

## SMUD pilot: going astray?

Rule One: the left hand should know what the right hand is doing.

That's a pretty basic principle in getting a job done, but it may be a missing ingredient in the "re-engineering" now underway at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

Since March, the District has been piloting a project in Supply Chain Services, and already there's reason to wonder whether those managing the pilot are in touch with those who designed it.

The Plan: warehouse people ought to issue materials in order to control inventory.

The Reality: the District fails to have warehousemen in place, leaving electric crews with little choice but to do the work themselves.

The Result: the immediate job may get done, but inventory control falls by the wayside.

"I think the District counts on our guys to do whatever they have to do to get the job done," says Grant

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Grant Ritchie, SMUD electrician

## PG&E bargaining to start July 9

General bargaining will take center stage next month as Local 1245 and Pacific Gas and Electric sit down for the first full-fledged

contract negotiations since 1993.

The negotiations, scheduled to begin July 9, will include proposals to modify the three major agree-

ments between the parties: Physical, Clerical and Benefits.

The union's soon-to-be-named bargaining committee will begin meeting in early June to review proposals submitted by the units and to prepare an opening "package." Additional members will be appointed to subcommittees to explore modifications to specific parts of the labor agreements.

"These negotiations will establish future wages, benefits and working conditions at PG&E—something we take very seriously," said Business Manager Jack McNally, who will head the union delegation at the bargaining table. "I am confident that

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Lem Stubblefield makes a point at Stewards Conference in Santa Rosa, one of 11 conferences held April 24 in preparation for bargaining with PG&E. Looking on, from left, are Linda Norris, lone Snyder, Douglas Hall, (Stubblefield), John Kent, and Vince Zinkl.

## Historic pact saves jobs at Sierra Pacific

Power generation employees overwhelmingly approved a labor agreement with Sierra Pacific Power that preserves their job security when the company sells off its power plants next year.

The agreement, approved 123-23 in a mail-ballot vote tallied May 25, was praised by union staff as an historic achievement by rank-and-file negotiators.

"This agreement was an outstanding achievement by a committee that worked endless hours looking at every possible way to protect the wages and benefits that our members have enjoyed for decades," said Local 1245 Business Rep. Bob Choate.

The agreement guarantees that the plants' new owners will retain current

employees with their union status and benefits largely intact. The agreement covers about 185 employees at the Valmy, Ft. Churchill, and Tracy power plants.

A key provision of the agreement preserves the seniority dates of the employees who go to work for the new owners of the plants.

The pact also requires, as a condition of sale, that the pension plan be preserved as a "defined benefit" plan, rather than being "cashed out." As a defined benefit plan, the pension guarantees payments to a retiree for life, while cashing out the plan would have left



Serving on the union negotiating team were (standing, from left) John East, Grant Garrison and John Mauldin; (seated, from left) Mark Chidwick and Randy Osborn. Not pictured: Lee Soukup, Steve Dobyms, and Tom Cornell.

employees with no such guarantee. Union negotiators had calculated

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### In Times Gone By



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**EVENTS**

**June 19**  
Service Awards  
Sacramento, CA

**June 26**  
Service Awards  
Salinas/Monterey, CA  
POSTPONED! STAY TUNED  
FOR THE NEW DATE!

**June 26**  
Service Awards  
Palm Springs, CA

**July 10**  
Service Awards  
Pacifica, CA

**July 17**  
Service Awards  
Santa Rosa, CA

**July 24**  
Service Awards  
San Jose, CA

**July 24**  
Service Awards  
Oakland, CA

**July 31**  
Service Awards  
San Luis Obispo

**August 7**  
Service Awards  
Stockton, CA

**August 14-15**  
Advisory Council  
Reno, NV

**NOTICE**

The Unit Meeting Schedule  
for July-December 1999  
can be found on  
Pages 14-15.

**APPOINTMENTS**

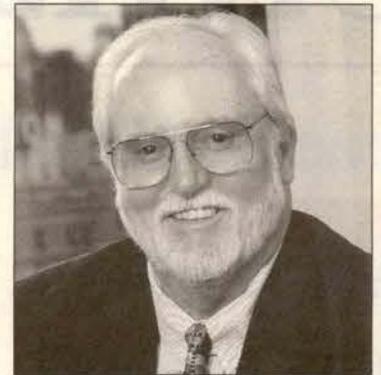
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists  
1998 28<sup>th</sup> National Convention  
Dorothy Fortier

Coalition of Labor Union Women  
National Executive Board Meeting  
Dorothy Fortier  
Kathy Tindall

**POINT OF VIEW**

**Auditor slaps CPUC report**

By Jack McNally, Business Manager



The California Public Utilities Commission last month got slapped down again for its outrageous report on last December's power outage in San Francisco.

That's the report that accused PG&E of having an "error-prone work culture."

