Changes challenge Sierra Pacific reps

Customer service representatives at Sierra Pacific Power Co. are working hard to make sure that customers don't fall between the cracks as the company struggles through a protracted period of management changes and corporate reorganization.

Don't think that it's been easy.
Since last November, customer service reps in Sierra Pacific's Reno office have worked under two different supervisors and two different managers. That has meant adapting to abrupt changes in management style, according to Gretchen Djukanovich, See PAGE 8

Training, compensation are part of package

PG&E, union agree on commercial driver's licenses

Local 1245 and Pacific Gas & Electric have reached agreement on how to meet new state requirements concerning commercial driver's licenses.

Because California has increased the number of vehicles that can be operated only by persons carrying commercial licenses, many union members found they were no longer legally qualified under the new requirements to drive the vehicles they had been driving all along. In the new letter agreement, the company and the union agreed on a method for employees to volunteer for commercial license training and on a formula for compensating employees who hold the licenses.

The agreement "provides additional income for employees to carry commercial driver's licenses," said Local 1245 Asst. Business Manager Roger Stalcup, "but does not build it into the job definition."

At each headquarters, the company will designate enough non-entry level positions to be able to operate all available equipment requiring a commercial driver's license. This number will generally be 125 percent of the number of pieces of equipment requiring a commercial license to operate.

The company will then solicit "bids" from all non-beginning level employees in the department who are qualified by possession of a Class "A" license. Awards to qualified bidders will be in order of those employees with the greatest service, without regard to classification.

Successful bidders with a weekly base rate of $715 or greater will receive a lump sum annual premium of $600. Employees with a weekly base rate less than $715 will receive a lump sum annual premium of $500.

In addition to this pool of drivers, employees who generally work on crews will also be entitled to obtain a commercial driver's license at company expense. If these employees are asked to use their commercial licenses, as in the case of a temporary upgrade, they will be paid a daily premium of $2.50 if their weekly base rate is $715 or greater, or $2.00 if below $715.

Members wanting more details on the commercial license agreement should contact their business representative. Those interested in positions requiring the commercial license should obtain a commercial driver's license as soon as possible.

Successful bidders with a weekly base rate of $715 or greater will receive a lump sum annual premium of $600.

Employees with a weekly base rate less than $715 will receive a lump sum annual premium of $500.

In addition to this pool of drivers, employees who generally work on crews will also be entitled to obtain a commercial driver's license at company expense. If these employees are asked to use their commercial licenses, as in the case of a temporary upgrade, they will be paid a daily premium of $2.50 if their weekly base rate is $715 or greater, or $2.00 if below $715.

Members wanting more details on the commercial license agreement should contact their business representative. Those interested in positions requiring the commercial license should obtain a commercial driver's license as soon as possible.
Dispute over foremen
Union complaint targets Bureau of Reclamation

An attempt by the Bureau of Reclamation to strip foremen and working foremen out of the Local 1245 bargaining unit has prompted the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers to file a complaint with the Federal Labor Relations Authority. The Bureau first proposed the bargaining unit changes during negotiations with Local 1245 in late 1989 and early 1990, according to union attorney Tom Dalzell. The Bureau unilaterally imposed similar changes upon other IBEW locals, prompting the international union to become involved.

"We were the guinea pig," noted Dalzell.

The union maintains that the Civil Service Reform Act, passed in the 1970s, protects the Bureau from such unilateral actions. In effect, current employees were "grandfathered" under the terms of the Act. The local 1245 foremen fall within the provisions of that Act, Dalzell said, making it illegal for the Bureau to remove them from the unit.

In all, about 20 foremen and working foremen were affected by the Bureau's actions. The union represents approximately 200 Bureau workers.

"This is part of a set of continuing problems with the Bureau," said Dalzell, noting that the union had to take the Bureau to arbitration over wages in 1989.

