Reversing an administrative ruling issued more than two years ago by the Internal Revenue Service, a federal judge has held that California taxpayers CAN deduct their state disability insurance taxes if they itemize deductions on their federal returns.

In a decision handed down in Washington, D.C., Judge Howard Goldin, Jr., held that payroll deductions for the state disability insurance program are a form of tax that may be deducted just like any other state or local tax.

The Internal Revenue Service announced March 10 it would not appeal the ruling.

The state disability insurance program, which was enacted in 1946 as a result of legislation sponsored by the State Federation of Labor, provides benefits for workers disabled as a result of off-the-job injuries.

WASHINGTON—The Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers rose 0.8 percent before seasonal adjustment in February compared with 0.8 percent in January. Food and beverage prices rose sharply for the second consecutive month, up 1.2 percent.

Among other major expenditure categories, the February increases of 0.8 percent for medical care and 0.6 percent for transportation were the same as in January.

(Washington Post, February 16, 1978)

By Corb Wheeler

On September 24, 1977, Brother Lawrence Schuldt, Apprentice Lineman, North Bay Division, gave first aid to Bob Georgia, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Georgia, who nearly died from a drowning accident.

Bob Georgia was pulled from the water by his father, who called for help. Brother Schuldt was about 20 yards away and rushed to the aid of the father and helped him place the boy on a diving board. The boy was not breathing, his lips were turning blue and swelling, blood and foam were coming from his mouth. The father states that Brother Schuldt immediately started giving the boy mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. He kept this up until the ambulance arrived in approximately 30 to 34 minutes.

(Corb Wheeler (right) presents Life Saving Award to Lawrence Schuldt.)
Outside Construction Hot Line

By John Wilder

For the first time in a couple of years we are optimistic about the work picture. It appears that we will be able to keep all our people busy for a considerable period of time. A number of substations and transmission lines are on the drawing board and will be out for bid in the very near future.

We are starting a seven mile transmission line running from Reno to Verdi. This is a wood pole job over some very rugged country and will be a real challenge to the builders. This job should last six to eight weeks.

Power line construction negotiations are complete and will be voted on by the membership. Ballots are in the mail.

Telephone construction negotiations are tentatively completed. Ratification ballots will be counted May 1, 1978.

Keep your fingers crossed that the work picture turns out as we think it will.

National bargaining is needed

(Continued from page one)

President Pillard stated that the fate of the Labor Law Reform Act rests in the hands of a few Senators, and urged that the delegates, when they return to their Local Unions, to make efforts to have the membership contact their Senators to support this vital legislation.

Richard E. Smith, Chairman, Telephone Department, representing the Telephone Utilities and the Communications Industry Task Force, discussed the surveys developed by the Telephone Department and the need for cooperation by the various local unions. He also reported on efforts to strengthen the OSHA Standards for the Telephone Industry and the need for participating in the field of safety.

A very interesting and controversial panel discussion on "Competition in the Telephone Industry" took up the afternoon portion of the first day of the Conference.

The discussion centered around the developing trends towards privately owned telephone equipment and interconnection to telephone utility lines and equipment. The panelists were Lee W. Smith, Chairman, Telephone Communications Industry Task Force representing the Telephone Utilities and Richard Long, President of the Northern American Telephone Association, representing Inter-Connect Companies. While a number of questions were raised, more questions were raised than were answered with respect to developing trends in the Industry.

A highlight of the conference was the four workshops dealing with outside plant, inside plant, traffic and commercial (accounting and clerical). During these workshops delegates of Local Union No. 1245 were able to find out what trends were developing in the Industry in such areas as flex-time, phone marts and service order computer systems. Two problems that ran through all four workshops were the emphasis being placed by management on production, and the lack of information to deal with the six large holding companies. Robert A. Nickey reported on the activities of the Telephone Department and the procedure for electing delegates for the upcoming International Convention.

George Smith, Assistant to Director Nickly, discussed the surveys developed by the Telephone Department and the need for cooperation by the various local unions. He also reported on efforts to strengthen the OSHA Standards for the Telephone Industry and the need for participating in the field of safety.

Compy Compomizz... A Campers Friend

By Dorothy Fortier and Scott Thomas

Compy is standing in the center of a group of kids anxiously waiting to head up the river.

Extraordinary describes Local 1245 member Uril "Compy" Compomizzo. Compy is nationally known as the "Unofficial Voice Of The California Camper". He is attributed almost single handedly getting state parks to make it easier for campers to reserve spaces. He fought for better policing of parks and for fee reductions for senior citizens.

Persistence pays off. In 1973 Compy was invited by Senator Alan Cranston to testify before representatives of the U.S. Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, concerning his views about the shortage of personnel.
Behind the High Cost of US Health Care

Who isn’t aware of the exorbitant price of health care in the United States today? A routine physical exam can cost $50, a standard prescription $10; insurance premiums rise alarmingly, and one is considered “lucky” to qualify for Medicaid.

While the general level of consumer prices has risen 12% since 1950, the cost of a day of hospital care has climbed from $1,000—from less than $16 in 1950 to $175 in 1976. Currently hospital costs are rising by more than 15% a year. And from 1970 to 1980, total health care expenditures will rise from 7% to 12% of Gross National Product, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

What’s more, this massive spending on health, roughly $180 billion in 1977, has not bought much improvement in basic good health. In 1955 this country ranked 8th in infant mortality among the leading 20 industrial countries, but by 1975 it had dropped to 15th. In 1955, infant mortality was 20.4; in 1976 it was 19.6. And in 1975 life expectancy for males was 69.8; for females, 74.6.

Discontent with the current system of health care in America is widespread, but in recent years two more powerful forces have joined the chorus: the federal government, whose health spending has jumped 81%, over the last 10 years; and large corporations, increasingly bound by union contracts to provide health care benefits for their workers.

**CAPITAL-INTENSIVE CARE**

Several years basic to the very way that health care is organized contribute to the current rate of inflation.

**Fee for service.** With the exception of a few Health Maintenance Organizations, which charge a flat fee for all services, all components of the health care system—from doctors to hospitals, labs and clinics—are paid on a per-sick basis. For a doctor, the difference between making $50,000 a year (the average physician’s salary) and $80,000 lies in the number of patients seen and the number of services provided, there is no incentive to cut costs.

Patients have no power to control spending because the doctor is the real health care consumer. It is the physician who directs the patient to a particular drug company, device or hospital, ordering test or service after test or service, to accumulate fees for the patient. A 16-mm color film runs 23 cents. To the manufacturer, that’s $2.00. If every member of Local Union 1245 were to make a $2.00 contribution each, the union would have in its coffers $2,500,000—from which it could help to retool an ill union shop.

**Financing the “service.”** Today insurance (Blue Cross, other commercial insurers, Medicare and Medicaid) makes up 90% of all health care spending, up from about 50% in 1950. Automatically paid for each cost incurred, hospitals and physicians were quick to realize that the higher the costs, the more services provided, the higher the revenues garnered. The high cost of hospital care induces patients to buy more complete types of treatment, thereby supporting the word “budget surplus.”

