**Discount supported at PUC Hearing**

*By Tom Dalzell, Staff Counsel*

It was standing-room only when nearly one hundred IBEW, ESC, and CWA members filled a PUC hearing room to kick off the first week of hearings by the Public Utilities Commission in its investigation of the employee discount at all of California's utilities, including three under contract with Local 1245 — Pacific Gas and Electric Company, CP National, and Sierra Pacific Power Company.

The first witness was Olga Ramirez, a Local 1245 Shop Steward who works as a Customer Service Representative in Stockton. After an eloquent and impassioned presentation which included a most detailed statistical analysis of employee energy use, Ramirez received a rousing round of applause from the union members in the audience, who were soon joined by the company attorneys.

For the next three days witnesses from the various utilities involved took the stand to refute arguments of the discount's critics and to defend the right of utilities to bargain with their employees over fringe benefits such as the employee discount free from interference by governmental agencies such as the Public Utilities Commission. As the week progressed, one by one the arguments against the discount began to waver. No consumer group had submitted evidence against the discount, and it is the Commission staff alone which has introduced any testimony against the discount. By the end of the week of testimony by utility witnesses, even the die-hards among the Commission staff looked discouraged.

The hearing started up again on Monday, August 23 with more IBEW members taking the stand. Business Manager Jack McNally testified on Tuesday, August 24, as did Robert MacDonald, Director of the IBEW's Utility Department in Washington D.C. who agreed to come to California at McNally's request to help Local 1245 with its case. At the end of the week, attorneys for Local 1245 and the utilities cross-examined witnesses from the Public Utilities Commission, and details of this cross-examination will be reported in future issues of the Utility Reporter.

Briefs will be filed after conclusion of testimony, with a final decision by the Commission itself not expected until the late fall at the earliest.

SEE Pages 6-7.

---

**Fitzsimmons assigned new Local 1245 position**

Ron Fitzsimmons was appointed to the position of Assistant Business Manager at IBEW Local 1245 by Business Manager Jack McNally early in July.

The former Business Representative will continue to have his primary area of responsibility focused on Health, Safety and Training. Additionally, Fitzsimmons will be responsible for administration of clerical operations at Local Union headquarters, including Local Union 29 negotiation and grievance activities.

Fitzsimmons has been a member of Local 1245 for 17 years. During that time he served as Local Union president from 1978 until 1981 when he came on staff as a Business Representative in charge of Health, Safety and Training.

He has served on dozens of key Union committees and has extensive experience in dealing with numerous local, state and federal regulatory agencies.

Fitzsimmons also served as Local Union Vice President, 1977-78 and was active in his San Francisco Unit where he was Chairman. He previously was a Shop Steward in Electrical 7 & D, San Francisco. Most recently he was elected as a delegate to represent IBEW Local 1245 at the IBEW International Convention in Los Angeles this month.

---

**Your labor vote counts... only if you're registered**

This is a critical election year. A time to let those in power know how you feel about what's going on in the United States — and in your home town.

Election day is nearing and your vote can count this November only if you are a registered voter.

In California you must be registered by October 4 in order to vote in the November general election. Registration is easy. You can sign registration cards at all fire stations and can obtain cards at most Real Estate offices, county libraries, or at City or County offices.

You can also call your County Voter Registration Office and request a registration card which will be mailed to you for completion.

In addressing the recent Advisory Council meeting, Business Manager Jack McNally stressed the importance of our members registering to vote, and voting to support the friends of labor in the coming election. Labor candidates will support Reagan administration efforts to slash Social Security and unemployment insurance benefits. Local 1245's Executive Board will be considering endorsements for

SEE Page 12

---

**Contract proposals exchanged**

IBEW Local 1245 and PG&E have exchanged proposals for General Negotiations covering wages, hours, working conditions and benefits. The current contract expires 12/31/1982. Complete Local Union and Company proposals will be included in the next issue of the Utility Reporter.
Second In A Series

You — and Worker’s Compensation...
what may qualify as industrial injuries

An industrial injury is any trauma or illness which is related to work or working conditions.

Most injuries are suffered as a result of strains incidental to activity or as a result of violent contact with objects.

Injuries of traumatic origin vary from a simple bruise to catastrophic accidents causing dismemberment, blindness or death.

The injury may occur without the application of physical force.

Diseases such as asbestosis, lead poisoning, tuberculosis, pneumonia, cancer or San Joaquin Valley fever, which result from occupational exposure, are industrial injuries.

An injury may arise from the accumulated effects of strain extending over a period of time.

