



# utility reporter

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DECEMBER, 1975

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



## Negotiations with PG&E continue

Since the last issue, the negotiating committees for Local Union 1245 and Pacific Gas and Electric Company have had four meetings - December 2, 3, 9, and 12, 1975.

Company has proposed a general wage increase of 7.6% to be effective January 1, 1976. In addition, they have proposed to freeze the entry level wage rate for a number of beginning classifications in the physical bargaining unit; this applicable to Division classifications and to General Construction classifications that have Division oriented wage rates. In addition to proposing to freeze the entry level wage rate for Meter Readers and the first five steps in the wage progression for Clerk D and equivalent classifications, Company has proposed restructuring of the wage rates for Clerks "D" and "C" and equivalent classifications; this by reducing the top rate of pay for "D" Clerk by shortening the wage progressions from five to three years and lengthening the wage progression for "C" Clerk from eighteen to forty

two months. This same restructuring to be applicable to Clerical Assistants and Routine Clerical Assistants in the General Construction Department.

The clerical wage restructuring and the freezing of entry level wage rates, both physical and clerical, is to be applicable to employees hired after December 31, 1975.

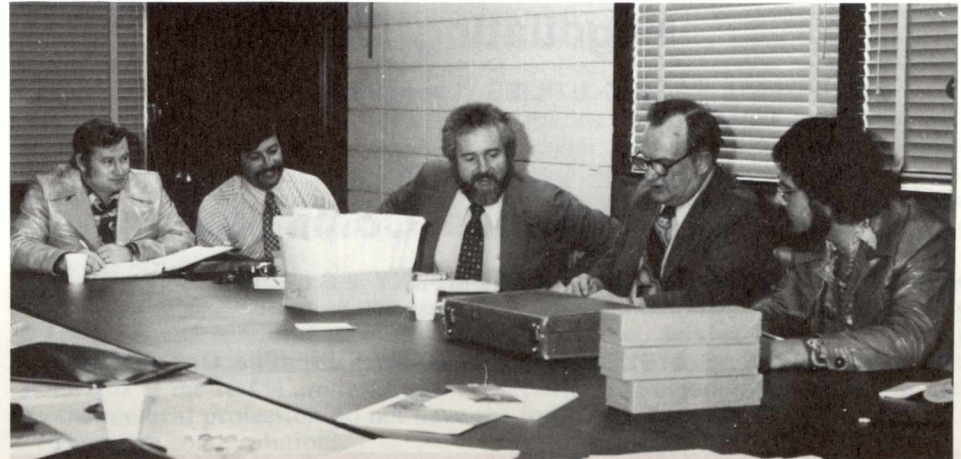
Union has proposed a 12.5% general wage increase together with a modified version of Company's proposal on the restructuring of the clerical wage progressions and has indicated it could agree to freezing entry level wage rates in beginning classifications having wage progressions, providing agreement can be reached on the question of clerical wage restructuring, including job duties, and the amount of the general wage increase.

Of major concern to the Union's Committee is the Company's proposal for wage restructuring in the clerical bargaining unit and for jobs in the physical bargaining unit performing clerical functions.

While the parties are still apart on the amount of the general wage increase, both acknowledge that their positions are flexible and subject to further bargaining.

It does appear that no agreement

will be reached on Union's proposal relative to vacations or Company's proposal to give it free choice in selecting Sub Foreman and other lead employees in both the physical and clerical bargaining units.



Shown above from left to right are Ron Fitzsimmons, Jim McCauley, Jack McNally, Mert Walters and Ed Vallejo. The two photos on this page show Local 1245's committee for negotiations with PG&E.



This photo shows, from left to right, negotiating committee members Mike Del Rio, Ronald Goldsmith, William Twohey, Barbara Symons and L. L. Mitchell.

## YOUR *Business Manager's* COLUMN SEASON'S GREETINGS

L. L. MITCHELL

January 1, 1976 marks the start of the Bi-Centennial year for the United States of America. There are many celebrations and ceremonies planned throughout the country in observance of this accomplishment. There will be homage paid to the founding fathers and others who were contributors to the growth and development of our nation. I am sure that in certain of these programs there will be some mention of the contributions of organized labor.

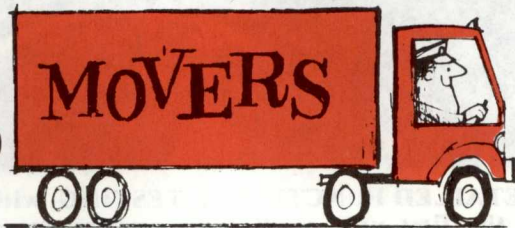
Over this span of U. S. history there have been many changes and revisions in the life styles of the ordinary citizen. These changes have to do with work and recreational activities as well as with the material well being of our citizenry. When we review this history it is a fact that many of these changes have been brought about as a result of action by the labor movement. It is safe to say that much of the freedom and liberty, as well as the standard of living we enjoy today, would not have been attained without the actions of a free and independent organized labor movement. This is not to say that there are no other influences for good in our societal structure, but having recently returned from Russia and seeing the differences in the labor movement and their society it is apparent that the independence of our labor movement has been and will be a dominant force in maintaining the dignity and freedom set forth in the principles which govern us as a nation.

We would also find in our study of that 200 year history the present economic position of the average worker has been more rapidly improved in the last 50 years of that period. While we have suffered recent losses in our position under a period of "stagflation" I'm sure most of us would not exchange the present for the so called "good of the old days". Emphasis by the labor movement on fringes such as vacations, holidays, etc., plus money fringes such as group life, hospital and medical insurance, have not only provided economic benefits but have provided health care and family security not known 50 years ago. Retirement plans have also eased the burdens and worry of outliving our work capability and has increased our longevity as well.

