$30 Billion tax cut urged
To turn economy around

By David L. Perlmutter

A tax cut of at least $30 billion is needed to turn the economy around and start America on the road to full employment, AFL-CIO President George Meany testified.

Meany praised the $21.3 billion tax cut voted by the House last month as "a significant step" towards economic recovery. But he told the Senate Finance Committee that the nation is "so close to economic collapse that a bigger stimulus is needed."

"Measures which seemed adequate a month ago or even a week ago are no longer sufficient," Meany testified.

The AFL-CIO proposals he presented to the committee would add more than $9 billion to the combination of refunds and tax reductions provided in the House-passed bill.

Like the House bill, Meany said, the Senate amendments should be targeted to give more purchasing power to low-income and middle-income Americans. And he expressed the AFL-CIO's sharp disagreement with the Ford Administration position that the biggest share of tax relief should go to those who already have the biggest incomes.

Meany scoffed at the claim by Treasury Secretary William E. Simon that tax relief for upper-income persons would be better for the economy than putting income in the hands of those who most need the money. Simon's contention, Meany noted, is that the affluent would use their tax savings to buy high-priced appliances while the poor would fritter the money away on food and shelter. Two million, eight-hundred and two thousand, two hundred sixty-four.

Meany termed this "trickle-down economics with a vengeance." An administration whose "disastrous economic policies" have cut so deeply into workers' buying power, he suggested, is in no position to contend that "the poor should not get a tax cut so that the rich can buy cars, color televisions and dishwashers."

The AFL-CIO statement centered on the Senate amendments and the House-passed tax bill:

Provide for the sake of equity a tax cut for a significant portion of the nation's biggest incomes.

The Mondale proposal added that tax relief for upper-income persons would not benefit from the increase in standard deductions in the House bill. The group affected is made up of families with annual incomes of $10,000 to $20,000 who itemize their deductions for reasons such as mortgage interest payments and unusually high medical expenses.

To help this group, Meany endorsed an amendment that has been proposed by Sen. Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn.). It would give taxpayers the option to claim a $200 tax credit instead of the present $750 personal exemption for themselves and each dependent.

A tax credit is deducted from federal income tax owed; the exemption is deducted from the amount of income subject to taxation.

Generally, families with incomes under $20,000 would benefit from taking the proposed $200 per exemption tax credit. The Mondale proposal would add $3.8 billion to the tax relief in the House bill.

Reduce the tax rate for all tax payers on the first $2,000 of taxable income. The AFL-CIO proposed that the tax rate on the first $1,000 of taxable income be dropped to 7 percent and that the 15 percent rate on the second $1,000 be reduced.

(Continued on page two)

Diablo and Bay District Stewards meet

Shown above are some of Local 1245's stewards from the Diablo and Bay Districts of East Bay Division, PG&E. See page three for more photos.

... HAVE YOU MOVED?

RETURN TO:
P. O. BOX 4790, WALNUT CREEK, CALIF. 94596

MY NEW ADDRESS IS:
NAME ________________________________
STREET _______________________________________
CITY _______________________________________
STATE ______ ZIP _______

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... HAVE YOU MOVED?
(Continued from page one) when they proved to be inadequate due to the merger of the two I.B.E.W. locals which had gained bargaining rights through the transfer of outside line construction jurisdiction which had been organized as Local 595 of the I.B.E.W. This move was most critical. The advice and cooperation when the choice is made was of great value in aiding us to us if we sell or will provide income should we choose to rent it out. The continued growth and our expanded operations have created a need for a different type of facility than our present building. We find individual offices are too small with increased communication overhead. Our office layout is inadequate and office routines are disrupted with more and more people using the facility. Storage space for records and materials is inadequate and separated from use areas which increases costs through loss of time and inadequate material controls. The separation of various process operations is also difficult to supervise and coordinate with other related operations. This type of operation usually pays for itself quickly when compared with other buildings of the same size and will provide at least a 5 percent return on the investment. The advice and guidance provided by your officers of the Local have been invaluable in this respect.