The concept was best explained by Judge Matthew Tobriner in the leading case of Beveridge vs. Industrial Accident Commission when he stated:

“We think the proposition irrefutable that while a succession of slight injuries in the course of employment may not in themselves be disabling, their cumulative effect in work effort may become a destructive force. The fact that a single but slight work strain may not be disabling does not destroy its causative effect, if in combination with other strains, it produces a subsequent disability. The single strand, entwined with others, makes up the rope of causation.

The fragmentation of injury, the splintering of symptoms, into small pieces, the atomization of pain into minor twinges, the piecemeal contribution of work/effort to final collapse, does not negate injury. The injury is still there, even if manifested in disintegrated rather than in total, single impact. In reality the only moment when such injury can be visualized as taking compensative form is the date of last exposure, when the cumulative effect causes disability.”

Cardiovascular disease, which is aggravated by the stress of work activities, is compensable.

Mental illness, which is caused or aggravated by job tension, constitutes an industrial injury.

The employer must provide all treatment reasonably necessary to cure or relieve from the effects of the industrial injury.

Medical care may include the services of physicians, surgeons, chiropractors, nurses and physical therapists.

The cost of hospitalization, medication, X-Rays, laboratory studies and medical appliances must be paid by the employer or its insurance carrier. There are no deductibles.

The employee is entitled to be reimbursed for the reasonable expense of transportation to obtain treatment.

If the employer is advised in writing before the injury occurs, the employee may be treated by his or her personal physician.

If care is required after 30 days from the date the injury was reported, the employee has the right to be treated by a physician of his or her choice.

Prompt notice (within five days) to the employer or its insurance carrier by the employee and the selected physician is mandatory.

Remember that you are not obligated to accept the treating physician’s opinion of the cause of your disability or need for care.

An injured employee, upon request, has the right to the services of a consulting physician at the expense of the employer.

If you have any questions about a claim, please seek help immediately from your Union Representative.

The workers’ compensation laws contain time limits on commencing proceedings. In general, the limitation is one year from the date of injury, although the time is extended if medical care or disability payments were provided.
Delegates off to convention

Los Angeles bound . . . IBEW Local 1245's elected delegates to the IBEW International Convention are travelling south this month as the convention gets underway mid-September in L.A.

Delegates off to convention

Los Angeles bound . . . IBEW Local 1245's elected delegates to the IBEW International Convention are travelling south this month as the convention gets underway mid-September in L.A.
HEALTH AND SAFETY

Members learn CPR
Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation

Here member practices cardiac massage.

Photos by Jan Cannon

Hazard alert...

At the July 13, 1982 meeting of the Joint Health and Safety Committee, PG&E agreed to eliminate "NAPKO" meter gray paint from the system. They did not agree to conduct a survey for glycol ethers in all products used by PG&E.

Local prepares fact sheet on PCBs for physicians

By Marjorie Winter, Health Education Intern

Here is the fact sheet many of you have been asking for. It was designed specifically to provide your personal physician with the latest recommendations on diagnosis and medical care for workers who are exposed to PCBs on the job.

Familiarize yourself with this information which is written in the technical language used by physicians. Then clip out the fact sheet and have it available for your doctor as questions arise over your health care regarding PCB exposures.

For years many members have been concerned with the health risks which may result from PCB exposure. The discovery of major environmental contamination with PCBs and the ensuing public concern led to the passage of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) in 1976, which made PCBs the first substance ever banned by Congress. By 1977, the EPA developed regulations which banned the further manufacture of PCBs and strictly controlled the handling, storage and disposal of existing PCBs.

Despite this ban, many workers have been or are still being exposed to PCBs. This fact sheet was prepared to provide you with the best options available today concerning medical care.

While the Local Union continues in its efforts to prevent future PCB exposure, it is important for you to keep records of your past and current exposures. This information, along with your own personal records of your medical history, may have an impact on your medical care and legal rights.

At the present time, medical tests, including measurements of PCB blood levels, cannot predict whether adverse health effects will result from PCB exposure. After reading the physician's PCB fact sheet, you may want a blood level test. You may need to consider both its cost and its medical and legal usefulness.

Generally a single PCB blood level test costs over $100. The fact sheet points out the scientific limitations of both laboratory tests and medical treatment.

A team of physicians who specialize in occupational medicine provided this fact sheet for Local 1245 members. Hopefully this latest information will play a part in protecting your health.

Glossary of terms...

A Glossary of Medical Terms Included in the Fact Sheet

Acute — relating to an exposure which occurs in a single incident, or to health effects which occur a short time after exposure.

Bioaccumulation — the gradual accumulation of a substance in humans and other animals.

Bioassay — laboratory tests to determine the health effects of a substance.

Biphenyls — a family of chemicals which includes PCBs.

Carcinogenic — denoting a substance which may cause cancer.

Chronic — relating to exposures which occur over a long period of time, or to delayed or long-term health effects.

