Workers' living standards at stake

California trade unionists unite behind Van de Kamp

hoping to regain a voice for working people in state government, California trade unionists have endorsed John Van de Kamp for governor.

Van de Kamp, currently the state's attorney general, pledged that working people and their unions "will once again have their hands on the levers of power in this state" if he is elected governor. He was endorsed on April 19 by some 400 California AFL-CIO delegates representing two million union members, and was endorsed the following week by the IBEW Local 1245 Executive Board.

Van de Kamp's clear support for the hopes and aspirations of working people stands in sharp contrast to eight years of Republican rule in Sacramento. Gov. George Deukmejian has consistently sided with big business in opposing virtually every attempt to improve living standards and working conditions for California workers.

Unlike some Democratic office-seekers of recent years, there is nothing timid about Van de Kamp's campaign. He openly pledges to put organized labor in charge of the state's Department of Industrial Relations. And he promises to make government work for ordinary citizens, the people whose needs were too often ignored during the junk bond prosperity of the 1980s.

"California has a moral obligation to provide decent medical care as well as housing for all its citizens," Van de Kamp told the labor convention. "In the richest state in the richest country in the world people shouldn't have to sleep on the street and when I'm through as governor no one will have to.

"Working people have been shut out of state government for eight years, and we've paid a big price for it," said Local 1245 Business Manager Jack McNally, a delegate to the convention that endorsed Van de Kamp. "Deukmejian hasn't been a servant of the people, he's been a servant to the rich. He fought improvements in unemployment insurance. He dragged his feet on Workers Compensation. He abolished Cal-OSHA. Whose interests did that serve?"

McNally noted that the union's by-laws make the Executive Board responsible for evaluating and endorsing political candidates based onSee PAGE TWO

Outside Line contract goes to a vote

A tentative three-year agreement between Local 1245 Outside Line workers and the National Electrical Contractors Association will increase the lineman rate by 45 cents in the first year and make other improvements if approved by union members in a mailed ballot.

Ballots on the proposed agreement, reached April 17, were sent to members on May 1. To be valid, completed ballots must be received at the union's post office box no later than 10:00 a.m. on May 21.

In addition to the first-year wage hike, the tentative agreement provides for cost-of-living increases to take effect on June 1, 1991 and June 1, 1992. The cost-of-living hikes will be calculated on Consumer Price Index data.

The proposed pact increases subsistence travel pay to 40 cents per mile. The agreement deletes San Francisco as a dispatch point and replaces Los Angeles with the Riverside Dispatch Office.

Health and Welfare contributions by employers will be boosted by 25 cents an hour, while pension payments will go up 50 cents.

The proposed agreement would allow employees by a 75 percent majority to elect their political candidates based onSee PAGE TWO

Members protest drug testing

Local 1245 members donned black arm bands at two Pacific Gas & Electric locations on April 23 to protest the random drug testing regulations mandated by the federal Department of Transportation. The regulations went into effect April 21.

Gas T&D and Electric T&D workers at PG&E's Belmont Service Center wear black arm bands going into work April 23 to protest the random drug testing regulations mandated by the federal Department of Transportation. The regulations went into effect April 21. The regulations went into effect April 21.

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The regulations, which officially took effect April 21, have provoked resentment among many local union members who view random drug testing as an unacceptable invasion of privacy.

resentment took visible form with the arm-band actions at PG&E's Belmont and Colma Service Centers.

Meanwhile, bargaining continued between Local 1245 and employers over the methods for implementing the DOT regulations.

Union negotiators reported some progress in talks with PG&E in resolving differences over the handling of urine specimens and opposition to Strike Page 6

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Unionists unite behind Van de Kamp

From PAGE ONE

their record concerning labor issues.

"Some of our members are
Democrats, some are Repub-
licans. In the privacy of the
voting booth everybody
makes up their own mind
what to do," said McNally.
"What the Executive Board
is saying is that only one can-
didate for governor truly under-
stands the problems we face
and will give working folk a
fair shake. That candidate is
John Van de Kamp."

Forestalling a no-holds-
bared campaign against his
Republican rival in the No-
very early on Van de Kamp
called Pete Wilson a "so-called reformer" who
"never saw a corporate tax
loophole he didn’t like." Van
de Kamp reminded the union-
ists that Wilson, as a U.S.
Senator, literally rolled into
Congress on his sick bed in
order to cast a vote to cut So-
cial Security benefits.

Some unionists suggested that the convention should
give a dual endorsement to
Van de Kamp and to Diane
Feinstein, his main rival for
the Democratic nomination
in the June 5 primary election.
But the convention majority
clearly believed Van de Kamp
was the one for the job.

Dean Tipps, a delegate
from the Service Employees,

Unionists aid search for diabetes cure

Thousands of vol-
unteers from
building trades un-
ions, along with
union members and
families, will take to
the streets across the
nation June 16 to
raise funds for the
fight against diabetes.

The fourth annual Dollars
Against Diabetes (DAD’s Day)
campaign would reach all
50 states. San Francisco Bay
Area union members can
volunteer for the one-day
campaign by contacting
Robert Mammari, Sheet
Metal Workers Local 104, at
621-2500.

Union members discuss Electromagnetic fields (EMF) and
their possible health effects with representatives of PG&E.
As the two sides explore whether an agreement can be
reached that would regulate the use of rubber gloves and
barehanded techniques by linemen. Union members of the
EMF committee are Jeff Schlocker, Terry Dickey, Dan
Mayo, and Business Manager Jack McNally.

Propositions 118 & 119

From PAGE TWO

draw new districts but would
be limited to adopting one
of many plans submitted to it by
those special interest groups
with sufficient money and
computer sophistication to
draw up funds.

