

utility reporter

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OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER, 1975

Official Publication of I.B.E.W.
Local Union 1245, AFL-CIO,
P.O. Box 4790,
Walnut Creek, Ca. 94596



Local 1245 and PG&E begin negotiations

Both the Physical and Clerical Agreements between Local Union 1245 and Pacific Gas and Electric Company, whose current terms are January 1, 1974 through December 30, 1976, provide that either party may reopen said agreements with respect to the subject of wages and one other subject by giving written notice of such reopening to the other party forty-five days prior to January 1, 1976.

Local Union 1245 conducted a membership survey earlier this year to determine the one other subject which the Union should open. The majority of the members covered by both the Physical and Clerical Agreements who responded to the survey chose vacations as the subject they preferred that Union open on.

The Company chose as its one subject the amending of Titles 205 and 305 of the Physical Agreement and Title 18 of the Clerical Agreement to provide that the filling of job vacancies in classifications in which employees must exercise supervisory duties would be at the discretion of the Company regardless of any other provisions of such Titles.

The first negotiating session between the parties was held on Tuesday, November 18, at which time the parties each expanded upon their proposals as to the intent and reasons therefore. The Union submitted specific proposals with respect to increasing vacation allowances and improvements in vacation scheduling. The Union also proposed a general wage increase of 17% and submitted its reasons and support therefore.

The parties scheduled further negotiating sessions for December 2 and 3, and in the meantime both parties will review the proposals made by the other.

LOCAL UNION 1245 NOTICE

November 14, 1975

Mr. I. W. Bonbright
Manager of Industrial Relations
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
245 Market Street, Room 444
San Francisco, California 94106

Dear Mr. Bonbright:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 500.3(c) of the current Agreement applicable to operation, maintenance and construction employees and Section 24.2(c) of the current Agreement applicable to office and clerical employees, please be advised that Local Union 1245 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers does desire to reopen said Agreements with respect to wages and the subject of vacations as set forth in Title 111 and 8 of the respective Agreements. Fourteen copies of Union's specific proposals with respect to Titles 111 and 8 are enclosed.

Union's negotiating committee will be composed of Michael Del Rio, San Joaquin Division; Ronald Fitzsimmons, San Francisco Division; Ronald Goldsmith, Humboldt Division; James McCauley, East Bay Division; Barbara Symons, San Jose Division; William Twohey, General Construction, and Eduardo Vallejo, Vice President and Comptroller's Organization, together with the undersigned and Messrs. M. A. Walters and J. K. McNally of my office.

As previously agreed, Union is prepared to meet with Company on Tuesday, November 18, 1975 at 10:00 a.m. in Company's office.

Very truly yours,

L. L. Mitchell
Business Manager

Continued on page two

NOTICE

This will advise all members of Local 1245, I.B.E.W., as members of Energy Workers Center Incorporated, that the Board of Directors of Energy Workers Center Incorporated has called a membership meeting to ratify the actions of Local Union 1245 to sell that certain property located at 1218 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek and purchase property in the Woodland Professional Park at Citrus Circle in Walnut Creek.

The meeting will be held at Local Union 1245 Headquarters:

PLACE: L.U. 1245 Headquarters
1218 Boulevard Way
Walnut Creek, Ca.

DATE: Saturday, December 20, 1975

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

Registration will commence at 1:00 p.m.

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS



Shown above are some of the participants at the November Advisory Council Meeting. See pages four and five for story and more photos.

YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN Government Control and political action

L. L. MITCHELL

Two incidents which occurred recently should alert our members to the importance of keeping up with governmental operations and the need for political action.

First, the Public Utilities Commission issued a notice of intent to eliminate the employee discounts to PG&E and stated the parties (PG&E & Local 1245) should negotiate a substitute for this fringe.

Second, the Public Utilities Commission held a conference at which all utilities were told to present figures on construction and maintenance costs and outline the work which it must do with its own forces and could not put out to bid by contractors. The intent being to make the utility company perform as much work as possible with the low bid contractors.

It doesn't take a Solomon to figure out how these two actions would affect the regular work force of a utility.

Now, how did this come about?

All of us are aware that organized groups of special interests are nipping at the heels of all utility companies.

The environmentalists, consumerists, etc. all have been pressuring the Commission, the Legislature, the Governor and anyone who can in any way affect the decisions of the utility. This is political action. This is proper under our political system, but there is also another issue involved.

Most of us subscribe to the principle of private enterprise and free collective bargaining. It would seem that regulators of the utility industry are going beyond regulation. Instead of judging, they would in fact become managers of the industry by making operating decisions best left to those who are responsible for the delivery of the utility services.

Further, dictates by a regulatory agency which determine the issues which may be bargained by the parties in interest would seem more appropriate to a political system which we have not seen fit to adopt.

Back to my opening statement. Local 1245, as an institution, has and will continue to monitor governmental

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

Local 1245 and PG&E begin negotiations

(Continued from page one)

PG&E NOTICE

November 14, 1975

Local Union No. 1245
International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO
P. O. Box 4790
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Attention: Mr. L. L. Mitchell, Business Manager

Gentlemen:

In accordance with Subsection 500.3(c) of the Agreement between the Company and Union dated September 1, 1952 applicable to operation, maintenance and construction employees, and Subsection 24.2(c) of the Agreement dated July 1, 1953 applicable to office and clerical employees, Company proposes to amend the appropriate sections of Titles 205 and 305 of the Agreement dated September 1, 1952 and Title 18 of the Agreement dated July 1, 1953 to provide that the filling of job vacancies in classifications in which an employee must exercise supervisory duties shall be at the discretion of the Company, regardless of the other provisions of such Titles.