I mention this later period of our national history because Local 1245 will be observing two anniversaries in 1976. We will observe the 35th anniversary of the re-issuance of our charter on April 18, 1976. On February 28th we will observe the 25th year of the reissuance of the charter to the amalgamated local which made one IBEW local out of three. I choose to believe that our local played a big part in developing that period of U. S. history which has been most productive in raising the status and economic well being of the common man. Through our own activities in our local sphere, plus our participation

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

# Law Prof. raps Nuclear Initiative

A University of Virginia law professor who has played a role in forcing widescale review of federal security procedures for nuclear power plants told an Assembly Hearing Wednesday that the Nuclear Power Plant Initiative to appear on the California ballot next June would be "a step backward."

The professor, Mason Willrich, said that to begin with the provisions of the initiative, if passed, would be preempted by existing federal law and declared invalid by the courts based

on the 1954 Atomic Energy Act and a 1972 Minnesota decision affirming that federal nuclear safety laws preempt state regulations.

Moreover, he said, even if the initiative were found valid, it would be unwise because "responsibility for insuring that the inherent risks in nuclear power are kept as low as practicable is properly a matter of the federal government since the risks are national, indeed international in scope."

Beyond that he said:

**"California is in no position to declare its energy independence from the rest of the United States."**

Willrich said that California could have the greatest impact on nuclear policy "through strong participation in federal legislative and regulatory decision-making, rather than the state initiative process."

The nuclear power plant initiative would bar the construction of new nuclear power plants in California for five years and require a gradual shut-down of existing nuclear plants in California unless federal ceilings on the liability of utilities for nuclear accidents are lifted and unless the state legislature agrees by a two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature that all security and safety procedures are adequate.

The hearings was one of the series being conducted by the Assembly Committee on Resources, Land Use and Energy.

Calif. AFL-CIO News

## Local 1245 and U.S.B.R. reach agreement

Interim negotiations were concluded on Tuesday, December 9th. Issues involved were the elimination of Shift Supervisor due to automation of the hydro/electric plant. This position was eliminated effective no earlier than 1-18-76 in Shasta Field Division and no earlier than 7-1-77 in Folsom and Tracy Field Divisions.

Established position of Senior Control Operator at \$8.72 per hour; amalgamated all Operators into single classification of Control Operator at journeymen rate of \$7.92 per hour; and Operations Foreman III at 120% of the journeyman rate or \$9.50 per hour.

Appropriate job definitions for all three classifications were also agreed to. All of the above rates will be effective prior to the prenegotiated general wage increase effective 1-4-76 of 7 1/2%.

## Appointments

### Negotiating Committee

#### CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC UTILITIES (Lassen Division):

Doug Linstron  
Ron Stout

### Grievance Committees

#### PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY - San Jose

Barbary Symons

#### PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY - Pipeline Operations

C. D. Belcher

## YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN SEASON'S GREETINGS

L. L. MITCHELL

Continued from page one

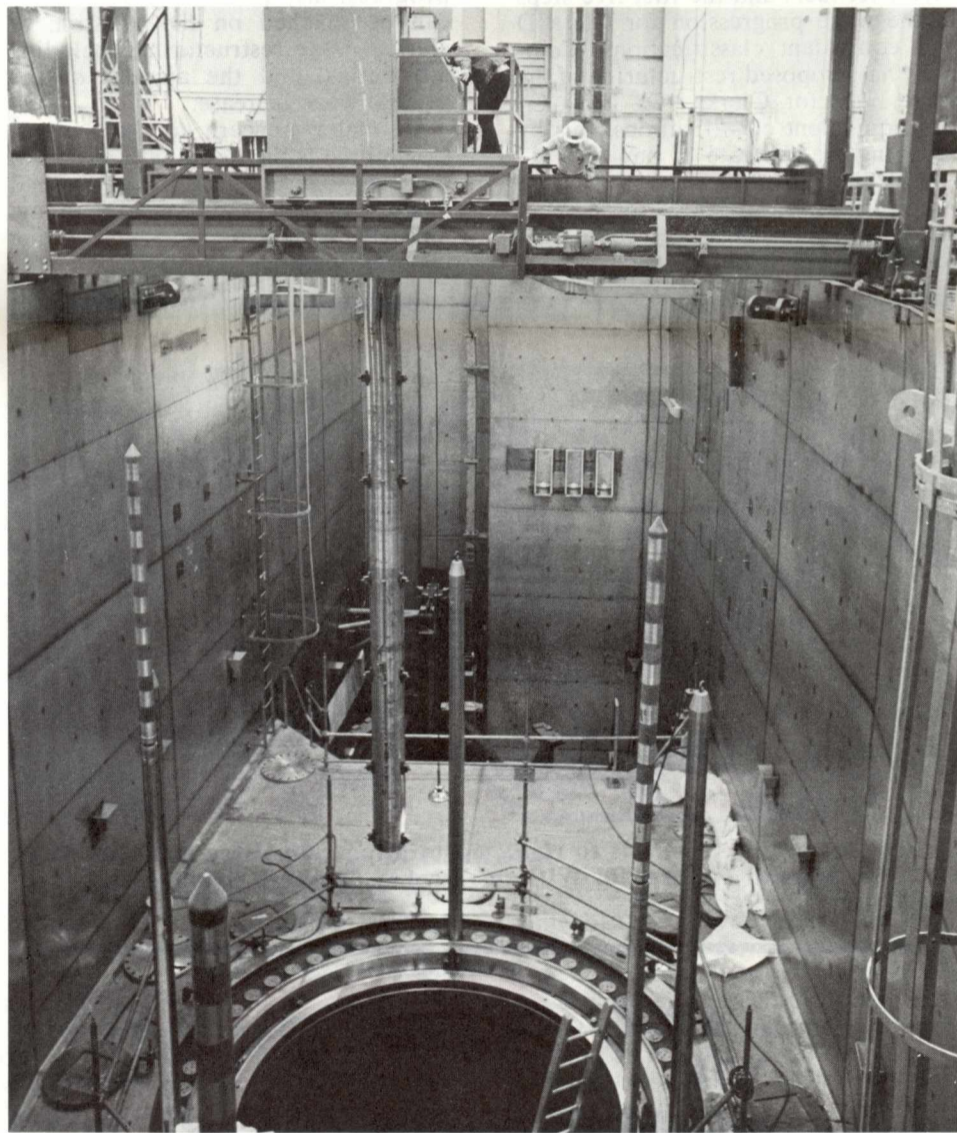
within the IBEW and the AFL-CIO, we have influenced decisions as well as provided answers and programs which have been pioneering efforts both in the utility industry and in labor as a whole.