If the commission could
not agree on a plan, a second
commission would be ap-
pointed to try again; and, if it
couldn’t agree, the state Su-
preme Court would decide.

The California Republican
Party and the Republican Na-
tional Committee have pro-
vided substantial sums of
money to get these proposi-
tions qualified for the June
ballot.

It is clear that on the whole
the Republican Party does
not support labor issues. In
fact the Republican state leg-
islators, during the
Deukmejian administration,
have introduced measures
which if passed would have
weakened or repealed labor
protections pertaining to un-
ion, shop, prevailing wages,
health and safety, minimum
wages, overtime, right to
strike for public employees,
and apprentice programs.
The passage of Propositions
118 and 119 could very easily
turn control of the Legisla-
ture over to the Republicans
and these attacks against
working people would be im-
possible to stop.

The state constitution has
for many years provided a
truly democratic way of deal-
ing with reapportionment. It
is the fairest way of dealing
with the issue. It is the same
way laws are passed.

It has worked for a very
long time and should be left
to work in the future.

Proposition 118 and 119
will work against common
working people and they
must be defeated.

Delta ‘Poker Run’
set for June 2

Local 1245 members and
their families will spend a
day of fun in the sun dur-
ing the union’s annual Day
on the Delta Poker Run on
June 2.

The poker run starts and
finishes at the Brannan Is-
land State Recreation Area
boat ramp located on Califor-
nia Highway 160 just south of
Rio Vista. Participants sign in
between 7:30 and 10:30 a.m.
There will be cash prizes for
the best poker hands in three
categories: adult men, adult
women and kids aged 15 and
under. Raffle tickets will be
available for 50 cents or 3 for
$1. The Ramp Raffle is held
at 4:00 p.m. Winners must be
present with their tickets to
receive their prizes.

Whether you win anything
or not, there will be plenty of
free hot dogs and beans
and fixin’s.

For more information, contact
Local 1245 headquarters
at Walnut Creek (at (515)
933-6060 or see your shop
steward.
Health care, a national crisis - is there an answer?

(Editor's note: the following essay by Mark Duarte was awarded the Al Sandoval Memorial Competitive Scholarship, sponsored by Local 1245. Duarte is the son of Local 1245 member Marshall B. Duarte, who works for the US Bureau of Reclamation at New Melones Power Plant. Duarte, a student at Sonora High School, plans to attend college at California State University in Chico.)

By Mark Duarte

Who lives? Who dies? Who pays? The simple fact is that some people can no longer afford health care costs. Over the past decades there has been a trend that only rich people can afford the staggering costs of health care. All Americans should be provided with adequate health care.

The biggest buyers of health care—governments, corporations and unions—are fed up with waste and inefficiency. We need to change the way doctors, hospitals and other providers are used and paid; also changing financial incentives that encourage patients to seek unnecessary care. Corporations, unions, governors, mayors, legislators—all the institutions our people speak and act through—have attacked conditions of the American health care industry. The American working people need to be aware of who to put into these offices; people who will work to provide adequate health care for all.

We need to improve quality and produce competition by giving purchasers the information they need to make intelligent health care choices. We need to get lots of information out to the public. People need to be aware of what hospitals and doctors charge, how successful they are in specialized diseases and types of patients, also how often they treat with drugs or resort to surgery, and to what extent should life support systems be utilized? We need to consolidate facilities; concentration of surgical procedures in fewer hospitals will mean better medical care.

We need to loosen the monopoly of doctors over the practice of medicine. Today nurses and aids can provide many tasks. Medical technology makes it possible to provide in-home and out-patient services in areas such as chemotherapy and dialysis.

We need to overhaul our medical malpractice system. The cost of malpractice insurance is paid, not by doctors and hospitals, but by all of us—patients and taxpayers.

We need to devise case management systems to cope with high cost cases. For example, some patients who could have been treated more humanely and inexpensively at home were kept in the hospital because the benefit package provided only limited home care services.

We need to adopt advanced health promotion programs. There is a need for a supplemental insurance for our retired people so that medical costs can be met, over and above what medicare costs.

Each of us can do more for our own health than any doctor, hospital, machine or drug. We need to educate people in preventive medicine. Regular checkups, dental care and eye exams can help prevent more serious problems later. Next we need to improve our eating habits, control smoking, alcohol and drug abuse, sexually transmitted diseases; exercise regularly and control stress.

Reports show some progress has been achieved by United Auto Workers and Chrysler Corporation; working together to achieve better health care benefits at lower costs.

Yes, there is indeed a national health care crisis. I feel these may be some possible answers.

Mark Duarte displays the plaque he received at the May 5 Advisory Council meeting for his award-winning essay on the health care crisis. Standing with him are his father, Local 1245 member Marshal Duarte, and his mother, Dondra.
Maintenance on the network: making a visible difference

By Eric Wolfe

You flip the switch, the light goes on. For Americans in the electric age that's just a matter of fact. But for electricians employed by the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District it's a matter of craft.

When the job is done right, few people take notice because there's no reason to.

Delivering power, these employees know, requires more than building generating stations or repairing transmission lines after storms. It requires skilled maintenance on a regular basis of a vast distribution network.

On a sunny day in March, Utility Reporter caught up with a SMUD crew performing maintenance on a substation near downtown Sacramento. The substation, which is fed from the North City Substation, is a feeder breaker for the network system, according to Shop Steward Art Torres, a 13-year union member.

"It leaves here at 12 KV (and) goes into the vault," Torres explained. The "vault" is an underground maze of circuitry—in reality, about 300 vaults—that breaks up the current and sends it to another transformer, where "it's stepped down to either 480 or 260, depending on what the customer requires."