Under the provisions of Section 306.4 of the Agreement dated September 1, 1952, Company proposes to add a section to Title 306 - Demotion and Layoff Procedure, to read as follows: "306.8 For the purpose of enabling employees who have been demoted under the provisions of this Title, or to enable employees who have been on or are on Long Term Disability status, to return to their former status on an accelerated basis, Company will give preferential consideration to employees who formerly worked in such job classification on the basis of Service."

This letter will also confirm arrangements for the first meeting to discuss Company's and Union's proposals for this year's round of bargaining at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, November 18, in Room 443, 245 Market Street.

Very truly yours,

I. W. Bonbright

YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN Government Control and Political action L. L. MITCHELL

(Continued from page one)

activity. Through its leaders our institution will be active in presenting the views of its members. It would appear that this effort alone will not assure a fair judgement. Each of us must become involved in the dialogue if we expect to win.

Political action by a vocal minority has created a situation where regulatory action could erode, if not destroy, basic principles of free collective bargaining and the private enterprise system. Our political system was developed to allow for change and we would not alter this. However, to make it work we must all participate.

We, as utility employees, are directly affected by these two proposed actions. We can be affected indirectly by other political decisions. Legislative or regulatory decisions applied to one sector of our citizenry can be applied to another. Once a principle is breached it can be expanded to include others.

Response to the notice of intent to eliminate the discount has been good and I would like to commend those who have responded. I'm sure that a lesson has been learned from this. I would hope that regardless of the outcome on this issue the membership will maintain its political awareness and become more active in all fields of political activity.

Appointments

Negotiating Committees

LOCAL 1245 1975 NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE - PG&E:

Michael Delrio (San Joaquin-Phys.)
Ronald F. Fitzsimmons (SF-Phys)
Ronald Goldsmith (Humboldt-Phys)
William R. Twohey (G.C.-Phys)
Jim McCauley (East Bay-Phys)
Barbara Symons (San Jose-Clerical)
Eduardo Vallejo (V.P. & Comp.-Clerical)

RICHVALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT:

Lowel Helmers

X-RAY ENGINEERING COMPANY:

Frank F. Valentich
Dennis Guinta

CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC UTILITIES (Lassen Division):

Charles E. Insley
Timothy Madden

KONOCTI TV, INC NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE:

Frank T. Hix

PACIFIC GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE:

Frank Locati
Wallace J. Miller

TELEPROMPTER OF LOS GATOS NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE:

Jack Torrez

STANISLAUS/TUOLUMNE CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL DELEGATE:

John Tenbrink

PG&E GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE - North Bay

Judith O'Brien

Strong health and Safety laws urged

The California AFL-CIO called on key members of California's congressional delegation this week to take immediate action to prevent a major weakening of the nation's health and safety laws that would exclude some two million workers from coverage.

Yielding to pressure from the small business employers' lobby, the Senate recently voted 48 to 45 to exclude establishments and job sites with fewer than four workers from the enforcement provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, warned that "this would establish a double standard in safety and health protection coverage for U.S. workers because the amendment would apply only to state's that have no state safety plan.

"But if the Senate-House Conference Committee fails to delete this amendment then the 22 states covered by the federal law will have weaker standards than the 28 states with state plans and this will increase pressure for weakening the state plans as well," Henning said in letters sent to U.S. Senators Alan Cranston and John V. Tunney and Congressmen Philip Burton (D-S.F.), Don Edwards (D-San Jose), John T. McFall (D-Manteca), Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles), Augustus F. Hawkins (D-. A.), and Lionel Van Deerlin (D-San Diego).

"Although the exclusion is substantially less than the 25-worker figure repeatedly sought by employer groups, the workers that would be excluded from protection include those

most in need of federal standards," Henning said.

"Especially vulnerable would be workers at small construction sites or in small shops or facilities where workers are least likely to be organized," he pointed out.

"Moreover, if the federal standard is undermined by this amendment, there would be nothing to stop a conservative state administration from cutting back the state plan in a similar manner and this would result in the denial of health and safety coverage for upwards of 400,000 California workers.


"Congress must begin to put people ahead of profits, particularly when it comes to equal protection for U.S. workers in job health and safety standards so I am writing to urge you to do everything in your power to repeal this deadly exclusion."

Henning also called on the Congressmen to seek to defeat another amendment that would place a \$50 limit on the total amount of fines that could be levied on an employer for any number of safety violations that do not pose a risk of death or serious injury.

At present there is no limit on the total number of such fines that may be levied, a situation that substantially encourages employers to comply with health and safety laws. There is a maximum limit of \$1,000 per violation under existing law, a Labor Dept. spokesman said.


"A \$50 limit amounts to a license to scoff at the law," Henning said.

Both Senators Cranston and Tunney voted against weakening the law on September 24.



the utility reporter

Telephone (415) 933-6060



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New Credit Card Rights for You

By Virginia Knauer
Special Assistant to the President
and Director
Office of Consumer Affairs

Department of Health, Education and Welfare

If you are a credit card user, there's good news for you. A new law—the Fair Credit Billing Act—is now in effect to help you resolve credit billing disputes and to eliminate certain practices that are considered unfair to consumers.