We shall always be grateful to Local 595 for their help during these years and the support which we received in attaining and maintaining our present position and contributed much to our standing in the I.B.E.W.

In 1968 the officers and members decided we should become owners of our own building and a facility was purchased in Walnut Creek at 1218 Boulevard Way. We moved from our Oakland headquarters knowing the same day this new headquarters would be outgrown if we continued our growth as we had in the past. However, it was apparent our financial position and stability would be improved if we were in control of the facility and could achieve a cost advantage that would produce an equity from our rent money.

The Local moved into the facility in September 1968 and occupied about half of the building. The remainder of the leased areas previously rented out this building was then used for our office. The offices in the present building are inadequate to meet present needs and will be costly but would add little to the value of the present building.

With these problems before them the Officers of the Local have been viewing other available office facilities. To date no decision has been made on location, building size or price. It does appear that all factors considered, a move is in order and that renting or leasing would be more expensive than owning.

A number of attractive sites have been inspected and there have been inquiries from prospective purchasers on our present facility. It will be no major problem to coordinate the change once the basic decisions are made.

The Officers will need your support and cooperation when the choice is made. I'm sure the members will understand the reason for the decision when in made and will wholeheartedly support the move as long as they have in the past, support the efforts to update and improve the efficiency and compatibility of our office functions by providing the tools and the facility to do the job.

(Continued from page one) to 13 percent. It would reduce everyone's taxes and provide a maximum $90 savings for most taxpayers. It would add an estimated $3.5 billion to the House bill reductions. Repeal of 10 percent investment credit provided by the House bill to the 12 percent that had been recommended by the President's Labor Advisory Committee, with AFL-CIO participation. But Meany made clear the AFL-CIO's position that "as soon as this emergency situation is over, and, the investment credit should be repealed."

While that proposal would add $1.1 billion to the business tax relief in the House version of the tax bill, the deletion of a House provision for an additional $1.2 billion in exemption from the corporation surtax.

Meany said: "The proposal was supposed to provide relief for small business firms but most of the tax savings would go to 'huge corporations which are already the prime beneficiaries of existing tax loopholes.'"

Generally, Meany praised the President's skill as "equitable" in sharp contrast to the President's proposal to give $1,000 rebates to the elderly. He called the deal "while a $5,000 wage-earning family of four would receive $12 - in two instalments."

The negotiations and comments, members of the Senate Finance Committee indicated considerable agreement with Meany's testimony. Meany expressed the urgency of the legislation and the added damage to the economy and social structure that would result from delay in passing the tax cut. He spoke of the heavy inner city unemployment, the joblessness facing: young people entering the labor market and the economy's deterioration "with each passing day."

On the controversy over the House-passed repeal of the oil depletion allowance, Meany reiterated the AFL-CIO's position that "as soon as the sales tax loophole that should be eliminated. But he said it would be "very, very unwise" to try to use this bill as a vehicle for repeal if it would result in a lengthy delay in the tax cut. While the tax cut will head the economy in the right direction, Meany said, it is still needed to create full employment and the AFL-CIO has a long "shopping list."

But the biggest single step, Meany suggested, would be to reduce mortgage interest costs to 6 percent to bring housing payments within reach of millions of families now priced out of the market.

And not even the Republicans on the committee spoke up in defense of the Senate proposal to repeal the oil depletion allowance. Senator Arthur Burns, who Meany considers the architect of the disastrous economic "game plans" of the Nixon and Ford Administrations.

Before Burns and his cohorts began putting their economic theories into practice, Meany recalled, the inflation rate was about 4 percent and unemployment closer to 3 percent.

Burns tried to apply the "classical" economics he learned in college 40 years ago, Meany suggested. But while he learned his lessons well then, "he hasn't learned a damned thing since."

Don Vial Named to Head Industrial Relations Dept.

Don Vial, former research director of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, has been appointed director of the State Department of Industrial Relations by Governor Edmund G. Brown.