Frank Hernandez, a 15-year union member, is matter-of-fact about the work they are performing. Their job is to "make sure all the connections are tight, make sure the unit's working properly, clean everything up, do our tests, compare our tests with other test data." If the tests don't come up to specifications, "you have to find out why and repair it. It might be one of the spring tensions are bad, the contact is broken off—it could be a lot of things."

Speed is important on a maintenance job like this. The entire network is vulnerable when a breaker is pulled out. "If for some reason another one faults and opens, then you lose the network," said Hernandez. "Which means that part of Sacramento is out. Workers thus have to be prepared to get the breaker they're working on back into service on short notice.

Even though the work is routine, safety is an ever-present concern. "Everybody has to be filled in as to what's going on," said Hernandez. "It's possible the breaker could open. You could have your hands in there doing something and you could get injured that way. What you want to do is lock everything. Make sure that there's no way this thing could open or close."

When the job is done right, few people take notice because there's no reason to. The skilled electrical workers who get the job done remain invisible to area residents.

But the work they do makes a visible difference in the lives of Sacramento residents every hour of every day.

Art Torres, shop steward, running tests during maintenance on 12kv air circuit breaker.

Frank Hernandez, 15-year union member, cleans the "tulips," the connections that go into the bus.

Unidentified member of a SMUD maintenance crew—or is that management?—at Substation A in downtown Sacramento.
Fear factor revealed

Detroit labor lawyer Bruce Miller has some chilling statistics on how the Reagan era allowed employers to trample on union organizing rights, the AFL-CIO Labor Letter reported last month.

In 1960, the NLRB reported 3,110 workers were illegally fired for union activity in organizing campaigns where 280,140 voted for union representation. The rate of firings to union voters was 1 to 100.

By 1987, the rate of firings increased fivefold. In that year, 16,973 workers were fired for union activity while there were just 83,691 union voters. The ratio is now 1 to 5.

"The underlying cause for the failure of union growth in the private sector," Miller concludes, "is fear."

Union's share of workforce edges down

An estimated 17 million wage and salary employees in the United States were union members in 1989, according to figures released by the U.S. Dept. of Labor.

The number of union members has been virtually unchanged since 1985, while employment has been increasing. As a result, the proportion of wage and salary employees who are union members has continued to edge downward, from 18 percent in 1985 to 16.4 percent in 1989.

In 1989 there were 10.5 million union members in private industry and 6.4 million in government. In the private sector, the industry group with the most union members was manufacturing (4.5 million), followed by transportation and public utilities (1.9 million), services (1.4 million) and wholesale and retail trade (1.3 million).

Among major private industry groups, transportation and public utilities had the highest union proportion at 52 percent.

NLRB decision slaps Paradigm

Paradigm Corp. is guilty of unfair labor practices...

Paradigm Corp. is guilty of unfair labor practices and must enter into bargaining with Local 1245, a National Labor Relations Board official ruled on April 26.

Paradigm, which manufactures satellite antennas in Redding, Calif., violated the National Labor Relations Act in an effort to thwart an organizing drive among its employees last winter. According to the NLRB, Paradigm laid off two employees—Kelly Breedlove and Arthur Ruiz—for union activities. The company also "promised its employees improved benefits in order to discourage them from supporting the union," the NLRB asserted.

The decision means that Paradigm will have to appear before the NLRB in November to respond to the charges. Paradigm will not be required to enter into bargaining until the NLRB makes a final ruling on the charges.

However, the April finding has already produced some positive effects. Shortly after the NLRB finding, Paradigm re-hired Breedlove and Ruiz.

"It was the unity of the employees and the devotion of Art Ruiz and Kelly Breedlove that won this one," said Local 1245 Business Rep. Corb Wheeler.

Paradigm's violations of labor law were "so serious and substantial in character" that a fair election could not be conducted, the NLRB charged. The NLRB, noting that the employees had expressed their sentiments toward the union by signing authorization cards, ruled that the company should be required to enter directly into negotiations with Local 1245, even though no representation election was conducted.

Local 1245, the NLRB said, is "the exclusive representative of the unit for the purposes of collective bargaining" over the terms and conditions of employment.

Putting together an initial contract proposal for Port of Oakland professional employees are (from left) Larry Ross, Business Rep. Corb Wheeler, John Stewart and Dick Little.

Putting together an initial contract proposal for Airspace Technology employees are (from left) John Benneche, Christa Rockell, Business Rep. Corb Wheeler, Bill Lafay and Rick Sidman.
PERMANENT REPLACEMENTS WOULD BE BANNED

Bill offers protection to strikers

Going to the bargaining table without the ability to call a strike is like sitting at a poker table without any face cards in your hand: you can play the game but you're likely to end up poorer than when you started.

The right to strike, and the bargaining leverage it gives to workers, has raised important standards for millions of American workers throughout much of the 20th Century. Strikes have paved the way for union representation, for safer workplaces, for better wages and benefits, for fairness on the job.

During the 1980s, many important strikes were crushed when employers hired permanent replacements rather than negotiate with strikers. Scabs took the jobs of 2500 paperworkers on strike against International Paper Co. Scabs replaced 2400 steelworkers on strike against Phelps Dodge. And as the 1990s begin, thousands of striking Greyhound workers are at risk of being permanently replaced by non-union workers.

Corporate opinion-makers would like workers to believe that the solution to this problem is to give up striking. But unions understand that you don't win much at the poker table without face cards and you can't win much at the bargaining table without a credible threat of striking. That's why labor organizations are strongly backing federal legislation to restore balance to the collective bargaining process and to reaffirm the long-held right of workers to strike.