I make these remarks at the closing of a calendar year. The New Year will be with us soon and as usual at this time people look to the past year and assess their success and their failures. This new year being a special event in our national history calls for a broader look at the past. I would hope that our members will take a look at their situation and review the total effort by Local 1245 as a part of history and how our activity relates to the family well being now as a com-

parison of what it was 35 years ago.

As we close another year we can also turn our thoughts gratefully to those dedicated and honorable people who over the years have worked and built an instrument for betterment of working people and their families. Those of us now charged with the responsibility of maintaining and operating Local 1245 can also be thankful for the good will and loyalty of the mass of stewards and unit officers who are major contributors in making our program possible.

On behalf of all our officers, staff and office employees I wish to extend to all of our members and their families our thanks for their support during the last year and to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**DETAILED FUNCTIONAL TESTING, without nuclear fuel, began Nov. 24 at the first unit of PG&E's nuclear power plant nearing completing at Diablo Canyon, near San Luis Obispo. Here inspectors, near top of photo are conducting preoperational tests of the fuel handling device which will load and unload the reactor vessel through opening visible at the bottom of the photo. All parts of the plant, which have been tested many times individually, will work together for the first time in the final check-out, which is expected to continue night and day for several months, and is the final test before nuclear fuel is scheduled to be loaded early next year. In the absence of fuel, heat for steam to drive the plant's turbines during the test will come from the work done by four 6,000 horsepower pumps which will circulate water at high pressure through the reactor during the test and when the nuclear unit is in full operation. Unit 1 of the 1,060,000 kilowatt power plant at Diablo Canyon is scheduled to begin serving California power users late next summer. A second nuclear unit at Diablo Canyon is to begin operation a year later.**



### the utility reporter

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# Bargaining Roundup

## IN NEGOTIATIONS:

**CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC UTILITIES COMPANY:** The Joint Benefit Committee, composed of Local Union 1245, Walnut Creek; Local Union 396, Las Vegas, Nevada; Local 1762, Cedar City, Utah; Local 89, Spokane, Washington, and Local 125, Portland, Oregon.

First meeting will be held on December 15th at which time Union will explain proposals involving medical, dental and pension changes.

The committee is composed of Robert Scoular and Assistant Business Manager John J. Wilder from Local 1245; Lou White and Business Representative Jack McIntire from Local 89; and Business Representative Ralph Miller from Local 125.

**SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT:** Union and District reached accord on December 11th on a 19 month agreement, including a dental plan, final and binding arbitration on grievances, increasing of meal allowance to \$6.00, two inequity adjustments, double time when work continues into Saturday. Have not reached agreement on wages and next meeting is scheduled on December 15, 1975. It is hoped that ratification meetings will be held on December 17th and 22nd.

**CITY OF SANTA CLARA:** Ratification meeting held Thursday, December 11th. Membership rejected City's latest proposal. No further meetings scheduled as of press time.

**TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT:** Union and District met on November 21, December 10 and December 11. Proposals have been exchanged. At last meeting, Union submitted a revised proposal which their negotiating committee will take to the Board of Directors.

**PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY:** Tentative offer of 3% general increase; possible implementation of vision care program. Next meeting scheduled for December 15.

**NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT:** Proposal for \$15 per month across the board increase and one additional holiday received from District. Still bargaining on both properties. Next meeting scheduled for December 16.

**CITY OF ROSEVILLE:** Have had three meetings to date. Another meeting scheduled for December 18th.

**PACIFIC GAS TRANSMISSION:** First meeting held Tuesday, December 16, 1975. The "one other subject" for negotiations for Company will be in relation to the rest period, and for Union who will ask for overtime at double the straight time rate of pay.

Negotiating committee members are Wallace J. Miller of Sand Point, Idaho; Frank Locati of Wallula, Washington, Business Representatives Wayne Weaver and Jack McNally, and Business Manager L. L. Mitchell.

**CALIFORNIA PACIFIC UTILITIES COMPANY - Lassen:** First and second offers have been rejected by the membership. Meeting will be held in San Francisco on December 12th with Federal Mediator in an effort to resolve problems.

Union's negotiating committee is composed of Ron Stout, Doug Lindstrom and Business Representative Dean Cofer.

**TELEPROMPTER OF LOS GATOS:** Second meeting with Company is scheduled for December 16, 1975. Union's negotiating committee consists of Jack Torrez, Business Representative Jack Hill and Assistant Business Manager John J. Wilder.

**TELEPROMPTER OF UKIAH, WILLITS & FT. BRAGG:** Tentative meetings are scheduled for December 16 and 17. Union's negotiating committee is composed of Betty Frantzich, Jerry Hamilton, Business Representative Ed Buchanan and Assistant Business Manager John J. Wilder.

**KONOCTI CABLE TV:** Third meeting is scheduled for January 18th. Union's negotiating committee is composed of Frank Hix, Business Representative Ed Buchanan and Assistant Business Manager John J. Wilder.