Under the law, stores and credit card companies must follow new steps when notified of a possible billing error. Also, the law prohibits “unfair” acts—like billing you for something that arrived broken and hasn't been replaced.

Here's how the law works:

If you think there is something wrong with your bill, you should report the error in writing within 60 days of receiving the bill. It is best to do this as soon as possible, but not by telephone—the law applies only to written notification.

Then the store or card company receives your letter, it must acknowledge your notice within 30 days and then resolve the problem within 90 days. During this period, you don't have to pay the amount in question or any finance charges on the amount. The store cannot close your account, give any adverse credit reports about you or threaten you with such retaliation. If the store doesn't follow these steps, you don't have to pay the disputed amount (up to \$50)—even if the bill proves to be correct.

If you buy a product that turns out to be defective, you don't have to pay for that charge on your credit card bill—as long as you first go into the store where you bought it and try “in good faith” to revolve the problem with the merchant. The law recognizes the fact that the credit card company has considerably more clout than consumers in resolving disputes where the item is already paid for on a charge card and the merchant refuses any further responsibility. Generally, this rule applies only to purchases of

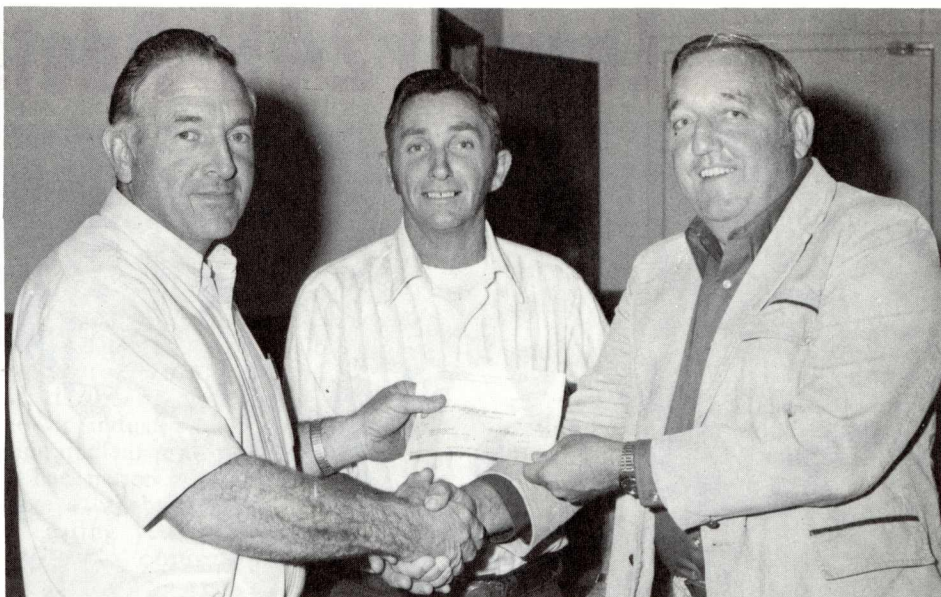
\$50 or more that were made within 100 miles of home.

When you pay cash instead of charging a purchase, the new law allows retailers to give you 5 percent discount. Remember, however, that stores don't have to give the discount; but, if they do, they must post this fact within the store. (usually at the counter or cash register).

If you return an item that you charged on a bank card (not a store card), the law requires (1) the store where you made the purchase to notify the card company of the return within seven business days and (2) the credit card company to give you “credit” within three business days.

If you have a credit card from a bank where you also have an account, the law prohibits the bank from automatically collecting credit card payments from your account to pay the bill (if it is overdue). However, the law does not prevent you from instructing the bank to take money out of your account for this purpose.

The new law is being administered under regulations issued by the Federal Reserve Board. Therefore, if you have any questions about the law, you can contact the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, D.C. 20551.



This photo shows the presentation of the \$50.00 check at the last Tracy Unit meeting in October, the winner's name having been drawn at the Executive Board meeting in September.

Shown above from left to right are: winner Norman Zandona, Heavy Duty Mechanic from USBR-Tracy; Tracy Unit Chairman Carl Schleiss; Business Representative Henry Lucas. Brother John Borejko, Tracy Unit 2514, took the picture for us.

Nevada Power and Local 1245 settle

The members of Local 1245 employed by Nevada Power Company in Elko, Nevada have ratified the first agreement between the two parties.

This is a 30 month agreement with a reopener provision on pensions early in 1976.

Improvements were made in all areas and wage increases will range from 82c to \$1.99 per hour. This will bring the Lineman rate to \$7.88 (8-1-75); \$8.18 (2-1-76); \$8.49 (8-1-76).

Negotiating committee members were: Wade Woodson and John Stralla, Bus. Rep.

CAL.-PAC. UTILITIES-(SOUTH TAHOE-GAS) AND LOCAL 1245 REACH AGREEMENT

Local 1245 and California-Pacific Utilities Co. - South Tahoe Gas have reached agreement on the first contract between the two parties.

This new agreement is for a 1 year term and provides improvements in all areas and a 12% general wage increase. The agreement also calls for a guarantee of parity with other Local 1245 Agreements within three years.