After the CPUC report was released to the public, I wrote to the governor, the media, the chair of the CPUC, and every legislator in this union's jurisdiction to express our disgust with the CPUC's so-called investigation. I pointed out that the CPUC has neither the legal authority nor the expertise to conduct such an investigation of the transmission grid.

A month later, in hearings at the state capitol, Senator Steve Peace echoed our concerns that the CPUC

had overstepped its authority, and had essentially wasted \$400,000 of the taxpayers' money by performing work that was already being performed by another agency, the Independent System Operator.

Now the California State Auditor has released a 17-page report that details the CPUC's incompetent handling of the outage investigation.

Says the auditor:

"[T]he consultant's report states that PG&E has an 'error-prone work culture that tends to bypass procedures and work practice requirements.' The report lists four examples of inconsistencies in procedural use and adherence occurring shortly before the Dec. 8, 1998, power failure. However, based on these examples, we had difficulty

arriving at the same conclusion that the report presents. Specifically, it appears that the consultant based the conclusion that PG&E's entire workforce is error prone on a few examples related to one instance—the Bay Area power outage."

The auditor also charges that the CPUC "inadequately monitored its consultant's contract and failed to ensure that the consultant's expenditures were reasonable and remained within budgeted amounts."

Here are some of the auditor's other conclusions about the CPUC report:

- The CPUC poorly monitored its contract and cannot substantiate the cost of the investigation into the power failure.
- The CPUC cannot show that it reviewed its experts' qualifications.
- The consultant's report offered inadequate support for some conclusions (notably, the "error-prone work culture").
- The peer reviewer of the consultant's report may not have been independent.
- The CPUC hasn't verified the consultant's costs were reasonable.
- The CPUC cannot substantiate the contract amount.
- The absence of invoices has prevented the Commission from monitoring its consultant's costs.

The California State Auditor's report confirms that the CPUC is an agency gone astray, an agency out of touch with its original mission to safeguard the public interest.

Serving in a regulatory agency is a public trust. The people need and deserve honest regulators of judicious temperament whose first interest is the truth—not publicity-seeking regulatory cowboys who shoot first and ask questions later.





## UtilityReporter

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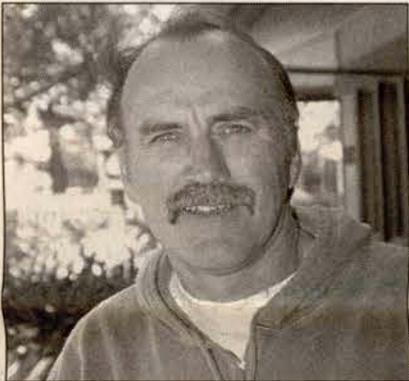
Single copies \$1. Subscription by arrangement. Have you moved recently? Please send complete new address and your Social Security Number (by U.S. Mail) to: "Address Change", IBEW Local 1245, P.O. Box 4790, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Our Web Site can be viewed at [www.IBEW1245.com](http://www.IBEW1245.com). Our phone number is (925) 933-6060.

**Q:** What issues, if any, do you think your union should focus on in the 2000 election?



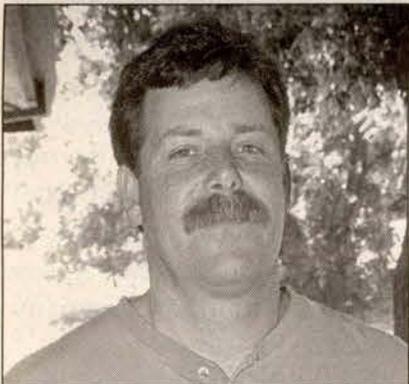
▶ “I’d like to see the union focus on safety enforcement—making sure Cal-OSHA stays funded. Maybe even try to get someone on the OSHA Standards Board. I remember reading the Governor appoints these people to the OSHA Board—that has some powerful repercussions. The law is one thing, but enforcement of the law is another thing.”

George Lindsey  
Electric Crew Foreman  
PG&E



▶ “The majority of us are busy a lot of the time, so we don’t have a lot of time to address political issues. If the union can represent what your values are in this area that’s great. I have young kids just becoming adults—I want them to have opportunities for jobs that pay good and have health care. I want politicians who are in line with the working person’s values.”

Steve Manfre  
Electric Crew Foreman  
PG&E



▶ “I’ve been a GC lineman all my life so job safety is always important to me. The company likes to talk about safety first, but cost cutting can become more important than safety. I’d like to see safety stay as a main concern for the workforce.”

Dave McCall  
Subforeman A  
PG&E GC



▶ “I think we should be looking at principles and moral values, like being God-fearing. It’s a roadmap for us.”

Willie McClendon  
Plant Assistant  
PG&E Fremont

Have a union issue you’d like to see addressed in *Speaking Out*? Send your suggested topic to: Speaking Out, IBEW 1245, P.O. Box 4790, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Opinions expressed are those of the individual, and do not necessarily reflect official Local 1245 policy.