H.R. 3936 and S. 2112 would restore a degree of fairness to labor relations that has been sorely lacking during the Reagan-Bush era.

Standing with labor against scab replacements

The following US Representatives from California are co-sponsors of HR 3936, the pro-labor bill to outlaw the hiring of permanent replacements to take the place of striking workers.

Bates
Berman
Boxer
DelaHunt

Dynamy
Lantos
G. Miller
Manetta

Pulosi
Stark
Torres

If your US Representative is not listed above, write them at the address below and urge them to become a co-sponsor of HR 3936.

Rep. (name of your representative)
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Permanent replacements would be banned

Bill offers protection to strikers

When journeymen shoemakers staged one of the first American strikes in 1806, their union was convicted of criminal conspiracy, slapped with fines, and forced into bankruptcy. Throughout the 1800s, workers attempting to unionize were confronted and often attacked by armed company thugs, state militia and the National Guard. The corporate-dominated press literally called for the blood of union organizers and courts routinely issued injunctions against union activity.

After decades of state and corporate violence against workers, the federal government finally began to carve out some basic rights for workers with the passage of the Railway and Labor Act in 1926, the Norris-LaGuardia Anti-Injunction Act in 1932 and the landmark National Labor Relations Act of 1935.

However, a serious weed appeared in this garden of early labor legislation. In 1958 the U.S. Supreme Court, in NLRB v. MacKay Radio and Telegraph Company, that employers could permanently replace striking workers. But in the years that followed, an era when unions enjoyed broad popular support, few employers attempted to take advantage of this ruling.

That all changed in the 1980s. President Ronald Reagan set the tone by firing 12,000 striking air traffic controllers and busting their union, PATCO. Private employers began to follow suit, seeking to destroy unions by deliberately provoking strikes and then hiring permanent replacement workers.

The Supreme Court made matters worse in 1989 when it ruled, in TWA v. Independent Federation of Flight Attendants, that TWA could offer preferential benefits and treatment to strikers who crossed the picket line and returned to work.

Under the bills proposed by Clay and Metzenbaum, two of labor's staunchest allies in Congress, employers would still be permitted to use legitimate economic weapons during strikes, such as hiring temporary workers. But they would not be permitted to employ permanent replacements, nor could they apply discriminatory preferences in favor of workers who cross picket lines. H.R. 3936 and S. 2112 would restore a degree of fairness to labor relations that has been sorely lacking during the Reagan-Bush era.

Members of Local 1245 can help assure their own strength at the bargaining table in future negotiations by urging their U.S. Senators and Representative to support this important legislation.
Propositions 111 & 116: Time to untangle traffic tie-ups

The freedom to travel is regarded by most Californians as a fundamental right. The ability to travel broadens our choices for both work and leisure. It is also the key to California’s continuing economic success. But California’s transportation system is in serious trouble. Mind-boggling traffic delays eat up our leisure time, reduce business efficiency, and foul the air. Population trends guarantee that congestion will become dramatically worse in the near future.

Propositions 111 and 108 offer Californians a sensible way out of the traffic nightmare. By boosting truck weight fees, authorizing rail bonds, and increasing the gasoline tax by nine cents over a period of five years, these measures will generate $18.5 billion for new public transportation projects, highway construction and maintenance, and vital bridge repairs. Proposition 111 will modify the state’s spending limit, the infamous Gann limit, so that these new funds can be spent.

Would this be an unreasonable expenditure of public dollars? Hardly. California ranks last in the nation in per capita spending on transportation. California’s current nine cent tax on motor fuel ranks 47th in the nation. As
Van de Kamp: proven leader, proven friend

John Van de Kamp doesn’t just ask for labor’s support. He’s earned it.

As state attorney general since 1983, Van de Kamp has placed himself squarely on the side of working people every chance he got. The facts speak for themselves:

• Van de Kamp issued a legal opinion blocking the Deukmejian administration from weakening the state’s prevailing wage law.
• Van de Kamp gave $50,000 from his own campaign fund to help pass the initiative to restore Cal-Osha.
• Van de Kamp consistently voiced strong support for collective bargaining for public employees.

Perhaps most revealing of all, Van de Kamp honors picketlines. In 1986 he displayed his solidarity with working people when he refused to cross a CWA picket line to appear at a GTE event.

In addition to being a strong supporter of labor, Van de Kamp has championed many issues of deep concern to all Californians.

As the Los Angeles district attorney, he created one of the country's first victim-witness assistance programs and started special units on sexual assault and child abuse. As state attorney general, Van de Kamp led the nation in effective drug education efforts, while doubling the number of state narcotics officers.

Van de Kamp has the strongest environmental record of any attorney general in California history. He's fought to protect Lake Tahoe, wetlands, and all the state's other environmentally sensitive land. He's strongly opposed cancerogenic pesticides, toxic waste sites, and offshore oil drilling.

Van de Kamp is the chief proponent of the current Clean Government Initiative (Proposition 112), which would limit terms for state officials and campaign spending limits tied to public partial financing of all state elected positions. He's earned it.

He's earned it.

John Van de Kamp: labor's pick

Van de Kamp has been out in front. He's more than just a reliable friend of labor; he's a proven effective leader for all Californians.

The race for governor: why it matters

The governor wields tremendous power over the lives of California working people, for good or for ill. Consider:

Gov. George Deukmejian, on two occasions, vetoed bills that would have restricted the ability of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to interfere in the collective bargaining process. The bills would have enhanced Local 1245's ability to make gains for its members, Deukmejian blocked that from happening.

