

# utility reporter

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SEPTEMBER, 1975

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## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS



Shown above are some of the Advisory Council members and guests attending the Aug. 24, Ad Council meeting. See page six for more pictures.

## Poll shows Americans favor Nuclear Power

**The antinuclear propagandists are running out of valid arguments, but does that stop them? Not by a plant site.**

The Bell nuclear power plant proposed for Cayuga Lake in western New York was killed by the complaint that it would heat the nearby water by several degrees. William Brown, an industrial arts teacher in a local high school, likes to fish there. The controversy left him dead set against nuclear power.

In Wisconsin dairy country, Naomi Jacobson, a bookkeeper turned housewife, suspects that radioactive emissions from Wisconsin Electric's Point Beach plant are falling on grazing land and getting into the milk.

James Duree, a crusading Westport, Wash. lawyer, circulates cartoons of deformed children, slyly suggesting nuclear power is to blame.

In San Francisco, people worry that "crazies" (like the Symbionese Liberation Army) might use nuclear materials to terrorize society.

In the Pacific Northwest, Douglas Still, a Presbyterian minister, battles nuclear power on the grounds that it would encourage our society to continue its sinfully wasteful ways.

(Continued on page four)

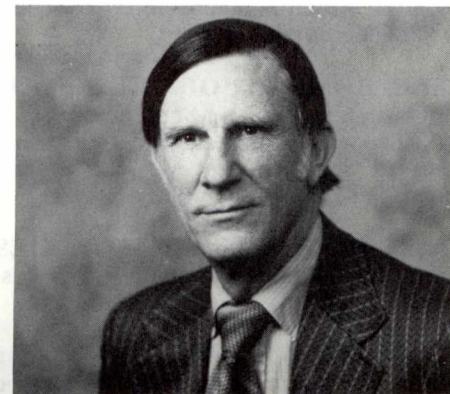
## Bus. Mgr. Mitchell member of delegation to Soviet Union

L. L. Mitchell, Bus. Mgr. and Financial Secretary of Local 1245, was invited to participate as a member of the Bay Area Trade Union and Cultural Delegation to the Soviet Union and left on Sept. 10, 1975.

The purpose of the trip is to develop a cultural understanding of the Soviet people and to see factories, officials, housing, people, theaters, farming, restaurants, stores and the general activity of both city and country life.

On Sept. 3, 1975 the delegates were guests at a reception at the Russian Embassy in San Francisco, where they were given information on the trip. They were given literature on the history and development of socialism, the biographies of national heroes and the special points of history which they were to visit.

More information on the trip will appear in future issues of the *Utility Reporter*.



L.L. Mitchell

## YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN

### ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

L. L. MITCHELL

Last month I stated a few thoughts on the plight we faced at the time we would be celebrating Labor Day, 1975. In our quarterly Advisory Council meeting I elaborated on this by reviewing some of our specific problems with certain of our employers. Many are taking advantage of the unemployment situation to deny the rights already established through negotiations and also stiffening their resistance to any improvements in wages or benefits which are sought during our current bargaining sessions.

In summation of my remarks I pointed out that on the eve of a bicentennial year the state of our economy was in the worst shape it has ever been in the history of our nation. While we can find periods of deeper recession and higher percentages of unemployment we cannot find the paradox of the percentage of unemployment and the rate of inflation in the combination we have today.

In addition, new pressures have been added to the inflation picture. The energy problem, the potential food price increases from a questionable grain deal with the Russian government, the extreme costs of a number of ecological safeguards being imposed by extremist activism, an extremely rigid tight money policy plus a policy of the present administration that unemployment is the tool to curb inflation are pressures on a sick economy which could push us over the brink and would create a world catastrophe.

We now have a national administration whose sympathies are not with the working person. We can bail out Pennsylvania Railroad, Lockheed and the banks but anything to provide

assistance to the workers will receive a prompt veto. Any economist worth his salt will agree that at some level of unemployment the impact of lost production and reduced purchasing power will be the catalyst to cause a catastrophic depression which the capitalistic system may not be able to survive.

Fortunately, the political system founded two centuries ago has provided us the capability of social and political revolutions peacefully within the existing frame of government.

Around forty years ago I was fortunate to obtain employment in the Utility Industry. The minimum factory wage had not yet reached 25c per hour. There was no Social Security, no Medicare, no Unemployment Insurance and darned little you as an employee could say or do if it wasn't blessed by the employer. The definition of a liberal employer was one who would pay you until noon after you fell off a pole and broke your back at 11:30 A.M. that morning.

During those forty years I have witnessed two major and significant social and political revolutions which stand out. These were most important because they provided greater rights and dignity to the common man.

The first was known as the New Deal. The government was revolutionize both in theory and in practice. Laissez-faire gave in to social responsibility. Industrial workers such as you and me were given new protection and new opportunities as industry and labor were placed under controls and guidelines which limited the strife and forced a change in relationships. A transfer of economic and political

(Continued on page two)

... HAVE YOU MOVED?



MY NEW ADDRESS IS:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

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

SOCIAL SECURITY # \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO:

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



# Bargaining Roundup

**TRUCKEE DONNER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT:**  
Tentative agreement has been reached. Will meet with the Board of Directors on October 7th to finalize. The Board has accepted the insurance package presented by Union.

**NEVADA POWER COMPANY (Elko):**  
Tentatively agreed on vacations, holidays, sick leave. Next meeting to discuss wages scheduled for sometime in October.

**PACIFIC TREE EXPERT COMPANY:**  
The understanding reached between Company and Union during 1975 bargaining was that if National Health Insurance was not enacted before 1976, bargaining would be entered into for improvements to the hospital plan. Notice has been served and negotiations are scheduled to commence early in November.

**TRI-DAM PROJECT:**  
First meeting held on September 23rd. Union presented proposal and expects to receive counter at next meeting which is not as yet scheduled.

**TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT:**  
Have had two meetings with District and Union is studying District's first proposal which is a substantial rewrite of the existing language. Next meeting not as yet scheduled.

**TELEPROMPTER OF UKIAH, WILLITS & FT. BRAGG:**  
Met with Company on September 9th. Union presented its proposals. Teleprompter Corporation has a wage freeze at the present time; hopefully this is to be released soon so that we can enter into wage bargaining. Next meeting is scheduled for October 14th.

**CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC UTILITIES COMPANY (Lassen Division):**  
Union has notified Company of its desire to enter into bargaining. No meetings scheduled at this time.

**TELEPROMPTER OF LOS GATOS:**  
Union will be meeting with the membership employed by Teleprompter of Los Gatos to develop proposals prior to notifying Company of its desire to bargain.

**CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC UTILITIES COMPANY (South Tahoe-Gas):**  
New Agreement. Union met with Company on September 17th and presented wage proposals. Agreement almost completed and the next meeting on October 14th will be to discuss wages.

**BAY CABLEVISION, INC.:**  
Still problems with Company signing a ratified agreement. Union probably will seek redress in Federal Court.

**CITY OF SANTA CLARA:**  
Union has had 6 meetings to date with the City and is presently developing a counter proposal. Union is attempting to negotiate a working agreement. Next meeting not scheduled at this time.

**THERMALITO IRRIGATION DISTRICT:**  
Union has submitted proposals. Meeting scheduled for September 26th.

**PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY:**  
Union has submitted a proposal but has had no meetings with Agency to date.

**CITY OF ROSEVILLE:**  
First meeting took place on 9-17-75 and Union submitted proposal. At the present time, City and Union are exchanging information on several items and will set a date for next meeting as soon as exchange completed.

**NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT:**  
District and Union have had three meetings to date and have exchanged proposals. Currently, Union is considering a wage offer from the District - \$50 across-the-

board + District will pick up the 3% underfunding on retirement. This would apply to all District employees with the exception of Yuba/Bear Project. In the meantime, we are also exchanging information. Next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 1975.

**SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT:**  
Notice of intent to bargain has been served by Union. Tentatively scheduled to meet and exchange proposals on October 10th. This will be general negotiations.