Hospitals are under the same economical pressures to expand or be whittled away by the competition as their brothers in the marketplace. And unbridled expansion is costly: a 1975 study by the Health Research Group of New York estimated 250,000 more that were unnecessarily utilized. Together the tab came to 8$ billions in unnecessary costs.

**CORPORATE MEDICINE?** While business has no definitive strategy as yet, several corporate-sponsored groups, most notably the Business Roundtable-affiliated Washington Business Group on Health, are hard at work. Their general emphasis is on the establishment of a system of corporate-controlled health care (the “collusion of providers and employers”). Coupled with cost-cutting measures that stress individual compliance, the system de-emphasizes medical care (especially for the handicapped), ignores corporate-caused social and environmental sources of illness.

A study entitled “Health Care: Should Industry Buy or Sell It?” issued by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, attempts to argue away the need for corporate involvement in health care. The National Association of Manufacturers has formed the Common Health Care Initiative. And The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, The U.S. Industrial Council, the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, The U.S. Industrial Council, the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), work committee and The Committee for a Union-Free Environment, as well as other union-busting organizations, dramatically described how the “right-wing machine” strives to keep wages and provide reduced benefits. Corporations should be able to make a profit (the “non-profit” hospitals euphemistically use the term “budget surplus”).

**It’s tax deductible.** Its scrupulous affiliates are backed by corporate money and aided by a host of union-busting lawyers and consultants who teach individual business owners how to prevent union organization as well as how to get rid of the existing unions on their properties.

Have you made your COPE contribution yet? The importance of donating to the I.B.E.W. Committee on Political Education (COPE) cannot be over-emphasized.

On Saturday, April 1, 1978 at the San Jose Division Shop Stewards Conference, a motion was made to set up an emergency committee to “realize a substantial savings in health care expenditures.” A motion was made to support the Health Research Group of New York in its efforts to “realize a substantial savings in present health expenditures for employees and health care benefits.” A motion was made to support the Health Research Group of New York in its efforts to “realize a substantial savings in present health expenditures for employees and health care benefits.” A motion was made to support the Health Research Group of New York in its efforts to “realize a substantial savings in present health expenditures for employees and health care benefits.”

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**New, sophisticated equipment has increased in health inflation. A 1977 study done by the Council on Wage and Price Stability indicated the difference between the increase in hospital’s average cost per patient-day and the general increase in the consumer price index. Three-fourths of the difference is due to the increase in the number of services performed; only one-fourth is due to the rise in price of these services (above the rise in the consumer price index).**

Certainly much of the new technology has been of crucial value in the treatment of disease, but there is widespread duplication of hospital equipment by neighboring hospitals. The equipment is in place, operating, and charged to the patient. The high cost of hospital care in-creases dramatically — a recent study found the cost of making a diagnosis, second opinions to help prevent unnecessary surgery, rate-setting commissions and planning agencies. But decisions have been ineffective primarily because they lack the power of enforcement.

As the Carter Administration scurries about to find a solution, it is getting more and more input from the corporate sector which is convinced that the current system has got to go.

While business seems to have no definitive strategy as yet, several corporate-sponsored groups, most notably the Business Roundtable-affiliated Washington Business Group on Health, are hard at work. Their general emphasis is on the establishment of a system of corporate-controlled health care (the “collusion of providers and employers”). Coupled with cost-cutting measures that stress individual compliance, the system de-emphasizes medical care (especially for the handicapped), ignores corporate-caused social and environmental sources of illness.

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Government attempts to pull out of this costly morass have so far centered on regulation: “certified health networks” are supposed to help prevent unnecessary surgery, rate-setting commissions, and planning agencies. But decisions have been ineffective primarily because they lack the power of enforcement.

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Death of the market? While business seems to have no definitive strategy as yet, several corporate-sponsored groups, most notably the Business Roundtable-affiliated Washington Business Group on Health, are hard at work. Their general emphasis is on the establishment of a system of corporate-controlled health care (the “collusion of providers and employers”). Coupled with cost-cutting measures that stress individual compliance, the system de-emphasizes medical care (especially for the handicapped), ignores corporate-caused social and environmental sources of illness.

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As the Carter Administration scurries about to find a solution, it is getting more and more input from the corporate sector which is convinced that the current system has got to go.
During the period February 24, 1978 through March 22, 1978 applications for membership were received from the following persons:

**SAN JOAQUIN DIVISION**
ALVAREZ, A.
ISAAC, M.W.
ROSENFELD, E.

**COAST VALLEYS DIVISION**
FERRIS, M.G.
FREEZE, D.F.

** Components of the UTILITY REPORTER were received from the following persons: **

**MERCEDES LUCKY DISTRICT**
BENNETT, T.S.
CARPENTER, G.
DIWIGGS, F.T.
GONZALEZ, J.J.
HICKS, M.
KRAMER, R.B.
MARASCHIN, A.J.
MERCADO, G.C.
MITCHELL, E.L.
ROSSHIRT, J.E.

**COAST VALLEYS DIVISION**
FERRIS, M.G.
FREEZE, D.F.
GALLEGOS, J.M.
MARTIN, R.R.
PEERSON, C.R.

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PEERSON, C.R.
REYES, L.S.
ROMERO, M.O.
SANCHEZ, C.M.
THOMPSON, A.
VALDIVIO, S.M.
VOG, O.E.

**Telerקר of NEWARK**
PADILLA, E.A.

**SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**
MARTIN, R.R.
ROSSHIRT, J.E.
STEENSEN, M.E.
SILVA, T.A.

**COAST VALLEYS DIVISION**
FERRIS, M.G.
FREEZE, D.F.
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Labor endorses candidates and props

By Willie R. Stewart

On April 6, 1978, 10 participants from Local Union 1245 attended the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, Pre-Pri-
mary COPE Convention in San Francisco, California. The participants from 1245 were: Dean Cofer, Frank Quadros, Willie R. Stewart, Howard Steifer, Ron Fitzsimmons, Bob Thomp-son, Jim Mc-

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Other Local Union 1245 members pre-

sent as delegates from central labor councils included: Darrel Mitchell, Pete Duf-ion, Gaye Weaver and Charlie Gadzic.

A number of endorsements this year — particularly that of Edmund G. Brown, Jr. for Governor — caused much controversy and debate. Some of the delegates present expressed the opinion that Governor Brown could have done more to promote the inter-


estests of the working men and women of this State during his first term. Those delegate believed that an open-endor-

sement by the convention would convey a message to Governor Brown that his labor was not totally happy with him.

Here are the endorsement actions made by more than 600 delegates representing California's 1.7 million AFL-CIO union members at the California Labor Federation's Pre-Primary En-


dorsement Convention.