Gov. George Deukmejian steadfastly opposed virtually all attempts to improve Workers Compensation benefits, Unemployment Insurance and Disability Insurance. Any such measures that were opposed by employers were guaranteed to draw a Deukmejian veto.

Gov. George Deukmejian refused to utilize the power of his office to enforce laws to protect workers' wages. Under his administration, the Dept. of Industrial Relations compiled a pitiful record in prosecuting violations of the state's prevailing wage and minimum wage laws. What's more, he vetoed bills that would have enabled workers to go to court to recover the wages stolen from them by employers.

Gov. George Deukmejian used his appointment powers to elevate anti-worker crusaders into positions of tremendous power. To head the Workers Compensation program, the governor appointed Bill Dupliasea, a man who backed the governor's efforts to kill Cal-Osha. To head Cal-Osha, the governor appointed Robert Stranberg, the man who led the opposition to labor's ballot initiative to restore Cal-Osha, Proposition 97. When State Treasurer Jesse Unruh died in office, the governor appointed right-wing extremist Dan Lungren to the post (an appointment rejected by the legislature.)

Not a single piece of legislation sponsored by organized labor during the past eight years was signed into law by Gov. George Deukmejian if it was opposed by big business. He knew who his friends were and he gave them everything they wanted.

The next governor will appoint many people to sit as judges in California courts, including crucial appointments to the state Supreme Court. As local 1245 President Howard Stiefer put it: "You're talking about something that's going to carry over for the next 30 or 40 years."

The governor's office is a position of great power. On election day, we can let that power stay in the hands of someone who believes the purpose of government is to protect the wealthy few. Or we can put that power in the hands of someone who believes that average working person have a right to be heard.

That's what this election is truly about.

Davis deserves re-election

As the state's chief fiscal officer, Controller Gray Davis provides oversight and control of the financial operations of state and local governments.

His record first as an assembly member and then as Controller distinguishes Davis as an individual who ought to be re-elected as Controller.

As a two-term member of the state assembly, Davis authored model legislation establishing standards for the cleanup and removal of asbestos from public schools and subsequent legislation tightening exposure standards of asbestos.

As Controller, Davis initiated a computerized outreach program to help return over $500 million in claimed property belonging to over 1.25 million Californians. He also settled litigation with Bank of America for $53 million which includes a precedent setting acquisition of 41,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land.

As chief of staff to Gov. Edmund G. Brown from 1974-81, Davis served as chairman of the California Council on Criminal Justice where he began the statewide Neighborhood Watch Program.

Davis moved to California with his family at age eleven. He served in Vietnam as a captain in the United States Army and was awarded a Bronze Star. He resides in Los Angeles with his wife, Sharon Ryer.
John Garamendi has compiled an impressive record as a legislator who can deliver. Now he wants a chance to show that he can deliver California from the present insurance crisis.

Like Local 1245's other endorsed candidate for insurance commissioner, Garamendi defends Proposition 103, the 1988 ballot initiative that mandates a rollback in insurance rates. Garamendi pledges to implement the provisions of Proposition 103 and says if it cannot be enforced as written, then the current policy must be revised so that it can be enforced.

"When I'm insurance commissioner, I'll be at the Capitol hammering out legislation to institute the expressed will of the people," Garamendi pledges. "I know how to make good laws and my record of doing so speaks for itself."

Garamendi is no newcomer to the fight for insurance fairness. As a freshman assemblyman in the 1970s, Garamendi introduced legislation to prohibit insurance companies from discriminating on the basis of sexual or marital status. As insurance commissioner, Garamendi believes he will be in a much better position to take on the insurance industry.

"No longer will insurance companies be lifted above the law and over the heads of the people," Garamendi promises. "When I step into the office, the practice of setting rates with unaffiliated financial records will come to an abrupt and final end." He warned insurance companies that they will be required "to truly put the heat on criminals." Garamendi introduced legislation to institute the expressed will of the people, the practice of setting rates with unaffiliated financial records, and says if it cannot be enforced as written, then the current policy must be revised so that it can be enforced.

"When I'm insurance commissioner, I'll be at the Capitol hammering out legislation to institute the expressed will of the people," Garamendi pledges. "I know how to make good laws and my record of doing so speaks for itself."}

Garamendi notes that the insurance commissioner also has an important role to play in homeowners insurance, earthquake insurance, and Workers Compensation. When he was in the Assembly in 1985, he maintained there is "still a lot of work to be done to get the money out of the pockets of the insurance companies and put it in the hands of the injured workers."

Press, who won the endorsement of the California AFL-CIO and the state Democratic Party, believes he's the man to get that job done.

"Ira Reiner has the tenacity of a junkyard dog."

That's how one delegate to the California AFL-CIO convention described Ira Reiner, labor's endorsed candidate for attorney general and the record is clear: protecting workers' rights is something Reiner can really get his teeth into.

As L.A. District Attorney, Reiner has pursued and punished employers who cheat workers. And he doesn't just stop there: he's taken their grips on the wrist. Reiner has filed criminal charges against employers who violate state minimum wage and prevailing wage laws.

Along with his tenacity, Reiner brings genuine creativity to the task of protecting workers' rights. Reiner was the first district attorney in the nation to create an Occupational Safety and Health Section, where trained staff are ready 24 hours a day to respond immediately to occupational fatalities in Los Angeles County. Reiner's vigilance has paid off with over 30 cases prosecuted since the program's inception in 1985.

Reiner was praised at last month's California AFL-CIO convention for his leading role in labor's successful campaign in 1988 to restore Cal-OSHA. In addition, Reiner has proposed a series of strengthening amendments to the state OSHA law to improve worker safety. Legislation proposed by Reiner would create a Corporate Criminal Liability Act.