## Spies, fire hydrants & crime fighting stewards

**M**ichael Eisner hauled in \$287,000 last year. Not for the year, not for a month, a week or a day. Eisner collected \$287,000 *an hour*. Eisner comes by his riches the good old-fashioned way—greed. Eisner exploits sweatshop labor abroad and he has moved to cut healthcare benefits for the low-wage workers he dresses up as Pluto and Goofy at Disney World and Disneyland. As Jim Hightower put it in *The Hightower Lowdown*: “Michael seems to think he’s top dog...and everyone else is just a bunch of fire hydrants.”

► **Crime-Fighting Stewards:** Orange-vested shop stewards from the Congress of South African Trade Unions are patrolling six commuter train lines in a fight against the area’s crime problem. They hope to deter criminal activity while helping commuters organize their own train and station committees. Police reported that train crime was down by 70% on the days the stewards were present.

► **“We can’t talk about it.”** So said an anonymous leader of the Union of National Defense Employ-

ees, which represents 750 codebreakers, eavesdroppers and other spies at Canada’s Communications Security Establishment. The spies want a pay hike, but when they argued their case before a conciliation board, they were not allowed to say what they do at work, what job skills they have, or what their grievances are.

► **Grads Go Union:** The 1,600 graduate employees at the University of California’s Berkeley campus last month chose overwhelmingly to join the UAW-affiliated Association for Graduate Student Employees. This follows the decision by UCLA graduate employees in March to choose the union.

► **Prescription: Union!** “A union gives you the power to litigate, to have a legislative agenda to demonstrate and to negotiate,” says Dr. Barry Leibowitz, president of Doctors Council union. Only about 6% of US doctors are union members now, but experts say that number is growing by 15% each year. Doctors argue that the more corporate the nation’s health care becomes, the more worker protection they need.

► **Court Sides With Temps:** The Ninth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals ruled last month that Microsoft’s long-term temporary employees—perma-temps—have a right to participate in the company’s Employee Stock Purchase Plan. Microsoft employs thousands of workers through temporary agencies who perform the same jobs as permanent employees, sometimes for years, yet are denied equal pay and benefits.

► **Living Wage Gains:** Two cities approved “living wage” ordinances last month. County and county contractor workers in Dade County, Fla. will receive a minimum of \$8.56 an hour plus benefits. The Cambridge, Mass. City Council voted to set a \$10 an hour wage, binding on any contractor doing \$10,000 or more per year in business with the city.

► **Growers Bow to UFW:** Strawberry growers agreed last month to stop funding worker committees that served as rivals to the United Farm Workers, settling a UFW lawsuit. The UFW charged that the worker groups were illegal “company unions” created by employers to thwart genuine union organizing drives. In its lawsuit, the UFW had uncovered \$56,000 in company payments to the worker committees, dramatic proof that the groups were indeed company unions. The UFW is in the third year of a campaign to organize California’s 30,000-worker strawberry industry.

► **Independent Workers Party:** A new independent workers party launched by the head of Israel’s labor federation won two seats in the Knesset, Israel’s Parliament, in last month’s general elections. The LabourStart news service credited Histadrut leader Amir Peretz with starting the party

## Up a tree



United Steelworkers District Director David Foster (above, left) scaled a 180-foot northern California redwood tree in April to join a protest by environmentalist Julia Hill.

Hill has lived alone atop the 1000-year-old tree for over a year to protest the logging practices of junk bond king Charles Hurtwitz, head of Maxxam, Inc.

In a dramatic display of solidarity, Foster joined Hill in the tree house to protest another aspect of Hurtwitz’s all-consuming greed: the lockout of employees at Kaiser Aluminum, another company gobbled up by Hurtwitz.

“Julia is a slight woman,” Foster reported. “She is dressed in ski pants and polar fleece. She goes barefoot and has the roughness in her hands of steelworkers.”

Together high above the forest floor, they shared their common cause in trying to bring “the voice of human dignity and respect for the earth” to a Fortune 500 company whose CEO once said: “Let me tell you about the Golden Rule. He who has the gold, rules.”

Foster’s climb up the tree resulted in the creation of the Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment.



More than \$200 billion in citizens’ tax dollars are given away every year in the form of “corporate welfare,” including free land, subsidies, grants, tax breaks, low-interest loans, and other forms of special-interest largesse, according to Public Citizen, a group founded by Ralph Nader.

# Historic pact saves jobs at Sierra Pacific Power

► From Page 1

the value of the defined benefit plan at \$19 million, while cashing out the benefit would have been worth only about \$11 million.

Post-retirement medical benefits will also be preserved as a condition of the plants' sale.

In addition, employees will receive six weeks of base pay as a "transition incentive" at close of sale of their particular plant. Employees will also receive a 3% general wage increase when their plant is sold and another 3% one year after the close of sale.