The negotiating committee members were: Larry Lynch, John Stralla, Bus. Rep. and John Wilder, Asst. Bus. Mgr.

Administration shows little concern

No matter what the Ford 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 budget review 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 7.5 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 wouldn't be until 1980, under these predictions, that the number of unemployed would come down to somewhere in the neighborhood of five million. 1980. 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.

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.” Three million, fifteen thousand, nine hundred fifty-nine.

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, who gets his economic philosophy from novelist Ayn Rand, who wrote **The Fountainhead**, 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.

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 will we be at the end of five years?

This situation is brought about by the seven years of Nixon and Ford. A crook and an economic dumb-ox. Lyndon Johnson was right when he said that Gerald Ford played football too long without a helmet.

Service Union Reporter

Gun Control Legislation

Assemblyman Alan Sieroty has introduced Assembly Bill 2426, which would confiscate all target pistols, antique hand weapons and other typical handguns. This bill would make it a crime - a felony - if all such guns were not surrendered by California citizens to the police by June 1, 1977!

Many legislators are undecided on how their constituents want them to vote on this bill and on other proposed anti-gun legislation.

This bill is currently in the Assembly Criminal Justice Committee, where its author is Chairman. If passed it will go to the full Assembly for an all important vote. This bill has strong support and already has 12 co-authors.

Public opinion and public action count! Your opinion can influence their vote, which may well determine whether or not you can own a firearm.

You are urged to send your comments to Leo McCarthy, Speaker of the Assembly, and to James R. Mills, President Pro-Tempore of the State Senate. You are urged to also mail postcards or letters immediately to your State Legislator.

Local 1245 Advisory Council meets



Shown above are some of the participants of the November Advisory Council Meeting.

The Advisory Council of Local 1245 met in Concord, California on November 1st and 2nd. After the flag salute and pledge of allegiance, the first order of business was the swearing in of newly appointed advisory council member Pamela Jackson. Pam, shop steward from San Jose Division, was appointed to fill the position of clerical-member-at-large when Ruby Jefferson resigned.

Sr. Asst. Bus. Mgr. Mert Walters reported on behalf of Business Manager Mitchell who was attending a special IBEW dinner honoring Stanley Thompson, 8th District Vice President. Brother Thompson is retiring.

The results of the membership survey were reported to the Council. Brother Walters discussed the Public Utilities Commission letter outlining their intent to eliminate employee rates and also reported on the recent clerical conference.

Howard Darington, President of Local 1245, reported on the proposal to purchase land and have an office facility built to our specifications.

Larry Foss, Asst. Bus. Mgr. gave a statistical breakdown on the grievance activity at the Fact Finding, Review Committee and Arbitration levels. He reported that the average length of time to handle a grievance and receive an answer has been reduced.

Dave Reese, Bus. Rep. in charge of Safety and Apprentice Training for the Local, reported on some recent accidents and also on some court and arbitration decisions involving safety rules and violations.

Various members of the Council reported on safety problems, economic conditions in their areas, attendance at unit meetings and other subjects.

Two bylaw amendments concerning the calling of special meetings were non-concurred by the Executive Board. Pres. Darington called the Council to order as a Bylaw Review Committee and the council upheld the action of the Executive Board.



This photo shows the majority of those people who attended the Ad Council meeting.



Asst. Bus. Mgr. Larry Foss is shown reporting on the grievance activity of Local 1245 with P.G.& E.



Shown above from left to right are: Dale Turman, Executive Board - Northern area, Jackie Offersen, Recording Secretary, Mert Walters, Sr. Asst. Bus. Mgr. and Howard Darington, President.



Pictured above from left to right are: Sr. Asst. Bus. Mgr. Mert Walters, Executive Board Member - Southern Area, Vern Loveall, and Guy Marley - Executive Board Member-At-Large.



President Darington is shown swearing in newly appointed Ad Council member Pamela Jackson.

Nuclear Plants safer than alternatives, scientists say

Some of the nation's top nuclear scientists took sharp exception to the safety issue being pressed by promoters of the Nuclear Power Plant Initiative to appear on the June 1976 ballot in the course of testimony before an Assembly committee in Sacramento this month.

In responding to questions posed by members of the Assembly Committee on Resources, Land Use and Energy, Professor Richard Wilson of Harvard University, said:

"You are asking the question, 'Are nuclear power plants safe?' The answer I give is, 'they are safer than most alternatives.'

"But if you ask, 'Are they absolutely safe?', the answer must be that 'nothing is certain except death; even taxes can be avoided.'

Wilson, who testified in opposition to the nuclear power plants initiative, which would bar construction of new nuclear plants in California unless the Legislature by a two-thirds vote approves the effectiveness of safety systems and waste disposal methods within three to five years, pointed to the very real hazards contained in other non - nuclear energy sources.

He said that coal waste contains radium and "gives a hazard greater than a nuclear power station."

A tanker ship carrying liquified natural gas could explode off California and kill 20,000 people, he noted. Folsom Dam could burst and kill 270,000 people. An oil refinery fire near a city might kill 20,000, he said.

"This is a dangerous world we live in. Mankind must take risks and always has. Our job is to choose the course, with the least possible risk," Wilson said, making it clear that he believed that the development of nuclear energy was the best course.

"Nuclear war, I believe, is one thousand times more probable than a serious nuclear accident and much more serious in its consequences," he declared.