Comedo — blackhead, skin eruption.

Derm — pertaining to the skin.

Dibenzodioxins — a family of chemicals related in chemical structure to dibenzofurans.

Dibenzofurans — a family of chemicals which includes highly toxic contaminants found in PCB fluids and other substances.

Endocrine — hormonal.

Endogenous — originating from within the body.

Enzyme — a chemical produced in the body which causes or accelerates reactions necessary for body function.

Exogenous — originating outside the body.

Halogenated — denoting a chemical which contains a halogen, such as chlorine.

Hepato — pertaining to the liver.

Histological — pertaining to the microscopic structure and function of tissues.

Immunosuppressants — agents which reduce the immune response of the body.

LFT — liver function test.

Morphologic — pertaining to the form and structure of an organism.

Mutagenicity — the potential to change or damage genes, which are the basic units of heredity.

Ocular — pertaining to the eye.

Refractory — not readily yielding to treatment.

Teratogenic — denoting a substance which may cause malformation in the embryo or fetus.

Transplacental — crossing through the placenta, thus being transferred from the pregnant mother to the unborn offspring.
PCBs have low acute toxicity but are of broader concern because of their environmental persistence, bioaccumulation, and potential for chronic or delayed toxicity.

I. Chemistry and Industrial Uses
PCBs belong to the class of halogenated aromatic hydrocarbons, all of which are foreign to biologic systems. Commercial PCB products are always mixtures of various chlorinated biphenyls. Common trade names for PCB compounds are “Aroclor” and “Askarel.” In addition, all commercial products are contaminated with polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs). This is of particular concern because the toxicity of PCDDs is much greater than PCBs in comparative studies and because they are structurally similar to the highly toxic dibenzodioxins. PCBs were introduced into industry in 1929, but have been used widely since then, primarily as heat exchange and dielectric fluids in electrical equipment. Utility workers, electricians, appliance service workers, and fire fighters are the occupational categories at highest risk for continued exposure to PCBs.

II. Environmental Contamination
Because PCBs are resistant to metabolic transformation, they persist in the environment and bioaccumulate in fish, wildlife, and humans. Trace amounts of PCBs, have been found in human blood, fat, and milk in over 50% of people sampled in all geographic areas of the United States.

III. Human Toxicology and Epidemiology
PCBs are absorbed well by all routes: skin, gastrointestinal, inhalation. Distribution is primarily into fat, and excretion is quite slow so that bioaccumulation occurs even at low exposure levels. The secretion of PCBs into human milk may be an important source of exposure to newborns.

The health effects are summarized below:

Carcinogenicity — Several PCB mixtures are clearly carcinogenic in a number of rodent bioassays, producing hepatocellular carcinomas. None of the PCB mixtures are active in short-term tests for mutagenicity, a finding that suggests they are not likely to be the most heavily chlorinated carcinogens. Yet substantial confirming evidence for carcinogenicity is provided by epidemiologic transformation assays using these same PCB mixtures.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Environmental Protection Agency have concluded that based on available animal data, PCBs should be considered as probable human carcinogens. A no-threshold or “no-effect level” is known for PCBs or any other carcinogens.

Liver Damage — Abnormal liver function tests have been reported in a number of occupational studies, and clinical hepatitis was observed after accidental ingestion of the 1966 “Yusho” epidemic, a poison- ing epidemic caused by ingestion of cooking oil contaminated with PCBs and PCDDFs in Japan. Although some studies have reported negative results, in a recent cross-sectional study abnormal LFTs were observed and found to be correlated with living PCBs, other abnormal signs, symptoms, or laboratory tests in these workers were a few cases of cholecyan.

Liver damage is the most consistent histological finding among the many laboratory animal species tested. However, because many other factors other than PCBs affect liver function tests, such initial findings in humans must be regarded as non-specific. In addition, non-specific LFTs do not provide evidence for the possibility of significant damage over time.

Reproductive Effects — The Yusho incident was important because it clearly documented the potential for reproductive and transplacental effects in humans. Stillbirths, abortions of normal viability, lower birth weights, and ocular discharge at birth were observed; follow-up of these children has revealed no increased mortality or fertility, thus providing no histologic or behavioral abnormalities. Adverse reproductive effects of PCBs have been found in many mammalian and avian species, primarily in lowered fertility, birth weight, or postnatal survival rather than specific teratogenic effects. Transplacental effects have been well documented.