The agreement provides that medical, dental and vision coverage under the new employers must be "comparable" to existing plans.

## 'Job Well Done'

Local 1245 Business Rep. Ray Thomas, who led the day-to-day negotiations, called the agreement "a job well done" by the rank and file committee members who bargained the agreement and the union members who gave it their overwhelming approval.

"The generation employees of Sierra Pacific stood as one. They created an agreement that will keep their benefits and working conditions intact during this transition period. That's a huge achievement," said Thomas.

Local 1245 Assistant Business Manager Perry Zimmerman said the committee "did a tremendous job in grasping the issues" confronting

them, and praised the committee members for being able "to put together an agreement that benefits the employees in generation."

The plant sales were mandated by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada as a condition of the recently-approved merger between Sierra Pacific Power and Nevada Power. However, as pointed out by Business Rep. Bob Choate, neither the PUC nor the Nevada Legislature took any steps to cushion employees from the impact of the divestitures.

"This agreement came strictly from the hard work of the committee members themselves," said Choate, "and the union is extremely proud of what they accomplished."

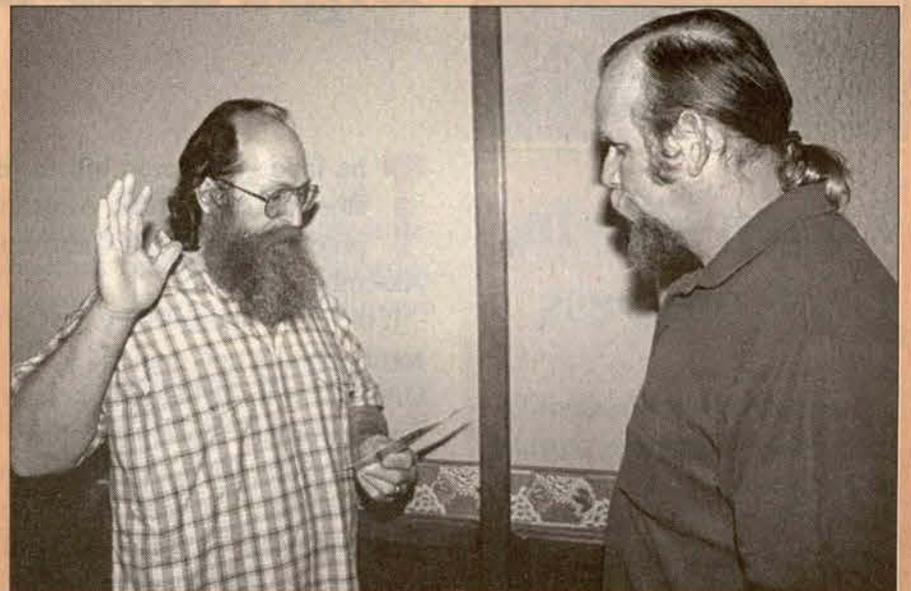
## Good News

The agreement is good news for the employees whose jobs were put at risk by the state-mandated sale of Sierra Pacific Power's generating plants. For members of the bargaining committee, the successful conclusion of the agreement brought a sense of satisfaction—mingled with relief.

"I've got a lot of peace of mind in what we accomplished," said union negotiator John Mauldin, a Scrubber Foreman at the Valmy plant. "Good Lord, we kept everything we could."

"The company who buys (one of the plants) has to be signatory, so we will negotiate from the contract we have rather than having to start over with zip," noted Grant Garrison, a union negotiator employed at the

# Parmenter takes the oath



Local 1245 President Howard Stiefer administers the oath to Dan Parmenter, who will represent Sacramento on the Advisory Council. Parmenter was sworn in at the May meeting of the Advisory Council in Sacramento.

Tracy plant.

Union negotiator Mark Chidwick, a Control Room Operator at Ft. Churchill station, cited job security and "the rollover of the medical and retirement plan" as key accomplishments of the agreement.

"I think it's great," said negotiator Randy Osborn, a Mechanic Welder at Valmy. "I would like to have seen a bigger cash settlement, but you have to be realistic."

Osborn said that preserving retirement benefits, preserving the post-retirement medical benefit and "just having a contract" were high points of the agreement.

"Going into a new employer without a contract would be the scariest thing in the world. They could do just about anything to you," said Osborn.

"I'm 42 years old," said union

negotiator John East, a Control Room Operator at Tracy, "and I didn't want to have to start over brand new again. If we didn't have union we wouldn't have any of what we have now. We would have just been handed over without any protection at all."