Vocational school grant awarded to Carson City, Nev. graduate

Tawnie Vonasek, daughter of Local 1245 member Ronald Vonasek, has been awarded the union's Trade and Vocational School Grant for 1990. Vonasek, who resides in Carson City, Nev., graduated from Carson High School in January. She said that she intends to use the award to study interior designing at Books College in Long Beach, Ca.

Ronald Vonasek is an equipment operator for Sierra Pacific Power Co. in Carson City.

New methods at Utility Reporter

If your Utility Reporter has looked a little different to you the past two months there's a reason for it.

In June, Local 1245 began publishing its paper in-house, using desktop computer equipment. Although there has been no major effort to change the newspaper's style, a few style changes proved unavoidable during the transition. As we explore all the possibilities of our new equipment, other small changes may appear in the newspaper's style in coming months.

Readers' comments on the newspaper's appearance and style, favorable or otherwise, are always welcomed.

HUGHES CREW
Outside Line members were at work this spring for R. C. Hughes, performing modifications to Southern California Edison's Stetson Substation in Hemet, Ca. Sitting, from left: Bob Thompson, 25 years in the union, Ray Boslvert, 38 years and Roy Dunkin, 6 years; standing, from left: Rod Walser, 20 years, Keith Terry, 3 years, Bill "Kinky" Cattallo, 21 years, Jerry Girard, 15 years and Dan Scott, 34 years. (Photo: Eric Wolfe)
Airspace workers ratify first contract

The Airspace workers helped insure the strength of their union by negotiating union security and dues checkoff provisions into the contract.

Wages will rise by 6 percent in the first year, and by 5 percent in each of the succeeding two years.

The agreement covers 47 Airspace personnel.

Point of View

Health care group wraps up study

Jack McNally, IBEW 1245 Business Manager

This month we are putting the final touches to the bargaining proposals as we prepare to exchange proposals with Pacific Gas and Electric Co. on July 31.

In addition, we will wrap up the Joint Study on Health Care discussions and submit a joint statement to the parties for consideration in negotiations.

The activity of the Joint Study group included ten full-day sessions to explore the issues and concerns surrounding healthcare benefits for PG&E. There were several subcommittee meetings as well, which gathered data or reviewed issues in greater detail for presentation back to the full committee.

The Joint Study group met with leading experts in the field of health care to discuss the factors leading to the continuing rise of healthcare costs, review the latest developments in efforts to contain costs, and look at new concepts in benefit designs.

The group reviewed with consultants both the experience and utilization of the PG&E management and the National Leadership Coalition on Health Care, addressed the Joint Study group on the health care crisis from the national point of view.

He explained that the Coalition was a nationwide organization of corporations, labor organizations, consumer groups and the providers of medical care coming together to work for a comprehensive restructuring of the nation's health care system with the aim of improving quality, achieving universal access, containing costs and enhancing competition.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is a member of the National Leadership Coalition. PG&E just recently joined the Coalition.

The Joint Study group was presented with comprehensive data and information concerning medical and health care. This information should be valuable to the parties for the deliberation in the bargaining process.

The parties will be well educated on the issues of medical care and should address the subject in an intelligent and fair manner to find common ground at the bargaining table.
Trade unionists help chart new future for Hungary

On June 25 a delegation of Hungarian trade unionists visited Local 1245 headquarters in Walnut Creek during a ten-city American tour. Although the delegates come from many different trades, including an electrical worker, they are all aligned with the Democratic League of Independent Trade Unions, a new labor movement in Hungary that is challenging the Communist Party-dominated unions. Despite their relatively small numbers, they believe they have an important role to play in the new economic order that is emerging in Hungary.

To find out more about their hopes for the future, the Utility Reporter interviewed Tamas Reti, director of the Academy of the League of Independent Trade Unions (FSZDL).

UR: For decades you've lived in a planned economy dominated by the Communist Party. What would you like to see in its place?

