

# Utility Reporter

October 1980

IBEW, Local 1245



Executive Board Member Bill Peitz, President Ron Fitzsimmons, and Business Manager Jack McNally at the California Labor Federation Convention.

## Business Manager elected VP of California Labor Federation

Jack McNally, Business Manager of Local 1245, was elected Vice President of the California Labor Federation at the Federation's 13th constitutional convention at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Albin J. Gruhn, the Federation's President, was reelected by a

unanimous vote, as well as John F. Henning, the Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

The delegates also elected Don Hunsucker, President and Executive Officer of United Food and Commercial Workers Union, to the position of Vice President of the Federation.

Reelected as vice presidents, also by unanimous vote, were:

Max Osslo, Vice President, United Food and Commercial Workers; M.R.

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## 7½% interest included in backpay award

Local 1245 member J.R. Schneider, a PG&E Lineman in Hollister, received over \$900 in interest when he won a discharge grievance and the arbitrator awarded him \$8,688 in backpay.

Under the recently negotiated 1980 PG&E Physical Agreement, Section 102.4(a), Jim was awarded his

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## PCB spill — a member's viewpoint of the cleanup

By Fred Morris  
Shop Steward

In Watsonville, on August 14, 1980, at about 2:30 p.m., one of the worst PCB spills in PG&E history was making news.

When the capacitor blew, a moderate wind was blowing, it carried the PCB contaminated fluid about 200 ft., contaminating three different yards. The home of Mayor Bill Johnson was affected quite heavily by the PCB contaminated fluid.

All line crews were called in to the Watsonville yard to prepare for the clean up. They were instructed to gather all the PCB protective equipment and clean up materials they could find. Some of the protective equipment was not available. There had been a minor PCB spill the day before and the disposable equipment had been used on that spill.

Upon our arrival to the spill site, the news media was already checking out the problem. Add to this, one of the worst spills ever, and the lack of training and education on this type of clean up, you have all the ingredients for confusion.

The crews prepared themselves for a large scale cleanup. After the capacitor bank was removed from the pole, no one was sure where to start on clean

up. PG&E's management appeared to be just as confused as we were and at this point their interest was directed to the news media and the public. With the little knowledge we had about toxic chemical cleanup, we began the cleanup operations.

We started with a wipe down of the mayor's house and driveway. A Gas Department backhoe was brought in to remove the contaminated area around the pole. At about this time I put in a call to our union Business Representative Bob Thomson, to verify that the procedure being used was proper and that our safety was not being jeopardized.

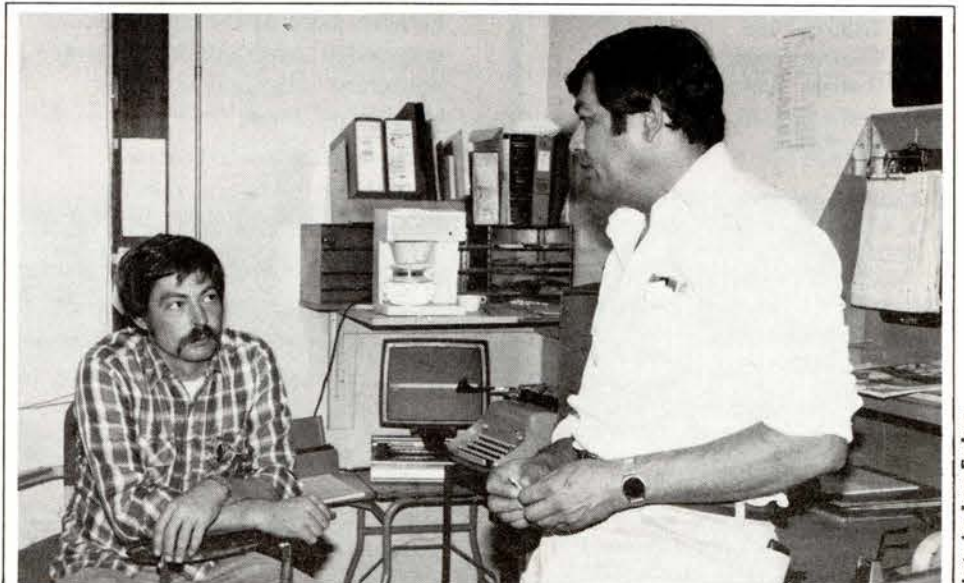
Our Rep was at a unit meeting in San Jose and arrived at the job site about 7:30 p.m. We expressed our concerns to him and he immediately

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## Citizens Utilities cited in member's death

Larry McCutcheon, a 34-year-old Susanville Lineman, was fatally electrocuted July 12. Larry was an IBEW Local 1245 member for seven years. Our Local Union offers condolences to Larry's family.

See complete story on page 6.



Shop Steward Don Paver discussed union concerns with Business Representative Al Sandoval.

Upclose: see page 4

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# It's the Law

## Protection for union activities

by John L. Anderson  
Attorney-at-Law  
Neyhart, Anderson, Nussbaum,  
Reilly & Freitas

During union organizing campaigns, or when an employer takes a "get tough" attitude toward a union, we are invariably asked the question: "To what extent does the law protect an employee who is engaged in union activities?" The answer is, "it depends".

It depends upon what kind of employee we are talking about: a private sector employee or one of a half-dozen types of public employees. It also depends upon the activities engaged in, and circumstances. Determining what is "protected activity" as opposed to "unprotected activity" is not susceptible of a simple answer.

For example, the National Labor Relations Act guarantees the right to strike; however, if an employee is

working under a collective bargaining agreement with a "no strike" clause, what would ordinarily be "protected" becomes "unprotected". An employee who engages in a strike may be disciplined, without recourse under the law.

There are, however, some generalized protections which are common to all statutes governing labor relations. The best place to start is with SS7 of the NLRA as it is the model for all statutes protecting union activities.

Section 7 guarantees to all employees covered by the NLRA:

"... the right to self-organization, to form, join or assist labor organizations, to bargain collectively, through representatives of their own choosing, and to engage in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection. . . ."

It's against the law for an employer to interfere with the exercise of employee rights guaranteed by Section 7.

The NLRA makes it unlawful for an employer to interrogate employees or to spy on employees to determine their union sympathies. He may not threaten employees or promise them benefits in order to discourage union activities. He cannot threaten to close his plant or offer a raise or increase benefits to discourage union activities.

He may not discipline, discharge or discriminate against an employee in terms of working conditions or benefits, because the employee has engaged in union activities. He may not refuse to bargain with the employees' union.

He is obligated to process grievances and to allow union representation during an employee interview if discipline could result from the interview. He may not dictate who is to be the employees' representative, and he must never deal with employees behind the back of the employees' union.

The National Labor Relations Board will enforce the rights of employees to engage in union activities and will order an employer who has interfered with the exercise of those rights to cease and desist from such interference and to make whole employees who have suffered lost wages or benefits as a result of an employer's unlawful conduct.



Charles G. Erwin, left, displays the John A. Britton Award, presented by PG&E Vice President — General Construction G. Stan Bates.

## Retired member receives lifesaving award

Retired Local 1245 member, Charles G. Erwin, is the first retired PG&E employee to receive the company's John A. Britton Award citation for lifesaving action.

Charles, a Local 1245 member for 22 years, and former Construction Inspector at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, was watching Lester Voight and another man play billiards at their Arizona retirement community in February.

Suddenly Lester staggered backwards, falling on the floor.

Charles called for assistance and immediately began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, while instructing the other man in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Lester regained movement within minutes, and was moved to a local hospital. He resumed normal activities after a week's hospital stay.

Charles is to be commended for saving the life of this neighbor, by his quick action and knowledge of CPR.

Each of the other Acts covering labor relations in California incorporate some or all of the rights granted to employees by SS7 of the NLRA.

The Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (MMB) covers most local public employees. That Act provides that the public employees

"... shall have the right to form, join and participate in the activities of employee organizations of their own choosing for the purpose of representation of all matters of employer-employee relations. . . ."

MMC makes it unlawful for a public employer to:

"... interfere with, intimidate, restrain, coerce or discriminate against public employees because of their exercise of their rights (as stated above). . . ."