## Other Provisions

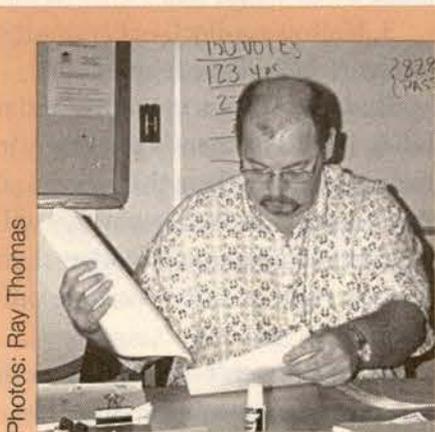
The agreement contains other protections for generation employees in Nevada's new "competitive market":

- ◆ Generation employees who go to a new employer will be entitled to the enhanced severance benefits bargained in 1997.

- ◆ The current labor agreement will "travel" with the employees in the event that Sierra Pacific Power spins off the plants to an affiliate rather than selling them outright.

- ◆ Generation employees who go to the new employer of a plant will be entitled to enhanced severance for any future layoff other than "for cause."

Serving on the negotiating committee, along with Chidwick, Garrison, East, Osborn and Mauldin were Lee Soukup, Mechanic Welder, Ft. Churchill; Steve Dobyms, Traveling Diesel Turbin Mechanic, and Tom Cornell, Apprentice SCAT Electrician, along with Thomas, Choate and Zimmerman from the union staff.



Photos: Ray Thomas

## WRAPPING UP

Randy Osborn (left) and Grant Garrison sort through current Letters of Understanding between Local 1245 and Sierra Pacific Power as they wrap up paperwork in the just-completed negotiations.





## Labor bills in US Congress

Two bills recently introduced in the US Congress would strengthen the right of workers to join a union without the threat of being harassed, discriminated against or fired.

"The Right to Organize Act" was introduced by Senator Paul Wellstone (D-MN); "The Workplace Democracy Act" was introduced by Rep. Bernie Sanders (Ind.-VT).

The Sanders bill would remove the major obstacles that make it difficult for the labor movement to organize non-union workers. It provides union recognition by a card check of the majority of the workers, and a quicker and fairer way to gain a first contract.

The bill provides that the union has the right to binding arbitration if there is no collective bargaining agreement 45 days after certification of the union as the bargaining representative for the workforce.

The heavy penalties in the bill would make employers think twice before illegally firing or harassing their employees during a union organizing campaign, as Harry Kelber points out in a recent issue of *The Progressive Populist*. Besides having to pay triple back wages to a discharged worker, the employer would be subject to civil penalties of not less than \$10,000 for each willful violation of the Act. Companies that willfully commit unfair labor practices would be barred from bidding on federal government contracts.

The laws, alas, have little chance of passage in the current Republican-controlled Congress.

## Big bucks at stake in overtime battle

The labor-sponsored bill to restore the state's daily overtime premium passed the California Assembly May 27.

If the bill is approved by the California Senate and signed by Gov. Gray Davis, it will be a major victory for California's working people.

Big bucks are involved in this epic confrontation between employers and employees. Elimination of daily overtime in 1998 reduced California workers' pay by an estimated \$1 billion a year. Part-time and casual workers, who don't work a 40-hour week, took the biggest cut in overtime pay.

Overtime wasn't abolished for some important public policy reason. It was abolished because ex-Gov. Pete Wilson and his corporate allies saw an opportunity to take money away from workers and transform it into corporate profits.

Before 1998, Industrial Welfare Commission wage orders required time-and-a-half pay for work exceeding eight hours per day and double time for work over 12 hours. These wage orders covered most non-agricultural private sector workers.

Most wage orders allowed for four 10-hour days in a workweek without overtime pay, upon approval by two-thirds of the affected workers in a secret ballot vote. In a few industries, the IWC permitted a 12-hour day after a vote. IWC wage orders included a collective bargaining exception to these regulations.

In 1997, Gov. Wilson's appointees to the IWC ended daily overtime protection for eight million workers, effective Jan. 1, 1998. Today the only overtime law covering these workers is the less protective federal 40-hour week. As a result, many California businesses have switched to a 12-hour or longer day.

Why is the overtime premium so important?

Daily overtime pay protects workers from extremely long shifts that



Cartoon by Ray Thomas

When the daily overtime premium was abolished in California by the Wilson Administration in 1998, it became legal (and profitable) for companies to work employees for long hours at straight-time pay, then send them home until the start of a new week.

are exhausting and unsafe. It helps working parents who cannot leave their children unsupervised during long shifts and commutes. It spurs job creation because employers facing increased labor costs after eight hours substitute additional hires at straight time wages for longer hours at premium pay.

For Local 1245 members and other workers covered by collective bargaining agreements, the daily overtime law provides important protection against efforts by employers to bargain away overtime premium pay. Without legislative protection, overtime premium pay would be a prime candidate for "take aways" at the bargaining table in this era of utility restructuring.

AB 60/SB 1000 would restore premium pay at time and a half after eight hours, and double time after 12 hours in a workday. The bill extends daily overtime protection to construc-

tion and other industries previously uncovered.