Reti: We support state, private and mixed [ownership of] property. We also are supporting so-called employee ownership where the workers have some stock shares. The last forty years... we had a very authoritarian system. Hungary got into a very acute economic and political crisis. Now we support private ownership, but with a strong union movement where the workers are defended by strong unions.

UR: Visiting trade unionists from Hungary are joined by their interpreters and Business Manager Jack McNally during a visit to Local 1245 headquarters in Walnut Creek last month. The unionists are part of a resurgent labor movement in Hungary that is helping to challenge the Communist Party's monopoly on power. (Photo: Ed Caruso)

The last forty years... we had a very authoritarian system. Hungary got into a very acute economic and political crisis. Now we support private ownership, but with a strong union movement where the workers are defended by strong unions.

Reti: It's a very hard question to answer. Just take an enterprise which has obsolete equipment, and it got into bankruptcy. Who wants to own it? No one. Who has the money to update a state-owned enterprise? The people don't have enough capital to buy. This is the Czechoslovak economy [model]. They are supporting this idea that you have to distribute the commonwealth among the workers. But I think you get something free, it isn't good. Because you have to respect the value of everything.

UR: How does life change for workers when state-run enterprises are sold to private interests?

Reti: If there is a capitalist, let's say, going to buy a former state-owned enterprise because this enterprise got into bankruptcy and the state is unable to finance it, it happens that he fires one-third of the employees and the rest who stay have much better pay. And the people who manage to stay because they are better educated and more skilled, they are happy. They are not concerned who owns the factory. They are fully motivated to work. The communist system prevented that. They were not paid. So the system [developed] a kind of second economy. So he was more concerned to save things for the second economy. So everyone would fulfill only half his capacity for the state and try to save over for the private [economy].

UR: Is profit-making the union's only concern then?

Reti: Of course the unions in Europe are for social democracy, for the rights of the people. We can say as much slogans as you want. But in the present situation we simply cannot afford it. So what can be done is to give full freedom for the private initiative at home and hope that the stronger, more able people will pull up the weaker. And in this game, the unions have to play an important role to control this transition [to make sure the weaker don't get crushed].

UR: When did the new union federation come into existence?

Reti: It started in May 1988. The first union was the union of scientific research workers. The whole idea came from the white collar work force. And this was at that time more of a political movement against the one-party state. Many people who belonged to the opposition joined us because we were the start.

Then the one-party system started to fall apart and the multi-party system was accepted by the Communists. Then the Democratic League of Independent Unions, the umbrella organization, was formed in December 1988.

UR: Is this new labor federation affiliated with any political party?

Reti: Our position is to be neutral. We don't support any party, but we support any politicians who are defending the rights of labor. There are one or two parties to which we are very close, and of course we are against the Communist Party.

UR: How many unions are affiliated with this new federation?

Reti: About 50. There is affiliation according to profession. There are independent unions in separate factories. The electrician [in the delegation] works in a power plant of 2,000 workers. These workers established a new union with 30 people. They are only 30 but they enjoy the sympathy of [the rest of the workers]. They managed to get for all the workers a 25 percent wage increase. And they managed to fire the general director. So even if they are small in number, they have power. So the League is only 100,000, while the Communists are declaring they have 3.5 million, but it is very misleading to compare these two figures, because a lot of people just because of inertia don't leave [the Communist-affiliated union].
Local 1245 shop stewards attend training conferences

Tamas Reti (center), director of the Academy of the League of Independent Trade Unions (FSZDL), chats with two of his fellow Hungarian trade unionists during their visit to Local 1245 last month. (Photo: Eric Wolfe)

