment to exports from that crop has already pushed wheat over $5 a bushel.

In the judgment of the labor movement, Fernbach points out, federal agricultural programs should be substantially revised and improved. Moreover, organized labor cannot accept the view that farm prices never should be curbed when wages, salaries and other prices are subject to controls, he notes.

Interest Rates, Food Costs still soaring

Bay Area Union Professional Center, as a California non-profit corporation, has been servicing organized labor for eye examinations, prescription glasses, contact lenses and hearing aids since January 1967—seven years. During that period, the BAUPC philosophy has been to give excellent professional services at fees as low as possible.

Experience has shown that of all people examined, approximately 12 per cent will require corrective lenses, 2 per cent will require glasses, 6 per cent will require contact lenses and 1 per cent will require hearing aids. The remaining 80 per cent will require no treatments at all.

To eliminate any element of surprise to the Union member and the Union, the BAUPC has established the following charges. To eliminate any element of surprise to the Union member and his family, each person will be informed by phone when appointments are made. The starting date for this change was November 15, 1973.

NOTICE

Bay Area Union Professional Center, as a California non-profit corporation, has been servicing organized labor for eye examinations, prescription glasses, contact lenses and hearing aids since January 1967—seven years. During that period, the BAUPC philosophy has been to give excellent professional services at fees as low as possible.

Experience has shown that of all people examined, approximately one half of the total are in need of prescription change. The other half do not require glasses or their prescription glasses are still satisfactory.

We are all painfully aware of the yearly increasing costs involved in every facet of our lives—food, housing, clothing, medical, etc. BAUPC has also experienced rising costs each year and after much canvassing of Union officials by phone, has decided in conjunction with the Board of Trustees, to charge a registration-records fee of $1.00 per person upon examination payable once a year (similar to Kaiser). As always, there will be no charge for the eye examinations and hearing evaluations to any member or his family. Each person will be notified by phone when appointments are made. The starting date for this change was November 15, 1973.
Happy New Year
from Local 1245
Bargaining Roundup

CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC UTILITIES COMPANY (Lassen Division)
Members have rejected three Company proposals. Meeting scheduled with Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in the near future.

CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC UTILITIES COMPANY (Winnebucca District)
Members voted on second offer and ratified the Agreement.

TELEPROMPTER OF SANTA MARIA (Clerical)
Union has forwarded proposals to Company and are awaiting their answer.

STATE TV CABLE
Proposals from Company accepted by the membership. Contracts are being prepared for signature.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COMMUNICATION CORPORATION
Negotiations were started Friday, December 14, 1973. Union's negotiating committee consists of Bobby Jones, Daniel Parker, Russ Downs, and Al Stacey, assisted by Don MacPherson from our International Office.

OCEAN VIEW CABLEVISION, INC.
Union is preparing proposals to send to Company. An early date for meeting with Company is expected.

MONTEREY PENINSULA TV CABLE
Union is preparing proposals to send to Company. An early date for meeting with Company is expected.

CITY OF LOMPOC
Negotiations have been completed with the City of Lompoc and ratified by the membership.

UTILITY TREE SERVICE

PACIFIC TREE EXPERT COMPANY
Met with Company on December 11, 1973. Union has made counter proposals and awaiting Company's answer.

DAVEY TREE SURGERY COMPANY
Union is studying Company's counter proposals.

SOHNER TREE SERVICE, INC.
Members will be voting on results of bargaining in the very near future.

CITY OF LODI
Interim negotiations on an accident prevention rule book are in progress.

PIPE LINE OPERATIONS—Senior Terminal Operators and Terminal Operators; GAS LOAD CENTERS
Being handled in general negotiations.

GC/LOP—Civil Gas & Hydro, Field Operations and Process Centers
No change since last reporting.

GAS METER SHOP CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE
Union expects a proposal on the closing of certain meter shops by July, 1974 before the end of the week.

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Negotiations concluded. Preparing Memorandums of Understanding for signatures.

CITY OF ROSEVILLE
We have had several meetings. Union's committee feels they are approaching an agreement.