Prof. Wilson maintained that wide development of nuclear power might well decrease the chances of global war by making more energy available to more have-not nations.

In contrast, he said:

"The largest accidents estimated for nuclear power stations involve less than 10,000 people and will occur less

than once in every 100 million reactor-years."

A reactor-year is defined as one nuclear power plant running for one year.

Another scientist, William Bryan, an engineer who has worked on reliability estimates for nuclear rockets and the Apollo spacecraft, testified that it is impossible for any study to calculate reactor risks realistically because the nuclear power industry's experience in running nuclear power plants is limited.

The nation's largest atomic plants have a combined total of barely 200 operating years experience, Bryan said. To compute the odds of catastrophe in real rather than theoretical numbers, it would take 2.3 billion years of operating experience, he said.

Yet the nuclear power plants initiative would not only bar the construction of any additional nuclear power plants but would force a gradual shutdown of existing plants unless two-thirds of the members of

both houses of the state legislature are satisfied that all the questions of liability insurance, safety and waste disposal are satisfactorily resolved.

Another physicist, Joel Primack of the University of California at Santa Cruz who spoke in support of the initiative, maintained that the chance of a reactor melt-down accident was higher than previously thought—about one percent per year for every 100 reactors.

But he said he would "view with alarm" the end of nuclear power in the nation because he believes it will be crucial to meet the nation's future energy needs.

But when asked by Assemblyman Eugene T. Gualco (D-Sacramento):

"Do you think that within five years you could get two-thirds of your fellow scientists to agree on the safety of nuclear reactors?"

Primack replied:

"I'm not sure you could get two-thirds of all scientists to agree on anything."

Calif. AFL-CIO News

Workers' rights pamphlets

Four new pamphlets spelling out the rights and services available to California workers under state labor laws have just been published by the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement of the State Department of Industrial Relations.

The pamphlets, which are available free for general distribution, are:

"State Labor Law Speaks for Eight Million California Workers" — dealing with the worker's right to fair and impartial treatment by employers;

"Young People At Work, Their Protection Under State Labor Law" — dealing with child labor laws;

"Workers' Compensation Insurance, Workers' Rights and Benefits In Case of Injury and Illness on the Job" — dealing with the law requiring employers to protect workers suffering job-related injuries or illness; and

"State Labor Law and Public Workers" — dealing with the law that requires public works contractors to pay prevailing wage rates to all workers and to hire at least one apprentice for every five journeymen.

The new Division of Labor Standards Enforcement results from the consolidation of the Divisions of Labor Law Enforcement and Industrial Welfare last August 11.

Copies of the pamphlets as well as further information on state labor law protections for California workers may be obtained by writing to:

James L. Quillin, Labor Commissioner, Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, State Department of Industrial Relations, P.O. Box 603, San Francisco, Ca. 94101.

The pamphlets may also be obtained from any of the district offices of the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement.

Membership Benefit Shown

The following is an updated analysis from Oct. 1, 1974 to Oct. 1, 1975, which indicates the number of members and families in Local 1245 who have used Bay Area Union Professional Center services and the money they have saved as a result.

MEMBERS
DEPENDENTS
TOTAL:

EYE EXAMINATION (Only)	NO GLASSES	NEED FOR GLASSES
5,446	1,835	3,611
8,906	4,784	4,122
14,352	6,619	7,733

1. On a comparative basis using an overall average eye examination fee of \$20.00 per person visiting a private doctor, the membership and their families realized a savings of approximately **\$287,040.00** by visiting BAUPC.

2. On a comparative basis, using an overall average of \$18.00 differential regarding the cost of prescription glasses, the savings amounted to approximately **\$61,864.00**.

3. The total savings realized by the members and families of Local 1245 as a result of the BAUPC Program amount to **\$348,904.00**.

4. In addition, a number of people examined at BAUPC were found to have some form of eye pathology such as cataract, galucoma, arteriosclerosis, nephritis, diabetes, etc. Many of these people were not aware of these conditions prior to examination. In such cases, it was recommended that the patient consult an Ophthalmologist.



Shown above from left to right are Treasurer Dick Robuck, Northern Area E-Board member Dale Turman, Recording Secretary Jackie Offersen and Pres. Howard Darington.



Bus. Rep. Dave Reese is shown reporting on safety problems.



Pres. Howard Darington is shown reporting on the proposed new building.

North Bay and San Francisco Area Stewards Meet



This photo shows Bus. Mgr. Mitchell as he presents a Certificate of Completion of the Stewards' Training program.



Shown above and below are some of the participants of the six-session Stewards' Training program.



Seated from left to right are L. L. Mitchell, Bus. Mgr., Larry Foss, Asst. Bus. Mgr. and Bus. Rep. Frank Quadros.



This photo gives an over-all view of most of the participants of Local 1245's North Bay-San Francisco area Stewards Meeting.

Bus. Rep. Frank Quadros discussed the format for the meeting. He indicated that the first portion of the meeting would be centered around giving the stewards an opportunity to discuss and explain the work situation, attitudes and problems in their respective areas.

Various materials were presented to the stewards.

Larry Foss, Asst. Bus. Mgr., reported on the activities involved with the grievance procedure. He reported on the number and types of cases which had been referred to the Fact Finding Committee, the Review Committee and to Arbitration. Brother Foss reported that new grievance forms had been changed and that some of the time limits have been extended due to experience under the new grievance procedure. The provisions of the supplemental grievance procedure have been changed to allow the Bus. Mgr. or his designee to determine whether or not a Dept. Shop Steward can sit in on his own grievance.