Dermatologic Effects — Exposure to PCBs, dibenzofurans, and dibenzo-p-dioxins have been associated with a specific skin rash known as chloracne. Although it may resemble typical adolescent acne, there are certain distinct features: the most distinctive lesion is cystic, skin colored and measures from 1-10 mm; the other prominent lesion is the comedo. The comedones are usually minimal but may in rare cases become inflamed and secondarily infected, resulting in large pustules. Unlike adolescent acne, these may even become visible on the face and may involve trunk, arms and legs as well as face, neck, and back. It can be very persistent and refractory to treatment. Chloracne may result from external contact or from systemic absorption of PCBs.

Onset is within days to weeks after a single large exposure, and at varying levels of time after the beginning of chronic low-level exposure. Threshold blood levels for the development of chloracne have not been established.

Other — The principle biochemical effect of PCBs is the inhibition or induction of certain enzyme systems, primarily in the liver. This potential for altering the incidence of disease secondary to decreased metabolism of endogenous or xenogenous substances, and for interference with medical therapy, due to increased metabolism of administered drugs. PCBs have also been reported as immunosuppressants and to have endocrine effects in animals.

IV. Medical Surveillance of Exposed Populations
Occupational Populations at Risk — Because there is no threshold or "no-effect level" for carcinogenicity, PCBs have been defined for medical exposure and potential health effects. Any occupational exposure to PCBs should be viewed with concern. Exposure monitoring should include upper respiratory and dermal surveillance, such as full body contamination with PCBs, to assure that an excessive exposure has occurred; increased levels will not provide information which would change the diagnostic management for the patient.

The physician who has sought consultation with the HESIS Reference Center (see attached fact sheet) must be on the thorough decontamination of the patient. In such cases it may be advisable to seek consultation with the HESIS program.

V. Resources for Further Information
The State of California Hazard Evaluation System and Information Service will provide a literature review of PCB toxicity upon request. In addition, HESIS and the Occupational Health Clinic of the San Francisco General Hospital have physician/toxicologists on staff who will consult with practicing physicians in the community regarding the diagnosis and management of patients potentially exposed to PCBs. Here is the contact information:

"Speak not of rights, but of justice;' Steward tells judge

Excerpt from testimony by Olga Ramirez, Customer Service Representative & Shop Steward, Stockton.

"And I am here this morning to speak not of rights, but rather to speak of justice.
I believe that you are here this morning to contemplate and consider the removal of the employee discounts. And with all my respect to the public, and I do want to emphasize with all my respect to the public, I believe that their motives are selfish, and I believe that they are based not in facts, but merely in theories.
Now, you may ask me why do I believe that they are selfish? And I would like to reply that the reason that they are asking for the removal of the PG&E employee discount is because they do not like their bills.
I would like to say that first of all, I am not here in my own behalf. I am here on the behalf of my fellow employees, and especially of the retired employees that live in a fixed income. And in fact, if this discount is removed, they would have no benefit in replacement.
I am speaking of those elderly individuals that have worked for PG&E not 10 years, not 20 years, but 30, 40, 50 years, and they have earned their benefits.
I would like to say that first of all, I am not here in my own behalf. I am here on the behalf of my fellow employees, and especially of the retired employees that live on a fixed income. And in fact, if this discount is removed, they would have no benefit in replacement.
they are going to affect innocent individuals that are just trying to

Olga Ramirez points to figures showing employee energy use.

earn their living just like you and me.
I have spoken of justice, and I would like to say, your Honor, that the majority does not make justice. And I hope that you may exercise the authority that has been invested upon you, knowing truly and sincerely what it means to speak of justice, and the difference between right and wrong.
Local 1245 members crowd PUC hearing room in San as testimony opens on employee discount

Presiding over PUC Hearing, Administrative Law Judge, Donald Meaney.

Business Manager Jack McNally was on stand for lengthy questioning and cross examination.

Local 1245 Staff Counsel, Tom Daizell, center, presented union's case during the PUC Hearing.

Olga Ramirez points to figures showing employee energy use.

I have spoken of justice, and I would like to say, your Honor, that the majority does not make justice. And I hope that you may exercise the authority that has been invested upon you, knowing truly and sincerely what it means to speak of justice, and the difference between right and wrong.

Retired former Executive Board member, C.P. 'Red' Henneberry and his wife Rosie attended the hearing.

On their way to hearing room are: Lineman, San Francisco, left, and Bus Frank Saxsenmeier.
Local 1245 Staff Counsel, Tom Dalzell, center, presented union’s case during the PUC Hearing.

Robert McDonald, who heads IBEW International’s Utility Department traveled from Washington, D.C. to testify at hearing.

Discount costs only pennies

COST OF THE EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT

During the Public Utilities Commission hearings on August 9 through 11, cross-examination by Local 1245 attorney Tom Dalzell revealed that the loss of revenues associated with the employee discount are assigned to all classes of ratepayers, not just residential ratepayers as had previously been believed.

