



# utility reporter

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OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

JULY, 1977

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



**DEAN COFER**  
Business Manager



**HOWARD DARINGTON**  
President

## Cofer and Darington elected to top offices of Local Union 1245

Dean Cofer of Oroville, California was elected to the office of Business Manager-Financial Secretary of Local Union 1245, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO. Cofer has been a member of Local 1245's staff, as a Business Representative, since September, 1966 and has been a member of Local 1245 since December, 1963. This will be Cofer's first term as chief administrative officer of Local 1245.

All officers of the 17,000 + member organization were up for election. The election was handled through a secret mail referendum procedure at the Local's Walnut Creek headquarters by a nineteen-member election committee of rank and file members.

Howard Darington of Eureka was re-elected to the office of President. Ron Fitzsimmons was elected Vice President, Kathy Tindall was elected Recording Secretary and Nannette Brownlee was elected Treasurer.

The newly elected Executive Board members are as follows: Bob Thomson, Southern Area; C.P. "Red" Henneberry, Central Area; Howard Stiefer, Northern Area and Marvin Rubendall At-Large.

New faces on the Advisory Council will be: Tom Thomas, San Joaquin Division; John J. Collenbach, Coast Valleys Division; Jack Hill, City of Santa Clara, and San Jose Division; Frank Saxsenmier, San Francisco Division, and General Office; Ned Fox, Transit Authority of the City of Sacramento; Jimmy Russell, Humboldt Division; Richard Hafner, Shasta Division; Barry Mitchell, Sierra Pacific Power Company; Thomas Manning, DeSabra Division; Larry Casserly, Jr., Colgate Division; Richard Madden, North Bay Division; Barbara J. Symons, Clerical-at-Large; Carlos A. Davison, Tree Trimmer Companies; Eduardo Vallejo, San

(Continued on page two)

## Members ratify PG&E Agreements

A solid 69.4% of the members eligible returned their secret ballot vote on negotiations between Local 1245 and PG&E. The actual number of ballots returned was 9,445. Some of the ballots returned could not be certified because of a lack of names on the return envelopes and several people even attempted to vote twice.

The final voting results were as follows:

PHYSICAL		CLERICAL	
Yes	4,928	Yes	1,469
No	2,725	No	290

These figures are not to be scoffed at or taken lightly. They show that a true majority took part in determining the wages, benefits and working conditions under which they will live and work for the next several years.

The officials of Local 1245 are aware that all members are not satisfied with the results and are aware of most of the major objections. They are interpreting the results as a careful consideration of alternatives weighed against the significant gains made in these agreements.

The new agreements provide for substantial improvements in the following sections of the contract: Leaves of absence, Holidays, Shift Premiums, Vacations, Job Biddings, Promotion and Transfer, Demotion, Overtime, Emergency Duty, and G.C. Expenses.

The members employed by PG&E will receive a 7.25 percent pay increase, retroactive to January 1, 1977. Effective January 1, 1978 PG&E employees on the payroll at that time will receive a 7 percent increase. On January 1, 1979 an increase of 6.75 percent will go into effect. A "cost of living" provision was negotiated with respect to wages which provides that should the Consumer Price Index for the United States - all cities - for the month of October, 1978, (1967 = 100 base) exceed 196.0, or if such Index for any month prior to October, 1978, exceeds 196.0, Union may reopen the Agreements with respect to wages only by giving written notice to Company prior to November 30, 1978.

A number of long-sought improvements are obtained in the Agreement covering working conditions, for example:

Shift premium is now on a % basis,

Replacement of stolen tools is provided for,

The 3 year bar for promotions and demotions in General Construction is broken and provisions for preferential rehire in G.C. are established,

The physical wage structure is revamped to provide a reasonable differential of \$2.00 per week between wage rates.

### Other improvements gained include:

An additional holiday,

An employee's grandparents are included in the 3 day funeral leave provision,

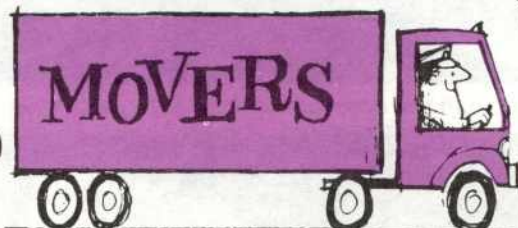
Improved provisions for second shift employees called for jury duty,

(Continued on page two)



Shown above are some of the members of the ballot committee for the PG&E ratification. The committee consisted of Robert Burchfield - Chairman, Ballot Committee, Charles Bianco, Kayphe Brewer, Frank L. DeMaio, J.B. Graham, Jr., Laurence Hope, Nannette Brownlee, Cyndi Santaella, Gary E. Johnson, Charles N. Larsen, Ray Milota, Debra J. Rocha, Victor Patton, Felton G. Prescott, F.O. Watkins, Barbara Dawson, Barbara Symons, and Trish Ochsner.

... HAVE  
YOU  
MOVED?



MY NEW ADDRESS IS:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



# Members ratify PG&E Agreements

(Continued from page one)

Meal is to be provided one hour beyond regular work hours,  
 Entitlement for 4 weeks vacation comes 2 years earlier and in 1978 entitlement for 5 weeks vacation will come 2 years earlier,  
 Provisions are made to take vacation in increments of one day or more on any day of the week,  
 Actual one for one transfer rights are established,  
 Requirements for being considered at the top of the rate for bidding under the Clerical Agreement are reduced from 36 to 30 months,  
 The Demotion and Layoff Procedures are rewritten in a more orderly manner and the rights of employees who are subject to layoff are expanded (this is even more true in General Construction)  
 Moving expenses are increased from \$750 to \$900,  
 Increased doubletime for overtime is provided for and the provisions of Title 212 are improved.

**Additionally, General Construction obtained:**

Substantial total improvements in expense provisions, together with  
 Improved grievance procedure, and  
 Provisions for apprenticeship training, as well as  
 Improved promotion and demotion procedures.