State employees enjoy the same rights pursuant to the State Employer-Employee Relations Act. A similar statement of employee rights and employer responsibilities is contained in the Educational Employee Relations Act, the Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act, and in the several transit district acts governing

such properties as Sacramento Regional Transit.

Federal employees are now protected as well, by the Civil Service Reform Act and federal legislation conferring collective bargaining rights on certain federal employees.

In almost all cases, the various courts and agencies which administer or enforce these laws have looked to cases decided under the National Labor Relations Act to assist them in determining the rights of employees and whether those rights have been interfered with by a public employer.

While the law now extensively protects the rights of employees both public and private to engage in union activity, a caveat is in order. Remedies for unlawful conduct are slow in coming from boards and courts, because of the delays inherent in our legal system.

Thus, it must still be said that the best protection for employee rights is the establishment and maintenance of a strong union dedicated to the protection and preservation of those rights.



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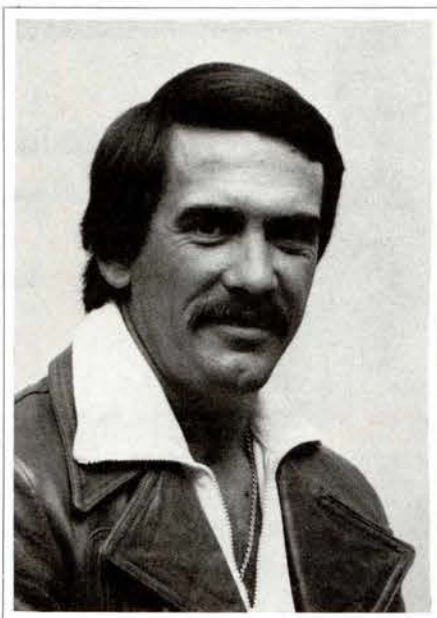
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## Introducing new staff members



photos by Susanne N. Coffey

**Ken Meyer**, formerly a Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD) Lineman, has joined the Local Union staff as Business Representative responsible for servicing members employed by City of Roseville, Nevada Irrigation District in Grass Valley, Sacramento Regional Transit, and Water and Power Resources Services. Ken also assists Business Representative Hank Lucas with member services at SMUD.

A member of Local 1245 since 1974, Ken has held the position of Shop Steward and was a 1979 SMUD Negotiating Committee Member.

One of Ken's goals for his new position is to make life better for the members. "It's too easy to sit back and wait for other people to do it," said Ken. "It is time for me to speak up and be heard."

Originally from Oroville, Ken resides in Citrus Heights with his wife of 17 years, Johnna, son Jayson, 11, and daughter Kimberlee, 8.

In his leisure hours, Ken enjoys water skiing on the Sacramento River and at Camp Far West on the Bear River. He has been active in softball, managing a men's team for eight years and a women's team for six years. He is also active in Little League.

## Staff assignment change

Effective immediately, Business Representative **Dorothy Fortier** has been assigned the duties and responsibilities of servicing Local 1245 members employed at PG&E General Office (V.P. & Comptroller's Organization) PG&E, Design-Drafting Clerks, and PG&E's San Francisco Division - Clerical.



**Joe Valentino**, a former Senior Computer Operator with PG&E, is the new Local Union Business Representative in charge of servicing PG&E members at East Bay Gas T&D, Gas Meter Shop, and Emeryville.

Joe has held many positions in his 14 years with Local 1245. He has been Shop Steward, Advisory Council member, Cross Hatch Committee member, Computer Operations Negotiating Committee member, Ballot Committee member, and a member of the Contra Costa County Central Labor Council.

Joe plans to be as responsive to the membership as possible, and to foster good feelings with Local 1245.

Joe accepted the staff position primarily because of the challenge of implementing his goals on the job.

Originally from San Francisco, he enjoys remodeling, camping, and a variety of sports.

Joe lives in Pleasant Hill with his wife, Frogard, son, Gregory, and daughters Monica and Genice.

## Carter's economic program sets new goals

President Carter has proposed a broad program to revitalize the American economy and to increase productivity without adding to inflation.

The President said he would ask Congress to enact a series of economic renewal measures with four goals:

- To increase private and public investment, resulting in revitalization of the economy.

- To create a forward-looking partnership among government, labor and industry to develop long-term

## Business Manager's Commentary



**Jack McNally**

On November 4th citizens of this great nation will go to the voting booth and elect leaders for the next four years.

This year's elections are very critical to the American workers and their Unions. The positions of the candidates on labor issues should be examined very closely (see in this issue of U.R. key labor issues).

Some workers take labor law for granted. It's there and always will be — WRONG! The laws can be repealed, changed, or the President by his appointment can dilute the protection so that the Laws become almost ineffective. The National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), to name just two, are administered and enforced by agencies or boards. Appointments to these agencies are made by the President. These Appointees control the aggressiveness of how the law will be enforced.

Reagan has a track record. As Governor of California, he appointed management and businessmen hostile to labor to various agencies that are supposed to protect workers. This was the case in the two very important offices of Labor Commission and Director of the Department of Industrial Relations. In addition, Reagan reduced the number of Labor representatives on the Industrial Welfare Commission, on the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, and on the Division of Industrial Safety by drastic staff reduction.

Reagan has demonstrated his lack of concern for labor. While on the other hand, Carter has shown support on labor issues.

There are important issues on the line in this election, and Labor has to look at the record and support the interests of the workers.

The August Consumer Price Index is in, and the PG&E wage increase for 1981 can now be calculated. The wage increase will, on the average for all employees covered by both bargaining units, provide a 12.3% increase in wages. This includes a general increase of 3% plus C.P.I. formula increase of 93 cents per hour applied across the board. The new increase will be effective January 1, 1981.

Negotiations are underway with PG&E on the Pension, Health, and Dental Plans. The first negotiating session with PG&E was held on October 8th. This first meeting was used to explain Union's proposals, and to schedule future Negotiating Committee meeting. Please attend your unit meetings and watch for bulletins for negotiating updates.

solutions to national economic problems.

- To help people and their communities overcome the effects of industrial dislocation, and

- To help offset rising individual tax burdens without rekindling inflation.

The White House said the economic renewal program would add nearly a half million jobs to the economy by the end of next year, and a total of one million by the end of 1982.

The Labor Department would be involved in a number of the President's proposals, which he listed under the heading of helping people and communities affected by industrial dislocation.

These include:

- A new, temporary Federal Supplemental Benefits program to provide an additional 13 weeks of unemployment compensation to workers in states with high unemployment who use up their

entitlement to regular and extended benefits.

- A new Positive Assistance Demonstration Program to devise incentives for retraining or relocating workers making the transition from declining to growing industrial sectors, with pilot projects across the country in 1981 and 1982 to be followed, if successful, with a full-scale program.

- Expanded training opportunities under Titles IIB and IIC of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) to focus on persistent skills shortages and areas of expected long-term job expansion.

The President also included in his program requested passage of the Administration's youth employment bill. The measure has been passed by the House and is now before the Senate. It would provide training and job opportunities for 450,000 youths.