He then reported on recent arbitration decisions and answered any questions regarding the subjects covered.

Bus. Mgr. Mitchell then reported on the duties of his office of Business Manager and Financial Secretary of Local 1245. He explained his duties on the collection of funds. He explained that the Board sets policy and he carries out these policies. Brother Mitchell does hire the staff and these people are an extension of his office. He is charged with administering the contract and all the ramifications that go with that responsibility.

Brother Mitchell discussed the impact of politics on the membership and explained the needs for Local 1245 to be involved.

Mitchell explained his contacts with other Unions covering utility groups within the United States, especially California, Nevada, Oregon and Wash.

Bus. Mgr. Mitchell covered the office force under his jurisdiction and their activities. . . the preparation of materials used by stewards, members etc.

Mitchell then congratulated the Stewards on their activities on the job and also for spending the weekends necessary to complete this Shop Steward Training course. Those who attended four out of the six steward training sessions received certificates of completion of the training program.

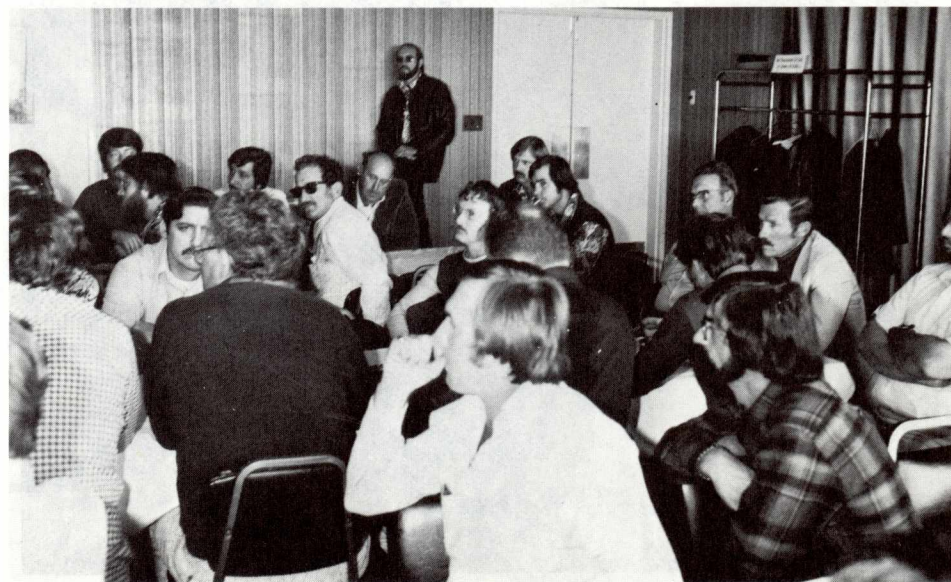
Listed below are the stewards who received certificates: San Francisco - Donald Armanasco, Jay Burton, Julio B. DeLeon, Ron Fitzsimmons, Tom Fromm, Thomas Grennie, Victor Johnson, Roy King, Walter Kroll Jr., Tom Lewis, Craig Nelson, Herman Reuther, Paul Rose, Gene Sheldon, Barry Wilson, Ralph Wilson and Gary Smith. North Bay - Neil Bickerton, Bill Balsley, Bob Castillo, Art Fahrner, J. E. Findley, Floyd Farmer, Ruby Jefferson, Svend Jensen, Jerry Meyers, Dick Madden, Ken Nata, Tom McMorrow, Judy Obrien, James Parker, Louise Roche, Colin Sparks, Albert Schiff, Stanton Sleeper, Allen Simontacchi, Tennis Salie, Lee Schunk, Everett Sartori.



Bus. Rep. Corb Wheeler is shown in the photo above.



Bus. Mgr.-Fin. Secy. L. L. Mitchell is shown responding to a question from the floor.



The balance of those attending the Stewards' meeting are shown above.

Nuclear Energy is endorsed

At the recent national AFL-CIO convention held in San Francisco the delegates adopted a resolution on nuclear energy development. The AFL-CIO resolution urges prompt action by Congress and other government officials to assure the rapid development of the nation's nuclear energy resources.

Specific action recommended includes extension of the Price-Anderson Insurance and Indemnity Act as proposed by President Ford. The AFL-CIO also endorses the administrative and legislative recommendations in the recent report of the President's Labor-Management Committee with respect to coal and nuclear energy and supports the establishment of a task force of experts from labor and management to assist in expediting the completion of electric power plants.

Expansion of the nation's uranium enrichment capacity to assure an adequate supply of fuel for nuclear power plants is a priority action according to the resolution. The AFL-CIO urges Congress to close the nuclear fuel cycle by developing licenseable and commercially viable facilities for the reprocessing of spent fuel and the storage of radioactive wastes and recycling of plutonium.

Improvement of the procedure for licensing nuclear power plants and other nuclear facilities by eliminating costly delays and shortening the time required for the construction of new facilities is called for.

Slight drop in unemployment

California's unemployment rate dropped from 10.3 percent in September to 10.0 percent in October, it was announced this month by Martin R. Glick, director of the State's Employment Development Department (EDD).