Vial, highly regarded by trade unionists throughout the state for his interests in worker and consumer rights, has served as chairman of the Center for Labor Research and Education at the Institute of Industrial Relations at the University of California at Berkeley since September 1964. He is also a past president of the Industrial Relations Research Association of North America, a member of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California; a past president of the American Association of University Professors; and a member of the Governor's Commission on Employment and Retirement of Older Workers.

Vial served as a research economist with the California State Federal Labor from 1951 to 1958 when he became Director of Research and administrative assistant to the executive secretary-treasurer, a post he held until his appointment to the U.C. Berkeley faculty in 1964.

He served as a legislative advocate for the State AFL-CIO in Sacramento at general sessions from 1953 through 1963.

Vial, a veteran of World War II, is chairman of the West Side Planning Group in San Joaquin Valley, an OEO-supported community development corporation created to provide economic opportunities for Mexican-Americans in the development of the west side of the valley.

He is also western representative of the University Labor Education Association; a member of Berkeley Faculty Union Local 1474 of the American Federation of Teachers and of AFT Local 189, the Labor Education Local. During the administration of Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, Vial served as chairman of the Program Advisory Committee to the State Office of Consumer Counsel; as a member of the Governor's Commission on Employment and Retirement of Older Workers; and as a member of the State Task Force on Organization of Health Care.

OTHER OFFICES

He is also a past president of the Industrial Relations Research Association of Northern California, a past president of Western Labor Education, a member of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California; a past president of Office and Professional Employees Union Local 3 and as a member of the Assembly Advisory Committee on Public Employee Relations from 1973 to 1974.

Don Vial has worked closely with Local 1245 over the years in developing training programs and research fornegotiations. Vial's appointment to the post was announced March 1.
Local 1245 continues steward education program

East Bay - Diablo and Bay Districts

This photo shows participants in East Bay Training session.

DRUM DIVISION

This photo shows some of the participants at the Drum Division Meeting Lunch break.

More stewards of Diablo and Bay Districts are shown in this photo.

Credit Transactions Regarding Women

As part of the slow but sure elevation of the status of women in our State, the California Legislature passed a bill in 1973 which was signed into law and minimizes the chances that a person will be denied credit merely because she is a woman.

This new law deals with both married and unmarried women.

It prohibits the denial of credit to a married woman who wants the credit in her name (as opposed to credit for both spouses) if her earnings or separate property are such that a man, if he were to have the same amount of property and earnings, would receive the credit. For this purpose, however, a woman must use as her earnings only the amount which she earns and not add in what her husband earns.

Also, unmarried women may not be denied credit if credit would be granted to a man having the same earnings and property.

A credit reporting agency must, if requested in writing, report both spouses' credit history to either spouse who requests it.

Of course, this law does not prohibit anyone from using any other relevant factors in deciding whether or not credit shall be granted.

Any woman who can show that she suffers damage, as a result of someone willfully violating this law may sue for actual damages, plus $500.00 for each violation. She can also force the violator to extend the credit to her which would have been given if she were a male.

(to obtain a copy of the CTLA Consumer Protection pamphlet, designed to acquaint you with your rights in the law, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to CTLA, 1020 12th St., Sacramento 95814. Please specify whether you want it in English or Spanish).

A public service message from CALIF. TRAIL LAWYERS ASSN.

State Association Meets

The Semi Annual meeting of the California State Association of Electrical Workers met in San Francisco on February 21-22, 1975. The first day of the Conference was devoted to workshop sessions covering pension reciprocity, safety, apprenticeship and political activity. On the second day of the Conference the participants were welcomed to San Francisco by Mayor Alioto. Speaker of the Assembly Leo McCarthy also addressed the participants.

IBEW Vice President W. L. Vinson reported that most all branches of the Brotherhood have been affected by the depression with layoffs or shorter work weeks.