There are sound reasons why union members trust Ira Reiner. Reiner's paid his dues. Shortly after being elected to the LA Community College Board in 1975 Reiner cast the deciding vote giving union recognition to the teachers, to classified employees and to the building trades union. As Los Angeles City Controller, Reiner was the only elected official to fight a city ballot initiative to reduce city fire fighter's pensions.

Reiner prides himself in his working class background. While working his way through high school, college and law school, Reiner worked as a hamburber cook, bowling alley pin-setter, carpet dyer, truck driver, and boxcar unloader.

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### Candidates officially endorsed by local 1245

The Local 1245 Executive Board, in accordance with the union's by-laws, has endorsed the following candidates for election in the June 5 primary based on their record and positions on issues of concern to working men and women. In cases where there were suitable candidates in both parties, the union endorsed both a Democrat and a Republican. If there were no suitable candidates, the Executive Board made no endorsement. (D) stands for Democrat, (R) stands for Republican.

#### California State Senate

<table>
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<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Candidates</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>William M. Bennett (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Louis P. DePace (D)</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Floyd L. Morrow (D)</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Paul Carpenter (D)</td>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>William A. Brown (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Barbara Boxer (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>John Vasconcellos (D)</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Vic Fazio (D)</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Nancy Pelosi (D)</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Howard Berman (D)</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>George Miller (D)</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Ronald V. Dellums (D)</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Fortney Petie Stark (D)</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Edward R. Roybal (D)</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Tom Bane (D)</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Gary Bond (D)</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Norman Y. Mineta (D)</td>
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#### Recommendations on Ballot Initiatives

The Local 1245 Executive Board, in accordance with the union's by-laws, has adopted the following recommendations on the ballot initiatives to be decided by California voters on June 5.

**Proposition No. 107** Housing and Homeless Bond Act of 1990. Recommendation: YES


**Proposition No. 109** Legislative Reapportionment Legislation. Legislative Deadlines. Recommendation: NO

**Proposition No. 112** Reapportionment by Commission. Recommendation: NO

**Proposition No. 113** The Traffic Congestion Relief and Verically Disabled Persons. Recommendation: YES

**Proposition No. 114** Murder of a Peace Officer. Proposals and Recommendations on the ballot initiatives to be decided by California voters on June 5.

**Proposition No. 115** Criminal Law. Recommendation: NO


**Proposition No. 117** Wildlife Protection. Recommendation: YES

**Proposition No. 118** Legislative Reapportionment. Ethics. Recommendation: NO

**Proposition No. 120** New Prison Construction Bond Act of 1990. Recommendation: YES

**Proposition No. 121** Higher Education Facilities Bond Act of 1990. Recommendation: YES
The Federal Highway Administration has calculated that every $1 in high-way improvements that we put off today will eventually end up costing us $5 in the future—because roads in fair condition are cheaper to repair than roads in poor condition.

Virtually everyone agrees that public transportation is a key element in fighting traffic congestion. If Propositions 111 and 108 are rejected by voters, California’s public transportation projects will be set back by years. If they pass, $3 billion will be invested in inter-city rail, commuter rail and urban rail transit. An additional half billion dollars will go to transit operation and/or capital.

Proposition 111, officially called “The Traffic Congestion Relief and Spending Limitation Act of 1990,” specifically earmarks money for projects designed to reduce or eliminate traffic congestion.

Proposition 116, a separate measure, would authorize nearly $2 billion in general obligation bonds for passenger and commuter rail systems.)

The time has come to look ahead. Californians are ready to put this state in proper shape for our children. Union members can do their part by telling their neighbors and co-workers about the importance of rebuilding our state’s infrastructure and by voting “YES” on Propositions 111, 108 and 116.

You can make a difference: volunteers needed for election push

The accompanying chart shows, California’s motor fuel tax is about half as much as other western states. When inflation is factored in, the purchasing power of California’s motor fuel tax is about half as much as other western states. But we didn’t stop spending. But we didn’t stop spending. As the public infrastructure begins to crumble, we rely on public investments.

In the late 1970s, by passing the Gann limit, Californians put a lid on state spending. But we didn’t stop using the roads and the bridges and the sewer systems and the schools that rely on public investments. As the public infrastructure begins to crumble, we face a fundamental decision. We can begin the repairs and improvements now that will insure a vibrant economy into the 21st Century, or we can hand our children a crippled economy resting on a disintegrating foundation.

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Propositions 118 & 119: phony reforms

Proposition 118 is opposed by Common Cause, the California Teachers Association, the Consumer Federation of California and a host of other groups concerned with good government.

Why are Propositions 118 and 119 backed by huge contributions from the Republican Party and big corporations? Maybe because they only want what’s best for the average working person? Sure. And Sylvester Stallone is Barbara Bush’s sister.
Local 1245 Outside Linemen have been stringing wire for L.D. Myers in Apple Valley, Calif., this spring, replacing old No. 4 copper wire with No. 336 aluminum. The upgraded capacity will help accommodate new growth in the area, according to job foreman Richard Bohn. The new wire is being installed from Navaho Road, up Highway 18, across Central, then back to Navaho.

Climbing for L.D. Myers are Ellison Istre (left) and Mike "Rat" Robinson.

In the bucket on the Myers job are Roy Merritt, left, and Norman Wax.

Working for L.D. Myers in Apple Valley are (from left): Mike "Rat" Robinson, 23 years in Local 1245, lineman; Pat Wandrie, six years, groundman; and Ellison Istre, 20 years, lineman.