**CERTIFICATIONS:**  
Union's members employed by Konocti Cable TV (Silver King Video) voted 5 to 0 on 9-15-75 for Local 1245 representation. Notice has been sent to Company of Union's desire to enter into bargaining.

## Appointments Negotiating Committees

**NEVADA POWER**  
Wade Woodson

**TRI-DAM PROJECT**  
William Cashman

**CITY OF ROSEVILLE**  
Hugh Hageman (alternate)

**CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC UTILITIES**  
So Lake Tahoe Div.  
Larry Lynch

**P.G.&E. GAS METER SHOP**  
Julio DeLeon  
Joe B. Graham  
Steve Shostar, Jr.  
William C. Smith

## Sacramento Area Counties Public Employees Council

Al Wolf  
Ed Fortier

## San Francisco Central Labor Council


Jacqueline Offersen

## YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

L. L. MITCHELL


(Continued from page one)  
power was accomplished all within the rule of law. We have seen some of this power slip back but much of it still remains. It is up to us to use it for the maintenance of the position of responsibility we hold as one of the major groups in our society.  
The second was the Civil Rights Revolution, again this came about within the rule of law. There was much bucking and screaming by some after the Supreme Court ruling of twenty-one years ago in Brown vs. Board of Education. The equal Protection Clause of the Constitution has been extended by new doctrines. State laws have been nullified where they enforced a caste system based on race. New federal laws have been enacted removing restrictions on voting rights, employment opportunities and housing. These changes brought about the realization that other forms of discrimination existed beyond those of race. Yes, we are gradually doing something in other areas of discrimination even to tearing down barriers created by sex discrimination. Neither of these revolutions were fulfilled overnight. There was much diversity of goals and opinions. The struggle is not easy and it will never be so in any effort to change ingrained philosophies.  
I would be the first to admit that the job of maintaining the objectives of

these changes is never complete. Further, I would agree that beauracracies of government seem remote and unmanageable as our population expands and government gets larger and larger. But, if we keep in mind the changes brought about by the two revolutions which did come about in the last forty years and within a framework of constitutionalism we can take heart and feel a measure of confidence that the system can work.  
The bicentennial highlights two hundred years of change and growth with a need for continuous effort to provide fulfillment of the dream of our founding fathers. That brings me to the reason for having raised these points of history. We are at a cross-road facing a complex and bewildering future. There is need to reassess our objectives and direct our efforts toward meeting definite goals. We in the trade union movement have the instrument to assist us as a protagonist in any cause we choose to advance. We have only to determine the goals.  
Can we attain those goals? Perhaps not ever; many will be beyond our reach in this life time, but there is always the chance to advance one step nearer for those who follow as was done by those who preceded us.  
That is our purpose and our destiny given to us as a legacy some two hundred years ago.



### the utility reporter

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# Human Recession: Stretch-out to 1980

(The following is excerpted from a speech by AFL-CIO President George Meany to the International Longshoremen's Association convention.)

No matter what the administration economists pronounce or when they pronounce the business end of the recession, the human recession of unemployment will continue for the rest of this decade unless strong actions are taken and taken immediately.

Unemployment is pure misery for a worker, and it is an absolute waste for the economy.

Yet, the administration's mid-year budget review published on May 30th forecasts that unemployment for 1975 will average 8.7 percent, which means about eight million officially jobless. They also forecast that unemployment will go down to 7.9 percent in '76, which adds up to 7-1/2 million workers jobless. And that is the official, and that is the optimistic, forecast of the administration.

This administration's prediction would mean three more years of the highest unemployment rate since 1941 when the country was coming out of the greatest depression. It would't be until 1980, under these predictions, that the number of unemployed would come down to somewhere in the neighborhood of five million. This is the best they can promise us. And, remember, that is five million human beings with hopes and dreams and skills that this country badly needs.

Unemployment statistics represent people. They represent families. At present, every percent increase in the unemployment rate is almost 930,000 additional workers, one-third more than all the people who live in Washington, D.C.

**Despite this, the administration in Washington—the White House—seems determined to make its intolerably high unemployment predictions come true. There is no other way to interpret their all-out campaign to maintain a tight lid on any proposition that will increase employment and give us some jobs.**

This nation has vast resources. The idea that the federal government should impose a tight budget strait-jacket on itself in the face of the most serious unemployment is absolutely ridiculous. Those who say otherwise—the President and the majority in the Congress—have no faith in America. They ignore the essential strength and potential vitality of the economy. They run scared at a moment when America needs bold, courageous leadership.

The present state of affairs in the American economy is one of vast amounts of idle plants, idle machinery, idle productive equipment, as well as idle manpower. Never in the years since the end of World War II have there been so many unemployed and underemployed workers and so much unused productive capacity.

Mr. Alan Greenspan, however, the fellow who calls the shots for the President, has warned against budget deficits to help put them back to work. He said this quite

definitely—and this is an amazing thing to come from a man at the very top level of our government—"Putting people back to work too soon," he said, "would be damaging to the recovery."

Just think about that. He wants them to go back to work, but not too soon. And this from the top of our government.

Mr. Greenspan has no concern, it would seem, for the devastating effects of seven or eight million people continually unemployed for the next four years or so. Mr. Greenspan, representing the Ford Administration, seems to have little or no concern as to what this would mean to the social factor of this society. He has nothing to say about the 40 percent unemployment rate for black teenagers, most of whom reside in our inner cities. He has nothing to say as to what this would mean to the future of society; what it would mean in human suffering to the individuals directly affected.

Last Thursday, the United States Department of Commerce, just a few hours after announcing that we were definitely coming out of recession, stated that the housing starts had dropped 5.2 percent in the month of June. According to the best possible estimate, the second half of the year invariably shows a reduced rate of housing starts. This year we will be down to 800,000 housing starts—the lowest rate in more than 20 years.

When you consider that our own all-around annual need is 2-1/2 million housing starts just to break even, you can readily see that the housing industry in this nation is in a shambles. We will build this year just about one-third of the number of homes we need to break even. So, you see, we are coming out of the recession, according to the administration.

Sigmund Arywitz, a vice president of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, and executive officer of the Los Angeles County Federation of labor, died this month of an apparent heart attack in his home in Los Angeles.

Recognized as one of the most influential labor leaders in the west, Mr. Arywitz was long in the forefront of both the farm workers' fight for bargaining rights and the civil rights movement. He also served frequently as a participant or mediator in complex labor disputes in Los Angeles County.

Born in Buffalo, New York in 1914, Arywitz reached manhood at the height of the Great Depression. Following service in the army during World War II, he became an organizer for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and served as its education director for nearly 15 years.

In 1958 he was appointed State Labor Commissioner by former Governor Edmund G. Brown and swiftly won a reputation as the "best Labor Commissioner the state has ever had" as a result of his vigorous enforcement of state labor laws to see that workers received what he called

## S.F. Police and Fire fighters

The following statement regarding the recent police and fire fighters strike in San Francisco was issued today by John F. Henning, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, which represents 1.7 million AFL-CIO union members in California:

"The California AFL-CIO movement stands with the fire fighters and police officers of San Francisco who went out on strike last week because they were left no alternative by hysterical and vindictive politicians.

"The growing crisis in public employment is not confined to San Francisco, although the violent anti-labor agitation of certain of its politicians is unmatched anywhere in the state.

"The truth is that municipal and county employees, sheriff's deputies, firemen, policemen and teachers have been walking off the job in various California cities because they are being denied a collective bargaining recognition granted 40 years ago to the nation's workers by the Wagner Act.

"California obviously requires a state law defining the collective bargaining rights and obligations of public employees and employers. Governor Brown and the State Legislature should make enactment of such a law a matter of highest priority.

"Until there is legal recognition of collective bargaining in public employment in California, there will be more and more employee defiance of dictatorial governmental bodies that believe they have the sole and exclusive right to fix wages, hours and conditions of work. Employer dictatorship is something American workers will never accept.

"Those politicians who are now voicing their personal hatred of labor in San Francisco should be reminded that fire fighters and police officers are required, among other duties, to give their lives in defense of other people's property. In the absence of a collective bargaining law, those who are expected to sacrifice life should at least be allowed to bargain on the conditions of death.