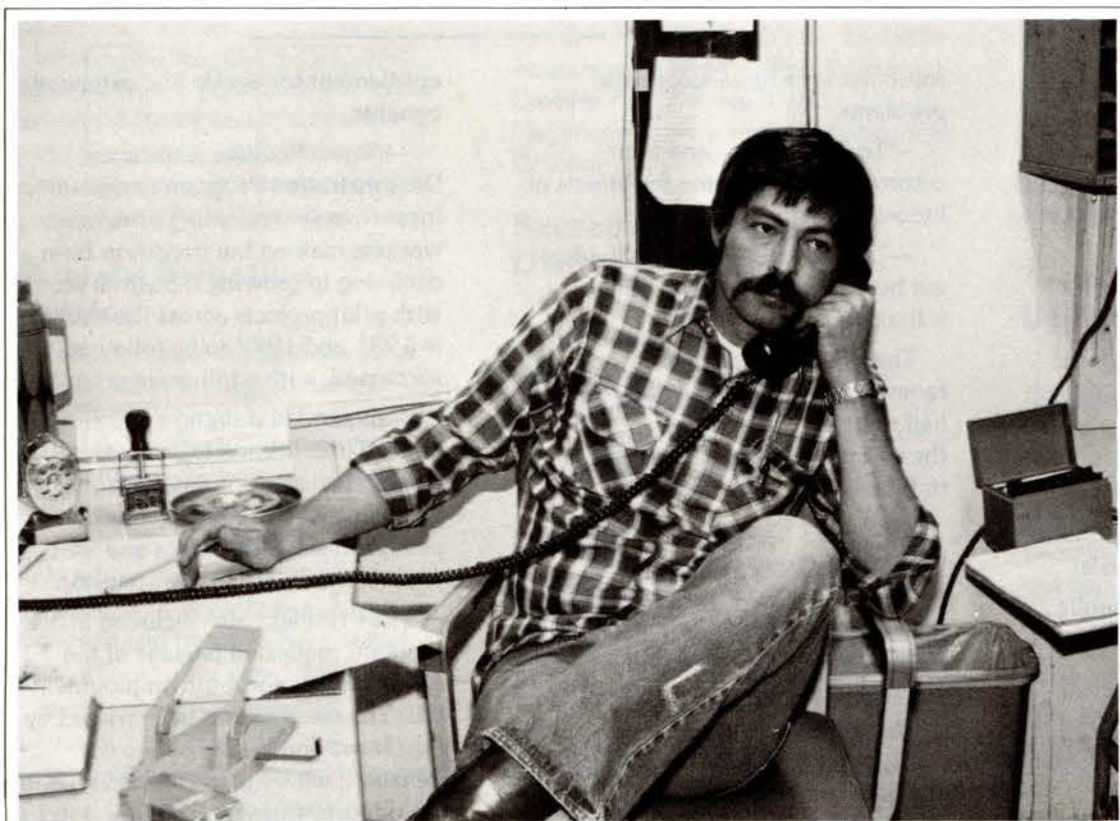




**Ken Peterson** has served Local 1245 as a Shop Steward for six years. A Compressor Operator, Ken monitors 20 telameter gauges each hour regulating gas supply flows and pressures at PG&E's Sacramento Gas Compressor Station. "Local 1245's Stewards' Newsletter is good," said Ken, a Sacramento resident, "It lets the stewards know what's happening in the system and how others solve problems."



Clerical Shop Steward **Jan Johnson** works in PG&E's General Services—Meter History in Sacramento. A resident of Wilton, Jan has been a member of Local 1245 for over five years. As with many clerical stewards, Jan looks forward to the development of a new job evaluations system for PG&E clerical workers as provided for in 1980 bargaining.



Materialsman **Don Paver** handles unit control in the Gas and Electric Overhead and Underground Department. A Local 1245 Steward for four years, Don has been following the recent PCB issue and was very interested in the *Utility Reporter* coverage of the hazardous material.



**Perry Zimmerman** is a Relief Operator in Sacramento's Gas Service Department. A Local Union member for 16 years, Perry has served as an active Shop Steward for the last two years. He is also an Advisory Council member. Perry feels being a steward is a lot of responsibility and works hard to keep abreast of member concerns in his area.

## Up Close PG&E Sacramento District



Materialsman **Kris Clark** has been a Local 1245 member for over five years. Lower union dues are a big issue with Kris. She'd also like to see future PG&E negotiating committees bargain for more vacation for PG&E workers.

photos by Jean Fudem



# Where They Stand On Key Issues

Issue	Carter	Reagan
<b>Job safety—OSHA</b>	Supports strong law, with extensive enforcement powers	Would weaken or kill OSHA; poor record on job safety as governor
<b>Compulsory open shop (right-to-work-for-less)</b>	Opposes; would sign bill to repeal state laws	"I tend to support state right-to-work laws." Would sign national open shop law if passed by Congress.
<b>Anti-trust laws applied to unions (could weaken every union in the U.S.)</b>	Would strongly resist any efforts to apply anti-trust laws to unions. Believes such laws never were intended to apply to unions.	"I've thought for some time unions should be bound, as business is, by the anti-trust laws."
<b>Labor law reform (to protect the rights of workers to join unions free of employer pressure)</b>	Proposed law, fought for congressional approval	Opposed. "I feel strongly (labor law reform) should be defeated."
<b>Windfall profits tax on oil firms</b>	Proposed tax, helped guide it to passage in Congress	Opposes any windfall tax, would repeal newly-enacted one
<b>Davis-Bacon law</b>	Opposes any efforts to repeal or weaken existing law	Supports weakening provisions leading to eventual repeal
<b>Public employe unions</b>	Supports collective bargaining rights for public employes	Opposes collective bargaining rights for public employes
<b>Energy</b>	Proposes gas rationing, if needed, research for alternatives to oil funded by windfall profit tax	"We can have energy abundance if we turn the energy industry loose and get government out of the way."
<b>Full employment law</b>	Supported compromise Humphrey-Hawkins plan	Opposes any federal full employment commitment
<b>Food stamps for strikers and their families</b>	Supports program	Opposes; by inference backs strike-breaking by starvation
<b>Minimum wage</b>	For regular, adequate increases	Proposes repeal
<b>Taxes</b>	Urges revision of tax structure to shift some of load off workers to corporations and wealthy individuals	Pushes plan which throws bone to workers, huge new tax breaks for corporations and wealthy individuals
<b>Equal Rights Amendment</b>	Strongly for	Strongly against

**THE ANDERSON RECORD** — 20 years U.S. House. On 80 key union, jobs and social welfare votes on AFL-CIO scorecard: 18 "right," 62 "wrong" — 77 percent "wrong."

## Vote CARTER For President November 4

## Compassion vs. Callousness

Jimmy Carter's record is one good reason he has been endorsed for re-election by the AFL-CIO. As the accompanying chart shows, he has fought consistently for the rights of workers and unions and for people-helping programs hard-won over many years.

Ronald Reagan would wipe these programs from the books. He would reduce the rights of workers and unions and seek to weaken or repeal the laws that protect them.

But beyond that, there are compelling reasons for the AFL-CIO to oppose the Reagan candidacy. No movement that stands for working Americans, and for the weakest among us, could help but oppose a candidate who, on a whole range of issues which call for compassion, responds — as Reagan does — with callousness. The following are direct quotes from Reagan:

- "Unemployment insurance is a

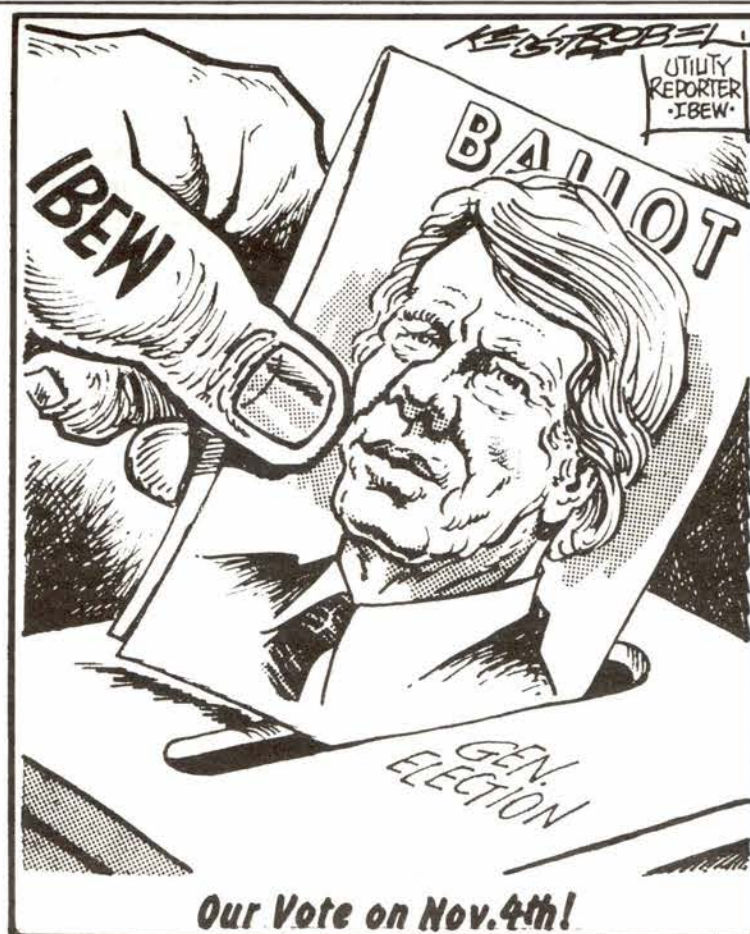
prepaid vacation plan for free-loaders."