UR: Your movement would appear to have historical momentum on its side. How long can that momentum last?
Reti: This is a basic question. I’m not sure that we could win. It’s still open.
UR: Does that mean the Communist Party bureaucracy could win?
Reti: The state-run unions have a huge apparatus. They have the assets of the union, huge buildings, summer vacation houses, everything. It happens that they want to join us to save themselves. But this is very dangerous because they could eat us. [take us over].
UR: How optimistic do you feel that workers in Hungary can achieve economic development while retaining justice for workers?
Reti: I have a double mind. As an economist I am fairly pessimistic. But as a union leader I have to be very optimistic because I have to convince the people that this is the only way out.
It’s really very hard to get out of this bottom line that we got from this Bolshevik order. I think what we are doing is very exceptional, to make a command economy into a market economy and to create a democratic society. In the Communist labor code, which was never enforced, there were very strong union rights. We are fearful that in a market economy with a new labor code, which is needed, unions would have less rights than before, on paper. But we want to have a real functioning bargaining process, at the plant level and the national level. For us, I think the West European model is closer than your model because you are too much decentralized. We want to have collective agreement on the industrial level and national level and not just on the plant level.

"The electrician [in the visiting delegation] works in a power plant of 2000 workers. These workers established a new union with 30 people. They are only 30 but they enjoy the sympathy of [the rest of the workers]. They managed to get for all the workers a 25 percent wage increase. And they managed to fire the general director."
Nuclear plant workers face increased health risks as NRC adjusts radiation standards

By Eric Wolfe

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is in the final stages of adopting new radiation standards that will permit nuclear power plant operators to expose workers to increased levels of radiation despite mounting evidence that any increase in exposure increases the risks of getting cancer.

The new standards allow companies to subject workers to "planned special exposures" of 5 rems above and beyond the current annual maximum of 6 rems "normal" exposure, meaning that some workers could receive a total of 10 rems per year of external exposure. The standards also greatly increase the allowable dose to various internal organs, including the lungs, gonads and thyroid.

The NRC, which could give final approval to the new standards as early as this month, maintains that the new standards pose no additional health risks for nuclear workers. But the workers themselves are not likely to draw much comfort from the scientific record.

The International Commission on Radiation Protection (ICRP), an advisory group of radiation scientists from around the world, established the modern occupational exposure limit at 5 rems per year in the 1950s. That limit was based largely on evidence that survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb blasts suffered adverse health effects from exposures in the 20-25 rem range.

However, in the 1960s and 1970s new evidence indicated that radiation exposure was more dangerous than previously thought. A study of 30,000 workers at the Hanford, Wash., nuclear installation, for example, revealed that the number of cancers was 10 to 30 times greater than expected from exposure to the 5 rem per year occupational standard. The study, conducted by Dr. Thomas Mancuso with U.S. Dept. of Energy funding, correlated deaths from multiple myeloma and pancreatic cancers with exposure to radiation at levels averaging less than 2 rems per year.

Alarmed by what he had found, Mancuso in the late 1970s called for a ten-fold reduction in radiation exposure limits for nuclear workers. But the ICRP moved in the other direction. Not only did it fail to recommend a reduction in the 5 rem limit on external exposure, in 1977 it adopted ICRP-26, which called for increasing allowable dose rates for internal organs. The proposed new dose rates were 20 rems per year to gonads (an increase by a factor of four), 42 rems per year to active bone marrow (an increase by a factor of 8.3), 42 rems per year to lungs (an increase by a factor of 2.8), 33 rems per year to breasts (an increase by a factor of 2.2), and 50 rems per year to thyroid and bone surfaces (an increase by a factor of 1.7).

These recommended exposure levels form the basis for the exposure levels that the NRC is now on the verge of approving for workers at all NRC-regulated facilities, including Local 1245 members at the Diablo Canyon nuclear plants.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers opposes the provision of the new regulations that would permit workers to receive up to 10 rems per year as a result of the "planned special exposures."

Significant additional risk

According to International Rep. Paul Shoop, "planned special exposures" might mean lower overall exposure to the entire workforce by allowing one experienced worker to stay longer on a particular task, rather than splitting the task up among multiple workers. But the worker called upon to absorb the extra radiation assumes significant additional risk.