## Open Letter to the membership

*Setting up a balloting process is difficult work at anytime, and it was doubly difficult for the 1977 election of Union Officers and of Advisory Council members. The difficulties arose because of the unusual amount of election-activity by the candidates, and because of the emotional level present in this election. Over and above this was the legal necessity to make sure that the entire process conformed to the International Constitution, the Local Union Bylaws, and to the provisions of Title IV of the Labor - Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959.*

*The difficulty was further increased because the election had to be held from start to finish in just 56 days. This included the certifying of the candidates, the composing and publication of the Utility Reporter, the preparation and mailing of 17,213 ballots which had 90 candidates competing for 32 elected offices, and finally the qualifying and tallying of the 6,696 ballots which were returned.*

*Throughout the entire process, the Election Committee worked diligently and competently. Also deserving of recognition is M.A. Walters, Sr. Ass't. Business Manager who was the staff advisor to the Election Committee, and all of the clerical employees of our Union office who typed and retyped, printed, filed, checked and double checked a mountain of paperwork.*

*Advice was sought and given most willingly by W.L. Vinson, Vice President, I.B.E.W., Donald J. Sabin, Ass't. to the International President, I.B.E.W., William J. Jones, Supervisory Compliance Officer, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Howard Darington, President L. U. 1245, I.B.E.W., and from L.L. Mitchell it's, Business Manager.*

*Throughout the whole process, no matter how much help was obtained from these various people, the fact remained that the decisions and the responsibilities were those of the Election Committee along with the tiring physical work involved.*

*If I could have selected this Election Committee myself, I would have not been able to surround myself with a more diligent, harder working group of people. I owe them my thanks for making my job easier, and I think that our membership owes them congratulations for a difficult job done well.*

- Gary W. Abrahamson -  
 Member and  
 Judge of the Election

Improvements were made in all Plans covered under the **Benefit Agreement**. The cost to employees for **Group Life Insurance** is reduced 20%. Provisions are made wherein employees may elect lesser amounts of group life insurance and still qualify for **Long Term Disability Insurance** coverage. This will be of considerable benefit to younger employees with family responsibility who are in beginning or training classifications. **Adjustments of from 5 to 41.7%** are provided for those employees who are receiving long term disability insurance. The **Savings Fund Plan** is amended to provide for withdrawal of stock purchased with Company's contributions after 2 instead of 3 years with provisions for a one time two year withdrawal at the end of 1977. In addition Company and Union have agreed to amend the Savings Fund Plan in order to take advantage of the additional 1/2% investment tax credit - **TRASOP** as soon as the I.R.S. issues its rules on this provision. The **Retirement Plan** is substantially improved particularly by providing an increased opportunity for the spouse of a decreased participant to qualify for a spouse's pension and by the establishment of two new formulas which provide for increased benefits for employees who retire with more than 20 years of credited service.

Addition of two new formulas in the pension plan, an improved spouse's pension, a 20% increase in the cost of covered benefits in the dental plan, an immediate adjustment in the LTD payments with an opening for another adjustment and a 20% reduction in the group life insurance premium cost with options to freeze or in some cases to elect 1/3 or 2/3 of full coverage were some of the additional improvements achieved in this set of bargaining.

## Cofer and Darington elected to top offices of Local Union 1245

(Continued from page one)

Francisco Vice President's & Comptroller's Office.

Advisory Council incumbents re-elected were: Ruben Arrendondo, Pipeline Operations Department, Lawrence Ryan, Alameda/Contra Costa Transit District, and East Bay Municipalities; Ray Shepherd, East Bay Division, and Material Control Department; Pat Nickeson, Stockton Division, and City of Lodi; Alexander Adams, Pacific Gas Transmission Company; Stanley Justis, Drum Division; Bill Tomlinson, Sacramento Division; Dick Daugherty, Sacramento Municipal Utility District; Bill Miller, United States Bureau of Reclamation; Philip

Blyth, Citizens Utility Company of California; Bill Twohey, General Construction; Duane Bartlow, Irrigation Districts and Dale Fox, CATV Operating Companies.


The Election Committee consisted of Gary Abrahamson, Judge of the Election; and tellers; George Daly, Harvey Hammond Jr., James Bender, Mike Paulsen, Lance Karber, F.O. Watkins, Mark Smith, Norman Mercer, George Lazaneo, Debbie Rocha, Felton Prescott, Ray Milota, Harvey Iness, Larry Hope, Clinton Wallington, Ray Gallagher, Donald Kinkade and Charles Larsen Jr. Some of the committee members are shown in the two photos below.





**the utility reporter**

Telephone (415) 933-6060



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**KENNETH O. LOHRE** ..... Managing Editor  
**M. A. WALTERS** ..... Assistant Editor  
**JACK McNALLY** ..... Assistant Editor  
**DAVID REESE** ..... Assistant Editor

**Executive Board:** Howard Darington, Eduardo Vallejo, Kathy Tindall, Warren Manley, James Wilburn, Guy E. Marley and Jack Graves.

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# OUTSIDE LINE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT SETTLED

Agreement has finally been reached between Local Unions 47-1245, I.B.E.W., and the Western Line Constructors Chapter of N.E.C.A. after a long series of meetings.

Assistant Business Manager John Wilder and brother D. "Tommy" Heyl, Lineman in the Construction Unit, represented Local 1245 at the bargaining table.

Assistant Business Manager Bill

Turner and Brother Bob Donley, Lineman of the Construction Unit, represented Local 47 at the bargaining table.

The following changes have been agreed to for the Outside Line Construction Contract:

1. One-year agreement—June 1, 1977 to May 31, 1978.
2. The employer must qualify the need for special skills.
3. Show-up—The employer may work the employee for two hours.

Classification:	Rate per hour	
General Foreman	20% above Lineman rate	\$15.60 per hr.
Cable Splicer Foreman	15% above Lineman rate	14.95 per hr.
Foreman	10% above Lineman rate	14.30 per hr.
Cable Splicer	7% above Lineman rate	13.91 per hr.
Groundman	75% of Lineman rate	9.75 per hr.
Powderman	95% of Lineman rate	12.35 per hr.
Lineman	100% of Lineman rate	13.00 per hr.
Lineman, when welding shall receive 5% above Lineman's hourly rate \$13.65.		
Apprentice—1st 6 mo.	60% of Lineman rate	7.80 per hr.
Apprentice—2nd 6 mo.	65% of Lineman rate	8.45 per hr.
Apprentice—3rd 6 mo.	70% of Lineman rate	9.10 per hr.
Apprentice—4th 6 mo.	75% of Lineman rate	9.75 per hr.
Apprentice—5th 6 mo.	80% of Lineman rate	10.40 per hr.
Apprentice—6th 6 mo.	85% of Lineman rate	11.05 per hr.
Apprentice—7th 6 mo.	90% of Lineman rate	11.70 per hr.
Thereafter	100% of Lineman rate	13.00 per hr.

## LETTER OF AGREEMENT SUMMARIES

Editor's note: A copy of the full text of these letters is available to the members upon their written request to the Local Union.

### Pacific Gas and Electric Company

No. 2187 signed 7-8-77

Provides for revision of the Headquarters note in the job definitions booklet which clarify the conditions under which an Operator-in-Training or an Assistant Operator may be required to train at locations other than their established headquarters.

No. 2239 signed 7-8-77

Provides for establishment of rotating Tuesday - Saturday workweeks at all locations in the Shasta Division where communication Technicians are headquartered.

No. 2243 signed 7-6-77

Provides for revision of the Corrosion Mechanic job definition and rates of pay in the Division and concurrently establishes the classification in the Department of Pipe Line Operations.