FOR STATEWIDE OFFICES

FOR CONGRESS

District 1. Harold T. (Bizz) Johnson (D)
2. Open (D)
3. Open (D)
4. Vic Fazio (D)
5. Open (D)
6. Phillip Burton (D)
7. George Miller (D)
8. Ronald V. Dellums (D)
9. Fortney H. (Pete) Stark, Jr. (D)
10. Open (D)
11. Open (D)
12. Lieu.
13. Norman M. Mineta (D)
14. John J. McFaul (D)
15. Tony Coelho (D)
16. Open (D)
17. Open (D)
18. Open (D)
19. Open (D)
20. Open (D)
21. James C. Corman (D)
22. Open (D)
23. Anthony C. Bielenson (D)
24. Henry A. Waxman (D)
25. Edward R. Roybal (D)
26. No Endorsement (D)
27. Open (D)
28. Nate Holden (D)
29. Julian C. Dixon (D) (Dual)
30. George E. Danielson (D)
31. Charles H. Wilson (D)
32. Glenn M. Anderson (D)
33. Open (D)
34. Bill R. Would (D)
35. Open (D)
36. Open (D)
37. Open (D)
38. Open (D)
39. Open (D)
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FOR STATE SENATE

District 16. Barry Keene (D)
17. John F. Duniway (D)
18. Alan Robbins (D)
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FOR STATE ASSEMBLY

Prop. 4 — Vote YES
Prop. 5 — Vote YES
Prop. 6 — Vote YES
Prop. 7 — Vote NO
Prop. 8 — Vote YES

FOR PROPOSITIONS

Prop. 9 — Vote NO
Prop. 10 — Vote YES
Prop. 11 — Vote NO
Prop. 12 — Vote NO
Prop. 13 — Vote NO

FOR STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

FOR CONGRESS

By Willie R. Stewart
Beware: Special COPE report reveals

It has no name, but we can give it one. It could be called, accurately, “Operation Wipe-Out.”

Its aim is to so undermine the institution of trade unionism in America that new organizing of workers becomes bogged down by managers trained by professionals to block it, and the contracts now protecting millions of union members are shredded—all this regardless of national labor law, changed or not.

“Wipe-Out” has no one, guiding, malevolent genius master-minding the attack. It doesn’t require one. It consists of organizations and individuals already skilled at their trade, their arts honed by years of practice. They see 1978 as the year to put it all together and cripple trade unionism.

The various elements mounting the attack span the hard-shelled, anti-union spectrum from the ultra of the “old” and “new” radical right, through to the major business associations and many of the governments they represent. And of course, ever present and beaver- ing away, the National Right to Work (for less) Committee.

The drive is both political and institutional. It intends a massive shift in Congress and in the state legislatures as a result of 1978 elections toward firmly conservative control. And given the political facts of life—off-year tradition of heavy losses by the party in control of the White House; unnaturally swollen Democratic majorities in Congress and many state legislatures; tremendous sums of corporate and right-wing political money available, plus new political sophistication and effectiveness on the right—it’s no pipe dream.

The main components of “Operation Wipe-Out” and what they’re up to follow:

The National Association of Manufacturers

Recently, this ancient foe of the labor movement announced its version of environmental protection. It formed the Council on a Union-Free Environment. For an annual fee of up to $1,500, the council will advise employers on how to keep unions out—or dump them if they’re in.

NAM President Heath Larry told a news conference that his organization “struggled” to find the right name for its new operation. When the decision was made to name it the Council on Union-Free Environment, Larry said, he realized that there were those who would “lampoon” it as some sort of a union-busting organization. But it really isn’t, the NAM president insisted.

Larry, who used to be a top negotiator for the steel industry, said the council will emphasize the positive by seeking to build employe “loyalty and support” for their employer. It will use the many metals of corporate and right-wing political money available, plus new political sophistication and effectiveness on the right—it’s no pipe dream.

The Guns for Hire

Back up the NAM end of “Operation Wipe-Out” is a cluster of guns for hire, already well established in the specialized field of advising on how to prevent, or at least to weaken, the organizing efforts where it arises and to dump unions where they exist.

These are very slick, able operators, who charge up to $500 and more for two-day seminars, hold scores of them annually, and play to SRO audiences of management personnel.

They are not nearly as circumspect as the NAM. They make no effort to conceal their purpose. Their literature comes right out with it: “Strategies for Preserving a Non-Union Status,” or “Management’s Strategy When a Union Organizer Knocks,” or “The Process of Decertification.”

At a seminar on certification last fall, the 40 “students” all had titles like corporate manager, president, vice president, director of industrial relations of substantial and diverse firms, among them Ohio Edison; TRW of Cleveland, a major defense contractor; Eagle Picher Industries; Rand McNally; Dubuque Packing Company; State Farm Insurance; Berghoff Restaurants; Northwest Industries; George A. Hormel Company.

This particular conference was conducted by Alfred T. DeMaria, one of the major operatives in this field. COPE Memo has been shown a report by a person who attended the seminar. The seminar reported, among other things said by DeMaria that he advised those once the union is voted out, employe benefits can be taken away.

But, he cautioned, while management is in the process of decertification vow to employees “you wouldn’t dream of doing that.”

Cover page of promotional brochure for NAM’s new anti-union campaign. NAM leaders say it’s no such thing, but is there any other way to read “union-free” than that it means outright union-busting?

Simultaneously, the onslaught confronts trade unions at the source of their strength—the contracts that protect their members and the areas of potential organizing success.

Only a determined response will nullify “Operation Wipe-Out”—from union members and officials at all levels, in the form of support for labor’s political and legislative programs. It’s going to take all-out effort for trade unions to withstand the deadly attack on their basic rights since the “open shop” and “American Plan” campaigns early in this century.

From the Horse’s Mouth

“The decertification campaign is as wide as your imagination. Here are a few do’s and don’ts. You (management) can’t write an anti-union speech for your employee to read in a local employer-employee relations without the need for “third party intervention.” If that doesn’t mean keep or get the union out, what does?

Alfred DeMaria
Consultant on union-busting

National Right to Work Committee

A Coalition of Employers and Employees

December 30, 1973

Dear Friends:

What will happen to your business... your job... your state and local taxes... what will happen to you... your family’s safety... and your American way of life if the union bosses have their way in the 95th Congress?

Here are important questions. That’s why it’s important for you... your friends... your country... and our American way of life that the NAM supports the NLRB’s National Right to Work Committee—co-founded... the NAM with over 10,000 American employers.

You will find the NAM’s campaign literature packed with facts and figures of the important role the NAM can play in helping employers thwart union organizing campaigns. Dowd is president of the CIE.

One co-chairman, Prine, in the past has been on the Finance Committee of the National Right to Work (for less) Committee and presently is listed on the advisory council of the Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, an NRTWC spin-off. He, then, has a history of active interest in union-wrecking.

Larry, too, belied his own reassurances. He said the council will seek to create a climate for healthy employer-employee relations without the need for “third party intervention.” If that doesn’t mean keep or get the union out, what does?

NAM President, Heath Larry, told a news conference that his organization “struggled” to find the right name for its new operation. When the decision was made to name the Council on Union-Free Environment, Larry said, he realized that there were those who would “lampoon” it as some sort of a union-busting organization. But it really isn’t, the NAM president insisted.