**SOHNER TREE SERVICE, INC.:** Exchanged proposals on November 25th. Second meeting on December 15th. Union's negotiating committee consists of Neil Bickerton, Laurence Schubert, and Business Representatives Corb Wheeler and Ed Buchanan.

**PACIFIC TREE EXPERT COMPANY:** No meetings as yet. As soon as requested information is received from Company, negotiations will commence.

**CITY OF LODI:** The Joint Study Committee has held two meetings regarding improvements in hospitalization and conversion of sick leave. These meetings have been more or less in the nature of Fact Finding sessions. Another meeting will be scheduled at an early date with a representative from the insurance carrier present, as well as a representative from the Bureau of Records.

# Blood Bank available to 1245 members

**Editor's Note:** Printed below is the Constitution of the Central Labor Council of Alameda County Voluntary Blood Bank. We have also reprinted a copy of the application card. Should you desire to join the Blood Bank, fill in the application or get actual card from your Bus. Rep. and mail to: **Central Labor Council Blood Plan, 150 Grand Ave., 2nd Floor, Oakland, California 94612**

- Article I** Name and purpose
- Sec. 1 The Blood Bank shall be called the Central Labor Council Voluntary Blood Bank Plan.
- Sec. 2 The purpose of the Blood Bank shall be to insure that ample blood is available to all members of the Central Labor Council Blood Bank and their dependents at the lowest possible cost to the members.
- Article II** Blood Bank Committee
- Sec. 1 The Council Blood Bank Committee shall be composed of a president, a secretary and members-at-large.
- A. The Chairman of the Community Services Committee, by virtue of his office, shall serve as President of the Blood Bank Committee.
- B. The Secretary of the Community Services Committee, by virtue of his office, shall serve as Secretary of the Blood Bank Committee.
- C. Members-at-large shall be appointed to the Blood Bank Committee by the President of the Central Labor Council.
- The number of members-at-large may vary.
- Sec. 2 The term of office of Blood Bank Committee members shall be two years, which will follow the Central Labor Council elections.
- Sec. 3 The affairs of the Blood Bank shall be administered by the Council Blood Bank Committee. Committee members shall belong to the Blood Bank.
- Sec. 4 The Blood Bank Committee shall meet at least quarterly.
- Sec. 5 The President shall be responsible for the conduct of business at general or special meetings of the Blood Bank Committee.
- Sec. 6 The Secretary shall be the Blood Bank Committee's chief executive officer to carry out the instructions of the Committee.
- Article III** Members
- Sec. 1 To be eligible for Blood Bank membership, one must be a member or retired member in good standing of a local union which is affiliated with the Central Labor Council.
- Sec. 2 Members shall be eligible to receive blood as needed from available supply:
- A. After sixty days membership in the Blood Bank. The sixty-days waiting period can be waived at the discretion of the Blood Bank Committee in cases where all members of a union and/or a unit join the Bank at the same time; and,
- B. upon payment of \$2.50 for the current Blood Bank year, which shall be January 1 through December 31. A thirty-day grace period will be granted members for renewing their membership.
- Article IV** Dependents
- Sec. 1 Dependents of members who shall be covered at no additional cost are:
- A. the member's lawful spouse
- B. dependent children, including unmarried children between 19 and 23 years of age provided they have the same regular residence as the member, are attending an accredited school or university as full-time students and are dependent upon the employee for support and maintenance
- C. dependent children, regardless of age, who are totally dependent on the member, for medical reasons
- D. stepchildren, foster children and adopted children if they depend upon the member for maintenance and support.
- Sec. 2 Persons other than those listed in Sec. 1 above, living in the same household and having evidence of dependency on the members, shall be eligible for Blood Bank coverage at \$2.50 per person per year.
- Article V** Exemptions
- Sec. 1 In cases where a member or his dependents is provided medical benefits which supply blood free of charge, this plan shall supplement their plan.
- Sec. 2 In cases of leukemia, hemophilia and carcinoma, the amount of blood donated shall be left up to the discretion of the Blood Bank Committee.
- Article VI** Financial obligations
- Sec. 1 In cases where a member's medical benefits do not pay blood processing fees, the Blood Bank shall pay the processing fees.
- Sec. 2 Members who donate blood to the Bank, through the Central Labor Council Blood Bank shall receive for each donation the sum of \$10.00 from the Council Blood Bank.
- Sec. 3 In the event the cost of operating the Bank exceeds its revenues and resources the Blood Bank Committee shall have the power by a two-thirds (2/3) vote to impose assessments from time to time upon the members of the Bank. Said assessments shall be limited to an amount to assure the financial solvency of the Bank.
- Article VII** Ratification
- This constitution was approved by the Executive Board of the Central Labor Council on May 9, 1975, and ratified by the membership of the Central Labor Council on May 12, 1975.

LOCAL UNION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ UNION NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City & State \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