No. 2262 signed 7-8-77

Provides for adoption of training programs for the Steam Heat Department.

77-9-PG&E signed 7-6-77

Provides for revision of a current letter of agreement dealing with time off for PG&E employees to engage in Union Business or activities.

Employees who are absent from work at Union's request with *Company's permission* for short or intermittent periods of time shall be paid by Company at their present classification wage rates. Such payment shall be advanced as "Union wages." Further, during such time, such employees will be considered as employees of Union for all employment purposes set forth in the Workers' Compensation and Insurance Chapter of the California Labor Code.

77-34-PG&E signed 7-6-77

Provides for use of new Consumer Price Index should the U.S. Dept. of Labor discontinue the Consumer Price Index for the U.S. — all cities — (1967-100 base) on or before October, 1978.

77-35-PG&E signed 7-6-77

Provides for waiver of the requirement that the recently negotiated holiday be taken prior to July 6, 1977.

77-37-PG&E signed 6-20-77

Provides for the transfer of a Steno A position in San Joaquin Division, Customer Services Line of Progression, to Steno A General Services, San Joaquin Division. The incumbent Steno A will continue in the job.

### Sierra Pacific Power Co.

77-9-SPPC signed 6-13-77

Provides for the transfer of a Lineman in North Tahoe District to the same classification in the Reno Electric Department.

77-11-SPPC signed 6-18-77

Provides for establishment of the rotation of assignments of Customer Serviceman Apprentices in Reno, to facilitate the completion of training in their classification.

77-12-SPPC signed 7-5-77

Provides for the reclassification of a Fitter, Gas and Water Operation Department in Reno, to a Helper in the Operating Services and General Maint. Dept. in Reno.

4. Health & Welfare—Lineco contribution increased to 45¢ per hour.

5. Pensions—Contributions increased to 90¢ per hour.

6. Up to three-day penalty for short notice on dirt road headquarters.

7. Subsistence—\$8.00 minimum per day; 20¢ per road mile one way each day; \$20.00 maximum per day.

8. Reporting headquarters shall have adequate communications.

9. Non-hard surfaced roads—Additional 18¢ per road mile subsistence.

10. Delete the classification of Working Foreman—All foremen now non-working.

11. Delete high time on wood poles.

12. Increase life and casualty insurance to \$35,000 while riding in aircraft.

13. No spacing wire during inclement weather—rain, snow, fog or high wind.

14. Foreman called by name must be on the Referral Book for three days (Saturday and Sunday excluded) prior to being referred.

15. Wage Schedule—The following rates will be effective June 1, 1977:

The new changes added to an already good Agreement represents the best Construction Agreement in our industry. This has been accomplished by the efforts of many people over a period of twelve years, steadily updating and improving the wages, benefits and working conditions of our Construction Agreement.

New changes in Federal and State laws will affect the tax on subsistence and mileage pay, effective July 1, 1977. On that date subsistence and mileage will be considered as income and must be reported as such. It will also be considered in the prevailing wage rate for bidding work covered by the Davis-Bacon Act (Federal or State-funded work). This change in the law will help our Union Contractors in being more competitive against the non-union bidders.

## Meany Announces End of Ringling's Circus Boycott

AFL-CIO President George Meany announced the end of the boycott against the Ringling Brothers-Barnum & Bailey Circus after receiving a report from the Musicians that a satisfactory contract has been signed.

Hal Davis, president of the AFM, requested an end to all of the boycott activities conducted by the AFL-CIO, and Meany immediately asked AFL-CIO bodies to destroy all circus boycott material.

Meany joined Davis in thanking AFL-CIO affiliates and their members and state federations and local central bodies for giving full support to the boycott effort.

The boycott was instituted in March with the full support of the AFL-CIO Executive Council after the circus demanded elimination of long-standing contract provisions that the union said would have seriously eroded working conditions. Details of the settlement were withheld pending a report to the AFM membership.

Meany asked that all union members be informed that "the circus is all union again" and urged that the sons and daughters of union members who supported the boycott be given "that age-old reward for good children - a trip to the circus."

## Henning named to U.C. Board of Regents

John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, was appointed to the University of California's Board of Regents this week by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

Henning, who served as U. S. Undersecretary of Labor and Ambassador to New Zealand during the Kennedy-Johnson Administrations and is a former director of the State Department of Industrial Relations, is the second labor official in the 103-year history of the Board of Regents to be appointed to a full term on the Board.

Asked by reporters whether he opposes UC's investments in companies doing business in South Africa, Henning said:

"I'm with the students on the South Africa issue."

Two others appointed as Regents were:

Yoritada Wada, director of the Buchanan UMCA in San Francisco who is the first Asian-American ever to serve on the Board; and,

Stanly Scheinbaum, chairman of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Southern California.

Henning and Scheinbaum were appointed to positions created by voter approval of Proposition 4 in 1974 which increased the number of appointed Regents from 16 to 18.

Both Henning and Scheinbaum were appointed to 12-year terms that expire in 1988. Wada was named to fill the term of William Matson Roth, which expires in 1980. Roth resigned.

The 25-member Board of Regents, which includes the Governor and certain other designated public officials, oversees the operations of the University of California's nine-campus system and its \$2.2 billion budget.

The late C.J. "Neil" Haggerty, who served as executive officer of the California State Federation of Labor and later as president of the National AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department, was the first labor official ever appointed to a full term on the Board. He was appointed by Governor Earl Warren in 1950 and resigned in 1965.

Haggerty was replaced by Einar Mohn, director of the Western Conference of Teamsters, who served until 1966. But Governor Reagan declined to reappoint Mohn to a full term.

All three of the new appointees are Democrats.

The appointments all require confirmation by the State Senate.





# 1977 - Attend your Local 124

## San Joaquin

			Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
1111	FRESNO Eagles Hall 1528 Van Ness	Chairman: D. Findley	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	2	6	4	1	6
1112	BAKERSFIELD Central Labor Council 200 W. Jeffrey	Chairman: E. Mallory	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	11	15	13	10	15
1113	MADERA Malik's Lounge 427 So. Gateway	Chairman: L. Jameson	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	4	8	6	3	8
1116	CORCORAN Club Room 901 Chittonden	Chairman:	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	18	22	20	17	22
1117	WASCO Power Club 1101 - 12th St.	Chairman: T.O. Caterlin	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	10	14	12	9	14
1118	CRANE VALLEY Power House #2 Office	Chairman: E. Prindiville	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	11	15	13	10	15
1119	BALCH Power House	Chairman: R. Bugg	Tuesday 6:30 p.m.	16	20	18	15	20
1120	SELMA Masonic Lodge 2012 High	Chairman: R. Cameron	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	3	7	5	2	7
1121	COALINGA Power Club Jayne & Merced Avenue	Chairman:	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	17	21	19	16	21
1123	MERCED Pine Cone Coffee Shop 2000 E. Childs	Chairman: M. O'Dell	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	8	13	11	8	13
1124	LOS BANOS Fireman's Hall 520 "J" Street	Chairman:	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	9	14	12	9	14