Larry’s record is as clear as the moon. He has a long history of active interest in union-wrecking.

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But, he cautioned, while management is in the process of decertification vow to employees “you wouldn’t dream of doing that.”

Right-To-Work (for less) Committee branches out from single issue to anti-labor law reform fundraiser signed by Sen. Carl Curtis (R-Nebr.). It also tries to land hay-makers on public employee unions and has taken on other causes. But upon shop remains its priority goal. This year it has targeted 7-9 states for a legislative push. Down the road, it envisages a national open shop law as its major contribution to “Operation Wipe-Out.”

He also advised management to “stall” negotiations after expiration of a contract but to “give the impression” of good-faith bargaining. Make some concessions on small things to bolster that impression, he advised, but “hold back” on matters like union security clause and other major issues.

Your objective during bargaining, he said, is to lead up to decertification, not to a new contract. He also
union-busting dragon is alive and well

suggested that "a good, loyal employee" be led by his good loyal nose into opening up the whole decertification process, since it can't have the appearance of coming from management.

At one point, DeMaria suggested that management create feelings of dissatisfaction with the union among employees, adding "Who says you have to wait until it develops?"

That corporate bigwigs have responded to this kind of tutelage has become evident not only from overflow attendance at the seminars but in figures that show a steep decline in organizing successes in the decade 1966-1976, slumping from about 60 percent success at the outset to below 50 percent in 1976. Also, there has been a substantial increase in decertification proceedings since the guns-for-hire came on the scene.

Encouraged as they are by the NAM and National Chamber of Commerce, they can only grow for a while and pose a continued threat to the stability and strength of unions and to the contracts that protect working people. They are a key weapon in "Operation Wipe-Out."

The Consultant Game

"There's an upsurge in the number of companies that feel there are things they can do to maintain non-union status."—Lewis Abrams, president of Executive Enterprises, a consultant on busting or preventing unionism.

"Union recognition cards are vile and they're dangerous... Don't share your pie with the union... The name of the game is to prevent the (recognition) election and chill the union off."—Alfred DeMaria, a leading consultant on union-busting.

Descriptions of two of the most successful consultants in the field, from promotional brochure: "Dr. Charles L. Hughes is one of the best known applied behavioral scientists working with industry today. He has pioneered in the area of preventive employee relations with one of the largest non-union employers in the U.S."

"Alfred T. DeMaria... specializes in combating union organizational campaigns and in developing programs to keep companies operating in a union-free environment. He handles labor matters and develops union prevention programs for numerous industries."

The Right to Work (for less) Movement

The ever-ready National Right to Work (for less) Committee pulled in a record $8.5 million for its 1977 activities and heads into 1978 with its most ambitious union-busting program in many years, and even more money expected.

The committee plans to introduce open shop proposals in the legislatures of Idaho, New Mexico, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Colorado, Missouri, and possibly Montana and Indiana.

It is active on other fronts, as well, opposing labor law reform, charging there is too much pro-union material getting into public schools (that's a new one on us), and mounting a steady, drum-fire attack—as do many of its cohort groups on the right—against public employee unionism.

The committee and its legal arm have entered about 60 law suits in the courts against unions. It sent out 25 million pieces of mail last year to its true believers, and probably will exceed that in 1978. It advertises regularly and expensively in major publications. It is active on other fronts, as well, opposing labor law reform, charging there is too much pro-union material getting into public schools (that's a new one on us), and mounting a steady, drum-fire attack—as do many of its cohort groups on the right—against public employee unionism.

That's what the right-to-work-by-law forces are shooting for this year. That's their part of "Operation Wipe-Out."

Then, There's the Old Right

In their own minds, the NAM, the professional consultants, the open shop committee, and the "new right" might somehow be able to disassociate themselves from the far-out "old right"—the John Birch Society, the Liberty Lobby, the Billy James Hargises and Willis Carters of the world.

But it doesn't really wash. Though they cloak themselves in a most respectable cover, "conservative," they are not true conservatives—they are radicals, radicals of the right.

The "old right" thesis of weak; or, no unions, is openly embraced by the "new right." It has been an NAM goal ever since that giant business association back in 1903 launched the open shop drive with much the same language new RTW state laws use. The goals and the words haven't changed in the better part of a century.

The National Right to Work (for less) Committee was born of the "old right." One of its founders was a John Birch Society leader. Its target is, and has been from its inception in 1955, not simply "freedom of choice" for working people, but the outright smashing of strong unions.

The guns for hire are simply old anti-union headhunters gone mad. They don't get down into the pits where the mud flies. They merely encourage management to do it, and abet them when they do—and make an excellent living while they're at it.

The main elements of "Operation Wipe-Out" and the way-out gang on the "old right" are really soul-

The Radical 'New Right' and Corporate PACs

The so-called "new right" and corporate political action committees are a vital part of "Wipe-Out."

Both are recent on the political scene. The more than 450 corporate PACs this year will be a giant money funnel mostly to conservative candidates, perhaps accounting for $20-25 million.

The "new right" groups, too, will pump vast sums into campaigns of reactionary candidates. Their fundraising capability is astonishing. It should at least equal that of corporate PACs, giving them a combined potential wallop in the $40-$50 million range.

But the "new right" goes far beyond funding. It has developed an effective, sophisticated political operation which uses all the tools of successful political activity—identification of support, registration, direct mailings, phone banks, media usage, campaign management, materials, getting out the vote among supporters.

That the "new right" is a charter member of the "Operation Wipe-Out" club has been made abundantly evident in the dozens of fund-raising and other letters its groups have sent out using the labor movement as the goal for almost all the grievances of the right wing.

The Prospects for 'Wipe-Out'

There is a lot of clout represented by "Operation Wipe-Out." It includes the major business and corporate associations and, in an active fashion, many of their member firms. It includes some very sharp minds planting some very sharp messages about stopping union organizing drives and about how to decertify a union. It includes an increasingly active right to work (for less) movement and the "new right" and corporate PACs, and the "old right," as well.

That's a mess of firepower—all aimed at workers, their unions and their contracts, some of it through the political process, some of it squarely at the job site.

But "Wipe-Out" can't live up to its name against an aroused labor movement. Trade unions and their members are in it for the long haul, waiting to be picked off. We have firepower of our own, and plenty of it—politically in the form of registration programs, education on issues and candidates, funding (don't forget your $2 for COPE) and sophisticated get-out-the-vote programs; on site in the form of commitment and record of service to working people.

The bottom line will be how members and their unions mobilize to use the weapons we have. If we use them to the hilt, "Wipe-Out" can't make it.
Averbuck reinforces Stewards knowledge of labor law

Approximately 50 East Bay Division Shop Stewards met in Walnut Creek on Saturday, March 18, 1978. The all-day training session was coordinated by Business Representatives McCauley, Thomas and Stamps. Other staff members present included Dean Cofer, Tony Morgado, Ray Shepherd, Pat Rutherford and Charlie Gadzik.