As a result, the following figures show the total annual cost of the employee discount to the average residential customer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Utility Company</th>
<th>Electric Discount</th>
<th>Gas Discount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PG&amp;E</td>
<td>$0.29</td>
<td>$0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So. California Edison</td>
<td>$0.14</td>
<td>$0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego Gas &amp; Elec.</td>
<td>$0.36</td>
<td>$0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Pacific Power</td>
<td>$0.39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In light of the above, it is difficult to imagine why the Public Utilities Commission is spending thousands of tax dollars investigating such an inexpensive fringe benefit.

Executive Board member, C.P. 'Red' Henne-Rosie attended the hearing.

On their way to hearing room are member Dean Gurke, Lineman, San Francisco, left, and Business Representative Frank Saxsenmeier.

Reporter hurries down hall to hearing room.
Social Security — the facts vs. the scare tactics

By RICHARD SPOHN, Editor, International Woodworkers

The following reprinted article tells you what you need to know to understand that the Social Security program is not in such dire straits as the Reagan administration and certain conservative officials would like you to believe. It explains the four separate Social Security trust funds, how they are financed, and why Social Security is "the best value money can buy." It also urges you to write to both of your U.S. Senators and your Representative in Congress to urge them to oppose any cuts in Social Security and to urge them to: (1) extend and improve the Social Security system; (2) remove Social Security from the unified budget; (3) provide for the use of general fund revenues in Social Security; and (4) set up an independent bi-partisan board to oversee Social Security. The article was written by Richard Spohn, Editor of the International Woodworker, the official publication of the International Woodworkers of America, AFL-CIO-CLC.

Attacks by the Reagan administration and other right-wing ideologues on Social Security have frightened and confused many Americans, particularly those now drawing benefits or those close to retirement.

Fear that the system is "going broke" is fostered and confusion over just what Social Security is, is cultivated. (Just such tactics were evidenced this week when Reagan's Social Security Administrator John Svahn told a meeting of hospital personnel administrators in Baltimore that: "Either you're going to have to start paying an awful lot more now... or we're going to Social Security to have to expect to live less." That is scare talk.)

Overcoming that fear and confusion requires facts and the truth. This article was prepared from material gathered from many sources by experts such as Robert M. Ball, Senior Consultant to the Study Group on Social Security and U.S. Commissioner of Social Security, Undersecretaries of Labor and of Health, Education and Welfare, Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon, and Bert Seidman, Director of the AFL-CIO Department of Social Security. Mr. Seidman served as Chairman of the Technical Committee on Retirement Income for the 1981 White House Conference on Aging.

First: Social Security is a compact between generations. It is an extension of the American custom of the young helping and protecting their elders. Yet it allows older people to maintain their independence and dignity by providing an income floor for the retirement years. It removes the specter of the Poorhouse when productive years are over. And that specter was real and terrifying in the "good old days" that Ronald Reagan and his friends yearned to see re-created. Years when the elderly depended on the charity of Lord and Lady Bountiful in the Poorhouse when productive years are over.

But Social Security is more than retirement. It is also disability insurance and their dependents' insurance if the breadwinner is physically unable to continue working. It's a life insurance program, providing income for surviving spouses and young children if workers die during their productive years.

It's a health insurance program, helping to meet skyrocketing hospital and medical bills which make up an enormous portion of the meager budgets of retirees and the disabled.

Social Security has four separate trust funds to provide those benefits: the Old-Age and Survivors' Insurance fund (OASI), the Disability Insurance fund (DI), the Hospital Insurance fund (HI), and the Supplemental Medical Insurance fund (SMI).

Social Security benefits are financed from both payroll taxes and general revenues and presented by experts to help workers and their dependents not simply to satisfy their immediate needs, but to lend a sense and dignity by providing an income floor for the retirement years.

"Either you're going to have to start paying an awful lot more now... or we're going to Social Security to have to expect to live less." That is scare talk.

Workers today pay 6.7 percent of their earnings (up to a maximum of $3,240 per year). Of the 6.7 percent, 4.575 percent goes to OASI, 1.1 for DI, and 1.45 for HI.

"If you don't think Social Security is a bargain, just ask any insurance company how much it would cost for a policy offering a retirement pension, health insurance and life insurance, all protected from inflation."

OASI, 1.1 for DI, and 1.45 for HI. The self-employed total rate will be 10.75 percent. There are no rate increases scheduled after 1980 in these rates.

Second: Social Security is the best value money can buy. According to the non-partisan Research Program of the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, Social Security is a bargain for a 35-year-old worker with a spouse and two children — the "average American family" — has a potential value of $164,250 for retirement, $828,953 for disability, $829,507 for surviving spouses and children. Average monthly benefits (July, 1981 figures) are shown in the accompanying table.