## Coast Valleys

			Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
1219	HOLLISTER Paines Restaurant 421 East	Chairman:	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	3	7	5	9	7
1211	SALINAS American Legion Hall 14 W. Laurel Drive	Chairman: J. Collenback	Tuesday 8:00 p.m.	2	6	4	8	6
1212	MONTEREY Carpenters Hall 778 Hawthorne	Chairman:	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	17	21	19	16	21
1214	MOSS LANDING Odd Fellows Hall 17-A East Beach Watsonville	Chairman:	Thursday 8:00 p.m.	4	8	6	10	8
1218	LOMPOC 514 South I Street	Chairman: W. Herrier	Monday 7:30 p.m.	8	12	10	14	12
1217	PASO ROBLES Elks Lodge 1420 Park Street	Chairman: T. Tweedie	Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	9	13	11	15	13
1215	SAN LUIS OBISPO Elks Lodge 222 Elk Lane	Chairman: M. Maysey	Wednesday 8:00 p.m.	10	14	12	16	14
1216	SANTA MARIA Vandenberg Inn 1316 So. Broadway	Chairman: D. Woods	Thursday 8:00 p.m.	11	15	13	17	15

## Pipe Line

			Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
1311	BARSTOW Desert Inn 25210 West Main St.	Chairman:	Wednesday 4:45 p.m.	3	7	5	2	7
1312	NEEDLES Employees Club Room C.P.U. Service Center	Chairman:	Thursday 5:15 p.m.	4	8	6	3	8

## San Jose

			Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
1501	SAN JOSE CLERICAL Clover Hall 99 N. Bascom	Chairman: B. Symons	Thursday 8:00 p.m.	4	1	6	3	1
1511	SAN JOSE Clover Hall 99 No. Bascom	Chairman: L. Williams	Tuesday 8:00 p.m.	16	20	18	15	20
1512	BELMONT Good Shepherd Hall 1336 - 5th Avenue	Chairman: E. Larsen	Wednesday 8:00 p.m.	10	14	12	9	14
1513	SANTA CRUZ Arion Hall 230 Plymouth St.	Chairman: A. Barson	Tuesday 8:00 p.m.	9	13	11	8	13
1514	SAN JOSE AREA - GENERAL CONSTRUCTION Clover Hall 99 No. Bascom	Chairman: R. Friend	Tuesday 8:00 p.m.	2	6	4	1	6

## East Bay

			Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2301	EAST BAY CLERICAL Golden Gate Lanes El Cerrito	Chairman:	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	16	20	18	15	20
2311	OAKLAND Edgewater-Hyatt House 455 Hegenberger Road	Chairman: R. Shepherd	Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	2	6	4	1	6
2312	EAST BAY AREA - GENERAL CONSTRUCTION Edgewater-Hyatt House 455 Hegenberger Road	Chairman: R. Brewer	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	10	14	12	9	14
2314	HAYWARD Elegant Ranch 22865 Atherton	Chairman: J. Obermeyer	Wednesday 8:00 p.m.	10	14	12	9	14
2315	LIVERMORE Eagles' Hall 525 N. Livermore Ave.	Chairman:	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	4	1	6	3	1
2316	CONCORD I.B.E.W. Local 1245 3063 Citrus Circle Walnut Creek	Chairman: R. Hoyer	Thursday 8:00 p.m.	11	8	13	10	8
2317	ANTIOCH Antioch Women's Club 509 "G" Street	Chairman: F. J. Harbrecht	Tuesday	9	13	11	8	13

## San Francisco

			Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2401	SAN FRANCISCO CLERICAL Sheraton Palace Hotel Market & New Montgomery	Chairman: E. Vallejo	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	10	14	12	9	14
2412	SAN FRANCISCO War Memorial Center 6655 Mission Street Daly City	Chairman: R. Fitzsimmons	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	3	7	5	2	7

## Stockton

			Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2513	JACKSON Carpenter's Hall 1/2 mi. S. Hwy. 49 Sutter Creek	Chairman:	Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	2	6	4	1	6
2512	ANGELS CAMP Veteran's Building Main Street	Chairman:	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	3	7	5	2	7
2511	STOCKTON I.B.E.W. #591 Hall 427 W. Fremont	Chairman: P. Nickeson	Thursday 7:00 p.m.	4	1	6	3	1
2517	SONORA I.O.O.F. Hall	Chairman: J. Robinson	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	9	13	11	8	13
2515	MODESTO Sundial Lodge* 808 McHenry	Chairman: M. Johnson	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	10	14	12	9	14
2516	LODI Sr. Citizen's Hall 113 N. School Street	Chairman: G. Rees	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	11	8	13	10	8
2514	TRACY Norm's Pizza Parlor 2227 Tracy Blvd.	Chairman: M. Duarte	Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	16	20	18	15	20

\*Check Lobby for Room No.



# 15, IBEW Unit Meeting! - 1977

## Humbolt

				Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
3111	EUREKA Veterans' Memorial 10 & H Streets	Chairman: H. Darington	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	9	13	11	15	13
3112	GARBERVILLE Fireman's Hall Locust Street	Chairman: A. Weber	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	11	15	13	17	15

## Shasta

				Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
3212	REDDING Hospitality House 532 N. Market	Chairman: J. Eide	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	2	6	4	1	6
3211	RED BLUFF Elks Lodge #1250 355 Gilmore Road	Chairman:	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	4	8	6	3	8
3216	TRINITY New York Hotel Weaverville	Chairman:	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	9	13	11	8	13
3213	BURNEY Woodworker's Hall	Chairman: W. Rodriguez	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	11	15	13	10	15

## De Saba

				Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
3417	PARADISE Veterans Memorial Bldg. Skyway	Chairman: T. Manning	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	9	13	11	8	13
3411	CHICO Retail Clerks Hall 1st & Sheridan	Chairman: H. Stansbury	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	10	14	12	9	14

## Drum

				Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
3511	AUBURN Moose Lodge Sacramento & High Auburn	Chairman: P. Harrigan	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	16	20	18	15	20
3513	GRASS VALLEY Loyal Order of Moose 698 Whiting Street Grass Valley	Chairman: W. Webber	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	17	21	19	16	21
3512	ROSEVILLE Moose Lodge 506 Lincoln St. Roseville	Chairman: K. Hicks	Monday 5:00 p.m.	15	19	17	21	19

## Colgate

				Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
3611	MARYSVILLE 212 Bridge Street Yuba City	Chairman: C. Larsen	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	16	20	18	15	20