- "Fascism was really the basis for the New Deal."
- "Social Security ought to be voluntary."
- "The minimum wage should be repealed."
- "I question the need for OSHA" (the job safety law).
- "I would have voted against the Civil Rights Act of 1964."
- "We were told (during the fight for anti-poverty programs) that 17 million Americans went to bed hungry every night. Well, that was probably true. They were all on a diet."

The reward for ridicule of the poor and the unemployed should not be the Presidency.

The contrast between candidates is clear. From Carter, compassion. From Reagan, callousness. For workers, the choice is equally clear:

CARTER FOR PRESIDENT





# Health & Safety

## OSHA postpones rules for medical records

The effective date of certain provisions of a federal standard providing worker access to employer-kept toxic exposure and medical records for three industries — contract construction, flavor and extract manufacturing, and fragrance materials production — has been postponed for five weeks, the U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced.

The three industries were notified August 19 of the action by Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Eula Bingham, in hand-carried letters to the National Constructors Association (NCA), the Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association (FEMA), and the Fragrance Materials Association (FMA).

## Hazardous products recalled by Consumer Product Safety Commission

Under laws administered by CPSC, an estimated 117 million potentially hazardous products have been called back from the marketplace and consumers since 1973 (when CPSC was created). Most of these were voluntarily recalled by manufacturers who established programs to repair or replace the products, or to refund the purchase price.

Actions in July and August included the following:

### **Stereo Turntables.**

Approximately 5,600 stereo turntables may pose a shock hazard to consumers.

The turntables are being recalled by their manufacturer, Philips High Fidelity Laboratories, Ltd., of Knoxville, Tennessee, a subsidiary of the Magnavox Consumer Electronic Co., also of Knoxville.

The recall includes Philips models 22AF685/44B and 22AF685/94B. The model numbers are printed on a label on the bottom of the turntable base.

The turntables were improperly wired. In the event of a short circuit, consumers could receive a severe electrical shock by touching any metal part of the unit.

Consumers should contact the place of purchase or the Philips Consumers Affairs Department to arrange for repairs at no charge. The company's toll-free number is 800-251-9104; in Tennessee, call 615-521-4460 and ask for Consumer Affairs.

**Stuffed Toys.** Approximately 2,300 stuffed mobile toys may pose a strangulation hazard to infants.

The toys are being recalled by their

The effective date of the standard, promulgated last May by the agency, was August 21.

In each case, the postponement applies to sections of the standard governing the access to toxic exposure and medical records by employees and their designated representatives, and on informing employees of the existence, location and availability of such records. The postponements do not apply, however, to the requirements to preserve the records nor to OSHA's right of access to them.

In the postponement letters, Dr. Bingham noted that discussions were going on between OSHA and the groups to reach agreement on terms for enforcement of the standard.

importer, Albert E. Price, Inc., of Bellmawr, New Jersey.

The recall includes two types of mobiles covered with plush fabric — a stuffed duck, model 9160, and a stuffed elephant, model 9161.

The importer's name is on a tag attached to each animal, and the model numbers appear on the boxes in which the toys are sold.

Neither toy has been associated with a death or injury. However, a similar toy imported by another firm was involved in the recent strangulation death of an 11-month old baby girl. Those toys have since been recalled.

Parents immediately should cut off the cords and the spring. To receive a refund, consumers should return the toy to the place of purchase.

**Miter saws.** Approximately 55,000 "Craftsman Motorized Miter Saws" may pose a laceration hazard to consumers. A repair program is being conducted by Sears, Roebuck & Company. The repair program applies to model 315.23730 and 315.23731 "Craftsman Motorized Miter Saws". Model numbers are on a plate on the saw motor.

The saws can accommodate different blades, including a carbide-tipped blade often used to cut soft metals. A carbide-tipped blade is thicker than the original blade provided with the saw. Thus, consumers may improperly fasten the carbide blade to the motor

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## When a dead person isn't

Recently a fisherman fell off a boat in Kodiak, Alaska. When nearby boaters pulled him out of the water, he seemed dead. He had stopped breathing for longer than the four to six minutes after which experts used to think a person was a candidate for permanent brain damage, if not the coroner. But the man's would-be rescuers didn't give up. They promptly began a life-saving technique called CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). The fisherman recovered without any lasting ill-effects.

To Dr. Martin J. Nemiroff, a Public Health Service doctor currently assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard

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## In answer to your health & safety questions

**Q.:** What are the hazards of fiberglass appearing as dust and fibers from building insulation, fiberglass ladders, switch rods, and wiring? Are there legal exposure limits that our employers should follow?

**Asked by** Corbett Wheeler, Business Representative; David Rossi, Business Representative; Robert Gibbs, Business Representative; Jackie Gribble, member of Local Union Health & Safety Committee, and Shop Steward; and Robert Thomson, Business Representative.

**A.:** Although at this time, fiberglass does not appear to be as dangerous to one's health as asbestos, coarse fibers (greater than 3.5 micrometers in diameter) irritate skin, eyes, and upper respiratory tract. Finer fibers can reach the lungs and cause lung damage and possibly non-cancerous lung disease.

Fiberglass can also penetrate skin and cause itchiness and irritation. Persons should avoid skin and eye contact by using gloves, goggles, or face shields, and other protective clothing if necessary. If much dust is being generated, the dust should not be breathed. This necessitates proper exhaust ventilation and possibly respirators.

Fiberglass dust is considered a nuisance dust by Cal/OSHA. The Cal/OSHA "8-hour time-weighted average" concentration limit for air concentrations of fibrous dust, less than seven (7) micrometers in diameter, is 10 milligrams per cubic meter or 30 million particles per cubic foot in the absence of toxic impurities (e.g., quartz less than 1 percent).

## Citizens Utilities—cited for member's death

Cal-OSHA cited Citizens Utilities Company for three serious violations of the California Administrative Code in July when a Local 1245 member was electrocuted.

Thirty-five year old Larry McCutcheon, a Journeyman Telecommunication worker employed by Citizens Utilities in Susanville, was topping a 40-foot pole which fell into the energized high voltage line and then contacted Larry, a 7-year Local Union member.

Cal-OSHA officials from Redding investigated the fatal accident and cited Citizens Utilities for failing to insulate the telephone pole with a rubber insulating blanket, fiberglass box guide, or other protective equipment realizing the pole was installed as a joint pole in close proximity to power greater than 8.7 kv phase to phase.

Another serious violation was the company's failure to provide proper training for topping or installing telephone poles close to energized high voltage lines.

According to Cal-OSHA, evidence showed that Citizen's employees were not provided with a safety training program to instruct them about hazards unique to the employees' job assignments.

The third citation was Citizen's failure to ensure that no employee approach or take any conductive object closer than 24 inches to overhead high voltage lines energized between 2,000 volts and 15,000 volts.

"Cal-OSHA fined Citizen's \$785 for the three serious violations which caused this fatal accident," said Lee Thomas, Local Union Business Representative in charge of member health and safety. "Can you imagine that? \$785 for a person's life. I wonder how they figure that."

## Correction

Please note a technical error in the article entitled "Results of SMUD survey" . . . August, 1980, *Utility Reporter*.

"The exposed SMUD group as a whole had increased blood levels of triglycerides and decreased blood levels of high density lipoprotein cholesterol."

We apologize for any misunderstanding this may have caused Local 1245 members.



## IBEW members receive lifesaving awards



**Gerald Maxey, right, a Local 1245 member employed by PG&E's Shasta Division as a Powerline Patrolman, was presented the IBEW Life Saving Award from Weaverville Unit 3316 Chairman Lee Wells, an Electrical Subforeman.**

Two Local 1245 members, Gerald Maxey and Elec O. Manley, were honored recently with IBEW Life Saving Awards.