"We have people in maintenance, health physics, instrument people who do get these kinds of exposures," said Shoop, "and they would be getting the 'planned special exposures.'"

The ICRP recommendations drew a stinging rebuke from one of America's leading health physicists, Dr. Karl Z. Morgan, himself a former chairman of ICRP as well as the former director of the Health Physics Division at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

"This increase might be justified were the risk of radiation-induced cancer much less than we perceived it to be almost 30 years ago, but just the contrary is the case."

Dr. Karl Morgan, former chairman, International Commission on Radiation Protection (ICRP)
IC moves to weaken radiation protection standards

U.S.-Japanese study of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb victims. The new research, funded in part by money from the U.S. Dept. of Energy, indicated that less radiation was released than originally thought at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which means that the observed health effects were caused by smaller doses than previously assumed. On the basis of these findings, two of the researchers calculated that the health risk from low dose radiation is 11 to 15 times greater than previously assumed by the standard-setting commissions.

The U.S.-Japanese study was taken very seriously by the scientific community. It prompted the National Academy of Sciences last December to declare that the risk of dying from radiation-induced cancer is now four times greater than previously assumed. Even the NRC has acknowledged that "everyone is pretty much in agreement" on the National Academy of Sciences figures, according to NRC spokesman Alan Roecklein.

Commitment to safety?

Although no single study can offer the definitive answer, virtually all research indicates that substantial risks exist even at currently permissible exposure levels, certainly far greater risk than the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is prepared to acknowledge. The fact that the NRC is preparing to forge ahead and loosen standards raises serious questions about its commitment to worker safety.

A U.S. Senate aide who closely follows nuclear issues called the move to relax standards part of a "tragic historical pattern" by the U.S. government.

"Official disbelief"

"They ignore the early warning signs that the standards are inadequate," the aide recently told the Utility Reporter. "Then victims start to appear and then official disbelief sets in until the evidence is so overwhelming that they have to do something. But by that time it's too late to protect those people who could have been saved."

In the early part of this century workers suffered because so little was known about the dangers of radiation. An epidemic of diseases among radiologists finally led to the establishment in 1920 of the first radiation limit of 52 rems per year. (A rem, standing for Roentgen Equivalent Man, is a unit of radiation measurement which estimates the degree of biological damage from a certain amount of absorbed radiation.)

As cancer incidence increased among doctors and patients treated with x-rays during the 1930s, the limit was reduced to 36 rems per year for external x-ray exposure. Deaths among watch dial painters, who worked with luminescent paint containing radium in the 1930s, led to the first limits on internal exposure from radium deposited inside workers' bodies.

During World War II, when the U.S. government was developing the atomic bomb, patriotic fervor dampened any critical evaluation of radiation exposure from the new nuclear weapons technology. Scientific evidence was pushed to the back seat to political expediency, an arrangement that many believe continues to this day.

However, the atomic explosions at Hiroshima and Nagasaki left serious questions about the creation in 1956 of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) recommendation now being adopted by the NRC. It is that in produce some number of cancer cases we can tolerate more dose than we could before."

Even if one accepts the premise that it now takes 42 rems to produce "x" numbers of lung cancers instead of just 15 rems, the NRC's reasoning is blood-chilling. Rather than rejoicing at the knowledge that fewer people will die at the 15-rem limit than we previously had supposed, the NRC says we should raise the exposure limit until we hit a pre-established quota of cancer deaths.

Roecklein rejected the idea that caution would dictate, at the very minimum, keeping the internal exposure limits the same.

"We're already cautious. We're already as safe as you can possibly be and still have the industry," Roecklein said. He did not, however, explain how the industry was able to survive with the 15-rem limit on lung exposure up until now but could only survive from here on out if the limit was increased to 42 rems.

"Spurious arguments"

Morgan, who in 1947 authored what was probably the first scientific paper ever published on internal dose, says the new ICRP standards on occupational radiation dose greater than 20 rems.