And those figures are at today's prices. Their values are protected from inflation so if the cost-of-living goes up, so do workers' benefits.

If you don't think Social Security is a bargain just ask any insurance company how much it would cost for a policy offering a retirement pension, health insurance and life insurance, all protected from inflation.

"If you don't think Social Security is a bargain, just ask any insurance company how much it would cost for a policy offering a retirement pension, health insurance and life insurance, all protected from inflation."

"It's a fraud to tell the public that by cutting Social Security we can balance the budget because under the law, the trust funds can be used only to benefit the retired, the disabled and survivors of deceased workers."

Once they are solved, it will remain healthy well into the next century. Predictions that it will not be able to meet its obligations in the year 2025 and beyond are exceedingly questionable and are based on assumptions about future events which are simply unknowable at the present time. The economic health of the system is evident if the program is looked at in three time frames.

Short-term — One of the three trust funds, Old Age and Survivor's Insurance, faces a temporary deficit. The program is the victim of outside forces; the economy just hasn't performed well in recent years. Price increases have outstripped wage increases, driving up living costs. High unemployment has driven down income.

The problem will remain until about 1990. But it has nothing to do with the aging population. It is a statistic that the population is increasing at a rapid rate, nothing to do with President Reagan's talk about how there are 16,000 baby boomers for every beneficiary, and that the ratio has now slipped to 3.2-to-1. In the early days of the program that ratio was 1,000-to-1, or more.

The Middle-term — From 1990 until 2015 OASI will move into a very favorable position. The post-World War II "baby boom" generation will be paying into the system, and the number of older people will be decreasing. This increase in the size of the population between 20 and 65. The scheduled 1980 tax increase will also help. The buildup in the fund will be large, in fact, that it will be in surplus even when the "baby boom" generation begins to retire.

The Long-term — This period runs from 2025 to 2055 because actuaries make their cost estimates for a 75-year span. Whether we want to take seriously that estimate that that far into the future is an important question.

Only Canada and the United States have made Social Security for that long a period. Three countries make them for 50 years. All the rest — and every industrial country has its own version of a Social Security program — don't make estimates for that long, to say nothing of whether they pay any attention to such estimates in their policy determinations.

There is simply no way to know what conditions will be 50 or 75 years from now. Clearly, we will have many more older people. We can predict the size of the older population; these people are already born, and the application of reasonable mortality rates gives us a reliable picture. But when we try to balance the size of a known population of the elderly against the unknown of birth rates, we cannot predict all the things that go out the window and we're reduced to gazing into a crystal ball.

In any event, it seems the height of OASI trust funds can be used only to benefit the retired, the disabled and survivors of deceased workers. Thus the designer of Social Security knew the ratio would fall and planned for it. The Middle-term — From 1990 until 2015 OASI will move into a very favorable position. The post-World War II "baby boom" generation will be paying into the system, and the number of older people will be decreasing. This increase in the size of the population between 20 and 65. The scheduled 1980 tax increase will also help. The buildup in the fund will be large, in fact, that it will be in surplus even when the "baby boom" generation begins to retire.

The Long-term — This period runs from 2025 to 2055 because actuaries make their cost estimates for a 75-year span. Whether we want to take seriously that estimate that that far into the future is an important question.

Only Canada and the United States have made Social Security for that long a period. Three countries make them for 50 years. All the rest — and every industrial country has its own version of a Social Security program — don't make estimates for that long, to say nothing of whether they pay any attention to such estimates in their policy determinations.

Yet the Administration has created a crisis atmosphere. It insists that the only way to "save" Social Security is to make it smaller and less adequate. The Administration's goal — announced, ironically, within days of President Reagan proclaiming 'Older Americans Month' — was to slash a staggering $822 billion over the next five years from the benefits of retirees, crippled workers, surviving spouses and children.

Why? So the President could deliver on his promise of a "balanced budget" even though he knew full well that Social Security funds have nothing to do with the "budget" of the United States. It is another Hollywood illusion, much like the President's

David Stockman said it very well in his Atlantic Monthly interview. He said "the social security problem is not simply one of satisfying actuarial problems. It's one of satisfying the here-and-now of budget requirements."
OUTSIDE LINE
By Jerry Robinson, Business Representative

HERE'S WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE:
1. Extend inter-fund borrowing. Congress has already allowed the OASI fund to borrow from the other two through 1982. OASI has a shortage, the others are in surplus. Borrowing should be extended to 1990 when OASI will have a significant surplus and social security will have clear sailing into the next century.

swings of elected officials and political appointees. It is a fraud to tell the public that by cutting social security we can balance the budget because under the law, the trust funds can be used only to benefit the retired, the disabled and survivors of deceased workers.