"Meanwhile, in San Francisco, Berkeley, or anywhere else in the state, the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, stands with employees who strike for job rights denied by law. Insofar as the state AFL-CIO movement is concerned, an injury to one will always be an injury to all."

Well, I don't buy this. This recession will be over when America goes back to work producing, building as we can and moving forward at a rate commensurate with our abilities.

Yes, we are going to have some more unemployment insurance. I am sure that each time unemployment funds in the states run out, I am sure Congress and the Administration will add 13 more weeks and this, of course, means that we are going on a dole.

This seems to be the extent to which the Ford Administration, any way, is concerned about the plight of the unemployed.

What do you think this means to a worker? Do you think it is a good thing for America to take its unemployed workers and put them on a

dole? Where would we be at the end of five years?

All I can say to you is that this situation is disastrous. It is going to hurt the social fabric of this country.

## OOPS

OK OK you are right, a membership card number was **not** printed in the August issue of the **Utility Reporter**. The computer that selects the number was on vacation.

So, to make up for last month, there are two numbers printed in this issue and are well hidden. Don't miss out, read every word of your **Utility Reporter**.

## Sig Arywitz dies at 61 in L.A.

"their just share of the economic system." Seven hundred twenty-five thousand, thirty-two.

In 1967 Arywitz was elected executive secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor following the retirement of W. J. Bassett. He was repeatedly reelected to that post by Los Angeles County union members.

In commenting on his death, John F. Henning, executive officer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, said:

"Sigmund Arywitz was a man of wide ranging mind and talent. He knew that labor could not survive by collective bargaining alone and so he campaigned year after year for political and social objectives of unionism. His belief in labor dominated most of his adult life. He was an articulate spokesman for the needs of working people and the requirements of the nation. He will be missed by all who knew him for his qualities of leadership and by all who knew his limitless energy and industry."

Arywitz' leadership in the fight for national health insurance, civil rights, the farm workers' cause and for action

to ease the state's massive unemployment as well as his lifelong involvement in political and civic affairs prompted comments by a number of top public officials.

U.S. Senator John V. Tunney said Arywitz was "a man of deep commitments to the principles of dignity and self-worth to which this country is dedicated. He gave generously, indeed selflessly, of his time and his talents to many civic causes. His death comes as a shock and he shall be greatly missed."

Senator Alan Cranston described Arywitz as "an outstanding labor leader, a devoted civil libertarian and a great humanitarian.

"He would go anywhere to talk for a cause he believed in. But Sig was always a fair fighter. He respected the other man's point of view. And he always listened and responded with reason," Cranston said.

Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley described Arywitz as "a public servant of the highest order, particularly with regard to his social, philanthropic and political efforts to promote human justice for all.

Arywitz is survived by his wife, Barbara, and two brothers, Bernard and Gerald.



# Recent Harris Poll shows 63% of Amer

(Continued from page one)

On such personal—and not infrequently irrational—grounds do many individual Americans fight nuclear power. For those who want to be part of an organization, Ralph Nader leads a loose-knit antinuclear movement. It's a strange crusade, uniting rightwingers and leftwingers, ecologists and rugged individualists in a bedfellowship as strange as existed in the heyday of the Prohibition movement just after World War I.

Despite a recent Harris poll showing that only 19% of the American people opposed the building of more nuclear power plants (63% were in favor, 18% "not sure"), the antinuclear coalition has been remarkably successful. It has certainly slowed the expansion of nuclear power.

But have the antinuclear people truly thought through the consequences of their actions? Consider the following facts:

In the next ten years, even with zero population growth, the number of U.S. households will increase 34% and the size of the labor force will rise 25%—this because of the big bulge in the birthrate during the Fifties. Whence will come the energy to power the homes and the jobs for these people? Not only will electricity have to supply the new capacity, it will also have to replace a part of the fast-windling supply of natural gas. Even adoption of the most stringent energy conservation can only delay briefly, not avert, the looming energy shortage.

It takes five to ten years to start a new generating plant and get it working. Thus there is very little time to get started on the nearly 50% expansion in the supply of electricity that the U.S. will need by 1985 (this year's rate of expansion is only 2.7%).

This kind of expansion is impossible without considerable new nuclear capacity. Additional oil-burning plants are out of the question; the U.S.' dependence on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is already frightening. Coal, while plentiful, cannot fill the whole gap. Not enough miners or transport are available to quadruple coal output by 1985—which is what it would take. (Besides, the people of Wyoming would not take kindly to reducing their state to a puddle.)

Although Nader and his allies do not like it, the fact is that organized labor leans toward the development of nuclear energy. Labor men see red when fanatical environmentalists say that a no-growth society is preferable to the risks of nuclear power. To labor, "no growth" means "no jobs." In Los Angeles, Sigmund Arywitz, an AFL-CIO County Federation of Labor head, puts labor's case bluntly: "The antinuclear people are the middle class, and if they had their way, we'd all go hungry."

But can so many people from so many walks of life be wrong about the dangers of nuclear power? Forbes' Jean Briggs has spent weeks crisscrossing the U.S., talking with both enemies and proponents of nuclear power generation. After carefully weighing the evidence and considering the motives of both sides, Forbes has concluded that the opponents are wrong. Most of their legitimate objections have been met or are on the way to resolution. Only lurid imagination can deform the children in Jim Duree's cartoons, not nuclear reactors. And as for the dangers of potential terrorists, they have far easier targets available to them than nuclear power plants.

A nuclear explosion? A big bang that would obliterate an entire city? Forget it. In a nuclear reactor, it takes the most concentrated effort to keep the reaction going. There is no way for a nuclear power plant to produce the dreaded mushroom cloud.

Why then the bitter opposition? It is sad but true that nuclear power has an aura of bad magic about it—and most people are more superstitious than they care to admit. Inside the reactor, atoms are being split and energy released and, in the process, highly radioactive and deadly materials are created. Somebody is tinkering with God's universe.

And it is all so new. As recently as 1965 there were only six nuclear power plants operating in the U.S. vs. 56 now. That people should fear something so new and so potentially dangerous is not at all surprising. After all, many people are still afraid to fly, 72 years after the Wright brothers made their demonstration and a full quarter-century after airplanes became the dominate mode of long-distance passenger travel. In New York City in the 1890s, the press charged "murder" when alternating current replaced direct current. Even Thomas A. Edison supported the charges. Opponents electrocuted animals in an effort to support their case.

Given its genesis in a mushroom cloud of destruction, given the hush-hush, father-knows-best attitude of its early sponsors, it is not surprising that nuclear power has become a prime target for antiestablishment movements. "We were our own worst enemies," says Dr. Norman Hilberry, former director of Argonne National Laboratory. But many of the opponents are very selective about their facts and quite cynical. Consider Ed Koupal of California, who is helping Ralph Nader organize the antinuclear fight in 16 western states. Antinuclear slogans, Koupal says, are excellent for getting otherwise uncommitted people turned on to consumerist and environmental causes.

The simple fact is that nuclear power has had a remarkable safety record, far better than that of the railroad in its early days or the airplane or even of coal generation of electricity. No member of the general public has been killed or even hurt by nuclear reactors. There have been mishaps and near-accidents, of course. But any engineer expects this from a new technology. The nuclear bugs have been carefully controlled and remarkably nonlethal.

The U.S. has never had an accidental release in significant amounts of radioactive substances into the air. It did happen in Britain in 1957, but what followed is, if anything, reassuring. Radiation levels did not become excessive. Britain's Atomic Energy Administration has closely studied the people in the area, and to date has detected not the slightest increase in cancer.

Aware that they were dealing with cosmic forces, not mere mechanics, the nuclear energy people have acted responsibly. "These machines aren't toys," says Dr. Hans Bethe, Cornell University's Nobel prize-winning physicist and a proponent of nuclear power. Adds Dr. Dixy Lee Ray, former head of the Atomic

Energy Commission, "And the reactor industry people know this." The manufacturers have, however reluctantly, added safety features on top of safety features to meet the demands of critics.