The bill provides workers with a real voice in flexible scheduling:

1. It allows workers to vote to adopt alternative schedules of up to 10 hours per day in a 40-hour week without overtime;

2. It allows a worker, with management approval, to take up to four hours off in a week, and to make up that time without overtime pay in the same work week; and

3. It allows collective bargaining alternatives to these regulations.

Ex-Gov. Wilson vetoed a similar bill in 1997. But there's a new guy in the governor's chair this year, and there's a bill headed his way that will restore to California's worker their historic right to daily overtime premium pay.

If you haven't yet called your state senator, now's the time. Urge him or her to support SB 1000.

# PG&E talks start July 9

► From Page 1

our bargaining committee will do everything in their power to represent the members' interests, and that the members will give them full support."

Hundreds of proposals were approved by unit meetings in March and April and forwarded to the bargaining committee for consideration. The bargaining committee will review all properly-submitted unit recommendations as it puts together its opening package of proposals to present to company negotiators. Likewise, the company will offer its own opening package.

The union will keep members informed on the general progress of the negotiations. Any final proposal agreed to by the company and union will be published in the Utility Reporter before it is submitted to the members in a secret mail-ballot ratification vote.

In the previous round of general bargaining, in 1996, the company and union agreed to extend the existing agreement through 1999, with general wage increases of 10% spread over three years. The union strongly considered the possibility of pursuing another contract exten-

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Maggie Wang



Larry Magnoli



Rosalind Wiley



Bob Fulton

On April 24, the union conducted steward training conferences at ten locations throughout PG&E's jurisdiction, with a heavy emphasis on the economic forces that will frame the contract talks.



Darryl Rice



Leo Martin, Carl Makarczyk, Brenda Fisher

## OAKLAND



Jim Hill

## SANTA ROSA



Vince Zinkl

# PG&E talks

► From Page 7

sion, but now believes that the most prudent course is to enter into full-scale negotiations.

Preparations for negotiations have been underway for several months. On April 24, the union conducted steward training conferences at 11 locations throughout PG&E's jurisdiction, with a heavy emphasis on the economic forces that will frame the contract talks.

Chief among these forces are the PG&E General Rate Case (GRC) now pending before the California Public Utilities Commission, PG&E's economic performance as measured by the company's Rate of Return, and the continuing impact of utility restructuring.

A decision in the GRC is now expected some time in July or August, although the CPUC has allowed previous deadlines to slip by. The CPUC's ultimate decision in this matter will have a large effect on how much revenue will be available to the company in coming years.

The revenue picture, in turn, will influence how the company allocates the available funds. Although the company is required to meet state-mandated performance requirements in terms of reliability and emergency response, the company makes the final decision on how to deploy its resources.

Since the creation of the labor-management partnership in 1995, the company has worked cooperatively with the union on issues concerning workforce size and methods for getting the work done, including the creation of dozens of labor-management committees to study specific issues.

General Bargaining gives union members the opportunity to focus on the bread and butter issues of wages, benefits, and working conditions.

The union and company hope to have new agreements in place by the time the old agreements expire on Dec. 31. To meet this deadline, the union wants to wrap up bargaining in September to allow plenty of time for the ratification process, including extensive communications with the members.

SLO Photos: Mike Haentjens



Mark LaCross



Ralph Chaves, Alex Castillo, Fidela Barrios, Debbie Encallado



Sharon Gripp, Vickie Campolmi, Dan Lockwood

## SAN LUIS OBISPO



John Molette, Mark Taylor, Steve Willis, Jerry Camacho, Bill Bell

## EUREKA



Dennis Swenson, Dave Mauldin, Don Davis, Business Rep. Roy Runnings, Lee Thomas, Jeff Jacobson, Linda Jurado, Barry Jenson, Casey Mares, David Page