Gerald Maxey, a Powerline Patrolman employed by PG&E in Weaverville, received his plaque for heroic actions January 26, 1980. Gerald, his wife Gerry, and their friend Giles Horney of Douglas City, were returning from a wedding in Nevada in a rented aircraft when extreme turbulence forced the plane to land.

The aircraft caught on fire and Gerald dragged his wife, friend and the pilot from the burning wreckage. The pilot died almost immediately.

Covering the survivors with the only blanket he managed to salvage from the plane, Gerald hiked ten miles through deep snow in sub-zero temperatures for help. Nine hours

later help arrived for the survivors who suffered bruises, multiple fractures and frostbite. Gerald escaped injury.

Had it not been for Gerald's brave lifesaving efforts his wife and friend might not have survived.



**Elec Manley, right, a PG&E Pipe Line Operations Mechanic, received his IBEW Life Saving Certificate from Will Rodriguez Chairman of Unit 3213 in Burney.**

Another Local 1245 member, Elec O. Manley, deserves recognition for his lifesaving attempt on Emma Timone of Burney on January 10.

Elec, a Pipe Line Operations Mechanic for PG&E, administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation to Mrs. Timone who collapsed at a local bowling alley. Elec continued treatment until the ambulance arrived, but unfortunately the woman died at a hospital of a heart attack.

Local Union member Elec is to be commended for his lifesaving attempt.

## When a dead person isn't

*Continued from page 6*

Support Center Hospital in Kodiak, the case is just one more confirmation of some fascinating research done mostly in his previous post at the University of Michigan. It indicates that drowning victims who fall into cold water may be "revivable" for much longer than previously thought. Or, put another way, you can't always judge a "corpse" by its vital signs or lack of them.

The whole thing hinges on body temperatures and oxygen requirements, Dr. Nemiroff explains. When a person falls into cold water, body temperature drops and certain oxygen-preserving reflexes occur. The combination lowers the person's oxygen requirements.

Based on a number of human cases in Michigan, Nemiroff now says if someone falls into water colder than seventy degrees Fahrenheit, it might be possible to revive them with a good chance of little or no permanent brain damage if such efforts are begun within less than an hour of submersion. The figure is partly a projection based on research findings. The longest actual human example in

the Michigan research is thirty-eight minutes.

Nemiroff hastens to add that it's crucial to distinguish between temporary and permanent brain damage. A person may be unconscious or show other ill effects at first, but in time these may mostly or completely go away.

However, a life-and-death element of such rescues is fast action by whoever pulls the victim from the water. In Nemiroff's Michigan survivals, someone immediately started administering CPR and medical help was secured as CPR continued without interruption.

The whole medical matter is still under study, and some aspects remain controversial. Nemiroff hastens to say that his comments don't reflect any official view of the U.S. Coast Guard.

But based on his findings thus far, here's what Nemiroff recommends. If you pull a victim out of cold water in less than an hour after they fall in, don't let a lack of vital signs discourage you. Submerge your doubts, he advises, and begin CPR. Get medical help, and whatever you do, make sure that CPR is continued without interruption.

The CPR technique itself takes some training. It can save lives in many situations, some as close to home as the heart attack victim in your workplace or supermarket or living room. It's something we really all should know how to do. The American Red Cross offers a couple of different versions of the CPR training, and you can check with your local chapter for information. It may be available from other qualified sources in your community as well.

You never know when you might save a life!

—by Marion Wells  
Research Director  
American Physical Fitness  
Research Institute

Provided as a public service by the American Physical Fitness Research Institute (APFRI), 824 Moraga Drive, West Los Angeles, California 90049.

## Members' son recommended for Bravery Medal

Eight-year-old Bradley Stout, son of Bryce and Judy Stout, both Local 1245 members employed by Lynch Communications in Nevada, has been recommended for the Young American Medal for Bravery.

Bradley saved the life of Jonathan Yonan, 5, at Hidden Valley Lake, California, last June. Due to Bradley's exceptional courage and alertness, Jonathan was pulled from the waters in sufficient time to be successfully resuscitated without any harmful after effects.

Bradley recently finished the first course in Lifesaving from the Red Cross. He now attends Alice Maxwell School in Nevada and is in the fifth grade.

The Young American Medal for Bravery was established in 1956 and is awarded by the President of the United States to a person 18 years or younger who exhibits alertness, courage, and swiftness of action regardless of personal safety.

Said Shop Steward Arlene Whitman of Lynch Communications, "We can't express how proud we all are to be personally acquainted with his parents."

Bradley is being recommended for the award by Jonathan's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Michael S. Yonan.

## Hazardous products recalled

*Continued from page 6*

shaft, causing the blade to spin off the saw while in use.

Consumers can obtain a free repair kit, complete with installation instructions, by contacting a Sears retail store or calling toll-free 800-845-4781.

**Crib Decorations.** Approximately 8,000 elastic crib decorations known as "Kickers" may pose a strangulation hazard to infants.

Each decoration consists of four or five fabric designs strung on a white elastic cord. A plastic ring is attached to each end of the cord so that the decoration may be stretched across a crib or baby carriage and tied to the sides with ribbons.

Consumers can obtain a free repair kit by cutting the elastic cord, removing the designs and mailing only

the cord and plastic rings to: Rainbow Artisans, Inc., 19 Troy Drive, Livingston, New Jersey 07039. The kit includes a new cotton cord, ribbon and instructions for restringing the designs.

### Hotline Numbers:

Toll-free CPSC hotline 800-638-8326. Maryland only, 800-492-8363. Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, 800-638-8333. A teletypewriter for the deaf is available from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. National (including Alaska and Hawaii) 800-638-8270. Maryland residents only 800-492-8104.



# AFL-CIO California political endorsements

## President

Jimmy Carter (D), Inc

## Vice President

Walter Mondale (D), Inc.

## U.S. Senate

Alan Cranston (D), Inc

## U.S. Congress

### District

1 Harold T. (Bizz) Johnson (D), Inc	11 Tom Lantos (D)
2 No recommendation	12 No recommendation
3 Robert T. Matsui (D), Inc	13 Norman Y. Mineta (D), Inc
4 Vic Fazio (D), Inc	14 Ann Cerney (D)
5 John L. Burton (D), Inc	15 Tony Coelho (D), Inc
6 Phillip Burton (D), Inc	16 Leon E. Paneta (D), Inc
7 George Miller (D), Inc	17 William H. (Bill) Johnson (D)
8 Ronald V. Dellums (D), Inc	18 Mary (Pat) Timmermans (D)
9 Fortney H. (Pete) Stark (D), Inc	19 No recommendation
10 Don Edwards (D), Inc	

## California Legislature - Senate

### District

1 Don W. Huggins (D)	11 Alfred E. Alquist (D), Inc
3 Albert S. Rodda (D), Inc	13 John Garamendi (D), Inc
5 Milton Marks (R), Inc	15 Rose Ann Vuich (D), Inc
7 Daniel E. Boatwright (D)	17 Henry J. Mello (D)
9 Nicholas C. Petris (D), Inc	

## California Legislature - Assembly

### District

1 Stan Statham (R), Inc	17 Willie L. Brown (D)
2 Douglas H. Bosco (D), Inc	18 Leo T. McCarthy (D), Inc
3 George B. Garcia (D)	19 Louis T. Papan (D), Inc
4 Tom Hannigan (D), Inc	20 Robert W. Naylor (R), Inc
5 Ted Sheedy (D)	21 Byron Sher (D)
6 Leroy F. Greene (D), Inc	22 Cole Bridges (D)
7 Norman S. Waters (D), Inc	23 John Vasconcellos (D), Inc
8 Larry Asera (D)	27 Dominic L. (Dom) Cortese (D)
9 Anne Chartess (D)	25 No recommendation
10 Eric H. Hasseltine (D)	26 Patrick Johnston (D)
11 Robert J. (Bob) Campbell (D)	27 John E. Thurman (D), Inc
12 Tom Bates (D), Inc	28 Sam Farr (D)
13 Elihu M. Harris (D), Inc	29 No recommendation
14 Bill Lockyer (D), Inc	30 Jim Costa (D), Inc
15 No recommendation	31 Richard Lehman (D), Inc
16 Open	32 Gordon W. Duffy (R), Inc
	33 Grant W. Jenson (D)