Tony Cannata, Secretary-Treasurer of the Contra Costa Central Labor Council discussed the role of Central Labor Councils in Unions. Assemlyman Tom Bates, the author of the controversial pro-labor legislation to eliminate forced overtime focussed on the legislative scene. In closing, members were urged to write their legislators in Support of AB 1295.

The highlight of the session was an extensive review of unfair labor practices and the duty of fair representation presented by Attorney Dave Averbuck.

The following members have been appointed to the committees listed below:

### LOCAL UNION COMMITTEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bylaw Ballot Committee</th>
<th>Examining Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ron Fitzsimmons - Chairman</td>
<td>Mike Davis</td>
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<td>Eric Klein</td>
<td>Ken</td>
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<td>Henry House</td>
<td>Safety Committee</td>
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<td>Norris Lewis</td>
<td>Juan Dominquez</td>
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### NEGOATIATING COMMITTEES

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<th>City of Healdsburg</th>
<th>Paradise Irrigation District</th>
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<tr>
<td>Larry Giovannoni</td>
<td>Randall Bane</td>
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<td>Manuel Lowes</td>
<td>Richard Terrano Jr.</td>
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<td>Concord Cable TV</td>
<td>Sierra Pacific Power Company</td>
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<td>Tom Coleman</td>
<td>Pat Lantis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry Garner</td>
<td>Dave Herman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teleprompter of Los Gatos</td>
<td>Joan Shyne</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Dore</td>
<td>Bill Richardson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Cable TV</td>
<td>Jerry Fendy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Ingersoll</td>
<td>California-Pacific Utilities Company</td>
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<td>City of Gridley</td>
<td>Elko Division</td>
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<td>Byron Knox</td>
<td>Deanna Harner</td>
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<td>City of Redding</td>
<td>Needles Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Billy Keyes</td>
<td>Bob Scoular</td>
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<td>Blair Noel</td>
<td>Mike Andrews</td>
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<td>Carl Schmidt</td>
<td>Virginia Jenkins</td>
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<td>Clifford Friesen</td>
<td>Outside Construction</td>
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<td>Donald Kinkade</td>
<td>Line</td>
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<td>Joseph Kropholler</td>
<td>D. &quot;Tommy&quot; Heyl</td>
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<td>Telephone</td>
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<td>Sean O'Donnell</td>
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### JOINT GRIEVANCE COMMITTEES (PG&E)

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<th>East Bay Division</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lou Anzaldo</td>
<td>Joe Valentina</td>
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<td>Humboldt Division</td>
<td>Northern Nevada</td>
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<td>Michael Warner</td>
<td>Kathy Tindall</td>
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<td>Ken Hayeart</td>
<td>John Stralla</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Construction Department</td>
<td>Pat Lantis</td>
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<td>Jan McCracken</td>
<td>Wiremen</td>
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<td>Pipe Line Operations Department</td>
<td>Stanislaus-Tuolumne County</td>
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<td>Vern Cooke</td>
<td>Dale Clegg</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Joaquin Division</td>
<td>Public Employees Council (Sacramento)</td>
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<td>Michael O'Dell</td>
<td>Hank Lucas</td>
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<td>Al Sandoval</td>
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### APPOINTMENTS

The following members have been appointed to the committees listed above:

### SMUD Stewards meet in Sacto.

Hank Lucas, Local 1245 Business Representative coordinated a day-long Shop Stewards' training session on March 25, 1978 in Sacramento. The meeting was specifically designed to give SMUD Stewards an opportunity to discuss problems and review the contract.

Hank was assisted in leading the session by Assistant Business Manager Mert Walters and Business Representatives Ed Fortier and Mickey Harrington. Stewards present were: Oscar Bingen, Russ Conroy, Bill Paynter, Tom Smiley, Jack Noble, Rod Johnson, Mike Paulsen, and Pete Ramon.

Some of the Stewards who attended the March 18 session are shown above.

Above are Business Representative Jim McCauley and Assembyman Tom Bates.

Above is Tony Cannata, Secretary-Treasurer of the Contra Costa Central Labor Council.

Some of the Stewards who attended the meeting are shown above.

Above are Hank Lucas, Mert Walters and Ed Fortier.

Some of the Stewards who attended the meeting are shown above.

Utility Reporter—April, 1978—Page Eight
Eight Brothers prevent man's death

By Corb Wheeler

On Wednesday, April 27, 1977, Jack Geary, Silverado Troublian, was dispatched to Knights Valley on a trouble call. In route, he noticed a backhoe being operated near the edge of a vineyard along the highway. Returning he saw the Calistoga Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD) and equipment at the spot where the backhoe had been in operation. A volunteer firefighter, Geary stopped to lend a hand.

The excavation was roughly 4 feet wide, 6 feet long, and fourteen feet deep. Mr. Da Cunha, the property owner, had gone into the excavation to adjust the bucket on the backhoe when the walls collapsed, trapping him in the hole. Fortunately, the backhoe operator was able to position the bucket over Da Cunha's head keeping him from being totally buried while Mrs. Da Cunha summoned the CVFD, who responded immediately.

Brother Geary assisted in digging a passage way to reach the man's mouth, and inserted an oxygen hose to aid his breathing. At this point, it became evident that if there was any hope at all of saving the man, he would have to be dug out. Digging would be impossible without shoring to keep the dirt from caving in. An emergency call was placed to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) requesting a shoring crew to be dispatched to the accident site. As luck would have it, an electric line crew consisting of Line Subforeman Leland Decker, Lineman Frank Kester and Art Winters and Driver John Coma were in the service center when the call came in. They immediately loaded all the shoring equipment available, and proceeded as quickly as possible to the accident site.

Upon arrival, they found that Mr. Geary and the CVFD Volunteers had started to dig the man out by using the ladder of the trouble truck as a make-shift shoring. Kester and Winters were already动手 and another shovel digger freeing the victim. Kester took over at this point, working tirelessly digging with anything handy. At one point, even a tablespoon was used to dig carefully around the man who, by this time was quite panic stricken and in a good deal of pain. Kester constantly talked to the victim, telling him he would be alright and that they were going to get him out okay. However, considerable doubt had arisen whether or not the rescue would be totally successful.

As Kester and Winters worked, Decker and Coma kept shoring to keep the two Linemen from also being trapped. They were faced with the constant danger of more slough off or cave-in. A gas crew consisting of Roy Pearson, Foreman, Bob Patridge, Fitter and Travis Everhardt, Reserve Gas Serviceman arrived to help out with the shoring and rescue operation.

They managed to free Da Cunha all the way to his legs. He was in a great deal of pain from the pressure on his legs. They tied 1/2 inch rope slings in a makeshift bosun's chair and rigged the boom from the line truck to pull him out. When pressure was exerted with the boom, the man cried out in extreme pain. The dirt was fairly wet and the sucking action of the mud held him fast. Kester and Winters went back to work to dig his legs out. Working feverishly, Kester continued talking to victim in a consoling manner.