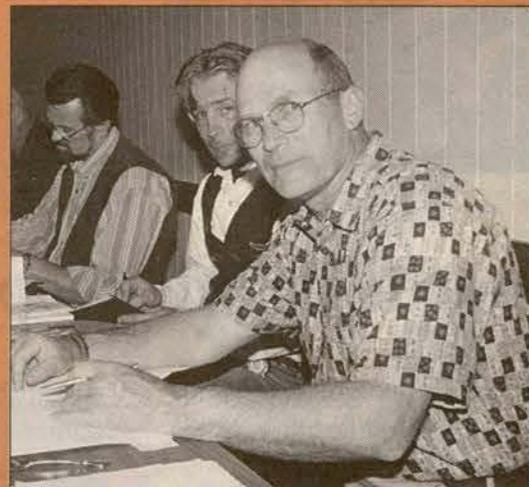


Susie Laughlin



Cecilia De La Torre

## STOCKTON



From right: Eric Helmle, John Rasmussen, Wayne Fippen, Rick Davis



Olivia Mercado

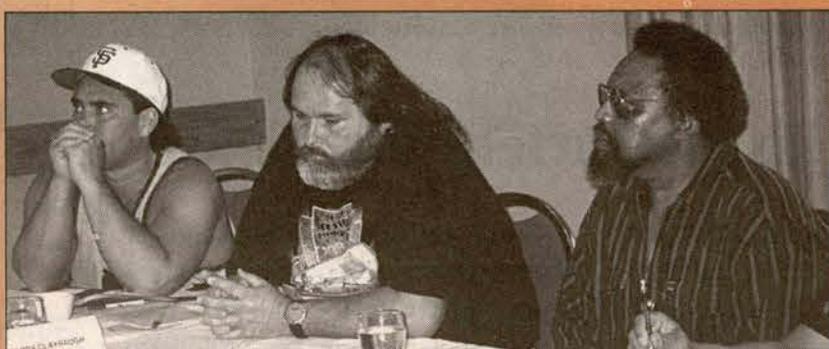


From right: Charlie Willis, Mike Johnson, Jim Clifton



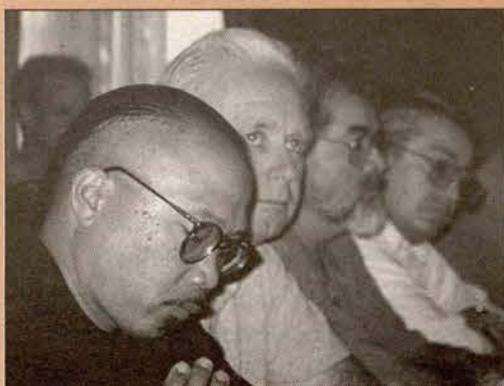
Anna Bayless

# STEWARD TRAINING APRIL 24, 1999



Glen McQuade, Barry Claybaugh, Rudy Woodford

## BURLINGAME

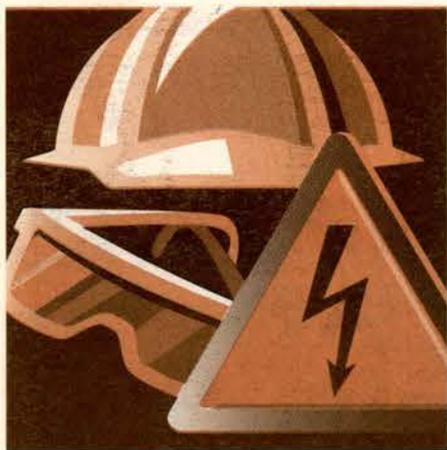


Burlingame Photos: Kathy Maas

Ed Abriam, Larry Darby, Al Calleros, John Sunseri



Robert Olague, Bev Rodondi



By the Local 1245  
Safety Committee

## Records worth keeping

**T**wo hundred eight days since the last lost time accident. Is this a record worth keeping?

Some union members who are accident prone or short-sighted might feel safety records are a waste of time to keep, and certainly shouldn't be posted for all to see.

Where do you stand on safety record keeping? Your answer will provide insight as to your priorities for life.

A workplace injury or illness occurs in the United States every five seconds, 24 hours a day. A workplace death occurs every nine minutes, 24 hours a day.

*These are alarming statistics when you think of how much time you spend on the job.*

The records of an employer's accident history might seem to be a clear indication of the emphasis the employer places on the safety of its employees. But remember: insurance companies rate companies on the claims they submit, and insurance

rates are a direct result of accidents claimed.

IBEW keeps track of accidents for trending purposes and to keep workers aware of events or equipment that could lead to an accident at their workplace.

Through your safety committee, make sure accidents are reported to the IBEW, so that these records are kept up to date. Prizes and awards have been given to employees to encourage a good safety record and to continue safety vigilance—indirectly the employer wants you to forget about accident reporting. Don't fall into this trap!

Employees should fill out accident reports even for minor accidents, as even minor cuts can lead to infection. Your good health is a matter of your concern; lost time injuries are the concern of all.

Two hundred eight days without a lost time accident is a good record, a record that should be kept track of!

## Your undivided attention, please

**L**et's imagine for a moment that you are in a hospital undergoing surgery. It's important—life or death! You're under a local so you're wide awake. Suddenly your surgeon's cell phone rings and he starts having a casual conversation.

Sure, the surgeon has done this operation a thousand times before. But don't you think you deserve the surgeon's undivided attention?