2. Remove social security from the unified budget. Prior to fiscal 1969, the social security trust funds had complete autonomy. Then they were swept into the unified budget where they have been subject ever since to the short-term policy swings of elected officials and political appointees. It is a fraud to tell the public that by cutting social security we can balance the budget because under the law, the trust funds can be used only to benefit the retired, the disabled and survivors of deceased workers.

3. Infuse general revenues into social security. The concept of tripartite funding — employer, employee and government — was recommended by the founders of the program nearly 50 years ago. It is the way in which countries all over the world fund their social security programs.

4. Establish an independent board to run social security. It is a huge pension and group insurance plan and should be administered so people will be secure in the knowledge that their rights are being protected. Establishing benefits and financing should remain with Congress and the President, but the policy function should be performed by a bi-partisan board of directors with staggered terms. Social security is the peoples' program; it should be run that way.

Let your elected representatives know that American workers fought for Social Security and intend to keep Social Security.

"Let your elected representatives know that American workers fought for Social Security and intend to keep Social Security."

Buy Union... It means jobs!

The purpose of Union Label Week is to encourage all consumers to buy union-made, American-made products, make use of Union Services and to be especially aware of the insignia which designate goods and services produced by skilled, trained craftsmen. The consumer can be assured that the dollar spent for goods and services produced by union workers create and maintain jobs in the community and strengthen the economy of that community. At a time when thousands of jobs have been lost to imports and whole industries designated by unfair foreign competition union members are reminded to buy American to secure American jobs!

The AFL-CIO and its national Union Label and Service Trades Department have designated the second week in September, 1982 as national "Union Label Week." The distinctive emblems of the trade union movement — the Union Label, Shop Card, Store Card, and Service Button — are symbols of the gains made by organized labor such as: better working conditions, fair wages, increased job security, and a higher standard of living achieved through the process of collective bargaining.

The work picture doesn't look too great but at least there's some work coming up.

Wismer & Becker will start the switch yard at the Geysers as soon as Harker & Harker finishes the concrete work. Harker & Harker has another transmission line that will start in October-November down by Fresno.

We also have two switch yards coming up in the Fresno area. One should start within the next month and the other in November-December. There are two more switch yards at the Geysers to be built and one transmission line.

The cable TV work is looking better. Alameda should start in two or three months. Sacramento Cable TV hasn't been awarded yet but if a union contractor gets it, it should start around the first of the year.

There is a possibility of cable TV work in Berkeley and Davis also.

I recently attended a meeting to discuss a transmission line at the City of Alameda and will report on the outcome in a later issue.

The Dispatch Office moved to Sacramento on August 23. Our hours will continue to be 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

The new dispatch phone number will be 916-446-0192 and the address is 1414 - 21st Street, upstairs at the IBEW Local 1245 Sacramento office.

Barbara Grossman will take over Walnut Creek dispatcher Esther Smith's duties at that time.

Dues will still have to be paid through the Walnut Creek office, however the receipts will be processed sooner.

See you at the next Unit Meeting, 10 a.m., September 11 at the Sacramento office.

Average Monthly Amounts Paid In Major Benefits Categories (July, 1981)

Retired worker alone .......... $374
Retired couple ................. 640
Disabled worker alone ....... 413
Disabled worker and family ... 812
Aged widow or widower alone . 342
Young survivor family .......... 670

IBEW 1245 UTILITY REPORTER/AUGUST 1982 9
San Francisco members attend Awards Dinner

"Proud to be a union member, a member of IBEW Local 1245 . . . through thick and thin . . . ." Those were the sentiments echoed throughout the evening at the recent recognition dinner honoring senior members in San Francisco.

Honor plaque

Proud award recipients

Business Representative, Dorothy Fortier

Honorees

A toast . . .

to the evening

Albert Motl, with his wife on his right, receives plaque in honor of 40 years of service from Joann Burton, on his left, who represented her husband, Executive Board member, Jay Burton, who is recovering from surgery, and was unable to attend the presentation. Business Representative Frank Saxsenmeier, left, extended congratulations from Business Manager, Jack McNally.

Hundreds of years of combined service among these members . . .
Members honored at recognition dinner

Congratulating Stanley Williams on 40 years of service is Business Representative Mickey Harrington, left.

Thirty-five year members, left to right, Ray Anderson and Robert White shake hands with Business Representative Harrington.

Thirty year members honored were, left to right, Jim Kane, Ken McAuley and Jack Ramsey.

Receiving recognition for 25 years of service was member Eddie Brown, left.

Twenty-year honorees included Charlie Camacho, J. E. Pence, Frank Pimentel, and Warren White.

How the years fly by ...