At last Da Cunha was free. The entire rescue took from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - 3 1/2 hours. He couldn't walk and complained of severe chest and back pain. He was rushed to the hospital and remarkably found to have nothing major wrong with him. After an overnight stay, he insisted on going home, very lucky to be alive.

After the rescue, our Brothers breathed a sigh of relief, picked up equipment, and headed back to the Service Center. By this time, it was hard to tell the victim from the rescuers.

Executive Board Member Howard Stiefer presents Brother Jack Geary an I.B.E.W. Life Saving Award.

Executive Board Member Howard Stiefer presents Brother Leland Decker an I.B.E.W. Life Saving Award.

Executive Board Member Howard Stiefer presents Brother Art Winters an I.B.E.W. Life Saving Award.

Executive Board Member Howard Stiefer presents Brother Travis Verhardt an I.B.E.W. Life Saving Award.

Brother John Corna is presented an I.B.E.W. Life Saving Award by Shop Steward Frank Burrows.

Brother Frank Kester is presented an I.B.E.W. Life Saving Award by Executive Board Member Howard Stiefer.

CPI still rising

(Continued from page one)

January. The increase of 0.6 percent for housing in February, however, was somewhat smaller than in January. The apparel and upkeep index declined 1.0 percent in February, following a moderate rise in January.

The February rise in the food and beverage index stemmed from increases of 1.3 percent for grocery store foods, 1.0 percent for restaurant meals, and 0.8 percent for alcoholic beverages. These increases were about the same as in January. Almost three-quarters of the February rise in the food at home index was due to higher prices for meats and poultry.

Beef prices rose 4.1 percent in February, compared with increases of about 2.0 percent in each of the 3 preceding months. Pork and poultry prices also showed large increases in February—2.6 percent and 1.6 percent, respectively—but not as much as in January.

Prices for most other foods such as cereal and bakery products, dairy products, sugar and sweets, salad and cooking oils, and processed fruits and vegetables also rose in February. On the other hand, after seasonal adjustment, prices for eggs averaged unchanged, and prices for fresh fruits and vegetables, and fish declined. The downturn in coffee prices continued.

In the housing category, the index for residential rent increased 0.4 percent and homeownership costs rose 0.7 percent in February—both less than in January. The slower rise in the latter group reflected smaller price increases for fuel and other utilities, home maintenance and repair commodities. Prices of house furnishings rose moderately in February for the second consecutive month. Charges for housekeeping services increased 0.6 percent, compared with 1.1 percent in January. The index for fuel and utilities advanced 0.8 percent in February, considerably more than in January, primarily as the result of increases in charges for electricity and natural gas.

In the medical care component, prices of commodities such as prescriptions and nonprescription drugs and supplies increased 0.8 percent in February, slightly more than in January. Charges for professional services rose 0.8 percent and charges for hospital and other medical care services rose 1.3 percent in February, both about the same as in January.

The February rise in the transportation index also reflected increases for new and used cars. After seasonal adjustment, the index for new cars rose 0.7 percent and the index for used cars rose 2.1 percent, both about the same as in January. Charges for auto repairs and maintenance also continued to rise. Gasoline prices, which average unchanged in January, declined slightly in February. Among public transportation charges, taxicab fares rose 1.1 percent, intercity bus fares 1.6 percent, and airline fares 0.7 percent in February.

The increase of 0.7 percent in the entertainment index was due to higher prices for commodities such as sporting goods, toys, and musical instruments and for services such as membership dues. Prices for reading materials declined in February, following a large rise in January.

In the apparel and upkeep category, prices declined in February for all types of clothing—1.0 percent for men's and boys', 2.4 percent for women's and girls', and 1.1 percent for infants' and toddlers' apparel. Charges for apparel services, however, continued to show large increases—1.1 percent in February and 1.0 percent in January.
**Nevada News**

By John Wilder

Sierra Pacific Power Company bargaining is still in progress. The Negotiating Committee met April 10 and 11, and is scheduled to meet again on April 17, 18 and 19, if necessary.

A hearing will be held April 12 in Ely concerning the Union’s certification for the RCA employees. This is a prime example of the need for Labor Law Reform. The Union has been involved with the certification of these properties for seven months. RCA has thrown every obstacle possible in the way of the employees in their attempts to get Union recognition.

On April 14 an election was held in Elko to determine whether Local 1245 represents the employees of California-Pacific Utilities Telephone Division. The Company put up an active campaign to thwart the employees’ desire for Union recognition. However, Union won and Local 1245 will be certified as the exclusive bargaining representative. Presently, preparations to commence negotiations are underway.

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**Letter of Agreement Summaries**

Editor’s note: Members of Local Union No. 1245 who wish to receive a copy of the full text of the letter of agreement shown below may do so by submitting their written request to the Local Union.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

PG&E No. 78-11: Provides for the wage level of the 30-minute automotive travel time requirement for an employee in North Bay Division.

Sierra Pacific Power Company

SPPC No. 78-3: Effective January 1, 1978, provides for the amendment of certain wage rates in the Assistant Reservoir (Emergency Relief), Operator (Water Plant), Operator (Water Treatment), and Patrolman (Gas and Water); certain job definitions for Assistant Reservoir (Emergency Relief), Operator (Gas Pressure), Operator (Water Plant), Operator (Water Treatment) and Patrolman (Gas and Water); changes the job definition of Maintenance Mechanic in both the Maintenance Division (Gas) and Water Patrolman (Gas and Water); revised the job definition; revised Exhibit “C” Lines of Progression and established wage provisions for the incumbent Gas and Water Patrolman.

SPPC No. 78-4: Provides for the revision of Exhibit “A” - Wage Schedules and Exhibit “B” - Job Definitions and Qualifications as they pertain to the Chemical Tester, Power Production, Generating Plant Operations Occupational Group.

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**Gas Conference Delegates Meet in Orlando**

By Jim McCauley

The Inter-Union Gas Conference was held on March 8, 1978 in Orlando, Florida. Delegates from six National Unions attended this conference to discuss “Negotiations in the Gas Industry.” Representing Local Union 1245 were: Dean Collier, Business Manager; Howard Darington, President; Ron Fitzsimmons, Vice President; Jim McCauley, Business Representative; Pat Nickeson, Advisory Council member - Stockton Division; Frank Quadro, Business Representative; Willie Stewart, Senior Assistant Business Manager; and Howard Stief, Executive Board member.

The Labor Law Reform Bill, now before the U.S. Senate, was the first item on the agenda. Dave Chomers, International Representative from the Service Employees Union discussed the importance of this bill and how it will help the Union Movement in its organizing efforts. He made a plea to all “rank and file” members to write their U.S. Senators to help pass the Labor Law Reform Bill.

Several Unions reported that their Company had shut down their meter repair facilities. They were either going to outside contractors to repair meters or else they were purchasing plastic throw-away meters, manufactured overseas which could last approximately 3 - 7 years and are discarded after use. Again, cost seems to be the determining factor.

Some interesting facts were discussed in the Service Workshop. Many utilities in the Mid-West and the East are charging for service calls. As a result, customers are calling for service less frequently and many employees have been laid off.