## California Voting Records

The following is how your members voted in the U.S. House of Representatives on such issues as prevailing wages, hospital workers, pension rights, unemployment benefits, auto industry jobs, public works jobs, and food stamps for the jobless:

California Representatives	Cumulative Voting Record				
	R	W			
1. Johnson H. (D)	215	23	11. Royer (R)	10	27
2. Clausen (R)	47	160	12. McCloskey (R)	89	83
3. Matsui (D)	33	6	13. Mineta (D)	107	19
4. Fazio (D)	30	8	14. Shumway (R)	3	32
5. Burton J. (D)	111	9	15. Coelho (D)	25	12
6. Burton P. (D)	190	13	16. Panetta (D)	52	28
7. Miller G. (D)	108	12	17. Pashayan (R)	11	28
8. Dellums (D)	155	14	18. Thomas (R)	4	34
9. Stark (D)	125	13	19. Lagomarsino (R)	20	118
10. Edwards D. (D)	198	16	<b>How your Senators voted:</b>		
			<b>California Senators</b>		
			Cranston (D)	148	16
			Hayakawa (R)	12	61

## California Voting Records

Below are the cumulative voting records of the members of the California State Legislature for the period from 1974 through 1979. These voting records compiled by the California State Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO on test votes of measures of interest to working men and women. They include votes in committee as well as floor votes in the Senate and the Assembly. Some of the issues involved are workers compensation, unemployment insurance, unemployment disability insurance, housing, collective bargaining, pregnancy benefits, union security, consumer protections, toxic substances, employee monitoring, forced overtime, tips and gratuities, professional strike breakers and personnel records.

### State Senate

District	Incumbent	Committee Votes		Floor Votes	
		Right	Wrong	Right	Wrong
1	<sup>2</sup> Roy Johnson (R)	14	15	22	25
3	Albert S. Rodda (D)	44	16	73	14
5	Milton Marks (D)	11	2	82	4
7	John A. Nejedley (R) is not seeking reelection. See 10th Assembly District for voting record of Daniel E. Boatwright (D), the recommended candidate for this seat.				
9	Nicholas C. Petris (D)	36	6	85	4
11	Alfred E. Alquist (D)	45	9	74	15
13	<sup>2</sup> John Garamendi (D)	7	2	33	14
15	<sup>2</sup> Rose Ann Vuich (D)	3	2	24	25
17	Robert Nimmo (R) is not seeking reelection. See 28th Assembly District for voting record of Henry D. Mello (D), the recommended candidate for this seat.				

### State Assembly

District	Incumbent	Committee Votes		Floor Votes	
		Right	Wrong	Right	Wrong
1	<sup>2</sup> Stan Statham (R)	6	6	17	14
2	<sup>1</sup> Douglas H. Basco (D)	9	0	12	4
3	Eugene A. Chappie (R)	11	7	29	32
4	Is a candidate for Congress - 1st Congressional District				
4	<sup>1</sup> Tom Hannigan (D)	3	2	13	2
5	<sup>1</sup> Jean Moorhead (R)			10	5
6	Leroy F. Greene (D)	11	5	53	6
7	<sup>2</sup> Norman S. Waters (D)	12	4	21	11
8	Michael Gage (D) is not seeking reelection.				
9	<sup>1</sup> William J. Filenti (R)	3	0	8	5
10	Daniel E. Boatwright (D)	19	11	48	10
11	Is a candidate for State Senate - 7th Senatorial District.				
11	John T. Knox (D) is not seeking reelection.				
12	<sup>2</sup> Tom Bates (D)	2	1	26	2
13	<sup>1</sup> Elihu M. Harris (D)	12	1	14	2
14	Bill Lockyer (D)	31	4	63	4
15	<sup>3</sup> Floyd Mori (D)	24	8	41	9
16	<sup>2</sup> Art Agnos (D)	19	3	27	5
17	Willie L. Brown, Jr (D)	8	3	52	7
18	Leo T. McCarthy (D)	2	0	58	6
19	Louis J. Papan (D)	22	7	57	9
20	<sup>1</sup> Robert W. Neylor (R)	4	1	9	6
21	Victor Calud (D) is not seeking reelection.				
22	Richard D. Hayden (R) is not seeking reelection.				
23	John Vasconcellos (D)	19	9	51	12
27	Leona H. Egeland (D) is not seeking reelection.				
25	Alister McAlister (D)	30	14	48	12
26	Carmen Perino (D) was defeated in Primary Election.				
27	John E. Thurman (D)			44	19
28	<sup>2</sup> Henry J. Mello (D)	3	1	23	8
29	<sup>2</sup> Carol Hallett (R)	3	2	15	18
	<sup>1</sup> Jim Costa (D)	1	0	12	4
31	<sup>2</sup> Richard Lehman (D)			22	10
32	Gordon W. Duffy (R)	20	18	35	32
33	<sup>1</sup> Don Rogers			5	9

<sup>1</sup> Elected in 1978

<sup>2</sup> Elected in 1976

<sup>3</sup> Elected in 1974

(D) Democrat

(R) Republican



## California Ballot Propositions

- ( 1) Parklands Acquisition and Development Program  
**Vote yes**
- ( 2) Lake Tahoe Acquisitions Bond Act  
**Vote yes**
- ( 3) Insurance Guarantee Funds Tax Offset
- ( 4) Taxation, Real Property, Property Acquisitions by Taxing Entity  
**Vote yes**
- ( 5) Taxation, Real Property Valuation, Disasters, Seismic Safety, Changes in Ownership  
**Vote yes**
- ( 6) Jurors  
**Vote no**
- ( 7) Taxation, Real Property Valuation, Solar Energy System  
**Vote yes**
- ( 8) Water Resources Development and Protection  
**Vote yes**
- ( 9) Safe Drinking Water Bond Law  
**Vote yes**
- (10) Smoking and No-Smoking Sections  
**Vote yes**
- (11) Judges Salaries  
**Vote no**

## AFL-CIO Nevada political endorsements

**President**  
Jimmy Carter (D), Inc

**U.S. Senate**  
Mary Gojak (D)

**Vice President**  
Walter Mondale (D), Inc

**U.S. Congress - Nevada**  
No recommendation

### Nevada Legislation - Assembly

District	
23	No recommendation
24	Todd Bedrosian
25	No recommendation
26	Paul Prengaman
27	Steve Coulter
28	Merle Snider
29	No recommendation
30	Don Mello
31	No recommendation
32	Bob Sader
33	No recommendation
34	No recommendation
35	John Polish
36	No recommendation
37	No recommendation
38	Joe Dini
39	No recommendation
40	No recommendation

### Nevada Legislature - Senate

Northern Nevada District - No recommendation  
Central Nevada District - Richard Blakemore  
Washoe County District #1 - No recommendation

**Supreme Court Justice** - No recommendation

**State Question #6** - Vote no

### Nevada Voting Records

The following is how your members voted in the U.S. House of Representatives on such issues as prevailing wages, hospital workers, pension rights, unemployment benefits, auto industry jobs, public works jobs, and food stamps for the jobless:

Nevada Representative	Cumulative Voting Record	
	R	W
Al Santini (D)	54	67
<b>How your Senators voted:</b>		
<b>Nevada Senators</b>		
Cannon (D)	135	79
Laxalt (R)	14	93

## AFL-CIO fact sheet for Nevada legislation

There has been a great deal of controversy regarding Question 6 which will appear on the November 4th ballot in Nevada. In order that everyone has a clear understanding of what this legislation does, the office of the Nevada AFL-CIO submits this fact sheet.

Under Question 6, property taxes would not be uniform among owners of equivalent properties. Its effects would also be uneven among counties and among properties owned by individuals and corporations.

Because of provisions in the present legislation, the sales tax on food would be reimposed and the existing tax reductions would be eliminated if Question 6 passes. If Question 6 fails, the present legislative package of tax reductions and redistributions would continue.