DEPENDENTS	AGE
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

PLEASE CHECK BOX: RENEWAL  NEW MEMBER



Howard Darington



Ed Horn



Jackie Offersen



Dale Turman



Manny Mederos



Vern Loveall



Guy Marley



Dick Robuck



Vern Mitchell

# Merry Christmas



# and Happy New Year



Vern Mitchell



Mert Walters



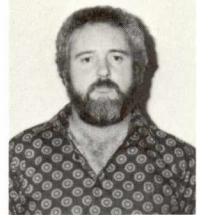
John Wilder



Larry Foss



Roy Murray



Jack McNally



Dave Reese



Ruth Mitchell



Marty Kerr



Rose Gueld



Dorothy Fortier



Florence Burgk



Vera Friedl



Margie McCauley



Esther Sandmann



Kevin Tryner



Joanne Anderson



Nancy Avila

nas



h Frank Quadros

ear from Local 1245

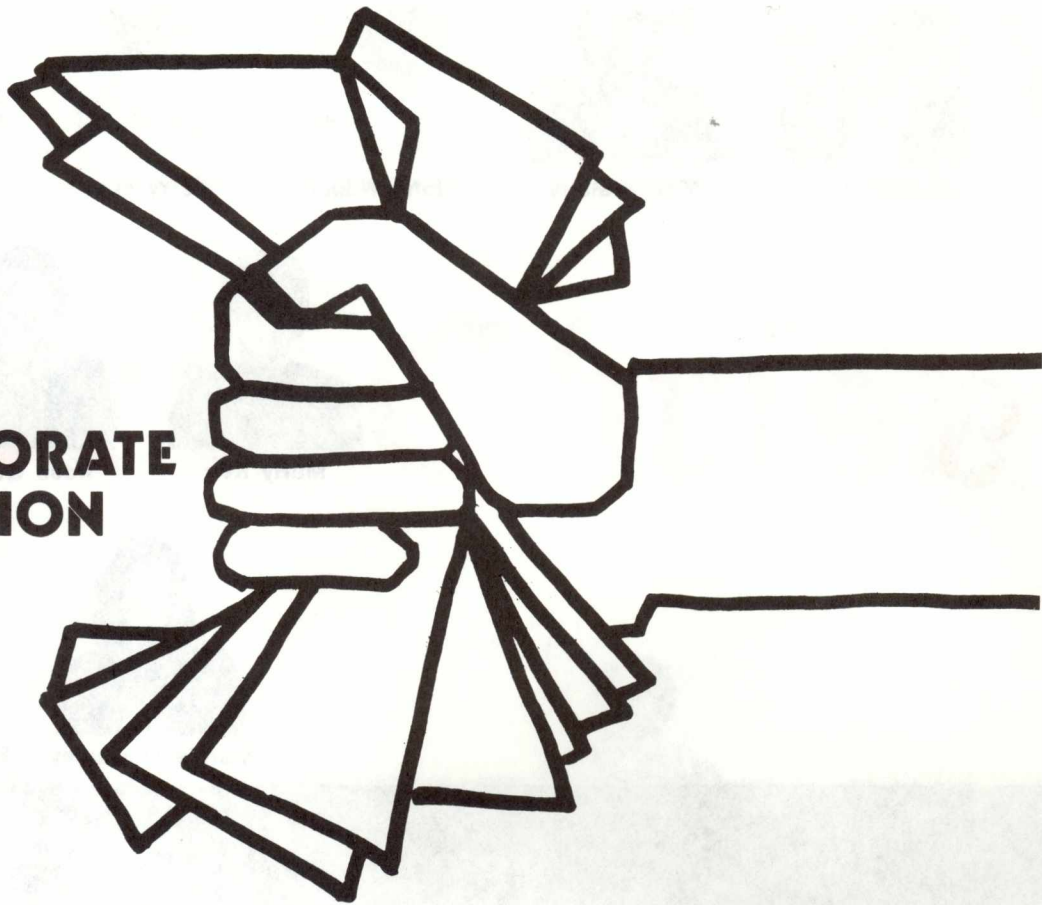
A new and tangled web of corporate corruption now coming to light dramatizes the lengths to which some American businesses will go to satisfy a burning greed for profit.

The latest scandals, an outgrowth of the Watergate investigations, involve millions of dollars in political payoffs to foreign agents or governments by big U.S.-based multinational corporations bent on building up earnings.

The payoffs, which may take the form of bribery, kickbacks or other special favors, are doled out to those with influence to secure contracts, protect in-place investments or gain favorable concessions such as a tax break in the host country.

But facts already unearthed show that the corruption reaches directly into the executive suites of some of the best-known companies of America, including Gulf Oil Corp., Ashland Oil, Inc., Lockheed Aircraft Corp., United Brands Co., Phillips Petroleum Co., and Northrop Corp.

## THE WEB OF CORPORATE CORRUPTION



### Overseas

#### A Partial List of Alleged Payments

Company	Amount	Contributed To
Ashland Oil, Inc.	\$190,000	two government officials in Gabon
	\$50,000	several middlemen in the Dominican Republic
	\$5,000	a minor Libyan official
	\$100,000	a consultant in Libya
	\$30,000	a Nigerian consultant
	\$77,500	Ashland did not identify
Exxon	\$46-49 million	various Italian politicians and political parties
	\$1.2 million	Canadian political parties, through its Canadian subsidiary, Imperial Oil Ltd.
General Motors	\$50,000	Canadian Liberal Party
	\$50,000	Canadian Progressive Conservative Party
	unspecified	Italian officials
General Refractories	unspecified	various foreign officials
Gulf Oil Corp.	\$4.8 million	the Democratic Republican Party of Korea
	\$460,000	the late President Rene Barrientos of Bolivia
	\$50,000	a pro-Arab Lebanese publicity campaign
	unspecified	other countries, including Italy
IBM	an average \$36,000 per year for 5 years	various Canadian politicians
Lockheed	approx. \$22 million	foreign officials and political organizations in a number of countries
Mobil Oil	\$2 million	Italian political parties, through its Italian affiliate
	unspecified	Canadian political parties
Northrop	\$30 million	foreign "consultants" in more than a dozen countries
	\$1.8 million	to pay Zurich agents to get contracts on a no-questions-asked basis
	\$450,000	a Northrop consultant for two Saudi Arabian generals
Phillips Petroleum	\$1.3 million	foreign associates
Standard of California	unspecified	politicians in "a few foreign countries"
Standard of Indiana	unspecified	Canadian and Italian political elements
United Brands	\$1.25 million	an official of the Honduran government
	\$750,000	Italian government officials

The payoffs touch presidents, prime ministers, generals and government officials of countries throughout Europe, the Middle East, Central and South America and Asia.