## North Bay

				Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
3712	SANTA ROSA Labor Center 1706 Corby Avenue Santa Rosa Ave. Off Ramp	Chairman: H. Stiefer	Tuesday 8:00 p.m.	2	6	4	1	6
3714	UKIAH Ukiah Grange South State	Chairman: J. Trunnell	Thursday 8:00 p.m.	4	8	6	10	8
3716	NAPA Pancake House Soscol Avenue	Chairman: S. Sleeper	Tuesday 8:00 p.m.	9	13	11	8	13
3717	FORT BRAGG - PT. ARENA Presbyterian Church Pine and Main Fort Bragg	Chairman: D. McDonell	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	3	7	5	9	7
3711	MARIN COUNTY Sams 209 Third Street San Rafael	Chairman: D. Madden	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	11	8	13	10	8

## Sacramento

				Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
3811	SACRAMENTO Dante Club 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.	Chairman:	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	2	6	4	1	6

## Sacramento - Continued

				Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
3813	PLACERVILLE Round Table Pizza 512 Main Street	Chairman:	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	3	7	5	2	7
3812	VACAVILLE Chamber of Commerce 400 Monte Vista Street	Chairman:	Thursday 7:00 p.m.	11	8	13	10	8
3815	DAVIS G. C. Gallery Veterans Memorial Center 203 East 14th Street	Chairman:	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	17	21	19	16	21

## Irrigation Districts

				Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1122	MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT Pine Cone Coffee Shop 2000 E. Childs	Chairman: J. Goodson	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	16	20	18	15	20

## Sierra Pacific

				Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
3311	RENO Carpenter's Hall 1150 Terminal Way	Chairman: P. Lantis	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	2	6	4	1	6
3315	ELY Mt. Wheeler Various	Chairman: J. D. Salvi	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	9	13	11	8	13

## Public Agencies

				Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1411	CITY OF SANTA CLARA Clover Hall 99 N. Bascom	Chairman: B. Blankenship	Thursday 7:00 p.m.	11	8	13	10	8
2211	OAKLAND GENERAL Edgewater-Hyatt House 455 Hegenberger Road	Chairman: R. Murphy	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	11	8	13	10	8
3011	SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT 1412 - 21st Street Sacramento	Chairman: W. Nunez	Wednesday 3:00 p.m. & 4:45 p.m.	10	14	12	9	14
3911	SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT Dante Club 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.	Chairman: T. Smiley	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	3	7	5	2	7
3912	FRESH POND - (SMUD) Moose Hall Meyer Road, Camino	Chairman: C. Vanderpool	Tuesday 4:00 p.m.	9	13	11	8	13
3913	RANCHO SECO (SMUD) Kehoe School Hwy. 104 at Harold	Chairman:	Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	16	20	18	15	20

## Pacific Gas Transmission

				Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
3023	WALLA WALLA Touchet Fire Station	Chairman: A. Howell	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	10	14	12	9	14
3024	REDMOND 86 Corral Club Stockman's Room North 6th Street	Chairman: B. Miller	Thursday 7:00 p.m.	11	15	13	10	15
3021	SANDPOINT Traveler's Hotel	Chairman: R. E. Hess	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	10	14	12	9	14

## Citizens Utilities

				Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
4012	SUSANVILLE Grand Cafe Main Street	Chairman: M. Kostick	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	3	7	5	2	7
4013	ALTURAS Benny's 1200 W. 14th	Chairman: R. Kristenson	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	2	6	4	1	6
4014	ELK GROVE Pizza Barn 8610 Elk Grove Blvd.	Chairman: E. Petersen, Jr.	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	17	21	19	16	21
4015	BURNEY - C.U.C.C. Woodworker's Hall	Chairman: W. Rodriguez	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	11	15	13	10	15

## Trees

				Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
4411	DAVEY TREE - LAS VEGAS I.B.E.W. Hall 4321 E. Bonanza Road	Chairman: C. Davison	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	3	7	5	2	7



# AFL-CIO Special Report on Minimum Wage

*This analysis, prepared by the Coalition for a Fair Minimum Wage, answers some of the most-often asked questions about the federal minimum wage. The Coalition, which comprises organizations and individuals who believe all workers deserve a living wage for their labors, is seeking a substantial increase in the present federal minimum wage of \$2.30 an hour to bring the minimum wage above the poverty level.*

## What is the federal minimum wage?

It is a floor under wages — the minimum amount per hour an employer may legally pay a worker. The law states that the minimum wage should yield “a minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency and general well-being of workers.”

## Why do we need a federal minimum wage?

To protect workers all across America from those employers who would pay slave wages if they could get away with it.

## Who are the minimum wage workers?

They are primarily unskilled workers in a variety of industries. Many are women, young workers, blacks and other minorities. These workers have no bargaining power with their employers and therefore depend on the government to protect their interests.

## How does a minimum wage affect business?

Specifically, it protects honest, fair-minded employers against unfair competition from unscrupulous employers who would pay less than a living wage. Generally, however, all business benefits from a minimum wage, because when workers earn enough money to support their families they can buy more of the goods and services that business offers for sale.

## What is the current federal minimum wage and how is it established?

The present minimum wage is \$2.30 an hour, which was 65 cents an hour below what a worker would have had to earn to keep his or her family above the poverty level in April 1977. Congress periodically adjusts the minimum wage, but long after it has lagged well behind wages generally and the minimum wage worker is once again living in poverty.

## Are there proposals to increase the minimum wage?

Yes. President Carter has proposed an increase to \$2.50 an hour and setting the minimum wage in future years at 50 percent of the average straight-time hourly earnings of production workers in manufacturing. Rep. John Dent, chairman of the House Labor Standards Subcommittee, has introduced a bill, H.R. 3744, to increase the federal minimum wage to \$2.85 an hour and set it for future years at 60 percent of the gross average hourly earnings of production workers in manufacturing industries.

The Chamber of Commerce says business doesn't want to pay a higher minimum wage. On the other hand, the AFL-CIO says workers need at least a \$3 an hour minimum wage and supports the Dent proposal to set the future wage at 60 percent of average hourly earnings in manufacturing.

## What should the minimum wage be?

It should be high enough so a worker who works 40 hours a week, year around, will earn enough to get his or her family out of poverty. The minimum wage should increase automatically so that workers who are paid at the minimum wage do not constantly fall farther behind other workers while waiting for Congress to act.

The present minimum wage yields a full-time worker about \$1,350 a year less than is necessary for a family to get out of poverty at today's prices. And the financial plight of these workers is getting worse. Every time food, rent or fuel prices go up, the minimum wage worker's family falls farther and farther behind.

## Why should a minimum wage increase concern anyone who earns more than the minimum wage?

Because everybody's tax payments are used indirectly to subsidize employers who pay less than a fair and living wage. When minimum wage workers can't earn enough through their paychecks for their families to survive, they must turn to federal, state or local assistance programs — such as welfare, food stamps and public aid — to supplement their income.