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Negotiating meeting was held on December 19, 1973.

TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Union considering Company's counter proposals.

TRI-DAM PROJECT
Union recently received Company's latest proposals and are studying them. Union feels agreement is near.

OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Union studying Company's proposals. Meeting in near future.

CITY OF HEALSBURG
Negotiations concluded. Ratification meeting to be held in the very near future.

RICHVALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Met with Company on December 12, 1973. Union is studying Company's proposals.

CITY OF SANTA CLARA
Apprentice Training Program for Electricians and Apprentice Metermen still being discussed.

Gary M. Kingsbury
from P.G.&E., San Jose Div., could have won $50.00 if he had noticed his Union membership card number in the November 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

Blood Bank available to 1245 members

Editor's Note: Printed below is the Constitution of the Central Labor Council of Alameda County Voluntary Blood Bank. We have also reprinted a copy of the application card. Should you desire to join the Blood Bank, fill in the application or get actual card from your Bus. Rep. and mail to: Central Labor Council Blood Bank, 2315 Valdez St., Oakland, California 94612

ARTICLE I
The “Bank” shall be called the Central Labor Council Voluntary Blood Bank Plan. The Blood Bank year shall be from January 1 to December 31. In order to be eligible for membership, one must be a member in good standing, paying Union dues; a retiree in good standing; an employee of the Local Union. The Local Union must be an affiliate of the Central Labor Council of Alameda County.

ARTICLE II
The purpose of the Bank shall be to insure that ample blood is available to all members of the Central Labor Council Blood Bank and their dependents at the lowest possible cost to the members. New Locals shall be eligible after 30 days of affiliation with the Central Labor Council of Alameda County, and payment of Blood Bank dues, to become Blood Bank members.

ARTICLE III
The affairs of the Bank shall be administered by the Council Blood Bank Committee who shall be appointed by the President of the Central Labor Council of Alameda County, and shall be members of the Blood Bank.

ARTICLE IV
The President of the Blood Bank Committee shall also be Chairman of the Blood Bank and responsible for the conduct of business at general or special meetings of the Bank.

ARTICLE V
The Chairman and Secretary of the Blood Bank shall also be its chief executive officers to carry out the instructions of the Bank Committee and attend to all correspondence and financial matters.

ARTICLE VI
The Blood Bank Committee shall meet at least once every three months or more frequently as seems appropriate to the committee.

ARTICLE VII
Funds for the operation of the Bank shall be provided by the membership of the Bank, paying to the Bank $2.50, payable one year in advance, or for the current Blood Bank year. A 30-day grace period will be granted members for renewing their membership.

ARTICLE VIII
Upon payment as required under Article VII, a member of the Bank and his dependents, will be entitled to receive blood transfusions as needed from available funds. In cases of Leukemia, Hemophilia and Carcinoma, the blood donated shall be left up to the discretion of the Blood Bank Committee.

ARTICLE IX
Dependents who are entitled to benefits as described under Article VIII, are the member's lawful spouse and unmarried children less than nineteen years of age, stepchildren and adopted children if they are dependent upon the member for maintenance and support. Dependents living in the same household and having evidence of dependency on the member, shall be eligible for coverage at the rate of $2.50 per person.

ARTICLE X
Members who donate blood to the Bank through the Council Blood Bank, shall receive for each donation from the Council Blood Bank, the sum of $10.00.

ARTICLE XI
The only exception to the furnishing of benefits as described under Article IX is where the member is provided medical benefits which supply blood free of charge to the member and/or his or her dependents.