To highlight the differences between the two sets of property tax measure, side-by-side comparisons of the provisions of present legislation and those of Question 6 follow:

Present Nevada Legislation	Question 6
35 percent of full cash value. Reassessed every five years, as required by law.	Assessed at the appraised value on record as of the 1975-76 assessment year. Maximum increase of two percent per year thereafter. <b>Property sold or constructed after 1975-76 assessed at full cash value.</b> If property appreciates in value more than two percent per year, appraised value will be less than full cash value.
35 percent of full cash value.	100 percent of appraised value.
Assessed value of comparable properties are equalized every five years on the average.	No equalization of assessments on comparable properties as of 1975-76 or thereafter. Disparities increase over time.
1.27 percent of appraised value (equals \$3.64 per \$100 of assessed value).	One percent of appraised value, plus existing general obligation bond retirement taxes. For example, the maximum tax rate would be 1.34 percent in Las Vegas and 1.21 percent in Reno (equivalent to tax rates of \$3.83 per \$100 in Las Vegas and \$3.47 in Reno under the present ratio system).
S.B. 204 limits the Executive Budget to the 1975-77 base, plus the growth in population and rate of inflation since July 1, 1974.	There may be no new taxes on real property. Any other taxes imposed require a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature.
S.B. 204 requires landlords to pass on tax reductions to their tenants through rent reductions.	No pass-through provision.
Effective July 1, 1979, A.B. 616 removed the sales tax on food for human consumption, except prepared food intended for immediate consumption (restaurant and takeout food). <b>Sales tax on food will be reimposed July 1, 1981 if Question 6 passes.</b>	Question 6 would not exempt food from sales taxes.
No tax on household goods under S.B. 204. This tax will be reimposed if Question 6 passes.	Question 6 applies only to real property.

### Estimated Total Tax Reduction

	1979-80		1979-80
Property taxes	\$81.6 million	Property taxes	85.0 million
Sales tax on Food	25.3 million		
Total	\$106.9 million	Total	85.0 million

After a thorough evaluation of this legislation the Nevada State AFL-CIO urges a **NO** vote on Question 6. We also urge that this fact sheet on Question 6 be reproduced and sent to the members of each affiliated local union.



# Bargaining Report

## City of Alameda, Bureau of Electricity

Notice to open negotiations served by union on September 29, 1980. Union's negotiating committee is composed of Business Representative Veodis Stamps together with Charles DeLapp, Ralph Murphy and James Naleway.

## City of Oakland

On September 24, 1980, union's negotiating committee came to an impasse with the city's negotiating committee. This was the result of the membership's rejection of the city's offer of settlement and the city's refusal to revise its offer.

On September 30 the Oakland City Council passed an ordinance instituting the city's final offer which provides for a 9.25 percent general wage increase together with special adjustments for Electrician Helpers and the Electro-Mechanical Foreman effective July 1, 1980. Improvements were also adopted with respect to meal allowances and vacation entitlement.

Union's negotiating committee, composed of Business Representative Veodis Stamps together with Cecil Jackson and Jim Krugh, is reviewing what additional steps, if any, should be taken by Local Union 1245.

## City of Roseville

Notice to open negotiations served by Local Union 1245 on October 3, 1980. Union's negotiating committee is composed of Business Representative Ken Meyer together with Hugh Hageman and Steve Wolf.

## Yuba County Water Agency

Local 1245 served notice to open negotiations on September 16, 1980. Business Representative Ed Fortier is in the process of meeting with the involved membership to prepare the Local Union's formal proposals.

## Modesto Irrigation District

Notice to open negotiations served by Local 1245 on September 29, 1980. Union's negotiating committee is composed of Business Representative Pete Dutton, Henry Azevedo, Cliff Serna, Staking Fountain, Randy Inderbitzen, Dean Heinrich, and Tony Coutrakis. Union's committee is currently finalizing its proposals and hopes to be in actual negotiations in the near future.

Negotiations are currently underway with respect to the Retirement, Long Term Disability and Medical-Dental Plans. Union's negotiating committee with respect to these plans is Business Representative Dutton together with Henry Azevedo and Ron Simpson.

## Nevada Irrigation District

To date two negotiating sessions have been held between the parties with the next meeting scheduled for October 24. Movement has been slow thus far; however, our union's negotiating committee of Wilbur Baum, Tom Santos, Larry Richerson and Paul Blocker, under the direction of Business Representative Ken Meyer, expects negotiations to begin moving faster at the October 24th meeting.

A major issue in these negotiations is the union's efforts to obtain a substantially improved retirement plan.

## Oroville/Wyandotte Irrigation District

Notice to open negotiations on Water Division Wages and one other item, under the provisions of a 3-year memorandum of understanding, was served by Local Union 1245 on August 29, 1980. Union's negotiating committee, which is composed of Jimmy Higgins and Loren Atkinson together with Business Representative Ed Fortier, has had one meeting with the District's Committee.

## Thermalito Irrigation District

Local 1245 served notice to open negotiations on September 16, 1980. Business Representative Ed Fortier and negotiating committee member Dale Loomis have had one meeting with the District's Committee.

## Tri-Dam Project

On July 28, 1980 Local Union 1245 served notice to open negotiations. Union's negotiating committee of Business Representative Pete Dutton together with William Cashman and Sidney Royse. Negotiations are scheduled to begin on October 16, 1980.

## Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Under terms of a two year memorandum of understanding (January 1, 1980 to December 31, 1981) a 7 percent general wage increase plus a 32 cent per hour cost of living adjustment will be effective January 1, 1981.

Shift differentials will be increased 5 cents per hour for the 2nd shift and 10 cents per hour for the 3rd shift and the District will begin to pay 2 percent of the employee's portion under the Public Employees Retirement System and up to the dollar equivalent of 90 percent instead of 85 percent of the dependent's portion of the Foundation Health Plan.



photo by Bob Thomson

Roy Williamson, PG&E Line Subforeman at the Watsonville electric yard, demonstrated the 4x4x4 containment box and containment drums used for disposing contaminated wastes such as PCBs.

## APPOINTMENTS NEGOTIATING COMMITTEES

### City of Alameda

Ralph Murphy Charles DeLapp James Naleway

### Modesto Irrigation District

Cliff Serna Sterling Fountain Henry Azevedo, Jr.  
Randy Inderbitzen Dean Heinrich Tony Coutrakis

### Reprographics

Ernie Machon

### Modesto Irrigation District Benefits

Ronald L. Simpson Henry V. Azevedo, Jr.

### Truckee Donner PUD

Merrilyn Marsh Joe Straub

### Teleprompter Negotiations

Jon Alliason Jay J. Rhodus Dean Gates

### PG&E ReRate Committee

Jerry Covert Tom Brannon H.D. 'Chuck' Ertelt  
William Hosford Gary Outlaw E.B. Rossler  
Herman Reuther

## Central Labor Council

### Fresno-Madera

Ron Van Dyke

### Alameda Central Labor Council

Vern Loveall David Reese

## GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

### General Construction

Bob Callender

## Truckee Donner Public Utility District

Local Union served notice to open negotiations on September 16, 1980. Union's negotiating committee, composed of Merrilyn Marsh and Joe Straub together with Business Representative Darrel Mitchell, is awaiting word from the district as to the date to commence negotiations which will be sometime in October.

## U.S. Dept. of Energy Western Area Power Administration

On October 7, 1980 W.A.P.A. and Government Coordinating Council #1 exchanged proposals with respect to the terms and conditions for the first Agreement between the parties. Actual

negotiations are scheduled to commence early in November. Business Representative Hank Lucas is chairman of GCC-1 and will serve as spokesman of the council's negotiating committee which has representation from each of the involved IBEW Local Unions.

## U.S. Dept. of Interior Water and Power Resources Service

Notice to open negotiations was served by Local Union 1245 on October 3, 1980. Union's negotiating committee will be appointed in the near future and Business Representative Hank Lucas is working with management to set up the negotiating schedule.





Working on PG&E index case problems at a recent steward's meeting were from left, Humboldt Steward Barry Jensen, guest Howard Darington, and North Bay Stewards Larry Finch and Jack Lemos.