## Would President Carter's proposal bring minimum wage workers out of poverty?

No. His proposal to increase the minimum wage from \$2.30 to \$2.50 an hour would still leave minimum wage workers 45 cents an hour below the poverty level. Further, his proposal to set the minimum wage in future years at 50 percent of the average straight-time hourly earnings in manufacturing would mean that a minimum wage worker would remain below the poverty level.

## What about the Dent bill?

The Dent bill would increase the federal minimum wage to \$2.85 an hour 30 days after enactment. This is about a dime below the poverty level, but it is only the first step in Dent's proposal, which would then set the minimum wage at 60 percent of the gross average hourly earnings in manufacturing. The 60 percent formula, which would begin in 1978, would ensure that a minimum wage worker would be able to earn enough to stay above the poverty level. Based on the 1976 average earnings, 60 percent would yield about \$3 an hour — and by then, \$3 an hour would be needed to be above poverty.

## Wouldn't a higher minimum wage cause inflation?

No. Repeated government studies of the impact of minimum wage increases have proven very little, if any, increase in inflation. An increase in the minimum wage to \$2.85 an hour would have an impact of less than three-tenths of 1 percent on consumer prices.

In fact, after the last minimum wage increase, the F. W. Woolworth Co. said in its annual report “. . . our experience with prior minimum wage legislation shows that our salary increases are more than offset by the increased purchasing power generated by these general wage boosts to the general public.”

## Do higher minimum wages cause unemployment?

No. Government studies of the impact of minimum wage increases, conducted by both Republican and Democratic Administrations, have found only a very few, isolated instances of adverse effects, involving a few small firms and a few workers. In fact, every time the minimum wage has increased, employment has increased.

## What about the Chamber of Commerce study that says a decent minimum wage would cause severe unemployment and high inflation?

The so-called Chamber study is both factually and statistically inaccurate. It ignored repeated official studies by the U.S. government on the impact of minimum wage increases and instead relied on unproven theories, which were then greatly inflated to yield a totally inaccurate result.

AFL-CIO President George Meany said of the Chamber's study: “Given the reputation of the Chamber's economists, it strains credulity to believe these distortions were simple statistical errors. Rather, it is plain that the Chamber is deceiving Congress and the American people by making figures lie.”

## How does a minimum wage increase stimulate employment?

Minimum wage workers earn so little that they spend everything they earn for their families. When they have more to spend, they buy more. The U.S. economy is based on consumer purchasing power — people buying goods and services, which results in hiring more people to produce those goods and services. In economic terms, additional pay at the low end of the wage scale means high velocity consumer dollars.

## How would a minimum wage increase affect black workers?

An estimated one-quarter of all black workers earn less than \$3 an hour. Obviously, an increase in the minimum wage to \$3 would provide a significant increase in the standard of living for many black workers and their families.

## What about women workers?

Nearly two-thirds of the women in the workforce have to work. They are either heads of families, the sole support of themselves or had a husband with an annual income of less than \$10,000 — which is the “austere” budget for a family of four.

The Census Bureau reports that in 1975 about 4 million women worked full-time, year-round and earned less than the poverty level. Of the 2,430,000 female heads of families with incomes below the poverty level, 41.8 percent are black.

AFL-CIO economists estimate that two-thirds of all workers earning within 5 cents of the present minimum wage of \$2.30 an hour are women. Therefore, a minimum wage increase would have its greatest impact on women who must work to support themselves or their families.

## What would the impact be on Spanish-speaking workers?

More than one-third of all Spanish-speaking families had annual incomes in 1975 of less than \$7,000, which means that many earn less than the poverty level. To fully appreciate the inadequacy of incomes of Spanish-speaking families, it must be understood that more than one-third have five or more persons.

## Wouldn't a minimum wage increase cause more unemployment among teenagers?

No. Teenage unemployment has been used as an argument by some employers for a subminimum wage for teenagers, but the facts are that the unemployment rate for teenagers has generally declined following minimum wage increases because the added buying power creates more jobs for everyone.

During the Nixon Administration, the Labor Department studied the relationship of minimum wages to youth unemployment, concluding: “A significant finding was that it was difficult to prove any direct relationship between minimum wages and employment effects on young workers.”

## Would a subminimum wage for teenagers reduce their unemployment?

Mostly it would increase the profits of their employers, while creating more serious employment problems for older workers. A subminimum wage for teenagers would be robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Look at it this way: An employer has a choice between hiring an unmarried 16-year-old at a subminimum rate or a married 24-year-old with a child at the minimum wage. Which is the employer going to hire? It would be ridiculous to allow employers to pay substandard wages to teenagers while older workers need decent-paying jobs to support their families.

The best way to reduce teenage unemployment is to create jobs for all workers.

## Why is automatic adjustment in the minimum wage needed?

Since Congress sets the minimum wage by legislation, it is a political football. By the time Congress finally gets around to increasing the minimum wage, the minimum wage doesn't even come close to providing a minimum standard of living necessary for “health, efficiency and general well-being of workers” — the purpose of the Fair Labor Standards Act when it went into effect in 1938. The concept of the automatic increase was first proposed in 1949 by Republican Sen. Robert Taft of Ohio.

## Why tie the minimum wage to average hourly earnings and not the cost of living?

Because the minimum wage should reflect what other workers are earning. It should not only offset price increases but should allow the low-wage worker to share in benefits growing out of increase productivity.

## Would a minimum wage increase force wages up for all workers?

No. Each time the government has measured the effects of raising the minimum wage, it has found the increases limited almost entirely to the lowest wage levels.

## How would a minimum wage increase affect economic recovery?

It would be an important boost to recovery. As the Woolworth Co. reported, minimum wage increases stimulate purchasing power and increase sales and production. Nearly 10 million workers covered by the minimum wage law now earn less than the poverty level. Increasing their paychecks would add several billion dollars to the economy — money these workers will spend in the marketplace.

Further, a minimum wage increase would not add one penny to the budget deficit. In fact, the government would enjoy savings through increased tax revenue and as a result of reduced welfare payments to those minimum wage workers who must now turn to welfare because their paychecks are insufficient.

## Who supports a minimum wage increase?

A nationwide coalition of civil rights, women's, labor and religious groups that has called for a minimum wage substantially above the President's proposal. These organizations, which have long been concerned with the plight of the poor, believe that a minimum wage above the poverty level is the best method of helping the working poor out of poverty.

(Continued on page seven)



## PID and Local 1245 reach agreement

The members of Local 1245 employed by the Paradise Irrigation District ratified a new agreement on July 11, 1977.

The agreement calls for a 7 1/2% general wage increase effective 7/1/77. The sick leave accumulation was increased from 90 days to 180 days and the new agreement also calls for a 5% upgrade rate for the entire day if an employee is required to work two hours or more in a higher classification.