ARTICLE XII
In the event the cost of operating the Bank exceeds its revenues and resources the Committee shall have the power by a two-thirds (2/3) vote to impose assessments from time to time upon the members of the Bank. Said assessments shall be limited to an amount to assure the financial solvency of the Bank.
**Who's Inflationary?**

President Nixon vetoed the minimum wage bill (unfortunately upheld by Congress) because, he maintained, to have approved it would have added to inflationary pressures. The bill would have raised the federal minimum wage in two steps, to $2.50 an hour by next July. That's $88 for a 40-hour week. That's inflationary! The present minimum of $1.60 was established 5½ years ago. Reduction in the purchasing power of the dollar now requires $2.12 to get the value that $1.60 had then. Prices are still zooming, and workers' purchasing power continues to decline. Raising the minimum wage would have added a mere 0.4% to the nation's total wage bill to set right this injustice to millions of American workers. But—says the President—that would have been inflationary...

**Who's Being Inflationary?**

In 1972, top executives of the nation's corporations received a 13.5% boost in compensation—on top of a 9.3% boost the previous year. That's not inflationary! For some, Business Week pointed out, the pay package reports to be made whenever environmental impact reports are required under the 1970 Environmental Quality Act and the subsequent 938 introduced by Assemblyman Charles Warren to require economic im-

**Who's being inflationary?**

Interest rates are what banks charge for money and credit. They are a major cost of doing business in all parts of the economy—like rents, like mortgages, like the cost of raw materials, like wages, like profits. While wages have been pinned down to the 5.5% rate, the cost of money and credit has risen at record-breaking rates. This adds to the profits of the banks; it adds to the cost of all things Americans need. Early in 1978, the Nixon administration jumped the basic interest rate to 7%—highest on record since 1931. On July 18—Phase 4 day—the rate was jacked to 8 1/2%, the 10th boost in less than half a year for a total jackup of 42%. Not inflationary! On July 30 the rate hit for a total jackup of 42%. Not inflationary! And it kept climbing. Not inflationary! $2.20 for America's lower paid workers—

**Who's being inflationary?**

Profits of U.S. corporations rose 34% in one year during the second quarter of 1979—after taxes. That's the way to fight inflation! U.S. Steel pointed the way during this second quarter. With Nixon administration approval, it boosted the price of rolled steel by $39 a ton or $400 million a year. In its fight against inflation it boosted its $71.4 million profit in the first quarter of the year to $84.9 in the second quarter. Not inflationary! $80 a week now and $88 next July—inflationary!

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**North Bay Happenings**

Federal workers across the nation have represented their Brothers on the job and have performed in a superior manner. They are indeed a credit to the Brotherhood.

Brothers Clyde Boyd and Bob Jensen are still in negotiations with the City of Healdsburg, Clyde and Bob have served their Brothers on the City of Healdsburg Negotiating Committee for over three years now and have performed in a superior manner as Shop Stewards this month. They have served their Brothers well and deserve much credit. Numerous hours of their free time was donated to the Brotherhood in order to protect the rights of the labor movement. Good show, gentlemen!

I.B.E.W. man named to State post

IBEW man named Deputy Director, State Department at Industrial Relations.

James A. McCullough, former Business Manager of Local 591, I.B.E.W., Stockton, was named new Deputy Director, State Department of California. Mr. McCullough served as Deputy to Ed White, who resigned last July to become Regional Director of the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Region IX. Smith was also a former Business Manager of an I.B.E.W. Local Union.
The silent killer

CARBON MONOXIDE

Carbon Monoxide—The Silent Killer

Carbon monoxide (CO), often called the silent killer, is one of the most common and dangerous poisons. Carbon monoxide is dangerous because it is a gas you cannot see, taste, or smell, and it can kill within minutes, depending upon the concentration in the air. CO kills by cutting off the oxygen supply and reducing the ability of the lungs to utilize oxygen for proper combustion.

Ties of air for proper combustion must be installed and operating according to the manufacturer’s recommendation. Any fuel needs large quantities of air to speed it along, will produce a minimum of CO, while a slow, cool fire, with a limited amount of air will produce more. If the flame is allowed to come into contact with a cold surface, such as a water heater, one can expect an abnormally large amount of the gas to be generated.