Working for L.D. Myers in Apple Valley are (from left): Danny Lee, 8 years in Local 1245, groundman; Richard Bohn, 40 years, foreman; Norman Wax, 25 years, lineman; and Roy Merritt, 30 years, lineman.
BUSH THREATENS TO VETO CHILD CARE BILL

Child care crisis victimizes kids

"It's 11 o'clock. Do you know where your children are?"

Concern over where our children spend their evenings prompted that public service announcement on television a few years back. Today that announcement would have to ask: "It's 2 o'clock in the afternoon—do you know where your baby is?"

The alarming truth is that millions of working Americans leave their young children in unlicensed, and possibly dangerous, child care situations each day. The number of children with working mothers has grown, but the availability of quality child care has not.

In 1986 there were roughly 2.5 million child care slots in licensed facilities around the nation. Meanwhile, some 36.2 million children belonged to families in which either the sole parent or both parents worked. Of these children, 10.5 million were under the age of six.

This month a House-Senate conference committee is expected to hammer out the details of a bill to establish safe, quality and affordable child care for working Americans. The House version of the bill, approved on March 29, would:

- Provide funding to the public school system for expansion of pre-school and after-school care;
- Expand Head Start to a full-day, year-round program;
- Create an infant and toddler program;
- Authorize grants to assist businesses in providing additional child care services for their employees; and
- Increase and expand the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Despite the crying need for these services—only 3,600 out of 6 million American employers provide any child care help at all—White House officials say President Bush will veto the legislation. Bush's opposition to the child care bill should come as no surprise. While Bush touts himself as the "education president," his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 1991 reveals him to be something else entirely.

The Bush budget proposes $500 million in new funds for Head Start, the program that helps prepare low-income four-year-olds for school. But what Bush gives with one hand, he takes away with the other. The Bush budget proposes eliminating $390 million in community service block grants, which help fund the agencies that run 35 percent of the Head Start programs.

Similarly, Bush proposes a new tax credit to help parents with child care expenses. But his budget proposal also calls for cutting child nutrition programs—which subsidize child care centers—by $242 million.

For the unemployed and the working poor, lack of money is a major obstacle to obtaining adequate child care. The Bush budget makes it even more difficult for such families to scrape up the necessary cash by cutting other forms of federal assistance to the poor. For example, Bush would reduce funding for low-income households by $2 billion, including cuts in low-income heating assistance and housing, and cuts in funds for dislocated workers.

Bush's budget is so patently out-of-touch with the needs and desires of average Americans that Congressional leaders declined to put it to a vote last month because even many Republicans would have voted against it.

While the Bush budget may scrimp on child care, major weapons producers are being asked to make no such sacrifices. The Bush budget unveiled in January called for a 65 percent increase in funding for the MX missile, a 47 percent increase for the Cruise missile, a 29 percent increase for the Trident submarine, a 5 percent increase for the Trident II missile, and a 22 percent increase for Star Wars.

These weapons programs alone will cost $171.1 billion in the coming year.

The House child care package, in contrast, would cost about $2.4 billion a year, in addition to offering about $3 billion in tax credits for low- and moderate-income parents. If the President vetoes this legislation, millions of working Americans will continue to have little choice but to entrust their children to unlicensed child care centers of unknown quality and safety.

Dishonor roll: lawmakers against child care bill

During the House debate on the child care legislation, H.R. 3, the following U.S. Representatives from California and Nevada voted to weaken the bill by providing 50 percent less money for Head Start and other programs, and by cutting provisions for school-based day care. When working parents vote next November, they should remember that these representatives, all Republicans, voted to cut funds for kids.

NEVADA
Vucanovich

CALIFORNIA
Herger
Campbell
Pasheyan

LAGOMARSINO
GALLEGLY
Moorhead
Lewis, J.
Dornan

THOMAS, W.
DREIER
McCandless

VUCA
CAL

DANNEMEYER
COX
Lowery
Rohrabacher
Packard
Hunter

Value of life

How much is a child's life worth? Beyond calculation, most parents would say. But by the reckoning of the U.S. Government, the actual figure assigned to a child's life is $740.

That's the average fine levied against firms employing children who were killed on the job in 1987 and 1988.

According to a report by the U.S. General Accounting Office, child labor law violations in America rose by 250 percent between 1983 and 1989. There were more than 24,000 violations in 1989 alone, including 2,000 cases of children under the legal minimum age of 14 working, and 15,500 instances of children under 16 being forced to work longer hours than the law allows.

In 1987 and 1988, 50 minors were killed and 128,000 injured at work. Thirty-seven of the deaths resulted in fines, which added up to a grand total of $27,364—an average of $740 per death.
SMUD classifications merged

Troubleshooters and fault locators will be merged into the troubleshooter classification within the Energy Operations Dept. as the result of a letter agreement between Local 1245 and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. The letter agreement also provides for a new working supervisor level classification, "Senior Troubleshooter." According to the agreement, current employees may receive augmented training in overhead and/or underground systems on a voluntary basis. However, no current employees will be required to receive new training beyond their current classification requirements.

New troubleshooters... will be required to be trained in all aspects of both overhead and underground systems.

The salary for the new classification is $20.41 per hour, 5 percent above the current rate for troubleshooters and fault locators, and 7.5 percent above the existing lineman/linewoman rate.

The senior troubleshooter will provide lead supervision and technical guidance to troubleshooters and will be responsible for ensuring that overhead/underground outages are located and repaired in a safe and timely manner.

The senior troubleshooter's compensation will be set at $21.68 per hour, 6.2 percent above the troubleshooter rate. The new classification is consistent in terms of level and scope with the line construction foreman class.