The negotiating committee members were: Dale Turman, Bus. Rep. and Shop Steward Jack Boles.

## Pacific Tree Strike Over

Local 1245 members on strike against Pacific Tree Expert Company have ratified an agreement and have returned to work. The new contract was ratified on July 5, 1977 and the members returned to work on July 11, 1977.

The offer included a 7% general wage increase effective upon ratification and a substantially improved hospital plan.

The settlement also included a provision eliminating the vacation, sick leave and holiday sections of the agreement and in lieu of these benefits the employees will receive an additional 7 1/2% wage increase.

The members were out on strike for two months.

## City of Oakland and Local 1245 Reach agreement

A one year Memorandum of Understanding to be effective 7/1/77 was ratified on 6/30/77. Except for Electrical Helper, all classifications received a 3.5% special inequity adjustment followed by a 6.5% general wage increase. The Electrical Helper received an 11.4% increase. Other improvements included full premium costs for Medical Insurance for employees and dependents paid by City (previously were paid for employee only), an additional 1/2 day holiday, City to provide coveralls and improved Family Death Leave.

Negotiating committee members were: Cecil Jackson, Russell Ingram and Bus. Rep. Veodis Stamps.

## Minimum Wage

(Continued from page six)

### What can I do to help?

Write your Representative and Senators today. Ask them to support a fair minimum wage that will help minimum wage workers out of poverty and help them stand on their own feet without the need for welfare.

Write President Carter and ask him to reconsider his inadequate minimum wage proposal.

Address your letters to:

Hon....., M.C.  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep.....:

Hon....., U.S.S.

Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator .....

President Jimmy Carter  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

# Assault on Workers Comp is Advanced

**Editor's Note:** At the June meeting of Local 1245's Executive Board, the Board voted to go on record as opposing AB 155. The story below was printed in the Calif. AFL-CIO News and it explains the reasons for oppositions to the bill.

A bill which opponents, led by the California Labor Federation, say would virtually forbid employers from hiring older, experienced workers and seriously undermine the cumulative injury concept under the state worker's compensation program passed out of the Senate Industrial Relations Committee on Wednesday and now goes to the Senate floor for a vote.

**The assault upon the protection for California's workers rights in support of AB 155 is being spear-headed by the State Compensation Insurance Fund, in alliance with the private insurance interests.**

AB 155 by Assemblyman Goggin (D-San Bernardino) seriously "jeopardizes employment possibilities of a worker whose previous employment may have involved exposure to an occupational injury or disease," according to Jack Henning, executive officer of the California AFL-CIO, who leads opponents of the measure.

**Under existing law, workers are protected from occupational disease and cumulative injury since the State Constitution has imposed liability on the employer through workers' compensation program.**

The cost of the protection is spread over all the employers during the period of five years immediately preceding either the date of injury or the last date on which the employee was employed in an occupation exposing him to the hazards of occupational disease or cumulative injury, whichever occurs first.

Compensability also is related to the beginning of a disability.

**AB 155 attacks this principle by relating liability of the employer not to the beginning of a disability itself, but to the filing or asserting of a claim.**

It also eliminates liability of employers responsible for the exposure by restricting it to the employer of the most recent year.

In effect, even though disability resulted from prior employment, no recovery could be obtained from these responsible previous employers.

"The impact upon workers with any previous exposure to cumulative type injuries or diseases will be devastating in terms of future employment opportunities," labor spokesmen contend. "If a new employer has to assume all the responsibility for previous exposure, as this bill would require, workers with previous exposure will be considered a high risk since the costs of any occupational disease which develops because of past employment will be shifted on to the most recent employer. Such workers will be hard pressed to locate new jobs because of the burden of liability they will bring to their prospective employer."

**California's workers' compensation system is based on the principle that the possibility of work injury or work-related disease is always present in the production of goods and services.**

It assumes that injury and disease can never be completely eliminated from the production of these goods and services, society should bear the cost of adequately compensating the victims of work related injuries and diseases. The

cost of the system is treated as a production expense.

AB 155 shifts coverage away from the responsible past employers and is part of an effort to eventually attack the concept of cumulative injury itself.

**Voting to send the bill to the floor were Democrats Greene, Robbins and Zenovich; Republicans D. Carpenter and Johnson. Republican Senator Russell abstained and Democratic Senator Mills was not present for the vote.**

## City of Healdsburg and 1245 settle

A one year Memorandum of Understanding to be effective 7/1/77 was ratified on 6/17/77. This Memorandum provides for a 5% G.W.I. with 5% special adjustments for the classifications of Caretaker and equipment Mechanic. Other improvements were made as follows: An additional 1% to be paid by City to the Retirement Plan. City to pay full premium costs for employees and dependents for Medical Plan (previously paid for employees only). A Dental Plan was established with City to pay premium costs for employees. The grievance procedure time limits were shortened and Management Rights and No Strike-No Lockout clauses were established.

The negotiating committee consisted of: James Caulson, Manuel Lowmes and Bus. Rep. Corb Wheeler.

# Your Shop Card



# for SERVICE

Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO

## Appointments

### Ballot Committee

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY: Robert J. Azevedo, Charles Bianco, Rayphe Brewer, Lawrence W. Bruce, Robert A. Burchfield, Frank De Maio, Laurence Hope, Joseph B. Graham, Jr., Gary E. Johnson, Charles Larsen, Jr., Raymond Milota, Victor Patton, Felton Prescott, Debra J. Rocha, F. O. Watkins, Otisteen Youngblood, Barbara Dawson, Barbara Symons, Trish Ochsner, Nannette Brownlee, Cyndi Santaella

### Negotiation Committees

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY: James McMahan

LINDMORE IRRIGATION DISTRICT: Cylde D. Berger, Bob B. Greer, Alternate

MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT: Johnie R. Goodson, Roger E. Lane, Arthur L. Williams

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT: C. B. Laird, C. T. Mildred, L. D. Richerson, L. Santinelli



# The Safety Scene

## Common Sense Priorities:

### OSHA To Focus on Major Hazards

Federal job safety and health enforcement efforts are being redirected toward serious workplace hazards rather than trivial and often unnecessary regulations, Labor Sec. Ray Marshall announced.

Marshall said the emphasis will be on "common sense priorities," stressing that the Occupational Safety & Health Administration from now on "is going to get serious about serious dangers" that workers face on the job.

Responding to often-voiced criticism from unions and employers, Marshall said both were right.

**"OSHA did have far too many petty regulations," he said. "OSHA has neglected long-term health problems in order to enforce some petty standards not directly affecting safety or health."**

Assistant Labor Sec. Eula Bingham, OSHA's director, said the agency is launching an all-out effort to combat occupational illness and disease by refocusing enforcement on the most

serious health and safety problems.