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment (which comprises more than 90 percent of all employment in the State) registered a net gain of 13,400 jobs, rising from 7,863,000 in September to 7,876,400 in October.

Based on normal seasonal expectations, total nonagricultural wages and salary employment should have declined by about 35,000 jobs.

"California's overall jobs picture is showing some slight improvement," said Glick, "particularly since much of the jobs reduction was seasonal and expected, as in agriculture and related industries, such as canning."

The Federal Government today announced that the national unemployment rate rose from 8.3 percent in September to 8.6 percent in October.

After conferring with a Bureau of Labor Statistics official, Glick commented: "Federal statisticians ascribe the national rate increase in part to an influx of more people seeking jobs into the job market."

"Our California figures, however, show fewer people seeking jobs."

"It seems to us that sample variability in the Federal Government's 50,000-household survey may account for their finding that the national rate has increased."

"We'll be looking closely at the two rates over the next few months to see if any detectable trends are developing."

Of the Federally-conducted survey, 5,000 households are located in California, which has about 10 percent of the nation's population and labor force.

Glick cautioned that the drop in unemployment rate from September to October is not necessarily a long-term trend.

This time last year the unemployed total was 615,000 and the unemployment rate was 7.3 percent.

The latest figures show a decline in the numbers of both the employed and unemployed, largely due to seasonal factors. Agricultural employment dropped sharply from the September peak of 382,300 to 322,500 in October, a customary drop with the completion of harvests.

The number of jobseekers declined by 20,300, from 882,600 in September to 862,300 in October, Glick said, while total employment also declined, from 8,645,900 in September to 8,594,000 in October, a drop of 51,900.

The largest decline in the nonagricultural group came in the fruit and vegetable canning category, which lost 21,800 jobs.

However, most of the wage and salary groups registered some employment declines between September and October. The exceptions were education (up by 51,200 to 722,300), trade (up very slightly by 3,800 jobs to 1,777,600) and the finance-insurance-real estate group (up by 500 to 447,400).

The large durable goods manufacturing group had a net gain of 1,900 jobs to total 1,048,900. Small declines in lumber, furniture, stone, clay, glass, metal products and machinery groups were only barely offset by gains in electrical equipment and transportation equipment.

Local 1245's East Bay Area Pin Award Dinner



This photo shows those who received pins for 20, 25 and 30 years of membership in Local 1245. Those shown above are from the East Bay area.

Calif. AFL-CIO hails court ruling

A Los Angeles Superior Court decision holding a key section of the Political Reform Act of 1974 unconstitutional was hailed by the California AFL-CIO today as "a vindication"

of the labor movement's opposition to the measure last year.

John F. Henning, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, said:

"This law has brought petty fascism to the government of California. It is not simply anti-labor. It is anti-business, anti-liberal and anti-conservative."

"It is a bad law and is being badly administered. The resignation of Daniel Lowenstein, the dictatorial anti-labor chairman of the FPPC Board, would give some temporary relief but only that. Nonetheless he should resign."

"The law was hurriedly passed in a time of political hysteria resulting from the Watergate crimes," Henning said.

"The court's action is a vindication of the stand taken by the California Labor Federation, which represents the state's 1.7 million AFL-CIO union members," Henning declared.

In a preliminary injunction issued Monday, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Harry H. Hupp blocked enforcement of Section 86202 of the law which says:

"It shall be unlawful for a lobbyist to make a contribution or to act as an agent or intermediary in the making of any contribution, or to arrange for the making of any contribution by himself or by any other person."

This was one of five key sections of the measure opposed by the Califor-

nia AFL-CIO before it was approved by the voters in June 1974.

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) set up by the Act interpreted that as meaning that a lobbyist could not even recommend to an employer that he make a contribution to a candidate or a cause.

Judge Hupp held that the Commission's interpretation "is a direct and flat prohibition on pure speech and as such it is suspect... as a violation of the California and federal constitutional guarantees of free speech."

Scott Fitz-Randolph, executive director of Common Cause, one of the major proponents of the measure, said that Common Cause was pleased by the ruling.

"We had argued in favor of the position that the judge came out with," Fitz-Randolph said.

A lobbyist has a responsibility to "recommend to his employer what he knows," Fitz-Randolph added.

Common Cause chairman Michael H. Walsh elaborated saying:

"Our position is that so long as the decision-making process is independent and the lobbyist is not a member of the decision-making group, there should be few if any restrictions on the nature and type of information which the lobbyist may supply to his employer."

Common Cause is one of the organizations that helped draft the measure.

WORK SAFELY

The Safety Scene

Skateboards are alive and . . . well?

THE SKATEBOARD generation has grown up.

Its members are in their early twenties now, and they are bringing their favorite childhood sport back for a new wave of popularity. Starting on the West Coast and in Florida, a skateboard revival shows signs of spreading throughout the country.

Manufacturers of the sidewalk surfboards are happily watching sales multiply. Roller Sport, Inc. of Jacksonville, Florida, reports that the company has boosted production from 80,000 skateboard wheels a month to 20,000 a day and demand still outstrips supply.

"It all started with the surfers," says Dana Haffka of Roller Sport. "When the surf's out, the skateboard's in. For the first few months of the boom, it

was mostly skilled surfers in their twenties buying boards. Now it's getting back to the younger kids too. And the fad is moving beyond Southern California and Florida. We're distributing all the way up into Maine."