Sen. Frank Church (D-Ida.), chairman of a Senate panel only midway through its probe of the foreign payoffs, has referred to the overseas bribery as "a cancer eating at the vitals of Western society," Church added:

"Corruption, in big business as well as in politics, has become the enemy of free societies, giving the Communists a potent weapon to wield against us."

At home, of course, it is against the law for corporations to make political contributions to federal election campaigns. But unless specifically forbidden by the laws of a given country, U.S. political payoffs abroad violate only ethical considerations.

The multinational firms, most of which are based in the United States, say they must grease palms in many of the nations in which they do business just to stay even with the competition. They write off the payments — many of them outright bribes — as the "cost of doing business."

Chairman B. R. Dorsey of Gulf Oil Corp., after admitting his company gave \$4 million in payoffs to the ruling party of South Korean President Park Chung Hee, offered a revealing explanation for his decision to make the corporate contributions.

Gulf had a total investment in refining, shipbuilding and other operations in South Korea in excess of \$300 million, he told Sen. Church's Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on multinational corporations. Leaders of Park's party demanded money from the firm, he said, a demand accompanied by pressure which "left little to the imagination as to what would occur if the company would choose to turn its back on the request."

Recalling the incident, Dorsey noted that Gulf was expanding its Korean operations and was faced with myriad problems.

"I carefully weighed the demand for a contribution in that light," he said, "and my decision to make the contribution was based upon what I sincerely considered to be in the best interests of the company and its shareholders."

Sen. Dick Clark (D-Iowa), a member of the Church subcommittee, following up Dorsey's testimony, asked incredulously:

"This was the sole basis of your decision? I assume it was not something that had to do with the national interest of the United States. That, I assume, is not your responsibility. You make decisions on these contributions solely on profit motives for the stockholders' interest, is that correct?"

"Exactly right," Dorsey replied. As for the correctness of the ethics involved in the transaction, Dorsey put it this way: "What is immoral to some is perfectly correct to others. What is onerous to one culture may be perfectly proper and decent to another."

While bribing a foreign official does not violate U.S. law, covering up the payoff through bookkeeping gimmickry constitutes a violation of the Securities and Exchange Commission's reporting requirements. SEC has led a vigorous investigation of firms that have allegedly made undisclosed payments abroad, among them Northrop, General Refractories, Gulf, United Brands and others.

### Domestic

#### Known Illegal Corporate Contributions to U.S. Political Campaigns

Company	Amount	Contributed To
American Airlines	\$ 55,000	Nixon 1972
American Shipbuilding	\$ 53,000	Nixon 1972
Ashland Oil	\$100,000	Nixon 1972
	\$ 50,000	Democratic National Committee 1970
	\$ 10,000	Louie Nunn 1972
	\$ 3,500	Vance Hartke 1968
	\$ 3,000	Birch Bayh 1968
	\$ 2,500	John Tower 1972
Associated Milk Producers	\$202,500	Nixon 1972
	\$ 15,000	Jesse Helms 1972
	\$ 12,000	Humphrey 1970
	\$ 11,000	Ed Mezvinsky 1972
	\$ 7,500	Dick Clark 1972
	\$ 4,100	Peter Rodino 1972
	\$ 3,000	William Cohen 1972
	\$ 2,650	Rbt. Kastenmeier 1972
	\$ 2,300	William Hungate 1972
Other Milk Producers	\$130,000	Nixon 1972
Braniff	\$ 40,000	Nixon 1972
Carnation	\$ 8,900	Nixon 1972
Diamond International	\$ 5,000	Nixon 1972
	\$ 1,000	Muskie 1972
Goodyear Tire & Rubber	\$ 40,000	Nixon 1972
Gulf Oil	\$100,000	Nixon 1972
	\$ 15,000	Mills 1972
	\$ 10,000	Jackson 1972
Lehigh Valley Co-operative Farmers	\$ 50,000	Nixon 1972
3M	\$ 30,000	Nixon 1972
Northrop	\$150,000	Nixon 1972
Phillips Petroleum	\$100,000	Nixon 1972
Ratrie, Robbins & Schweitzer	\$ 5,000	Nixon 1972
Singer Co.	\$ 10,000	Nixon 1972

# Some Questions For Our Readers

## Quality health care needed

### Do We Have Any Poets?



In order to brighten the pages of this newspaper, your editor considered the possibility that we may have some "unsung bards" among our thousands of members and their families.

Poetry is something which is as individual an expression as any found in our society and our culture. Personal thoughts are transformed into rhythmic arrangements of words which tell stories or advance ideas. This method of human expression is a very important factor in the recording of the history and the process of human thought and expression in the civilization of many. Many poets are bashful and hide their talents in the face of crude expressions of ignorant people who resent such free expressions of individual thought.

We welcome the contribution of our members and their families who write poetry and we would be most happy to start a "Poets Corner," if we can generate some interest. Just send in your efforts and they will find their way into print, subject to the reasonable responsibilities of editors concerning space and the content of submitted material.



### Do We Have Any Cartoonists?

Humor is becoming a scarce and a prized commodity in this era of serious and critical everyday events. The art of depicting human behavior or situations in the form of cartoons is one of the arts which can transcend provincial and selfish attitudes. Cartoons have been known to win or lose important elections. They have been instrumental in some of the major reforms of the last century. They have a power of expression which is reserved for cartoons alone and we know that we have some good cartoonists in the family of Local 1245.

We seek the contributions of our cartoonist members or the cartoonist members of their families as a welcome addition to the pages of this newspaper. How about some help? We'll do our best to reproduce any materials which are suitable for reproduction.