Reports were given on various proposed legislation with emphasis on the proposed public employee collective bargaining bill. Business Manager L. L. Mitchell, Sr. Assistant Business Manager M. A. Walters, Business Representatives Dave Reese and Jack McNally, President Howard Darington, Vice President Ed Horn, Treasurer Dick Robuck and Executive Board Members Manuel Mederos, Dale Turman and Bud Gray attended the Conference.

IBEW MAN APPOINTED

Bill DuBois, formally an Assistant Business Manager and member of I.B.E.W., Local 401, Reno, has been appointed Nevada State Mine Inspector.

The 1973 session of the Nevada Legislature enacted legislation that the office of the Nevada State Mine Inspector would be appointed by the Nevada Industrial Commission and work in conjunction with the Safety Department of the Nevada Industrial Commission.

Brother Bill's appointment was effective January 6, 1975. Local 1245 congratulates Bill DuBois on his appointment.
TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL NO. 1245
1218 BOULEVARD WAY
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

January 27, 1975

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
Meredith & Rubin
Certified Public Accountants
2525 Van Ness Avenue, Room 215
San Francisco, California 94109
Telephone: 771-2577

This report represents our examination of the financial statements and supporting schedules of Local No. 1245, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, for the year ended December 31, 1974, which are included in their Annual Financial Report. In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly the recorded cash receipts and disbursements of your local union for the year ended December 31, 1974, and the related statement of assets, liabilities, and equity at December 31, 1974. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

The following summarizes information included in these financial statements which are a part of this report:

- Cash and Stock Fund at Cost at December 31, 1973:
  - Receipts: $2,432,623.16
  - Disbursements: $2,168,085.87
  - Net of Prior Page: $765,135.51

- Details of Balance - General Fund:
  - Net of Short-Term Note due 1/3/75 and Commercial Bank Account (Note below): $344,000.00
  - Wells Fargo Bank, Savings Account: $517,887.90
  - Savings Certificates: 120
  - Contingency, Petty Cash and Change Fund: $2,104.97
  - Returned Check for Collection: $80.22
  - Total: $981,554.69

- Note: During the Period 11/22/74 through 12/30/74 the balance available in the commercial bank account was used to purchase interest bearing notes with three to seven day maturities. On December 30, a note in the amount of $344,000.00 was purchased. The note, including interest, was due on January 3, 1975. The amount shown here is the net at cost less the commercial bank account balance on December 31, 1974. The bank account had an over drawn balance of $1,192,612.92 as of that date.

- Staff Expenses:
  - Internet Brotherhood of Electrical Workers: $425,465.49
  - California Federation of Labor: $14,040.00
  - California State Asse. of Electrical Workers: $1,800.00
  - Merced-Mariposa C.L.C.:
    - Funds for Organizing Expenses: $351.90
    - Scholarship Fund: $450.00
    - Butte Glenn C.L.C.:
      - Dues Advanced: $132.00
      - Convention: $12,014.26
      - Dues Advanced: $379.00
      - Diff in Per Capita: $78.80
      - D.B.A.F. Fees: $152.00
      - Diff in Per Capita: $1,992.00
      - Transfer to Replacement Fund: $32,400.00
      - Auto Registrations: $2,663.50
      - Auto Insurance: $10,748.00
      - Parking and Tolls: $2,809.23
      - Meals: $19,511.29
      - Misc Meals: $1,086.10
  - California Labor C.O.P.E.:
    - Film & Recorder: $3,109.15
    - Parking and Tolls: $2,809.23
    - Meals: $19,511.29
    - Misc Meals: $1,086.10
  - Other:
    - Mountain C.O.P.E.: $351.90
    - Scholarship Fund: $450.00
    - Butte Glenn C.L.C.:
      - Funds for Organizing Expenses: $351.90
      - Scholarship Fund: $450.00
    - California Labor C.O.P.E.:
      - Funds for Organizing Expenses: $351.90
      - Scholarship Fund: $450.00
    - Other:
      - Funds for Organizing Expenses: $351.90
      - Scholarship Fund: $450.00