## Stewards receive training on PG&E Contract Index

by Bob Gibbs  
Business Representative

Humboldt Shop Stewards joined North Bay (Ukiah District) Stewards at the Eureka Inn, Eureka, recently, to receive training in the use of the PG&E Contract Index.

Patricia Rutherford, Administrative Assistant for Local 1245, conducted the workshop and explained the use of the Index. Pat then presented the stewards with actual grievances and assigned them the task of using the Index to determine which Review Committee decisions, letter agreements, and/or arbitration awards were pertinent to the cases.

The great amount of questions and discussion generated by the workshop, as well as the large amount of requests

for other Review Committee decisions, etc. testifies to the interest in and value of the Index.

At the conclusion of the session, Pat commented to Bob Gibbs, Business Representative, that the stewards in attendance were to be commended for their professionalism and enthusiasm.

Each member represented by these fine Stewards should take the time to thank them for their interest and dedication. Humboldt Stewards were Jim Crow, Jimmy Russell, Clark Fleming, Chuck Stockham, Allen Weber and Barry Jensen. Stewards Larry Finch and Jack Lemos attended from North Bay, Ukiah District.

Local Union member Howard Darington attended as a guest.



Humboldt Stewards Jim Crow, Jimmy Russell, Clark Fleming, Chuck Stockham, and Allan Weber study case presented during workshop on PG&E index in Eureka recently.

## Outside Construction Hot Line

### Changes in eligibility and medical coverage

Dispatcher Esther Smith attended a seminar held by LINECO in Chicago, Illinois last month. A lot of interesting information was given to us to pass on to our members in Outside Construction.

There have been changes in eligibility and medical coverage. New LINECO books are being printed, and will be mailed out to all Local Union 1245 members in the Construction Unit during October. LINECO requests that each member fill out the blue DATA card in the front of the book, and mail it to LINECO immediately. This is very important.

We would also like for each member to send us a post-card (or use the form provided in this *Utility Reporter*) with your correct address and zip code to facilitate mailing.

The new eligibility rules are based on a minimum of 120 hours per month. This covers the member and his dependents for the second month after that. For example: if a member worked a minimum of 120 hours in January, his coverage will start in March, and continue thereafter as long as he worked a minimum of 120 hours

in each succeeding month. The member is allowed to accumulate hours up to twelve months, with a roll-back of 120 hours a month for eligibility. Under this plan, you do not lose your hours in the months where work-hours exceeded 120 hours a month.

Members who worked in the jurisdiction of Local Union 1245 or Local Union 47 during the years of 1976 to 1978, and had 10 cents per hour deducted from their paychecks to set up a dental plan, are entitled to a refund. LINECO did not have enough Locals participating to make the plan feasible, so is dropping it for the present time.

The refunds should be mailed out in October. This is another reason why it is so important to have current mailing addresses.

If you have any questions on eligibility, death benefits, work-related accidents, medical coverage, dependents, survivor benefits, etc., please feel free to contact the Dispatch Office at 415-933-7121. We will get the answer from LINECO, and pass it on to you.

### HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you move, please let us know your new address. Simply complete the coupon provided and mail to: **IBEW Local 1245; P.O. Box 4790; Walnut Creek, CA 94596.**

Please Print:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Social security number: \_\_\_\_\_

Division (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_



New Local 1245 members Leonard Liutta, left, and Ben Valdivia were sworn in recently by Unit 3213 Chairman Will Rodriquez in Burney, PG&E Shasta Division.



## PCB spill

*Continued from page 1*

noted several things that were not right:

1. Employees in the contaminated area were without protective clothing.
2. Employees in the contaminated area in protective clothing were leaving the contaminated area without removing contaminated protective clothing.
3. The backhoe had left the job site without being properly decontaminated.

Due to darkness, supervision made a decision to barricade the entire area and begin again in the morning. We then met with our Rep and discussed the job being done thus far, and what we should do to protect ourselves and why. He informed us of the proper cleanup procedures, what protective clothing was available for our use and possibly most important, why we needed to use the protective clothing.

The following morning the troops still had a lots of questions. After our Business Rep arrived we had a brief discussion with our electric superintendent. All our questions were

aired and a real effort was made to get the crews all the protective equipment they wanted, including respirators.

We held a complete and comprehensive tailboard and under the watchful eye of the news media, began what probably was one of the longest and most intensified cleanup operations ever. Several loads of four foot square wooden boxes were hauled in for the contaminated material.

We worked daily for over three weeks removing lawns, shrubs, flowers, fences, and trees from three yards. We removed the contaminated cement from around the pole, the Mayor's roof, siding, and garage door. There were over 100 wooden boxes filled with the contaminated materials and hauled off.

This was a dangerous crash course in PCB spill cleanup. We worked closely with management during those three weeks, and feel that PG&E employees need to know action will be taken by the company to further educate and inform employees of what to expect and what is expected, when it comes to putting their health and safety on the line.



**Backhoe Operator removed contaminated soil and materials to deposit them into company supplied contamination boxes.**

## 7½% interest awarded

*Continued from page 1*

backpay with the agreed to 7½ percent interest payment.

"When a grievant is found not to have broken any company rule, practice or policy, we try to return the grievant's employment situation to as close to its original state as possible," said Manny Mederos, Assistant Business Manager.

"In this case, the pay would have gone to the member had he not been unjustly terminated, so he deserved interest on the backpay awarded by the arbitrator."

According to Manny, who helped negotiate the 7½ percent interest in the new contract, Local 1245 members have wanted this point in the agreement for some time now but it had to be bargained for first.

"This was one of those times when we were successful in getting specific language into the contract," said Manny. "Now that interest on backpay has been established, we hope to improve on the amount of interest paid in future bargaining."

## Business Manager elected VP

*Continued from page 1*

Callahan, Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union, Local 681; Ray S. Mendoza, Assistant Regional Manager, Laborers International Union of North America; William R. Robertson, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor; Chester L. Migden, National Executive Secretary, Screen Actors Guild; Jerry P. Cremins, Executive Secretary, L.A. County Building and Construction Trades Council; Alfred K. Whitehead, President, L.A. County Fire Fighters, Local 1014; Cornelius Wall, Director, Western States Region, International Ladies Garment Workers; Ray M. Wilson, Business Manager, Southern California District Council of Laborers.

Paul Miller, Secretary-Treasurer, Los Angeles District Council of Carpenters; Edward Flores, Business Manager, Laborers' Local 585; C. Al Green, of Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 429 of Stockton; Val Connolly, Secretary-Treasurer, Culinary Workers Local 340; Paul Dempster, President/Secretary-Treasurer, Sailors Union of the Pacific; Joseph R. Garcia, of Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Local 2 of San Francisco; Frank Souza, Directing Business Representative, Machinists Automotive Trades District 190, IAM&AW.

William G. Dowd, International Representative, International Union of Operating Engineers; Richard K. Groulx, Executive Secretary, Alameda County Central Labor Council; William Ward, Business Representative; Alameda County Building and Construction Trades Council; Loretta Mahoney, Executive Secretary, State Culinary Workers Council; Harry Finks, Theater Employees Local B66, Sacramento; Raymond K. Nelson, Plywood and Veneer Workers Local 2931 of the Carpenters Union in Eureka; James P. McLaughlin, Secretary of the Santa Clara County Central Labor Council; Avelino Montes, Vice President, Communications Workers of America, District 9.

Anthony Ramos, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, California State Council of Carpenters; William Waggoner, Business Manager, Operating Engineers, Local 12; Justin Ostro, General Vice President, IAM&AW; John F. Crowley, Secretary-Treasurer San Francisco Labor Council; Steve Edney, President, United Cannery & Industrial Workers of the Pacific; Fred D. Fletcher, Executive Secretary, S.F.-Oakland Newspaper Guild Local 52; Cass Alvin, Public Relations, United Steelworkers of America, District 38; and Raoul Teilhet, President, California Federation of Teachers.



**Exempt Supervisor trained crew in tailboard process prior to clean up operation.**



**Crews sealed contamination boxes for transporting to toxic waste site.**

photos by Bob Thomson