### Do We Have Any Photographers?

We know that there are many fine photographers among our members and their families. We get little opportunity to extend the photographic arts of these fine technicians to the thousands of people who scan our monthly efforts. We would like to show off the abilities of our "camera hawk" members and we promise to use their efforts in the best manner we can with proper recognition through photo credits.

A good photo, black and white glossy print, with a caption explaining the subject matter and properly identifying the individuals involved, is "manna from Heaven" so far as your editors are concerned. Negatives are helpful but not absolutely essential. Pictures and negatives will be returned to senders.

### Letters to the Editor?

We have tried several times in the last three years to start a "letters to the editor" column and occasionally we get one and print it, but we are not getting the response we had hoped for. If you have some thoughts or ideas you want to share with the membership, send them in. All entries are subject to approval of the "editorial board (Executive Board)," but if our members exercise reason and good judgment their letters will be printed.

The Utility Reporter is your newspaper and we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to make it more meaningful to you by contributing to it personally.

There is a basic need in the United States for full, quality health care for every citizen regardless of income or status. Under our current system of health insurance, most benefits are paid out for in-hospital care and surgery. As a result the medical profession has ignored the benefits of preventive medicine and instead physicians have geared themselves towards performing needless operations, hospitalizing a patient instead of treating him during office visits, prescribing high-cost drugs and ordering excessive x-rays.

Taken worldwide, the United States is going downhill medically. This nation is 17th in infant mortality, 11th in maternal mortality (In 1952, the U.S. ranked lowest in this category), eighth in physicians per population, and 22nd in life expectancy.

Yet, in the period from 1967 to 1974 the nation's total health care bill has jumped over 100%. In 1967, Americans paid \$47.9 billion for health care; in 1974, \$104 billion.

Existing quality control procedures are inadequate to guarantee everybody the best medical care. The insurance companies have demonstrated the only role they wish to perform is that of financial "middleman," they have not demonstrated the desire to undertake the task of setting up medical standards and quality controls on the physicians and hospitals profiting from the medical insurance plans.

It is difficult to expect that the executive boards of hospitals are concerned with establishing strict quality controls because a large share of their income is derived from surgery, over half of which is performed by surgeons not certified by the Medical Specialties Boards, organizations established by the medical profession to assure specialists have demonstrated capabilities above those required under state licensing standards.

State licensing procedures in the medical professions are inadequate. Some hospitals licensed by state governments do not meet the standards established by the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Hospitals, another national voluntary organization which inspects hospitals upon invitation. Many experts also believe standards of the JCAH are insufficient. Likewise, the voluntary boards established by the medical profession do not have the force of law.

There are some solutions.

The federal government has got to establish strict quality controls on the medical profession. Supervision of this program would be conducted by the federal government and not medical professionals on their own.

Medical professionals on regulatory boards should have no vested interest in the administration or financial operations of the medical institutions they police. Instead, they should serve as public watchdogs, making sure that medical professionals are strictly regulated.

Likewise, there should be "consumer representation" on all medical regulatory boards as the medical profession should be made accountable to the public.

The Federal government would be empowered to control costs, to guarantee everyone the right to quality medical treatment by instituting a National Health Care program administered along the same line as the federal Social Security System.

This is now what is before the Congress in the Kennedy-Corman National Health Care Bill. Everyone would pay into a fund similar to paying into Social Security, which would allow the federal government to provide medical care to any citizen in need of it.

There is no question that citizens would be taxed through such a program; however, the tax is greatly offset by the elimination in the current costs people are obligated to pay in insurance premiums and deductibles would be eliminated and the continuing rise in health care costs would be eliminated.

—The Citizen

## Flood of New Health Standards Proposed

(Continued from page eight)

— GROUP OF 11 TOXIC CHEMICALS — Includes ozone, p-tert-butyltoluene, cumene, ethyl benzene, alpha-methyl styrene, styrene, vinyl toluene, cyclohexane, camphor, mesityl oxide, and 5-methyl-3-heptanone. All are primarily eye and respiratory tract irritants. Permissible exposure limits stay the same as in present standards, but employers would be required to determine if any workers are exposed to more than an "action level" — one half the permissible exposure for any chemical. If so, employers would have to start regular monitoring programs.

The proposed standards for lead, beryllium, trichloroethylene, and toluene also call for an "action level" of one half the permissible exposure. In all cases, if workers are exposed above that level, employers would have to regularly monitor workers' exposures and give medical tests to determine the effects of exposure.

### HOW HIGH THE SKY

A chemical industry publication recently added this provocative thought to the discussion of pollutants: one part per million is equivalent to one inch in 16 miles, one minute in two years, a one-gram needle in a ton of hay, one penny in \$10,000, one ounce of salt in 62,500 pounds, one large mouthful of food in comparison with the food a person will eat in a lifetime, and one drop of vermouth in 80 fifths of gin or vodka.

# The Safety Scene

ALCOHOL EDUCATION CHART

## IT'S UP TO YOU

Alcohol is the largest single cause factor in fatal auto crashes. The result: thousands of needless deaths every year.

The law cannot regulate your drinking. It can only penalize you if you drive after drinking too much—often innocent people have died. All states now use chemical tests to determine blood-alcohol concentration. Under the law of many states you are presumed too intoxicated to drive at 0.10 per cent. Other states have slightly higher levels and one sets it lower at 0.08.

A presumptive level of 0.15 per cent, considered too high in the light of recent studies, is still retained by a majority of states. An Indiana University study found that at 0.15 the chances of being involved in a traffic accident are 25 times greater than with no alcohol.

If you are going to drive, it would be better if you did not drink any alcohol at all. Or . . .

Drink in such a manner that you will **not** be under the influence when you drive a car.