Take the issue of thermal pollution. A nuclear power station creates more energy than it converts into electricity. The excess heat is dissipated into water from the stream, lake or ocean where the plant is located. This used to raise nearby water temperatures by about 20 degrees. Though some fish seemed to like the warmer water, others did not. Certainly some fish were killed, though not many.

Since 1972, however, nuclear plants (as well as other industrial plants) have had to meet federal thermal pollution standards. The standards depend on the body of water, but essentially, nearby water must be heated no more than a few degrees. The neighborhood fish seem happy.

But the issue is still being used against nuclear power. A group called Another Mother for Peace, having lost its original cause with the end of the Vietnam war, has joined the antinuclear "crusade"; its brochure still complains about thermal pollution.

How about radiation, that deadly peril? How much of it leaks into the air and water from a nuclear plant? The answer today is a minuscule amount, a tiny fraction of the normal background radiation in which we all live. Here, too, the developers of nuclear energy have gone a long way toward defusing the arguments of their detractors. As recently as 1970, the permissible radiation was 500 millirems per year at the plant fence, five times the average background radiation but well below levels where scientists have been able to detect any effect. But since 1970 federal regulations have cut that level by 99%, requiring that the radiation released be as low as technically and economically feasible—in most cases, five millirems per year or less at the plant fence. The 56 U.S. plants now meet this tough standard.

The opponents of nuclear power blithely ignore such facts. In Wisconsin, for example, a group called LAND (League Against Nuclear Dangers) claims Wisconsin Electric is leaking radiation from its Point Beach plant, and that the radiation passes into the grass the cows eat and thence into their milk. However, the evidence LAND cites tends, in fact, to prove the opposite. The former Atomic Energy Commission reprimanded the utility for not checking out an unusually high, but still safe, reading found in one milk sample. That sample was taken in 1972; its levels have never again been found, though the milk is regularly monitored. It is quite likely that the checking equipment itself was faulty in that long-ago worrisome sample.

The days are long gone when people trusted their government implicitly. If nothing else did, Vietnam ended that. So, it is not surprising that the general public became suspicious of anything shrouded in official mystery and stamped "secret" the way nuclear matters were. There's no question but that the old Atomic Energy Commission (1946-75) hurt its own cause with its secretive, arrogant attitude. The AEC took the general attitude that laymen should leave nuclear matters to the priestly caste. People easily became convinced that the AEC was hiding something. What odd sacrifices were going on in that closely guarded temple?

The old AEC is dead, its responsibilities parceled out to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Energy Research & Development Administration. Nuclear energy is no longer a private preserve of the nuclearists, but is now officially viewed in the total energy context. The damage, however, has been done.

## Producing A Zealot

Take the sad case of Dr. Henry Kendall, an articulate, learned Massachusetts Institute of Technology high-energy physicist. In 1971 Kendall became convinced there was an essential nuclear safety weakness.

As water circulates in the core of most nuclear reactors, it carries away the heat generated by the fissioning uranium. If the cooling pipes should ever break, the radioactive material decaying inside would get so hot it would melt the core. Were this to happen, the core could sink right into the earth and pollute both air and subsurface water with radioactivity.

Dr. Kendall was so convinced that the backup cooling system was inadequate that he took his case to the AEC. The AEC, in effect, told him to go jump in the lake. Largely at Kendall's insistence, however, hearings were held. They lasted two years and produced over 20,000 pages of testimony. As a result, the backup systems were greatly improved. Dr. Ian Forbes, head of nuclear engineering at Massachusetts' Lowell Technological Institute, who had originally sided with Kendall, says he now is satisfied that the new system is safe.

Kendall, however, was so soured by the whole situation that he has become a propagandist against nuclear development. (It was Kendall, in fact, who got Ralph Nader interested in the subject.) Kendall still insists the cooling system backup is inadequate. Complains he, "They made some minor changes but they were basically cosmetic." No one doubts Kendall's sincerity, but his antinuclear argument now has little support among other nuclear scientists. The improved cooling system's reliability has been studied by a group of 60 scientists headed by Dr. Norman Rasmussen, head of the nuclear engineering department of MIT. The Rasmussen report concludes that the probability of all systems failing at the same time with a resulting catastrophic accident is remote indeed—perhaps like the chance of a severe earthquake occurring during a major volcanic eruption in the midst of a hurricane.

Since the Rasmussen study, the antinuclear people have been talking less about reactor safety and more about the fuel cycle. They have jumped on the question of civic safety and extended it to civil rights in connection with spent nuclear core rods. The spent fuel rods eventually have to be sent to special facilities for reprocessing in order to extract remaining usable fuel, including plutonium, one of the deadliest substances known, and to separate the wastes. What if there should be an accident in transporting the spent rods? How can the rods be guarded against terrorists?

The man who raised the terrosim issue is Dr. Theodore Taylor, the celebrated physicist who designed atomic bombs at Los Alamos. Since he raised the issue, the



# ican People in favor of Nuclear Power

antinuclear propagandists have made a red herring of it: The necessary safety precautions, they charge, would mean a loss of civil liberties. (So does frisking at airports, but the civil libertarians accept that.) Dr. Taylor himself now believes the issue can be resolved economically and without mass violations of civil liberties.

Dr. Dixy Lee Ray makes a telling point in this regard: Terrorists who come in contact with fuel cores would face quick and certain death.

What about those lethal nuclear wastes? After fuel rods are reprocessed, some wastes will stay radioactive for 250,000 to 500,000 years. What can be done with such materials? Critics claim this is a moral issue: We ought not bequeath these "hot" wastes to future generations. This is a problem, certainly, but is it worse than our profligate burning of fossil fuels? Which is more harmful to posterity: leaving them with a problem capable of solution? Or leaving an earth bereft of coal and of oil?

Conventional proposals for disposing of the wastes involve solidifying it and burying it in geologically stable formations deep within the earth or perhaps in retrievable form in an underground cavern. Since the waste from a large (1,000 megawatt) reactor each year could be stored in a 4-foot cube, such proposals certainly aren't impossible.

But there are other possibilities. Ex-Argonne Director Norman Hilberry says the thing to do is find a use for them—make them profitable. Dr. Theodore Taylor suggests, as ex-AEC head James Schlesinger did before him, that if all else fails, we can always send them off in a rocket aimed at the sun. Farfetched? It may sound that way, but both Taylor and Schlesinger were speaking from knowledge.

When their safety arguments are demolished, the antinuclearists tend to retreat to an economic argument. They claim that existing nuclear plants aren't running at anything like their full capacity. David Comey, a Sovietologist turned professional environmentalist, makes much of this argument. He has tried to persuade investment bankers to avoid nuclear development as a bad risk. ("No bucks, no nukes," he chortles.) But what are the facts? Nuclear power plants have operated well below capacity. Because of technical and regulatory problems they have produced an average of 57% of what they were designed to produce—but even that unexpectedly low figure was somewhat better than the performance of the average large fossil-fuel plant. At current operating rates, U.S. nuclear plants in 1974 saved an estimated \$800 million as compared with fossil-fuel plants of equivalent output. In the first quarter of 1975 in Philadelphia, they saved customers \$17 million. In New York \$24 million.

True, a nuclear plant costs more to build than either an oil- or coal-fired plant, currently \$120 more per kw of capacity as opposed to coal. But the cost of nuclear fuel is so much less than either oil or coal that over the life of the plant the cost advantage is clearly nuclear's.

At Northeast Utilities, for example, the total cost—including capital cost—of a kilowatt hour produced by the company's nuclear plants in 9.63 mills; a kwh produced by its oil-fired plants costs 30.80 mills. At Wisconsin Electric, a nuclear-generated kwh costs 9.32 mills, while a coal-generated one costs 15.95. The story is much the same across the country.