Virtually all research indicates that some number of cancer cases we can tolerate more dose than we could before."

Even if one accepts the premise that it now takes 42 rems to produce "x" numbers of lung cancers instead of just 15 rems, the NRC's reasoning is blood-chilling. Rather than rejoicing at the knowledge that fewer people will die at the 15-rem limit than we previously had supposed, the NRC says we should raise the exposure limit until we hit a pre-established quota of cancer deaths.

Roecklein rejected the idea that caution would dictate, at the very minimum, keeping the internal exposure limits the same.

"We're already cautious. We're already as safe as you can possibly be and still have the industry," Roecklein said. He did not, however, explain how the industry was able to survive with the 15-rem limit on lung exposure up until now but could only survive from here on out if the limit was increased to 42 rems.

"Spurious arguments"

Morgan, who in 1947 authored what was probably the first scientific paper ever published on internal dose, says the new ICRP standards on occupational radiation dose greater than 20 rems.

Utility Reporter 	7 July 1990
Sierra Pacific service reps carry on despite corporate restructuring

from PAGE ONE

a customer telephone services supervisor. She says the shakeups have put extra stress on the company's workers.

Djukanovich, herself a union member prior to becoming a supervisor, said one of the biggest headaches during the transition has been not having enough people to answer incoming phone calls. That means customers sometimes have to wait.

Sierra Pacific undertook the restructuring to streamline company operations, reduce levels of management and consolidate operating functions, according to company news releases. Local 1245 Business Rep. John Stralla says that the workforce agrees there was too much management, but he thinks the company's reorganization went too far.

Stralla says that the company, in the view of many employees, "got the ball and ran off the field with it."

And the changes keep on coming. In May the company announced the election of William L. Keepers as Sierra Pacific's new president and chief executive officer.

Will continued change at the top translate into further shakeups down through the ranks? Employees have little choice but to wait and see. And while they wait, they carry on, bearing the responsibility of providing continuity for the customers...
Sierra Pacific service reps

from PAGE EIGHT

Judy Sharpnack, customer service rep.

Sierra Pacific service reps

Sylvia Pendleton, customer service rep (collections).

Bargaining between C.P. National and physical and clerical workers represented by Local 1245 is slated to begin July 16. Meeting in S. Lake Tahoe to prepare for the talks are union members (standing, from left): Mike Rosenberg, serviceman and steward, David Rust, gas serviceman, Susie Rust, steno clerk, Brian Piazzo, meter reader; (seated, from left) Debbie Walsh, customer service rep. and Bryan Wasson, utility man.

Outside Line members of Local 1245 tying in wire for Henkels & McCoy in a residential area of Apple Valley, Calif., from left, are: Jimmy Mays, lineman, 15-year union member, John Benedict, lineman, 22 years, Don Worrell, foreman, 33 years, and Dan Crandall, groundman, 22 years.

A Local 1245 crew of Outline Linemen pause for a picture after a day of ground framing in a residential area of Apple Valley, Calif., for Henkels & McCoy. From left: Shawn Gibson, groundman, seven-year union member, Mark Ellis, lineman, 13 years, and Al O'Neal, lineman, 30 years.

Whether she's signing someone up for a new hookup or helping a current customer deal with a delinquent bill, O'Dell is on the company's frontline.

"The majority of the customers who come in are pleasant," says O'Dell. "The majority of the time I enjoy waiting on customers. People who move in from out of town will come in and tell you about things. It makes it interesting."

Sometimes, however, customer service reps have to go to the customer.

Keith Carthen, for example, has the job of pursuing delinquent customers who don't walk in through the company's front door.

Despite the unpleasant associations that some people may have with the word "collections", Carthen hardly comes across as the mustachioed villain at the door demanding the rent from granny. Carthen says he would much rather work with a delinquent customer to work out a payment plan than to shut off their power.

The company, he notes, offers a 48-hour extension plan that buys a customer time to evaluate the situation. The company also offers an extension agreement that permits a customer to work out a payment plan.