"Beginning this year," Dr. Bingham said, "95 percent of OSHA's inspections will be devoted to those industries with the most serious health problems, such as construction, manufacturing, transportation and petrochemical."

Labor safety experts welcomed the announcement, viewing it as an encouraging step toward meeting the original intent of the 1970 job safety law.

President Robert A. Georgine of the AFL-CIO building & Construction Trades Dept. said there was a "seemingly deliberate mismanagement" of OSHA by previous Administrations.

"We are pleased that, for the first time, OSHA has the commitment of President Carter to the purpose of the law," Georgine observed. He also commended the direction Marshall and Bingham are taking in the new enforcement policies.

The shift in emphasis outlined by Marshall and Bingham includes:

- Stepping up the attack on occupational illness and disease.

- Eliminating needless and complex regulations.

- Expanding the use of notices for minor violations that have nothing to do with worker safety and health.

- Appointing a special assistant for small business affairs in OSHA and publishing materials to help small business employers comply with federal regulations.

Dr. Bingham said that although OSHA will concentrate on serious safety and health problems, the agency will not ignore small businesses that pose dangers to workers.

While a small food store is likely to escape OSHA inspection, she said that such places as small auto repair shops and dry cleaners where workers are exposed to hazards can expect to draw OSHA's attention.

**Marshall pointed out that OSHA's enforcement staff of 1,400 inspectors has the responsibility of regulating more than 5 million work-places.**

## Traffic Accidents up in good driving weather

CHICAGO — Unusually good driving weather during April brought about a four per-cent increase in motor vehicle fatalities for the month, compared to April, 1976, the National Safety Council reported.

"Evidently the unusually good driving weather caused too many motorists to become overconfident and thus less wary of the dangers of accidents," commented Council President Vincent L. Tofany.

"The relative inactivity of many drivers because of the earlier severe winter weather conditions may also have caused them to forget many important safe driving practices. One of the most important of these is that of keeping driving speeds down in line with the national 55 Mph. speed limit.

"Granted that enforcement varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, still I submit that the evidence is overwhelming that speeds are substantially below the levels they were at before the energy crisis, and that this reduction has saved thousands of lives - and is still saving lives."

Tofany's assertion is supported by a recent study by the Pennsylvania State University, under sponsorship of the federal government, which stated, "fatality rates under the national 55 Mph. speed limit decreased most on highways where speed limits changed the most, particularly the Interstate Highway System."

The P.S.U. study reflects nationwide data on the various highway systems throughout the country and a representative sample of accident records in 17 states during 1974.

The Council's statistics department noted that the four month total in traffic fatalities for this year was slightly lower than in last year, although the one-month figure showed an increase over that of a year ago.

During April, a total of 3,806 persons lost their lives, compared to 3,660 who were killed in the April of 1976. The total for 1977's first four months was 13,246, which was down 24 from the 13,270 for the same period of a year ago.

Approximately half a million persons suffered disabling injuries from motor vehicle accidents during these first four months, and these accidents cost the nation about \$1.6 million, it was estimated.

The National Safety Council, founded in 1913 and headquartered in Chicago, is chartered by Congress as a non-governmental, nonprofit voluntary public service organization composed of both individual and corporate members. The Council is dedicated to the safety of everyone, everywhere through education and the development and implementation of accident prevention programs.

## Health's-a-Poppin

### Check up on your medicine chest

By Marion Wells

Research Director, AMERICAN PHYSICAL FITNESS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

If you want to uncover health risks before they make you sick, you're not the only one who needs a periodic checkup. Your medicine chest does, too.

Maintaining its health will help protect yours. In one instance several patients' nausea, vomiting and diabetes-like symptoms were "...traced to chemical deterioration of an antibiotic. ...taken long after it should have been thrown away."

With time, some drugs may gain or lose potency or even "...undergo marked chemical changes that can make them dangerous." Liquid antibiotics tend to lose potency in a week or two, even under refrigeration, cautions Keith Sehnert, M.D. of the Georgetown School of Medicine.

Discard crumbling tablets, products which show a change in color, odor or taste, liquids that develop sediment or ointments that "...change color or become watery or hard."

Ask your druggist to mark the expiration date clearly on prescription containers. Discard leftovers after your illness is over. Avoid self-prescribing them for a later ailment, even if symptoms are similar.

Avoid "overbuying." Even vitamin products can lose potency if kept around indefinitely.

Never borrow medication prescribed for another person, experts caution. Purge your medicine chest of Uncle He-

nry's pills that Aunt Agatha took to Cousin Carl when he kept getting that rash.

Mix-ups in taking medication can be sickening or even fatal. Remove cleaning products and similar potential poisons from your medicine cabinet. If possible, keep prescription products on a shelf by themselves and store internal medications separate from those intended for external use only.

Ask your pharmacist for storage instructions, particularly if a chronic condition requires that specific amounts of certain medications be kept on hand. Note and follow storage directions on nonprescription preparations. Keep all containers properly sealed and clearly labelled. Do some remedies require refrigeration?

Your home medical supplies should include a good first-aid manual, first-aid supplies and appropriate non-prescription remedies for minor medical emergencies. Your physician can make suggestions based on your family's health needs.

Store medications and, where possible, supplements in child proof safety containers your youngsters can't open...preferably out of reach and under lock and key.

It's wise to tape emergency medical numbers to your medicine cabinet. Include the phones of your doctor, a nearby hospital emergency room and the closest poison-control center, if listed.

Give your medicine chest repeat checkups at frequent intervals. An ounce of prevention may give it, and you, a cleaner bill of health!

## Will You Be Next?

On Sunday, June 12, 1977 at 9:09 a.m., Ronald A. Vannucchi fell to his death while working on one of company's Newark to San Mateo 230 KV towers, near the west end of the Dumbarton Bridge.

He fell approximately 70 feet, at which time he struck the tower structure, whereupon one of his safety belt snaps hung up on the steel, securing him at a point 25 feet above ground level.

The three other workmen on the tower, immediately went to his aid, but to no avail. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Stanford Hospital in Palo Alto, California.

Mr. Vannucchi, age 25, was first initiated into Local 1245 in May 1974. He was laid off in June 1975 for lack of work, and was issued an Honorary Withdrawal card that same month. He was rehired as a 5th step apprentice lineman on May 16, 1977. The job in progress at the time of the accident involved installing grounds on the double dead-ended bundle conductors, prior to the start of wiping the insulators.

The deceased was moving back towards the tower from the end of the center phase arm, following the installation of the grounds on the top phase.

A witness stated the deceased did not appear to slip, but rather fell backward from the arm. Both snaps of his fiber-cord safety strap were secured to one "D" ring, plus one snap of his tower safety rope. The balance of the tower safety was coiled up and draped over one shoulder.