## Costly Fuel?

But what of the economic future? With the price of uranium going straight up, won't nuclear lose this advantage? Wallace Behnke, executive vice president of Commonwealth Edison in Chicago, thinks not. "Nuclear's advantage over coal is likely to increase rather than decrease," he says. Coal is just beginning to run into some of the environmental problems and licensing delays that have traditionally beset nuclear. As this happens, the cost of building and supplying coal plants is likely to escalate rapidly. At the same time, Behnke says, with greater standardization and fewer licensing delays, nuclear's costs may well stabilize.

John Hill, deputy administrator of the Federal Energy Administration, supports this view: "Taking into consideration the probable increase in uranium prices, increasing costs of uranium enrichment, the costs of reprocessing and of safeguards, it's still unlikely that nuclear power will lose its advantages."

The argument that inflation, with its huge impact on construction and capital costs, will hurt nuclear more than fossil fuel plants does not wash. The same factors that drive up the capital costs of nuclear power plants will push up the costs of getting coal out of the ground and will impact what OPEC charges for its oil.

There remains, of course, the danger of a global uranium cartel (Forbes, Jan. 15). But it is questionable whether this could ever be as effective as OPEC. Uranium represents just 17% of the overall cost of nuclear power generation, as opposed to 65% for oil in oil-fired plants.

Confronted with these facts and figures, the opponents of nuclear power have one more fallback, position. Nuclear power, they claim, is subsidized. It could not operate without the federal insurance provided under the Price-Anderson Act.

The argument sounds good, but is a distortion. The Federal Government had to step in because private companies are limited by their assets in the amount of insurance they can provide. So the Government wrote the insurance both to encourage the industry and to protect the public.

The truth is, however, that insurance companies *do* provide a steadily increasing percentage of the total. Maximum coverage on a single accident is \$560 million. Of this, private companies now provide \$125 million, up from \$60 million maximum in 1957. Recently they cut their premiums 20% because of the industry's safety record. "There's no reason now," says the Lowell Institute's Ian Forbes, "that the industry can't insure itself."

## Dirty Tricks

In California, where the art of the political dirty trick has been developed to a high degree, the antinuclear crusaders have hit upon a clever ploy. They recently qualified for the ballot an initiative that would prohibit use of California land for nuclear sites unless every individual were fully indemnified for the worst conceivable accident. If this insurance protection was not forthcoming within a year of passage of the law, no new plants could be built, and old plants would have to be derated and ultimately phased out. The initiative comes to a vote next June.

Richard Spohn, who has worked with Ralph Nader for more than five years and who was recently appointed to head the California Consumer Services Division, brags: "We did studies to determine the best way to get signatures for a petition,

and then we used that technique." Politically shrewd, but is it honest?

A more recent issue is the so-called spread of nuclear weapons via nuclear reactors. The assumption underlying the argument is that the U.S. can somehow prevent other nations from having both reactors and bombs. Which, of course, is not the case. The recent sale of reactors to Brazil by West Germany is an example of that. Another example is South Africa, which has devised its own reactor, as well as its own uranium enrichment process. And, of course, India. It is difficult to see how a U.S. decision to renounce use of nuclear power would be binding on other countries, many of whom need it far more desperately than we do.

A final argument trotted out by some antinuclear people says that present nuclear plants involve an interim technology. Convinced that the breeder reactor is dying of its own technical problems, they now say we should wait for the fusion reactor. Or wind power. Or solar generation. But they know full well that large-scale use of those alternative technologies is decades away, while the electricity shortage is only a few years ahead and the oil crisis is right now.

## Seeing Things Whole

Too many people have fallen into a habit of seeing issues in isolation. They oppose nuclear power, for example, because it is not a perfect answer to the energy problem. They demand, in another area, that pollution controls be carried to almost impossible lengths. They want auto safety and environmental controls with no consideration of the costs in jobs and living standards. They see life in small segments. They talk of energy conservation without, in most cases, showing any willingness to give up any of the privileges and pleasures that modern society offers. They assume, somehow, that people in other countries will willingly forego a better life so that Americans can have both a high standard of living and an ideal environment.

In a sense, this is a betrayal of the very idea of ecology, which is supposed to be concerned with the interrelationship of organisms and their environment. Hungry Indians and jobless Americans are part of this overall system, and their rights must be considered along with clean air and nuclear dangers, real and imagined. The emotional and frequently unreasonable opposition to nuclear-power generation is a prime example of one-sided environmentalism, of a failure to see things whole.

As we said at the beginning, there is also a cynical side to the antinuclear argument. It is best illustrated by the true story of a group of wealthy Bakersfield, Calif. farmers who own big ranches. Several utilities, including Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas & Electric and the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, are proposing to build a nuclear plant in their neighborhood. It is not lost on the farmers that the plant might hurt their land values. So they are thinking of hiring a lawyer who specializes in environmental causes and fighting the plant on the grounds that "crazies" might blow it up. That is what is known as being crazy like a fox. But what does it have to do with the benefits of nuclear power to the nation as a whole?

## Nuclear power costs less

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 15, 1975—U.S. nuclear power plants generated electricity in the first half of 1975 at 43.6 per cent less total cost than fossil fuel (oil/coal) plants. This represents savings in generating costs of \$670 million, as well as fossil fuel savings equalling 115 million barrels of oil or 25 million tons of coal.

The continuing advantages of nuclear power plants—in cost and in conserving expensive fossil fuels for other uses—are clearly underscored in the most recent utility survey conducted by the Atomic Industrial Forum, the international association of more than 625 organizations interested in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

In the first half of the year, the AIF survey shows that nuclear power generated a kilowatt hour (kwh) of electricity at 11.41 mills total cost (weighted average, which includes amortized capital allocations). This compared with 20.23 mills per kwh for electricity generated by fossil fuel plants (weighted average for oil and coal combined).

According to the Federal Power Commission, all the nuclear power plants in the country produced more than 76 billion net kwh in the first half, or 8.3 per cent of all the electricity generated in the country. The savings that this nuclear contribution represents prevented electricity rates from rising higher than they have, utility spokesmen point out, and in many instances were passed along to customers.

The advantages of nuclear power—in terms of dollar savings and conservation of fossil fuels—are particularly impressive because the current AIF survey includes the second quarter of the year. The second quarter of each year is when many nuclear plants shut down for routine maintenance and refueling. This year, however, average figures for the second quarter were slightly better than for the first quarter, according to the survey results, in good part because oil prices continue to climb.

A nuclear kwh in the first quarter cost a total 11.36 mills (weighted average), 42.7 per cent less than 19.81 mills for a fossil kwh (weighted average for oil and coal combined), and 65 per cent less than 32.43 mills for an oil kwh. In the second quarter, total cost of a nuclear kwh rose slightly, to 11.46 mills, but that was 44.5 per cent less than 20.64 for a fossil kwh and 65.3 per cent less than 33.01 for an oil kwh.

For the whole first half, it might be pointed out, a nuclear kwh at 11.41 mills was 65.1 per cent less than an oil kwh at 32.73 mills.

AIF first-half survey details are included in the attached chart.

For further information on this Atomic Industrial Forum survey, please call Eugene Gantzhorn in New York (212 725-8300) or Scott Peters in Washington (301 654-9260).



# 24 Calif. AFL-CIO bills win legislators' ok

Twenty-four measures sponsored or backed by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO to strengthen the state's economy and protect the rights of workers and consumers won final legislative approval during the first session of the 1975-76 legislature which concluded its work for 1975 last week.

Commenting on the session, John F. Henning, executive officer of the California AFL-CIO, said:

"In terms of the enactment of significant labor union policies, the past session was the greatest in the history of the California legislature. A review of past sessions can show nothing comparable to the victories won on so many fronts."

The measures, some of which have already been signed by Governor Brown, include:

**SB 1—Alatorre-Zenovich-Dunlap-Berman**, of the Third Extraordinary Session of the legislature, extending collective bargaining rights and secret ballot elections to California farm workers and establishing the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board. Signed June 5.

**AB 91—McAlister**, to boost the maximum unemployment insurance benefit from \$90 to \$104 a week and increase the taxable wage base from \$4,200 to \$7,000 to protect the solvency of the unemployment insurance fund. It also hikes the tax rate on employers from 4.1 to 4.9 percent. On Governor's desk.