"At times it's a thankless job. You get cussed out. You feel bad but you gotta do what you gotta do," Carthen says.

And for now what customer service reps at Sierra Pacific have to do is carry on the company's business while management figures out who's in charge. Despite the difficult circumstances, Djukanovich says the workers have risen to the occasion.

"They've done really well and I don't think one customer has suffered because of [the change in management]," Djukanovich says.
SMUD workers give city street a facelift

A major thoroughfare in Sacramento is undergoing a facelift with the help of electrical workers for the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District.

"The city wants to beautify Franklin Blvd., so they want to take all the overhead [lines] off of it and underground everything," said Ron Redding, line foreman light.

However, not all customers can convert to the underground voltages, so SMUD workers are setting poles nearby to provide them with power. Poles are being placed at least 50 feet away from the street to fit in with the beautification plan.

The project spans over 20 blocks along Franklin St., from 33rd to 12th Ave. "It's quite a big job, coming down through here," Redding noted.

Recently the Utility Reporter caught up with one of the SMUD crews at 20th Ave. and Franklin. According to Redding, the crew had been on the job for 2-3 weeks. Another portion of the job was completed last October.

Drug poll's hidden agenda

A recent Gallup poll indicated that 62 percent of California workers favor pre-employment drug testing and that 46 percent favor random testing of current employees. But the poll, which received widespread publicity from California news media, including PG&E Week, turns out to be tainted by a hidden agenda.

The poll was commissioned by the Institute for a Drug-Free Workplace, whose executive director, Mark De Bernardo, is a partner in the anti-union San Francisco law firm of Littler, Mendelson, Fastiff and Tichy.

One of the Institute's members is the Hoffmann-La Roche pharmaceutical firm, a major operator of drug-testing labs and a manufacturer of drug-testing equipment.

What's more, the pollsters didn't even ask real workers. Incredibly, 72 percent of the "workers" surveyed in the poll were professional or managerial employees.

Many workers genuinely do favor drug testing under some circumstances. But to use polling techniques in a cynical effort to manipulate public opinion for private gain casts a cloud over the entire polling profession.

Members approve agreement with Coldwater Creek

Local 1245 members ratified their first contract with Coldwater Creek Operator Corp., formerly GEO Operator Corp., last month.

The agreement provides a good package of wages and benefits, according to Assistant Business Manager Orv Owen. In addition to fully paid medical insurance for employees, the pact provides 10 holidays and a 401K plan.

Foremen will be paid $21.95 to $23.81 per hour, operators will earn $17.22 to $19.79, equipment operators will receive $19.79 and beginning operators $14.61.

The company operates steam wells at The Geysers.
Radiation exposure standards weakened

from PAGE SEVEN

The NRC's own Office of Standards Development said in a 1979 internal memo to an NRC commissioner that the most important impact of looser standards "would be the relaxation of overexposure reporting requirements."

"In general, licensees are very sensitive about overexposure reports and will go to great lengths to avoid them, much to the benefit of the workers. Significant relaxation of overexposure reporting requirements would result in a concomitant relaxation of protection effort on the part of the licensees," the memo warned.

Unfortunately, as the NRC prepares to implement the new exposure standards, the current battle appears to be lost.

However, if nuclear workers choose to engage the fight they will discover they have important allies. Prior to an ICRP meeting in 1987, over 800 scientists from 16 countries signed a petition requesting the ICRP to reduce its recommended maximum permissible radiation exposure levels.