Basic labor law bills have passed in several States that would bar Company takeovers and the use of labor relations. This is the only Conference in the year devoted solely to the Gas Industry in which several National Unions can discuss their problems and their gains.

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**Meeting Announcement**

The next regular Local 1245 Advisory Council meeting will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7, 1978. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Carmel, California. All members are urged to attend Advisory Council meetings. If you desire additional information, contact your local Union representatives.

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**Notes of Interest**

Steak, Beer, Salad-Hot Dogs

May 13, 1978

Local 1245 members and their families are invited to attend Unit 2514’s annual family picnic on May 13, 1978. The picnic will be held at Oak Island in Tracy. The charge is $5.00 for adults and $2.50 for children. Tickets may be obtained from Business Representative Hank Lucas or at the entrance gate of the park.

Cup Beneficiaries Phil and Paula Blyth of Elk Grove are the proud parents of a new baby girl, Little Juliana, born March 24, their first child. Brother Blyth is currently employed by California Gas and Electric Company. He is a Shop Steward in the Elk Grove area and an Advisory Council member.

Unit 2211, Oakland General is the winner of the Local Union Unit Social Fund for the month of March, 1978. Scott Thomas, Unit 2316, Concord, was the winner of the Unit Drawing for the month of March, 1978.
Editor’s Note: The following article “Don’t Gamble with Death” appeared in the July, 1975 issue of the UTILITY REPORTER at the request of various Local No. 1245 members.

Due to the recent changes in section 1540 of California’s Construction Safety Orders and numerous violations cited during CAL-OSHA inspections, we are again printing the rules governing correct shoring procedures for trenches that workmen must enter. These rules are set down by the State of California, Dept. of Industrial Relations, Division of Industrial Safety.

The new changes were effective on June 20, 1975 and are as follows:

Adopt new Subparts (1), (2), and (3) to Subsection (a) of Section 1540 to read:

(1) Prior to opening an excavation, effort shall be made to determine whether underground installations; i.e., sewer, water, fuel, electric lines, etc., will be encountered, and if so, where such underground installations are located. When the excavation approaches the approximate location of such an installation, the exact location shall be determined by careful probing or hand digging, and when it is uncovered, adequate protection shall be provided for the existing installation. All known owners of underground facilities in the area concerned shall be advised of proposed work at least 48 hours prior to the start of actual excavation.

(2) Trees, boulders, and other surface encumbrances, located so as to create a hazard to employees involved in excavation work or in the vicinity thereof at time during operations, shall be removed or made safe before excavating is begun.

(3) Excavations shall be inspected by a qualified person after every rainstorm or other hazard-increasing occurrence, and the protection against slides and cave-ins shall be increased if necessary.

Amend Subsection (b) of Section 1540 to read as follows:

(b) Guarding. The walls and faces of all excavations 5 feet or more in depth which employees will enter shall be effectively guarded by a shoring system, sloping of the ground, or other equivalent means.

Amend Subpart (4) of Subsection (c) of Section 1540 to read:

(4) A civil engineer, registered in California, shall submit detailed data to the Division for alternate effective shoring or sloping systems to include:

(a) Evaluation. Slope stability estimation of forces to be resisted, together with plans and specifications of the materials and methods to be used. When tie rods are used to restrain the top of sheeting or other retaining systems, the rods shall be securely anchored.

(b) Design. Design by Registered Engineer. The design and calculations listed above should be noted, but we should also remember some basic guidelines in trenching, which the Occupational Safety and Health Administration put out by the State of California entitled Protection of Workmen on Trenches. The guidelines are as follows:

TRENCHING

California’s Construction Safety Orders give minimum requirements only, but distinctly specify that trenches in all types of earth must be guarded against the hazard of moving ground.

It is the employer’s responsibility to see that employees are not injured from excavated ground. Experienced construction men offer the following advice, which will be helpful in deciding how much sheeting, in addition to the minimum specified, is required.

1. Beware of Disturbed Ground. Ground that has been filled or disturbed will require additional sheeting and bracing. So will hard compaction of ground if there is filled ground nearby. A trench wall that is near another recently filled trench, for example, is unstable, even though it appears to be hard compacted material.

2. Take Special Precautions Where Moisture Is Present. Provide extra sheeting where there is water or seepage. Keep the excavation pumped out at all times, and avoid any accumulation of water, day or night, until the work is done.

3. Guard Against Rock-like Material That Softens When Exposed to Air. Upon exposure to air, moisture, some rocks, like the greenish serpentines found in California, undergo a softening change called air weathering. Walls of soft rock are hard and solid at the time of excavation, but soften into a slippery, dangerous mass soon after exposure to air. To prevent this air-slacking, some contractors apply a protective coating of gunite to such walls, in addition to shoring and bracing. Other contractors provide extra sheeting to hold the weakened walls in place.

4. Guard Against Caving Hazard Created by Vibration and Load From Highway Traffic. Trenches located near highways and streets are more likely to cave than similar trenches in locations not exposed to moving loads. Extra sheeting is necessary, and loose rocks and chunks of earth that could fall on men in the excavation should be removed.

5. Install Upper Trench Jacks First. When trench jacks are used to hold uprights in place against trench walls, the top jack should be installed first. The next lower one should be held in position with hooks from above before a man enters the trench at that point to place the lowest jack. Shoring does not serve its purpose if men expose themselves to hazard while installing it. Most of the installation work should be carried on from a safe position outside of the trench.

6. Protect All Men in Trenches. If a man is needed at the bottom of the trench near the boom-end of a boom-type trenching machine, he should be protected by metal shields attached to the boom-end. These shields should be of adequate strength and design to serve as a substitute for shoring and bracing.

SPECIAL NOTE — An area restricted by installing forms or similar structures adjacent to the bank of an excavation is termed a trench, and all trench regulations apply. CSO, Sec. 1504.

ALTERNATE TRENCH PROTECTION

Sloping

Trench or excavation walls may be sloped to no less than 1/4 horizontal to 1/2 vertical as an alternate method to shoring. Soil instability may, however, require a flatter slope.

Protective Shields

Protective shields or welder’s huts may be substituted for shoring systems to provide local protection for workmen in trenches. Approval of their design and construction shall be secured from the Division of Industrial Safety by the employer before use.

Design by Registered Engineer

A civil engineer, registered in California, may design and submit detailed data to the Division of Industrial Safety for alternate effective shoring systems. The design must include a soil evaluation study, a slope stability study, and an estimation of forces to be resisted, together with plans and specifications of the materials and methods to be used. Upon review of the application and supporting data, the Division may accept the provisions of the alternate proposal or add such modifications as appear just and reasonable. See Plate C-24, a, b, Appendix, Construc- tion Safety Orders, for engineering design alternate criteria.

PIECE INSTALLATION

Length or diameter of pipe being installed does not permit workmen to stay in trench. Trench protection is required within at least 4 feet of any worker in a trench.

Fourteen times as many workers die from caving ditches, trenches, and excavations than from other construction work (in proportion to the number of disabling injuries).