- Joint Executive Conference of No. Cal. Electrical Workers:
  - $600.00

- Total Expenses:
  - $453,416.69

- Total Per Prior Page:
  - $731,600.06

- Total:
  - $1,183,035.21

- Total:
  - $2,465,690.59

- Total:
  - $981,554.69

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  - $981,554.69

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  - $2,465,690.59

- Total:
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## MEREDITH & RUBIN
### SCHEDULE 1
#### INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
##### LOCAL NO. 1245

**STATEMENT OF RECORDED CASH DISBURSEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1974**

### GENERAL FUND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Paid or Reimbursed</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>OTHER SALARIES AND EXPENSES:</td>
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<td><strong>$154,216.90</strong></td>
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1974**

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<tr>
<td>P.G.E. System Safety</td>
<td>$86.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bay Cable Arbitration</td>
<td>$185.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Lodi</td>
<td>$1,916.28</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCCC TV Ballot</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.G.E. Ballot</td>
<td>$3,515.13</td>
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<td>Davey Tree Arbitration</td>
<td>$153.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davey Tree Apprentice</td>
<td>$69.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cal. Pacific Safety</td>
<td>$1,413.56</td>
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<td>Joint apprentice training - Safety</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
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<td>Hosp. Plan</td>
<td>$1,015.73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint Labor - Management Meeting</td>
<td>$408.94</td>
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<tr>
<td>S.P.P. Safety</td>
<td>$748.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff pension</td>
<td>$55.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>By-Law Revision</td>
<td>$6.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal難ices</td>
<td>$69.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy and Resolution</td>
<td>$58.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pacific Tree Apprentice</td>
<td>$9.15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Various Committees</strong></td>
<td><strong>$69,999.67</strong></td>
<td><strong>$84,217.23</strong></td>
<td><strong>$154,216.90</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cash Balance December 31, 1973 
$18,646.24

Transfer to General Fund for Scholarships 
$1,250.00

Cash Balance December 31, 1974 
$18,646.24

Details of Balance: 
Certificate 
3,736.32

Savings Account 
1,187.16

Total as Above 
$18,646.24

MEREDITH & RUBIN
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL NO. 1245
STATEMENT OF RECORDED CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1974

EXHIBIT D
FUND FOR ORGANIZING EXPENSES

Receipts:
Interest 
23.48

Total of Receipts and Balance 
$484.88

Disbursements:
NONE

Details of Balance: 
Wells Fargo Bank, savings account 
$484.88

EXHIBIT E
SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT-SEVERANCE FUND

Balance December 31, 1973 
$107,256.72

Receipts:

Details of Disbursements: 
Transfer to General Fund 
$107,256.72

Balance December 31, 1974 
$107,256.72

Disbursements:
Transfer to General Fund 
$107,256.72

Total as Above 
$107,256.72

MEREDITH & RUBIN
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL NO. 1245
STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND EQUITY
AT DECEMBER 31, 1974
(See Note 1)

ASSETS
Cash Accounts and Stock Fund at Cost:
Cash Funds, Returns 
46,819.04

Fund for Organizing Expenses 
51,430.23

Supplemental Retirement-Severance Fund 
85,804.18

General Fund 
795,394.87

For Supplemental Retirement—Severance (Note 2) 
203,015.08

Total Assets 
$1,338,337.33

Liabilities and Equity
Liabilities:
IBEW per capita portion of October, November and December, 1974 receipts to be forwarded 
90,257.28

Payroll Taxes 
8,824.21

For Supplemental Retirement—Severance (Note 2) 
203,015.08

Equity:
General Fund 
1,066,048.96

Supplemental Retirement—Severance Fund 
1,135,322.25

Total Liabilities and Equity 
$1,338,337.33

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.
2. The amount shown as a liability for supplemental retirement—severance has been computed on the basis of amounts previously established and vested percentages.
The Executive Board of Local 1245, IBEW, has announced the seventh 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 1975. A copy of your diploma or a letter from your high school stating that you will graduate in 1975 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.