Over 800 scientists from 16 countries signed a petition requesting the ICRP to reduce its recommended maximum permissible radiation exposure levels.
ACE DRILL CORPORATION
- Wire, jobber & letter drills, routers and steel bars
- United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America International Union

AEROMEXICO AIRLINES
- Continental airline carrier
- International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers

BROWN & SHARPE MFG. CO.
- Measuring, cutting and machine tools and pumps
- International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers

BRUCE CHURCH, INC.
- Cobblers, Lettuce Red Coach, Friendly, Green Valley Farms, Lucky
- United Farm Workers of America

BURWOOD PRODUCTS
- Manufacturers of plaques, clocks, and other decorative wall accessories
- United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America International Union

CALIFORNIA TABLE GRAPES
- Table grapes that do not bear the UFW union label on the carton or crate
- United Farm Workers of America

CLARK GRAVE VAULT COMPANY
- Copper and steel burial vaults
- United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America International Union

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES
- Continental airline carrier
- International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, Transport Workers of America Lane

EASTERN AIRLINES
- International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers
- Transport Workers of America Lane

FORT HOWARD PAPER CO.
- Green Bay, Wisconsin and Muskogee, Oklahoma, Mardi-Gras, Page, Soft-Knit tissues and napkins, Anqique towels, Pot-inets, Eaton and Dolly Madison tissues
- United Paperworkers International Union

GARMENT CORPORATION OF AMERICA
- Work clothes and uniforms
- Amalgamated Clothing & Textile Workers Union

GREYHOUND BUS
- Bus company
- Amalgamated Transit Union

HOLLY FARMS
- Chickens and processed poultry products
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen & Helpers of America

INTERNATIONAL PAPER CORPORATION
- Producer of wood products
- International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers

JOHN PORTMAN COMPANIES
- Shopping malls, hotels, property management companies, real estate development investment
- Service Employees International Union

KAWASAKI ROLLING STOCK
- U.S.A.
- Motorcycles
- Transport Workers of America Lane

KRUGER INTERNATIONAL INCORPORATED
- Brand name chairs: Matrix, Poly, Doral, Vertebra, Stax, Alfa, Modular, Auditorium and University Seating
- International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers

LA MODE DU GOLF CO. OF LOS ANGELES
- La Mode and Lady La Mode men's and women's golf apparel
- International Ladies' Garment Workers Union

LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORP.
- Brand name wood products: L-P Wolmanized, Cedartone, Waferwood, Firbripine, Ore-Bond, Redex, Sider, Ketchohan, Palco, Xonolite
- United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, International Woodworkers of America

MOHAWK LIQUEUR CORPORATION
- Mohawk labeled gin, rum, peppermint schnaps, and cordials
- Distillery, Wine and Allied Workers International Union

NAPA VALLEY CO-OP
- Bergfeld 1885 (Sauvignon Blanc)
- Distillery, Wine and Allied Workers International Union

PLYMOUTH RUBBER COMPANY
- Insulating material, rubber bands and vinyl products
- United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum and Plastic Workers of America

R.J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO CO.
- Cigarettes: Camel, Winston, Salem, Doral, Vantage, More, New, Real, Bright, Century, Sterling, YSL, Ritz; Smoking Tobaccos: Prince Albert, George Washington, Caster Hall, Apple, Madeira Mixture, Royal Comfort, Top, Our Advertiser; Little Cigars: Winchester
- Barley, Confectionery & Tobacco Workers International Union

ROMEO CABLE CORPORATION
- Cables used in mining and construction industry
- International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers

STERLING RADIATOR
- Baseboard heaters for the home
- United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America International Union

UNITED STATES PLAYING CARD CO.
- Brand names: Bee, Bicycle, Tally Ho, Aviator and Congress
- Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union

Why do unions declare boycotts? There's usually a pretty good reason.

In an era when laws increasingly restrict workers' right to strike and many corporations try to bust unions, the boycott is sometimes the only weapon left.

A recently published remark by an Eastern Airlines management official shows the vulgarity and callousness that many workers are up against.

The Eastern official was quoted as follows in Newsweek magazine:

“Why do unions declare boycotts? There's usually a pretty good reason. In an era when laws increasingly restrict workers’ right to strike and many corporations try to bust unions, the boycott is sometimes the only weapon left.”