Today's skateboards aren't the same as those wooden models of the sixties. The new boards are made of flexible, high-impact molded plastic or glass fiber. The wheels are different too — and that difference is behind the surfer's renewed interest in skateboards. The roller-skate wheels on old model skateboards were usually made of hard, slick rubber or plastic. There was only so much you could do on your wheels before the board slipped from under you.

The wheels on 1975 skateboards are

urethane, which grips the road better. As the new wonder-wheels warm up, they grip well enough to enable the sidewalk surfer to do slaloms, spins and balancing acts he could never do before.

The skateboard fad of the sixties rolled to a stop because the boards proved to be as dangerous as they were popular. So many sidewalk surfers were tumbling off their boards that the California Medical Association said skateboards were rivaling bicycles as the major cause of childhood accidents. The injuries were frequently severe — head injuries and shattered elbows were common.

Although the new boards are safer in some respects because of their road-holding power, accident reports are coming in. The California com-

munity of Malibu West banned skateboards when they began interfering with traffic and causing accidents. In San Clemente, California, the city council discussed outlawing the boards after two young riders were injured in just one week.

Although no ordinance has yet been passed, a San Clemente policeman says, "I wish they'd get rid of the things altogether. They are very dangerous to the rider and to pedestrians. We're getting reports of accidents, mostly resulting in head injuries, from towns all around here."

Skateboard manufacturers are sensitive to criticism about their products. Roller Sport's Haffka says, "If the kid uses his head, a skateboard is no more dangerous than a bike. If he does something stupid, he'll get hurt."

Using your head — not landing on it — is certainly sound advice for a skateboarder. The new boards can go up to 35 miles an hour. Moving at that speed on asphalt pavement without brakes and with no more protection than a pair of jeans and a T-shirt, the risks are clear. The beginner who tries circus tricks on his wheels is also heading for a fall.

Skateboards and automobiles definitely do not mix. The California Highway Patrol has been cracking down on reckless skateboarders who wheel into the street. Some skateboard enthusiasts have broken bones — and laws — by hitching a ride uphill with a car.

So if you see a skateboarder whizzing along a sidewalk in your neighborhood, he's not a nostalgia buff — he's keeping up with the times. The sidewalk's surf's up — again.

Family Safety

to leave the damper open when you go to bed than risk an accumulation of poisonous gases and smoke.

To safely enjoy the old-fashioned comfort and pleasure of your fireplace, here are a few suggestions:

* Don't burn trash and wrappings for they can become flying paper embers that settle on the roof. Aerosol cans and light bulbs explode. Some plastics and plastic foam can produce dangerous gases.

* Never burn home-rolled newspaper logs soaked in flammable liquids of any kind.

* Keep rugs, pillows, newspapers, holiday wrappings and other flammable materials away from the fireplace area, out of range of sparks.

* Make sure the fire is completely out before going to bed or leaving the house.

Family Safety

ATTEND
UNIT
MEETINGS

FIRE HAS ITS PLACE

By Mac MacLeod

DURING the night a burning log rolled out of an unattended, un-screened fireplace in Jefferson, Alabama, turned a frame house into a furnace and killed seven people. Five were children.

An ice storm knocked out power lines and furnace controls in Stamford, Connecticut, and the sole occupant of a two-story house piled so much wood in the fireplace that the screen wouldn't fit against the hearth opening. Then he poured charcoal starter on the wood, lighted it and went to bed, leaving newspapers and the can of fluid on the hearth. Early next morning flames burst through the roof as the occupant leaped from an upstairs window.

Such actual case histories from records of the National Fire Protection Association illustrate some of the ways that 14,000 home fires began in fireplaces last year.

Too hot a fire in the fireplace is a common error often leading to disaster, especially if the fireplace or flue is made of metal. Enough heat may be radiated to set a wall, roof or any nearby combustible material ablaze.

If flue or fireplace is defective or improperly constructed, the risk is multiplied. Broken firebricks and crumbling mortar are common causes of home fires.

So are the flying sparks that often result from burning pine and other

coniferous wood. A sturdy spark screen that completely covers the fireplace opening is essential to family safety whenever the fireplace is used.

Leaving a fireplace unwatched after feeding it fresh wood, or leaving children unattended near a burning fireplace, are both highly unsafe. An estimated 6,000 persons in a recent year received hospital emergency treatment for fireside injuries. While many of the injuries resulted from handling wood and fireplace equipment, the most serious injuries were burns and most of the victims were children.

A surprising number of people defy physical laws and common sense by attempting to light or relight a fire with everything from gasoline to paint thinner. Merely to open a container of flammable liquid anywhere near a few dying embers is extremely hazardous.

Artificial logs can produce tremendous heat. Read the instructions and follow them. Burn only one log at a time. Never add one to a burning natural-wood fire. Poking them may cause a flare-up, and flaming wax stuck to the poker may drop on carpets, clothing or you.

Check your fireplace and equipment occasionally — the flue, firebrick interior and hearth to see that masonry, mortar joints, grate or andirons are sound. A chimney should be examined periodically to see if it is clear or needs repair, including the part you can visually inspect in the attic.

Always make sure the damper is open before lighting a fire. That can be tested by holding a lighted twist of paper inside the fireplace to see if the flame is drawn upward. Keep the damper open until the ashes are cool. A fire that appears dead can still be burning deep inside a log. It's better