Representing the Executive Board, Bill Peliz, right, with his wife, Joyce.

Honoree

Looking back over the years
Register... make your vote count

FROM Page One

the California election at their next meeting. Endorsements will be reported in the next issue of the Utility Reporter.

Local 1245’s Nevada endorsements were reported in the last issue of the Utility Reporter. Members are reminded to get out and vote to support labor candidates in the September 14 primary election.

The latest report on voter registration in California shows that although Democrats have had the largest registration growth since January, their overall percentage of the state’s registered voters remains at the lowest level that it has been in an election year since 1935 when Democrats accounted for 49.5 percent of the voters.

In contrast, Republicans are at their highest level since 1974 when they had 36 percent. As of the May 10 close of registration for the June 2 primary election, voter registration totaled 11,080,453, including 5,846,647 Democrats (52.8 percent), 3,867,911 Republicans (34.9 percent), and 1,072,003 who declined to state a party preference (9.7 percent).

A report issued last month by the U.S. Census Bureau shows that there were more than 18 million potentially eligible voters in California.

Retirement time—no time for that ‘ol rocking chair’

Retirement is no time to let that old rocking chair get ya—!

Just the opposite — it’s a perfect time to concentrate your energies in areas you’ve had an interest in — and part time employees in the organizing drive was conducted over a two-month period with a representation election being held June 24 with the Union winning by a large margin. Negotiations began on July 7. Several subsequent meetings were held but no acceptable proposals have yet been sent to the membership. Serving on the negotiating committee are Rebecca Dodson and Jan Eaton.

Institutional in organizing the unit were Business Representative Ken Ball and Jan Eaton, Rebecca Dodson, Rebekah Larsen, and a special tip of the hat goes to T. L. Linebarger, Shop Steward, from the Physical Unit.

IBEW Local 1245 also represents a physical bargaining unit on this property which is under separate contract.

Local 1245 organizes new unit

A Monterey Peninsula TV Cable clerical bargaining unit was recently organized by IBEW Local 1245.

The unit includes customer service representatives, Showtime installers, dispatchers and receptionists, including some 20 regular and part time employees in the Salinas and Monterey office.

The organizing drive was conducted over a two-month period with a representation election being held June 24 with the Union winning by a large margin. Negotiations began on July 7. Several subsequent meetings were held but no acceptable proposals have yet been sent to the membership. Serving on the negotiating committee are Rebecca Dodson and Jan Eaton.

Institutional in organizing the unit were Business Representative Ken Ball and Jan Eaton, Rebecca Dodson, Rebekah Larsen, and a special tip of the hat goes to T. L. Linebarger, Shop Steward, from the Physical Unit.

IBEW Local 1245 also represents a physical bargaining unit on this property which is under separate contract.

Members injured in explosion

Avon Power Plant Relief Control Operator, John Aldridge, 58, at press time was in critical, unstable condition from extensive burns he suffered following an explosion in a steam line at Avon last month.

The incident claimed the life of Shift Foreman Elliott Roberts, and caused injury to Auxiliary Operator Harold Neely, 26.

Aldridge, a 28-year-member of IBEW Local 1245 and Neely, a two-year member, were both injured on July 23 at the PG&E plant near Mariposa.

Aldridge is hospitalized at Brookside Hospital’s Burn Center where he’s fighting for recovery. Neely was treated for burns on his back and leg and was released from the Burn Center.

Immediately following the accident report, Local 1245 Business Representatives Soledamini, initiated an investigation along with Assistant Business Manager Ron Fitzsimmons who heads up Local Health, Safety and Training.

Subsequently the Local met with Cal OSHA and company representatives to pursue the cause of the accident. It is still under investigation. Witnesses are being interviewed, and independent laboratory tests are being conducted with results pending.

Local 1245 continues to be in close contact with the Aldridge family during this critical time. Brother Neely is home recovering from his injuries.

Mitrick, scholarship winner

Veronica Mitrick, 18, a June graduate of Irvington High School in Fremont has been awarded IBEW Local 1245’s vocational trade school scholarship for 1982.

She will receive $8000-a-year for two years to assist her in her education at Heald Business College. Hayward, where she will undertake a secretarial course leading to a career as either a legal or administrative secretary.

A well-rounded student, Veronica majored in Business courses in high school, was an active athlete participating in volleyball, basketball and track. She also served as treasurer of the Associated Student Body at Irvington where she was active in student government.

Her father Dan, a 22-year-member of Local 1245, is a Line Subforeman out of the PG&E Fremont Service Center. He and his wife Nancy have two other children, John, 17, and Dan Jr., 16. Dan says both sons are looking forward to competing for scholarships in the Local when they are eligible in the next few years.