**AB 1—Chacon**, of the First Extraordinary Session on Housing, authorizing a \$950 million program to provide low-interest loans to ease the state's depressed housing industry. Signed June 27.

**AB 232—Greene**, to prevent employers from taking any part of a tip left for an employee or crediting any part of tips against wages due. This bill, which goes into effect January 1, 1976, is estimated to mean an additional \$200 million in wages for culinary workers next year. Signed Aug. 23.

**SB 719—Roberti**, a long-sought California AFL-CIO measure to bar employment of professional strike-breakers in labor disputes. On Governor's desk.

**SB 261—Roberti**, to protect consumers by requiring packaged food items sold at retail to be clearly marked with their price in supermarkets equipped with computer price scanners. On Governor's desk.

**AB 118—Fenton**, legislation sought by the California AFL-CIO for more than a decade to extend unemployment insurance benefits to farm workers. Signed Sept. 8.

**AB 1287—Foran**, providing for free choice of doctors in Workers' Compensation cases. On Governor's desk.

**SB 743—Moscone**, to curb the unfair use by employers of temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions in labor disputes. On Governor's desk.

**AB 822—Keyser**, to permit voter registration by postcard. Signed Sept. 13.

**AB 353—Montoya**, to outlaw industrial homework in garment production in California. Signed Sept. 15.

**SB 394—Marks**, to require the University of California to pay prevailing wages to construction workers. On Governor's desk.

**AB 469—Ralph**, to extend full Workers' Compensation coverage to household domestics and gardeners. On Governor's desk.

**AB 804—Berman**, to require the trustees of the California state universities and colleges to set up grievance and disciplinary action procedures for academic employees and require arbitration if a state university or college president and the faculty committee decisions disagree. On Governor's desk.

**AB 1750—Brown**, to increase bar pilots rates in San Francisco, San Pablo and Suisun Bays. Enacted Sept. 16.

**AB 2109—Chimbole**, to require the state to print forms for claimants appearing before the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board to authorize their counsel or agent to represent them. It also requires, on claimant's request, that all pertinent notices and transcripts be sent to the claimant and his or her counsel or agent once the authorization form is filed. On Governor's desk.

**SB 220—Rodda**, to require an adjustment in the formulation program to affect a change in assessed valuation per unit of average daily attendance (ADA) for grades K-12 and community colleges. Signed Aug. 14.

**AB 407—Berman**, to exempt all employees in theaters that show obscene films from prosecution for obscenity except those with a financial interest in the theater or those in direct or indirect control over what is shown. Signed Sept. 16.

**AB 2247—Deddeh**, to require trucks and other carriers subject to the regulation of the public utilities Commission or the Interstate Commerce Commission to display their permit numbers or other identifying symbols on the doors of the vehicle. Signed Aug. 26.

**SB 659—Marks**, to provide that the opening of cargo containers shall not necessarily, in itself, result in the loss of immunity from taxation for such imports. Signed Sept. 15.

**SB 389—Marks**, to exempt in full personal property manufactured or produced outside California and brought into the state for transshipment in foreign commerce out of the state for sale. On Governor's desk.

**SB 160—Rodda**, to extend collective bargaining rights to California teachers and other public school employees. AFL-CIO affiliates were in disagreement on this bill during its passage through the legislature. However, after it reached the Governor, all affiliates agreed to request the Governor to sign it. The California AFL-CIO succeeded in defeating efforts to amend a so-called "conscience clause" into the bill prior to its approval by the legislature. On Governor's desk.

**SB 691—Marks**, to bar drivers of buses used to transport persons for hire from driving such vehicles after 16 hours have elapsed from the time the driver first reported for work during any 24 hour period unless eight consecutive hours off duty have elapsed. Vetoed Sept. 16.

Legislators listed above by surname as bill authors are:

**Senators:** John F. Dunlap (D-Napa); Milton Marks (R-San Francisco; George R. Moscone (D-San Francisco-San Mateo); David A. Roberti (D-Hollywood); Albert S. Rodda (D-Sacramento); and George N. Zenovich (D-Fresno).

**Assemblymen:** Richard Alatorre (D-Los Angeles); Howard L. Berman (D-Sherman Oaks); Willie L. Brown, Jr. (D-San Francisco); Peter R. Chacon (D-San Diego); Wadie P. Deddeh (D-Chula Vista); Jack R. Fenton (D-Montebello); John F. Foran (D-San Francisco); Leroy F. Greene (D-Carmichael); Jim Keyser (D-San Fernando); Alister McAlister (D-San Jose); Joseph B. Montoya (D-La Puente); and Leon D. Ralph (D-Los Angeles).

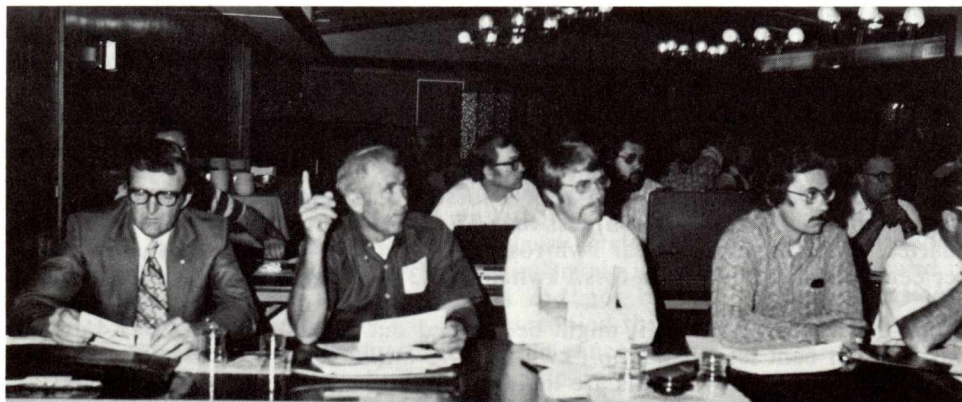
## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS



Shown above from left to right are: L. L. Mitchell, Bus. Mgr., Mark Gueld, Scholarship winner, Howard Darington, President, and Rose Gueld, member of Local 1245.



Shown above from left to right are: Manny Mederos, Executive Board-Central Area, Dale Turman, Executive Board-Northern Area, Jackie Offerson, Recording Secretary and Howard Darington, President.



Some of the Advisory Council members and guests are shown in the picture above.



Recording Secretary Jackie Offerson, Sr. Asst. Bus. Mgr. Mert Walters, President Howard Darington, Bus. Mgr. L. L. Mitchell and Vice Pres. Vern Loveall are shown in the photo above.



# California unemployment rate still rising

California's unemployment rate edged up one-tenth of a percent, from 10.1 percent in July to 10.2 percent in August, according to the state's employment director Martin Glick, who issued the monthly labor statistics today.

Glick said that despite the percentage increase, the actual number of Californians seeking jobs dropped by 85,000.

"Our estimate of the actual number of jobseekers — including those looking for their first jobs as well as those laid off — is 898,400. This is 85,000 down from the July total and 122,800 below the June record high of 1,021,200.

"However, when the unemployment rate is adjusted to allow for the seasonal rise in employment expected at this time of the year, the result shows a slight increase."

## Comparison With National Rate

"While California's unemployment rate is often compared with the national rate, the two rates are not precisely comparable," said Glick.

"The national rate is an average of all 50 States, which have a wide variety of economic conditions, urban concentration and employment opportunities.

"It may be relevant to compare California's unemployment rate with other populous, industrial States with advanced economies and large cities, a number of which, like California, traditionally have higher unemployment statistics than the national average.

"In July, 1975, for example, California's unadjusted rate was 10.3 percent, above the 8-7 percent national average.

"Several other major States also exceeded the national rate that month.

"New York had a 10.7 percent rate of unemployment. Florida's was 12.1 percent. Michigan's unemployment rate was 14.3 percent.

"On the other hand, some other high-population States had rates below the national average that same month. Pennsylvania had 9.9 percent, Ohio 8.9 percent and Texas 6.5 percent.