Out of every 13 workers who receive a disabling injury from cave-ins, one dies.

Walls of earth may look quite harmless, but they are extremely dangerous unless held in place by adequate shoring and bracing.

Play safe! Don’t bet lives on soil conditions! Provide adequate shoring and bracing.

Local 1245 relies on the membership to keep us informed regarding unsafe working conditions and violations of laws or safety orders. We urge everyone to read the above material on shoring and be certain that any trench you enter meets the standards set forth by the law.

We know that sometimes it can be quicker to do a job without it, but it can also be quicker to do it right the first time. Local 1245 provides the support to provide a safe place to work and the encouragement to do it right every year because of inadequate shoring and we don’t want any member of Local 1245 included in those horrible statistics.

If you are pressured to violate the rules as they relate to trenches and shoring, or if you know where they are voluntarily being ignored, be sure to notify your Business Representative and if it is not available call Assistant Business Manager Tom Segado, at the Local Union headquarters.

Work Safety; the life you save could be your own.
Climbing Space Defined

Editor's Note: In compliance to a request that General Order No. 95, as it pertains to climbing space, be published in the UTILITY REPORTER, the appropriate excerpts (rule nos. 54.7, 84.7 and 93) are shown below:

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNICATION LINES

84.7 Climbing Space

Climbing space shall be provided on one side or quadrant of all poles or structures supporting communication conductors excepting at the level of the one pair of conductors (Rule 54.7-A2) that is lowest, concurrent with 84.4-C1c, 84.4-D1 and 87.4-C3 and the top 3 feet of poles carrying communication conductors only which are attached directly to pole in accordance with the provisions of Rule 84.4-C1c.

The climbing space shall be maintained in the same position on the pole for a minimum vertical distance of 4 feet above and below each conductor level through which it passes, excepting that where a cable is attached to a crossarm or a pole with the cable less than 4 feet vertically both above and below each conductor level, the 4 foot vertical distance may be reduced to not less than 3 feet.

The position of the climbing space shall not be shifted more than 90 degrees around the pole within a vertical distance of less than 8 feet.

The climbing space shall be kept free from obstructions excepting those obstructions permitted by Rule 84.7-E.

E. Allowable climbing space obstructions

Vertical conductors, when in a suitable protective covering attached directly to the surface of the pole, terminal boxes or similar equipment which do not extend more than 5 inches from the surface of the pole, and guys, will not be held to obstruct the climbing space provided not more than one guy and one other of the above named obstructions are installed in any 4-foot vertical section of climbing space.

Crossarms and their supporting members are allowed in climbing spaces provided that, where buck arms are involved, any arms within climbing spaces are treated as double arms. A guard arm, a longitudinal run of messenger, cable or insulated wire will not be held to obstruct the climbing space where they are placed in the climbing space because the presence of a building wall or similar obstacle will not permit the cable to be placed on the side of pole opposite the climbing space. Pole steps shall be suitably placed for the purpose of facilitating climbing past the level of terminal box, cable, drop wires and guard arm.

Unnecessary impairment of the climbing space is not permitted by the application of this Rule 84.7-E.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPLY LINES

54.7 Climbing and Working Space

A. Climbing Space

Climbing space, measured from center line of pole, shall be provided on one side or in one quadrant of all poles or structures, with dimensions as specified in Rules 54.7-A1, 54.7-A2 and 54.7-A3. For climbing space dimensions where post insulators are utilized see Rule 54.11-F.

The climbing space shall be maintained in the same position for a distance of not less than 4 feet vertically both above and below each conductor level through which it passes. Compliance with this requirement necessitates that the position of the climbing space shall not be changed through conductor levels which are less than 4 feet apart. Where the vertical distance between consecutive conductor levels is 4 feet or more, and less than 8 feet, the position of the climbing space through such consecutive levels may be shifted not more than one-quarter of the distance around the pole. Where a conductor is installed at the top of a pole under the provisions of Rule 54.4-D8, the climbing space shall extend up to the level of such pole-top conductor but need not be provided through and above such level.

Allowable obstructions of these climbing spaces, where necessary, are specified in Rule 54.7-A4.

This Rule 54.7-A need not apply to non-climbable metal poles in partial underground distribution, provided the regular written operating rules of the utility concerned specify that all work on conductors and equipment supported by such poles shall be performed only from aerial lifts and (1) in the case of primary conductors, shall be done with live-line tools after installing adequate insulating and protective devices or barriers in order to (a) prevent accidental contact by the workman with the energized conductors other than the conductor being worked on and (b) to minimize the possibility of simultaneous contact of the metal parts of live-line tools with the grounded pole and the energized conductor and (2) in the case of secondary conductors shall be done after suitably covering all energized primary conductors with adequate insulating and protective devices or barriers.

NOTE: Revised February 7, 1964 by Decision No. 66707 and January 6, 1968 by Decision No. 73453.

For climbing space dimensions for low voltage rack construction see Rule 54.9-F.

NOTE: Revised January 6, 1968 by Decision No. 73453.

(4) Allowable Climbing Space Obstructions: Crossarms and their supporting members are allowed in climbing spaces provided that, where buck arms are involved, any arms within climbing spaces are treated as double arms.

Suitably protected vertical conductors attached to the surfaces of poles, and guys (except those guys contacting metal pins or dead-end hardware as specified in Rule 52.7-D), are allowed in climbing spaces provided that not more than one guy and one vertical riser, run, or ground wire are installed in any 4-foot vertical section of climbing space. The terminals or terminal fittings of risers or runs shall not be installed within climbing spaces.

Pin-type insulators which support line conductors of 20,000 volts or less may extend not more than one-half of their diameter into the climbing space. Dead-end or strain type insulators which support line conductors of 0-750 volts may extend not more than one-half of their diameter into the climbing space.

Space bolts used for the attachment of dead-end hardware of a circuit of any voltage located below a circuit at the top of the pole may project into the climbing space provided they are protected with a suitable insulating cover, having an insulating value equal to the insulators on the associated circuit, and further that the area of the climbing space on a horizontal plane is not reduced by more than 10%.

Modifications of these requirements for rack construction are specified in Rule 54.9-F.

NOTE: Revised September 18, 1967 by Decision No. 72984.

POLES JOINTLY USED

93. Climbing Space

Climbing space shall be provided on all jointly used poles which support conductors and the provisions of Rules 54.7 and 84.7 are directly applicable to such poles.

Climbing space on jointly used poles shall be so correlated between conductor levels that its position in relation to the pole is not changed by more than 90 degrees in a vertical distance of less than 8 feet.

Editor's Note: Assistant Business Manager Tony Morgado, assigned to direct the Local's activities in the areas of Safety, Apprenticeship and Training, is responsible for all items appearing in the Safety Scene. He prepares most of the articles, and when we use material from other publications, a credit line will appear at the conclusion of the article. If you have any suggestions for articles that relate to safety, they should be sent to the Local Union headquarters marked Attention: Tony Morgado.