Common sources of the gas include cooking ranges, central heating plants, space heaters, water heaters, fireplaces, charcoal grills, gas lawnmowers and generators, refrigerators and automobiles. Here are some rules that could be used as the basis for a supervisor’s talk, in a bulletin board notice, or a short magazine article:

1) Make certain that products of combustion don’t get into living areas of the home. All fuel-burning devices should be installed and operating according to the manufacturer’s recommendation.
2) Periodic inspection and maintenance is a must. Tampering with, or modifying, such devices is an invitation to danger.
3) Any fuel needs large quantities of air for proper combustion. Be sure enough air is provided.
4) Attached garages should be sealed off from the rest of the house to prevent the escape of CO from automobile exhaust.
5) Fireplace dampers should be kept open until the fire is out.
6) Do not bring charcoal or other fires into confined areas.
7) Do not use the oven for heating unless ventilation is adequate.
8) Check automobile exhaust systems regularly, especially for blow-out gaskets, leaking pipe connections, and holes in mufflers and tail pipes.
9) Keep the engine tuned up properly to keep CO content of exhaust low.
10) Never drive with the windows closed.
11) Shut off the engine when sitting in a parked car for more than a few minutes.
12) If you find yourself sleepy while driving, the cause may be CO. Stop at once, get out of the car, and breathe fresh air. Then drive with the windows open more than usual.
13) If it is not possible to close your trunk lid or keep the rear window open, place a timer so that you will be sure to bring in lots of fresh air through the front of the car.

Be sure garage doors are open when an automobile motor is running inside. Do not allow the engine to run more than a few minutes even when the garage door is open, unless positive ventilation is provided.

Don’t put gas cans in trunk

CHICAGO—Motorists who are buying gasoline cans to keep extra fuel in their homes and cars as a hedge against Sunday gasoline closings are actually storing potentially lethal liquid bombs, the National Safety Council reports.

According to Hans Grigo, the Council’s technical consultant, “The explosive power of one gallon of gasoline has been compared to the explosive force of 14 sticks of dynamite.”

Grigo warned that there is no absolutely safe way to store gasoline—either in the home or in the car. Gasoline vapors,” Grigo said, “expand to fill the available space they are confined in. The expansion will split the seams of an unventilated can or plastic container and can cause vapor leakage from a vented ‘safety’ can. Sparks from a light switch, electrical appliance, car ignition or short in tail light or brake light circuits will then trigger an explosion.

He commented on a case in which two safety experts placed a safety can full of gasoline in the trunk of a car, moved to safe distance, left the engine running and waited. Within 20 minutes, the car exploded.

Editor’s Note: The advent of the energy crisis might well bring on a new interest in hiking. Should any of our members choose hiking as an alternative recreational activity to driving, the following article should be useful.

Driving and walking are among the results of improper footwear and activities. Much is said about driving defensively, but all too often we take walking for granted. But the careless abuse can be minimized if you follow certain rules, from the National Safety Council, can be helpful to minimize possible injury if an increase over-all comfort during and after the hike especially those rural excursions into mother nature.

Don’t hike alone. A call for help does little good if there is no one there to hear it.

Walking face the flow of vehicular traffic, off the actual roadway whenever possible, and wear clothing or carry some object of high visibility to signal oncoming drivers.

Comfortable shoes are particularly important on this type of hike. There are several types to choose from, but the best one is the shoe that fits the arch and has the ankle support good.

Blistered or bruised feet are frequent results of improper footwear—including the lack of or poorly fitting socks. A shoe top should be of sturdy material that will resist the wear and tear of rocks, uneven terrain, or branches. The soles should offer good slip-resistant properties.

Comfortable, properly-fitted clothing is also necessary for the hiker. Clothes that are too loose may catch on vegetation. Those that are too tight may bind or chafe. Too many clothes may lead to profuse perspiration. Long pants offer good protection to the legs from scratches, insect bites, etc., to men, women, and children, and long sleeves will offer similar protection to the arms. Bright colors help hikers to be seen.

Woolen garments absorb perspiration, and they do not wrinkle as quickly as other natural materials. Man-made fabrics are less absorbent, and they are warmer because it is a gas you cannot see, taste, or smell, and it can kill within minutes, depending upon the concentration in the air.