If you choose the second alternative, wait at least one hour per average drink before driving. That's the minimum amount of time re-

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	NORMAL MEASURES DISPENSED	ALCOHOL IN ONE BOTTLE OR GLASS		APPROXIMATE BLOOD-ALCOHOL LEVEL (%) REACHED IN ONE HOUR (0.015 can be substituted for each additional hour)					
		Per cent of Alcohol	Amount of Alcohol	One Drink		Two Drinks		Three Drinks	
				Body Weight	Body Weight	Body Weight	Body Weight		
				120	180	120	180	120	180
<b>BEER</b>									
a) Malt	12 oz. btl.	7%	4/5 oz.	.06	.04	.08	.06	.14	.09
b) Ale	12 oz. btl.	5%	3/5 oz.	.05	.03	.07	.05	.10	.08
c) Reg. Beer	12 oz. btl.	4%	1/2 oz.	.04	.02	.06	.04	.09	.06
<b>WINES</b>									
a) Fortified: Port, Muscatel, etc.	3+ oz. gl.	18%	1/2 oz.	.04	.02	.06	.04	.09	.06
b) Natural: Red/White, Champagne	3+ oz. gl.	12%	2/5 oz.	.03	.02	.06	.04	.07	.04
<b>LIQUEURS</b>									
a) Strong: B&B, Cointreau, Drambuie	1 oz. gl.	40%	2/5 oz.	.03	.02	.06	.04	.07	.05
b) Medium: Fruit Brandies	2 oz. gl.	25%	1/2 oz.	.04	.02	.07	.04	.09	.06
<b>"STRAIGHT" SPIRITS</b>									
Brandy, Cognac, Rum, Scotch, Vodka, Whiskey	1 oz. gl.	45%	1/2 oz.	.04	.02	.06	.04	.08	.06
<b>COCKTAILS</b>									
a) Strong: Martini, Manhattan	3 1/2 oz. gl.	30%	1 oz.	.07	.04	.14	.09	.19	.11
b) Medium: Old Fashioned, Daiquiri, Alexander	4 oz. gl.	15%	3/5 oz.	.05	.03	.07	.05	.10	.08
<b>HIGHBALLS</b>									
with sweet and sour mixes, tonics	8 oz. gl.	7%	3/5 oz.	.05	.03	.07	.05	.10	.07

quired by the body to rid itself of alcohol.

**It's up to you.**

measured over 15 minutes, goes down from 200 to 150 ppm; 300 ppm peak concentration allowed under present standard is eliminated. Inhaling trichloroethylene, a widely used solvent, can affect the central nervous system, causing vision problems, confusion, tremors, and dizziness; severe exposure can cause cardiac arrest. Recent studies show that trichloroethylene causes cancer in animals.

— TOLUENE — Proposal lowers eight-hour exposure from 200 to 100 parts per million of air; sets a new ceiling limit of 200 ppm during a 15-minute period. Inhaling toluene, most of which is used in manufacturing benzene can also affect the central nervous system, causing headaches, drowsiness, and muscle weakness. Eye and skin contact with liquid toluene causes severe irritation, dermatitis, and burns to the cornea.

Continued on page seven

## Flood of New Health Standards Proposed

WASHINGTON — The slow dribble of new job health standards coming from the U.S. Department of Labor has increased to a virtual flood in the past month.

Since October 1, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has proposed stricter measures to protect workers from lead, asbestos, beryllium, trichloroethylene, toluene, ozone, and several ketones and alkyl benzenes.

New proposed standards for sulfur dioxide and ammonia were about to be released as this issue went to press.

Public hearings will be held on all the new proposals before they become law, according to an OSHA spokesman. No dates have yet been set for any of the hearings.

The following is a quick summary of the proposed standards and the health effects of the substances they cover:

— LEAD — Proposed standard lowers the exposure limit from 200 to 100 micrograms per cubic meter of air, determined over an eight-hour workday; level of lead in a worker's blood may not exceed 60 micrograms of lead per 100 grams of whole blood. Lead that is inhaled or ingested is deposited in various organs of the body can cause diseases of the kidneys, brain and central nervous system, and the blood-forming system.

— TRICHLOROETHYLENE — Permissible level over an eight-hour day stays at 100 parts per million (ppm) of air — same as the current standard; ceiling limit,

### Wanda Chin and Larry Shields

could have won \$50.00 if they had noticed their union membership card numbers in the October and November issues of the **Utility Reporter**. This month's number is as well hidden as it was last month. Don't miss out, read your **Utility Reporter**.

**LOOK FOR YOUR CARD NUMBER**

## HOLIDAYS AND SAFETY

by Ken Lohre

The holiday season is upon us and the rush is on. The Christmas parties have started and the New Year's parties are being planned. It can and should be a happy time of the year.

Chances are that the happiness of one or several members of Local 1245 will be marred by accidents during the holiday season. Three million, four hundred nineteen thousand, one hundred ninety-three.

Every year we hear and read statistics about the drunk drivers and the accidents they are responsible for. These statistics should not be taken lightly. Shown above on this page is an alcohol education chart and a short article to go with it. Read it and take it for what it is worth to you.

Booze is not the only thing we should worry about as it relates to accidents during the holiday season. Our minds are full of thoughts which are unrelated to what we are doing at the moment. Have you ever caught your-

self driving along thinking about something or looking at an advertisement, and then realized that if the car in front of you had stopped for some reason, you would have hit them? Have you caught yourself thinking about what to get the wife or kids for Christmas while you are working on the job?

All of us have done these things at one time or another, but unfortunately these momentary mental lapses can be fatal. The Troublemakers, Linemen, Fitters, Gas Servicemen, Truck Drivers, Installers, and people in many other classifications which Local 1245 represents work in highly critical areas where one mental lapse or mistake can result in the loss of their life and the lives of other people.

As we go through this holiday season, the officers of Local 1245, the Business Manager, and his staff, urge the membership to work and drive safely and make the season a truly happy one.