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 role should organized Labor take in the current economic crisis?" Transcripts of high school grades are required.

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

7. Applications and essays must be mailed to I.B.E.W. Local Union 1245, 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 Monday, July 7, 1975.

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 94596 Area Code 415

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

NAME ___________________________________________ (Last) (First) (Init.)
Date of Birth ____________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________ Home Tel. ____________________________

Street (City) (State) (Zip#) ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________

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 natural, legally adopted or the legal ward of a member of Local Union 1245 and graduated during the term ending ____________________________.

Parent's signature and Card No.
Walk-around inspection training for designated 1245 members

On February 22, 1975, a training session was held in the Local Union headquarters in Walnut Creek, on the rights and responsibilities of the designated walk-around employee.

The session was conducted by Mr. Hurley H. George, Staff Consultant, Division of Industrial Safety, State of California.

Mr. George's presentation to the thirty-six designated walk-around representatives from San Francisco and North Bay Divisions commenced with the advent of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA) through the development of the California Plan (Cal/OSHA), as provided for under Section 18 (b) of the Act, and concluded with slides illustrating proper walk-around procedures.

Mr. George explained to the members in attendance the employee representatives' role in a Compliance Officer from the Division of Industrial Safety. This included the opening conference with the employer, the "wall-to-wall" inspection, and the closing conference.

Mr. George's excellent presentation was well received by the members in attendance, and as soon as training sessions of this nature can be scheduled, the Consultative Staff of the D.I.S. will be involved in programs for other areas in the Local Union jurisdiction.

Vinyl chloride, that crystal clear plastic that wraps meat and other consumer products, may be causing more and different types of cancer than has been suspected.

That warning has been sounded by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Rockville, Md.

J. William Lloyd, director of occupational health surveillance for NIOSH, points out that the 25 deaths now recorded among vinyl chloride workers may only represent "the tip of the iceberg." Lloyd warns that it may take years of research before anyone can determine whether workers exposed to lower levels and different forms of vinyl chloride run the risk of cancer of the liver and other organs.

Lloyd urges that monitoring of vinyl chloride exposure be expanded to include workers who breathe vinyl chloride dust while packing, shipping or otherwise handling the finished product. All the deaths recorded so far have been among polymerization workers, those who tend and maintain the vats and breathe the poisonous gases.

The new U.S. Department standard for working with vinyl chloride limits the exposure to fumes for polymerization workers to one part in every million parts of air. The standard does not provide for monitoring of dust levels nor does it set exposure levels for workers inhaling vinyl chloride dust.

A new study released last week, provides fresh evidence that vinyl chloride may be hazardous to workers not directly involved in its manufacturing. The study, sponsored by the Meatcutters' Union, was conducted by the University of Oregon.

The Oregon researchers found that meatcutters in supermarkets became ill while wrapping meat packages in clear plastic wrappers. Those wrappers, sheets of polyvinyl chloride, are heated after the meat is wrapped so they shrink to form an airtight seal. The heating process produces vinyl chloride fumes.

The meatcutters' symptoms included sore throats, running noses, nasal congestion, abdominal pains, headaches, muscle cramps, and in more severe cases, deep coughs, and chest pains caused by narrowed bronchial tubes. The Oregon study did not uncover any liver abnormalities.

If you have had any experience with PVC in your normal daily work, whether it be by heating it, reducing it to a gaseous form by burning it, applying adhesives in splicing it, etc., please notify Dave Reese, in writing, at the Local Union Headquarters in Walnut Creek.

Further, we need to know what conditions you were working under at the time: ventilation, protective devices such as gloves, creases, respiratory devices, etc., and what adverse effects arose as a result of working with PVC, such as skin irritations, headaches, dizziness, watery or inflamed eyes, inflammation of the nasal passage, etc.

For our members information, an article on poly vinyl chloride was carried in the June issue of the Utility Reporter, with a similar request for information as to exposure to PVC. There were two members that responded.