"In fact, during that month, five of the ten most populous States in the nation had unemployment rates that were higher than in California," said Glick (See attached list).

## California's Employment Statistics

A year ago (August 1974), total unemployed was 622,000 and the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.1 percent, Glick added.

Glick said that last month's jobless total included approximately 678,000 individuals who were registered with Employment Development Department for unemployment benefits.

"The remaining 220,400 are mostly school-leavers or graduates seeking their first jobs, or people rejoining the labor market who are not claiming unemployment benefits," he said.

Glick noted that total employed in August was 8,560,300 — up by 25,500 jobs over July but still 131,700 below the figure for a year ago in August, 1974.

Agricultural employment was virtually unchanged between July and August, he said, with an estimated 329,100 in farm employment compared with 329,000 in July. However, this was 20,000 fewer than in August, 1974.

In non-agricultural industries, there was a net gain of 36,700 jobs over the month, mostly because of seasonal influences, for an August total of 7,824,000. However, Glick noted, this total was 91,500 below the figure for August, 1974.

Manufacturing led employment gains in the non-agricultural industries with 35,800 added to payrolls to make an August total of 1,602,900. Construction was up by 4,600 jobs to a total of 301,500. The large services industry gained 5,400 jobs

to make a new total of 1,590,900. Trade employment was 1,775,700 — up by only 100 jobs over July. And total government employment — including federal, state, county and education employees — was down by 9,400 jobs to 1,603,600.

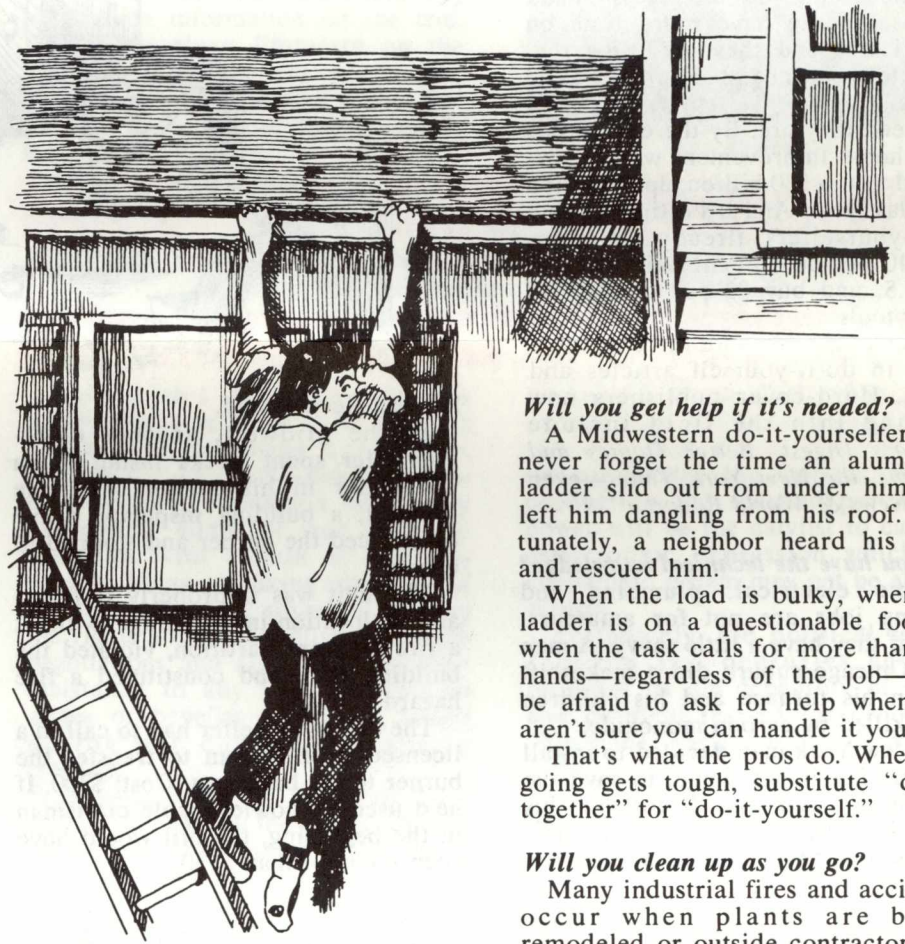
Appended is a listing of unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted since many States do not provide such adjusted figures) for the 10 most populous States.

Unadjusted Unemployment Rates in 10 Largest States  
July 1975

California	10.3
New York	10.7
Pennsylvania	9.9
Massachusetts	13.9
Michigan	14.3
Ohio	8.9
New Jersey	11.1
Illinois	8.6
Texas	6.5
Florida	12.1

(Source: Public Information Officers of the Listed States)

## Should you do-it-yourself?



### Will you get help if it's needed?

A Midwestern do-it-yourselfer will never forget the time an aluminum ladder slid out from under him and left him dangling from his roof. Fortunately, a neighbor heard his yells and rescued him.

When the load is bulky, when the ladder is on a questionable footing, when the task calls for more than two hands—regardless of the job—don't be afraid to ask for help when you aren't sure you can handle it yourself.

That's what the pros do. When the going gets tough, substitute "do-it-together" for "do-it-yourself."

### Will you clean up as you go?

Many industrial fires and accidents occur when plants are being remodeled or outside contractors are working. The reason? Tripping, slipping and fire hazards are created by materials, tools, waste and temporary wiring. Three million, three-hundred seventy-one thousand, eight-hundred sixty-seven.

That can also happen in and around a do-it-yourselfer's home, and it's even more hazardous when children are present.

So while you do-it-yourself, be sure to clean-up-yourself. Don't leave tools, equipment, materials and waste in traffic areas between work sessions. Even a little sawdust can be a slipping hazard.

That's it. If you can answer yes to all those questions, you can do-it-yourself with some assurance of safety and say to yourself:

"The Spirit of '76 is alive and well!"

Family Safety

## Another Record

The number of major job markets with "substantial" unemployment—six percent or more—stands at 129, the highest since the Labor Dept. began its present system of classifying the nation's chief labor areas in 1955.

The rise from 127 in April to 129 in June among the 150 chief areas of unemployment surveyed each month marked the third straight time that the figure was the highest in the past 20 years, the Labor Dept. said. The latest report combined May and June figures.

The new total is nearly three times the 45 areas on the list in June 1974. Substantial unemployment means the area has a seasonally adjusted jobless rate of 6 percent or more, with the rate expected to continue at that or a higher level for at least two more months.

## State T.V. Cable Settlement ratified

Wage opener 9-29-75. CPI trigger: (Pre-negotiated increase of 25c per hour for Installers III and IV and 30c per hour for Technicians II, III and IV.) This settlement provides for an additional 10c per hour for Installers and Technicians.

Ratified by membership on September 23, 1975.

## Agreement reached with Plumas-Sierra REC

On 9/9/75, Local Union 1245 members employed by Plumas-Sierra REC voted unanimously to accept the results of this year's negotiations. Wages was the only issue.

Effective 9/1/75, a 9% general wage increase was obtained which will run until 7/1/76 when the Agreement will again open for negotiations.

A unique feature of this year's negotiations was that on the opening date (1/1/75) the Cooperative was in severe financial straits and the Local Union membership opted to give the Cooperative up to three months to find an answer to this problem, which fortunately they were able to do.

Union's members of the negotiating committee were Shop Steward Hayward Hand and Business Representative John Stralla.

(Continued from page eight)

such as a heart condition, tricky backs or knees or hernias; they should stop to think before they lift and exert themselves.

### Will you avoid the make-do solution?

Many do-it-yourselfers are only concerned with whether the appliance or plumbing works—not whether the job is done right. But right means safe.

If, for example, you connect black (hot) wires to white (neutral) wires, the light will go on or the appliance will work.

So far so good? So far so bad—for you may have created a shock hazard.

The home electrician who installs a three-wire outlet without connecting the ground wire can set up a booby trap. Years later someone may plug in a defective tool with a three-wire plug and be electrocuted.



# The Safety Scene

## Should you do-it-yourself?

The Spirit of '76 is alive in '75.