Charm delayed

Due to a factory delay, the women's charm advertised in last month's Utility Reporter is not yet available. We regret any inconvenience this may cause our readers. All orders will be placed on backorder and shipped as soon as the charms are received from the factory. Thank you for ordering from the Union Shopper.

Members protest drug testing

from PAGE ONE

tunities for rehabilitation. Bargaining with Pacific Gas Transmission also showed promise of eventually yielding an agreement.

However, at Utility Reporter press time strong differences remained between the union and Sierra Pacific over the testing of meter readers and the testing of employees who cross state lines in the course of their job duties.

The union continues to contest the legality of the DOT regulations in federal court, but a decision in the near future is unlikely. Although the union wanted testing blocked until a final decision was issued, the court ruled in March that testing could go forward as scheduled in April.

In a related development, the Supreme Court in late April affirmed a lower court's position upholding drug testing for DOT employees. Although this case does not directly affect the union's case—which deals with testing by private employers covered by the DOT regulations—it offered a glimpse of the high court's general attitude toward drug testing.

The union continues to oppose random testing of employees on the grounds that it represents an unconstitutional invasion of privacy. Any agreement the union enters into regarding testing procedures under the DOT regulations would become null and void if the DOT regulations are ultimately overturned in court.
Local AT LARGE

Conference in Chico draws 46 stewards

A training conference for shop stewards in the union's Sacramento Valley Region drew 46 participants to the Chico, Calif., Holiday Inn on March 10.

The conference provided training for stewards in grievance procedure, contract enforcement, keeping the membership informed, the two-gate system, and other issues.


Union honors members for years of service

Los Padres and Southern Coast Valleys Division Pin Dinner

March 9, 1990

40 years: Business Rep. Mike Haentjens (left) and Business Manager Jack McNally (right) congratulate Howard Shinn on 40 years of service.

35 years: Business Rep. Mike Haentjens and Business Manager Jack McNally congratulate Jack Graves (second from left) and Ken Whinery on 35 years of service.

30 years: Business Rep. Mike Haentjens and Business Manager Jack McNally congratulate Don Woods (second from left) and Clif Jimeson (right) on 30 years of service.

25 years: Celebrating a quarter century of membership in the union are (from left) Chris Christofferson, Les Brazil, Chet Bartlett, Jess Armas, Guy Lamoureux, Jim Cady, Frank

20 years: Celebrating 20 years of membership in the union are (from left) Chris Lopez, Jim Padgett, Rich Sumabat, Tony Azevedo, Max Bakke, Jr., Steve Diaz, Ben Valenzuela and Pat Dolan.

May 1990 Utility Reporter 15
The California Labor Federation has placed the following firms on its "We Don’t Patronize" list. Firms are placed on this list after a written request from an affiliated union has been approved by the Federation’s Executive Council. All friends of labor are urged to avoid patronizing these firms.

**Hotels & Restaurants**

- All Marriott Hotels in California with the specific exception of the Marriott Hotel at Fisherman’s Wharf in San Francisco, which is a union house.
- The California Labor Federation has placed the following firms on its "We Don’t Patronize" list:
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  - All Marriott Hotels in California with the specific exception of the Marriott Hotel at Fisherman’s Wharf in San Francisco.
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**San Jose Area**

- Cindy’s Restaurant, 17025 Condit Road, Morgan Hill.
- Giorgio’s Pizza House, 1445 Foxworthy, San Jose.
- House of Genji/Cathay Restaurant, 1535 N. First St., San Jose.
- Holiday Inn-Palo Alto, 625 El Camino Real, Palo Alto.
- Hungry Tiger Restaurant, 1010 Sunnyvale-Saratoga Rd., Sunnyvale.
- Magic Pan Restaurant, 335 S. Winchester Blvd., San Jose.
- Red Baron Restaurant, 2500 Cunningham Ave., San Jose.
- Sonoma Fairmont Hotel at South Market and San Carlos.
- Sirloin & Brew Unlimited, Restaurant, 1267 North 2nd St., Sunnyvale.
- Travelodge, 946 Weddell Dr., Sunnyvale.
- Vagabond Motor Hotel, 1486 North First, San Jose.

**Santa Clara Area**

- El Encanto Hotel and Garden Villas.

**Stockton Area**

- Carmen’s Mexican Restaurant, Lincoln Center.
- Hilton Hotel, 2323 Grand Canal.
- Ramada Inn, March Lane.
- Stockton Inn Motel and Restaurant, 4219 Waterlook Rd. at Hwy 99.
- Vagabond Motor Hotel, 33 N. Fare.

**Las Vegas, Nev.**

- Landmark Hotel and Casino.

**Sparks, Nev.**

- John Ascougua’s Nugget.

**Manufacturing**

- Co-op, producers of San Francisco and its entities, including Armstrong Kitchens, Armstrong Construction, Armstrong Painting, and Armstrong Roofing.

**Automotive**

- Sacramento area: Walt Davis Chevrolet, Elk Grove.
- Mal Rapton Honda.
- All Paul Snider dealerships.
- Swift Auto World.

**San Francisco area: European Motors, 950 Van Ness Ave.
- Ron Greenspan Volkswagen/Scion, Van Ness Ave.
- San Francisco Auto Center, 2300 16th St.
- Van Ness Auto Plaza, 100 Vanessa.

**San Jose area:**

- Stevens Creek Acura, San Jose; 1825 Hillsdale Ave., San Jose; 1250 Grant Ave, San Jose.

**Others**

- Armstrong Painting & Waterproofing of San Francisco and its entities, including Armstrong Kitchens, Armstrong Construction, Armstrong Painting, and Armstrong Roofing.

**Please Post**

**Please Post**