Like his ancestors who met the challenge of frontier life, today's homeowner is meeting the challenge of a tight budget and soaring home-repair bills with pioneering self-reliance.

The do-it-yourself boom is spawning a new generation of spare-time carpenters, painters, plumbers, roofers and general handymen.

The National Retail Hardware Association's Robert Vereen says: "We estimate sales for our dealers during January were up 25 to 30 per cent, which means a 10 to 15 per cent true growth after inflation.

"When times are tight, you learn to do a lot of things for yourself. We've also found that, with the recession and layoffs, people have more time on their hands and they are using that time to repair and improve their homes."

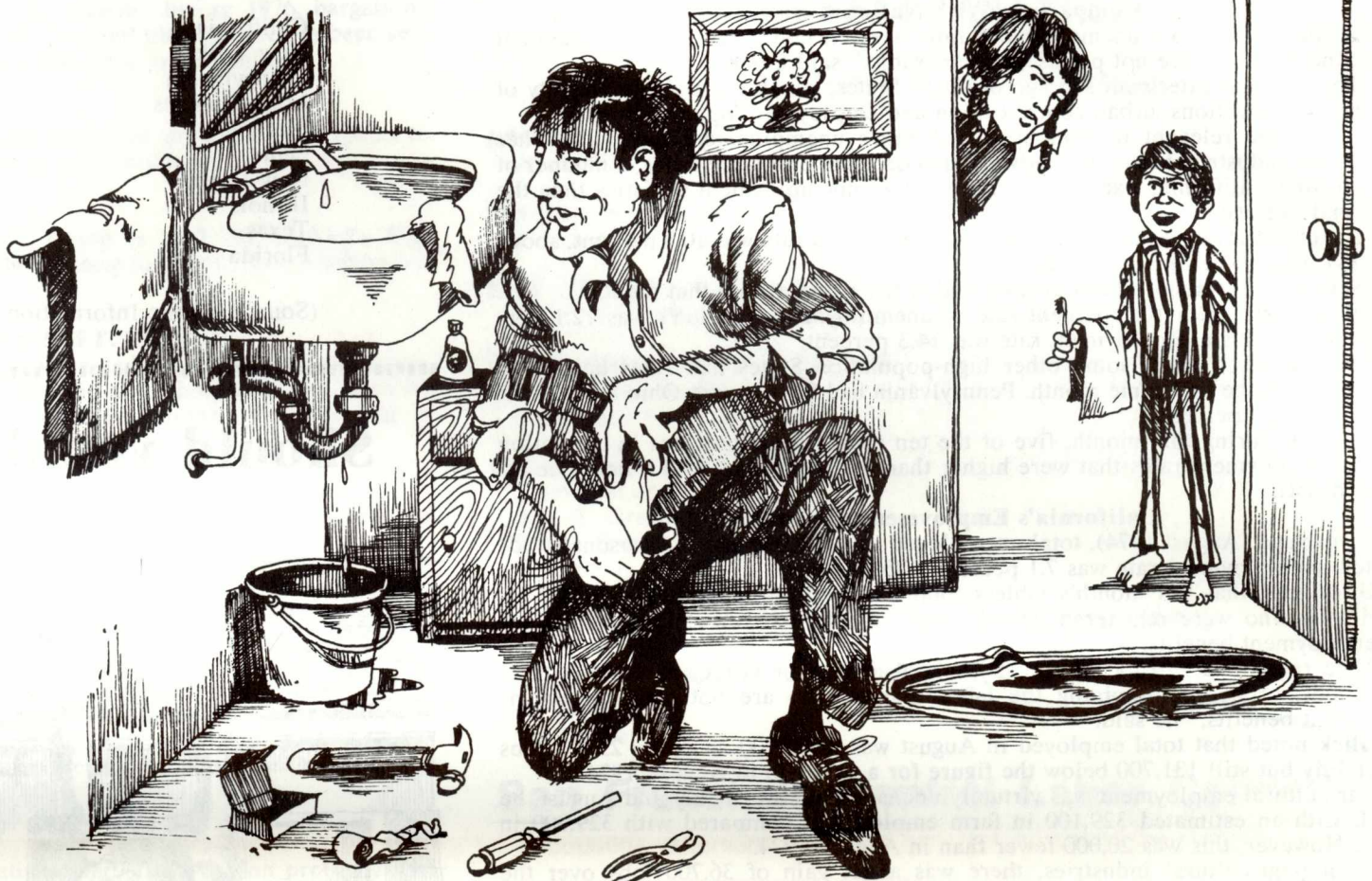
Indeed they are. By the end of this year, home improvement work is expected to top \$30 billion, up \$8 billion from last year. And it's estimated that do-it-yourselfers already use more than 40 per cent of all paint sold in the U.S. and buy 33 per cent of all power tools.

To meet the demand, there is also a boom in do-it-yourself articles and books. Hard-cover publishers now jumping into the field include *Reader's Digest*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *the New York Times*—even *U. S. News & World Report*.

### Do you have the technical knowledge?

Some electrical, plumbing and heating jobs are not for amateurs, even if they have a little savvy. A man in a Chicago suburb did a makeshift job on his furnace and his children were killed by carbon monoxide.

A New York man decided to install an attic fan in his home, to save the cost of an electrician. It cost him his life. His hands were wet with perspiration when he touched a live wire.



He was electrocuted.

In the Midwest, another do-it-yourselfer spent weeks installing an oil heater in his garage. After he finished, a building inspector drove by, noticed the burner and stopped to check.

The unit was improperly installed and its location in the garage, without a fire-resistant partition, violated the building code and constituted a fire hazard.

The do-it-yourselfer had to call in a licensed heating man to transfer the burner to the basement. Cost: \$300. If he'd used a knowledgeable craftsman in the beginning, the bill would have been no more than \$150.

### Do you have the proper tools and equipment?

Few homeowners own all the tools needed for a specialized job. And not having the proper tools often leads to a sloppy, make-do job—or even an unsafe one.

The classic case is the home plumber who doesn't own a large pipe wrench and slips a section of pipe over the handle for increased leverage.

Using an improvised tool may cause the frustration and tension that can lead to an accident.

Often you can get advice on how to fit the right tool to the right job from your local hardware store.

### Do you have enough time?

Many jobs can be done at your leisure without disrupting the household. But if, for example, it's a plumbing emergency that takes the bathroom or kitchen out of action, you may not have the necessary spare time to do the job.

That can also lead to sloppy and unsafe work. So if it's an emergency, hire a pro. If it isn't an emergency, allow enough time. As time runs out, the accident rate goes up.

### Do you go by the book?

Many homeowners fail to acquaint themselves with the possible hazards of the products they work with.

They open the can of tile cement and read the instructions on how thick to apply it and what kind of trowel to use. But they stop where it says "Use with adequate ventilation and keep away from open flame."

A number of do-it-yourselfers have

installed counter tops with very volatile, flammable mastic, resulting in flash fires and serious injuries.

The rules and regulations should be known and thoroughly understood, particularly when working with electricity, gas, solvents, adhesives and power tools. Always go by the book!

Another economic indicator is the boom in rental tools and equipment. Take a look at the classified phone directory under "Rental." Today, you'll find companies that rent everything from air compressors to tar kettles. Not long ago, one do-it-yourselfer rented a bulldozer to dig out a garage under his house—and almost wrecked the foundation of his house. Which brings us to the point:

Although The Spirit of '76 is alive, it isn't always well. For, as accident statistics prove, "do-it-yourself" can sometimes mean "do-it-to-yourself."

To keep from becoming one of those statistics, ask yourself these important safety questions. By answering yes to each, you'll prevent accidents—if you remember to ask-it-yourself before you do-it-yourself. Let's take them one at a time:

### Are you physically up to it?

Don't be a victim of flase pride. At 60, you can't do some of the jobs you easily handled at 35.

Some people are subject to dizzy spells; they should avoid heights such as ladders and roofs.

Others have allergies; they should be careful in selecting solvents, adhesives and other chemicals that might produce a reaction.

Still others have physical handicaps

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