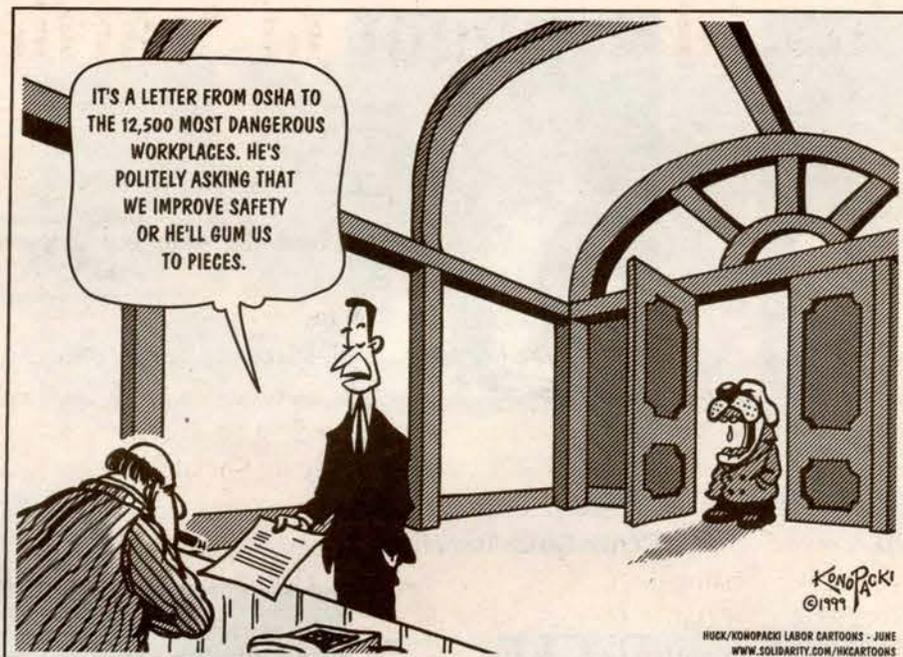
OK, a little far-fetched. But not so different than driving a car while talking on a cell phone.

Sure, you've driven thousands of hours. But don't you, your passengers and the people in other cars around you deserve your undivided attention?

It's definitely life or death!

Cell phones are a part of everyday life, and they have a place. But let's minimize our talk time while driving. Those conversations are not worth getting injured or dying for, and they're not worth someone else getting injured either.

Please, use cell phones wisely.



## Davis earmarks funds for Cal-OSHA enforcement

**R**esponding to labor's long-standing complaint that job safety laws are not adequately enforced, Gov. Gray Davis has directed new funds to Cal-OSHA, the agency responsible for enforcing occupational safety and health.

News of the extra job safety funds came when Davis released an updated state budget last month, which included his plans for the extra \$4 billion in unanticipated state tax rev-

enue. Davis earmarked \$3 million toward funding 52 positions at Cal-OSHA to put more inspectors on the street.

Davis's action complements an initiative by the California Labor Federation to strengthen penalties against employers who operate unsafe worksites. That initiative, AB 1127, authored by Darrell Steinberg, is currently awaiting action in the California Assembly.

## SMUD pilot: going astray?

► From Page 1

Ritchie, a SMUD electrician. "A lot of times that means stepping on a union brother's toes, and the District tacitly encourages that."

Local 1245 Business Rep. Dennis Seyfer says it may appear to "the bean counters" that the process is working, "but it's only because people in the field are scrambling to find solutions."

"Line crews are driven, they're professionals," says Ritchie. "They want to do whatever they have to do to get the job done."

Ritchie stresses that the union

doesn't want to stand in the way of getting the job done—it just wants the job done right.

"Create your process and make it work," he advises.

"We want processes to work because they work, not because we have people fitting square pegs into round holes," says Seyfer. "We want people to find solutions, but they need to be real solutions so the problems don't arise again."

Because the process is in a pilot phase, "there's no better time than now to look at these problems and resolve them before you implement the whole thing," says Seyfer.

Current members of the Local 1245 Safety Committee are: Matt Goldsmith, Billy Bell, Rod Wright, Grant Ritchie, Mark Rose, Ralph Muraca, and Business Rep. Art Murray.

## Consider plight of 'earliest' retirees

By Orv Owen

Local 1245 retirees from PG&E met with Senior Assistant Business Manager Darrel Mitchell last month at union headquarters to discuss retirees' concerns and to make suggestions for the union's forthcoming bargaining with the company on the Benefit Agreement covering the pension plan.

Retiree representatives expressed the plight of the earliest and most elderly retirees that receive monthly pension benefits that are considered below the current poverty level and who need food stamps to supplement their daily basic living needs.

These early retirees helped build the company and were some of the founders of our union and are in real need. The healthy financial status of the PG&E Pension Plan should allow meaningful consideration to the original retirees.

Local 1245 retirees' current political agenda covers many important

issues at both the state and federal level.

At the federal level:

- ◆ Social Security—remove the cap on high income taxes. No other changes would be necessary to retain and secure Social Security.

- ◆ Medicare—extend current benefits.

- ◆ The Older Americans Act should be reaffirmed.

- ◆ Housing—fund the Housing & Urban Development agency (HUD) to build more housing.

- ◆ Capital Gains income—should be taxed at the same rate as income from wages.

In California:

- Pass the Patients Bill of Rights.

- Raise state minimum wage

rate and restore the 8-hour day.

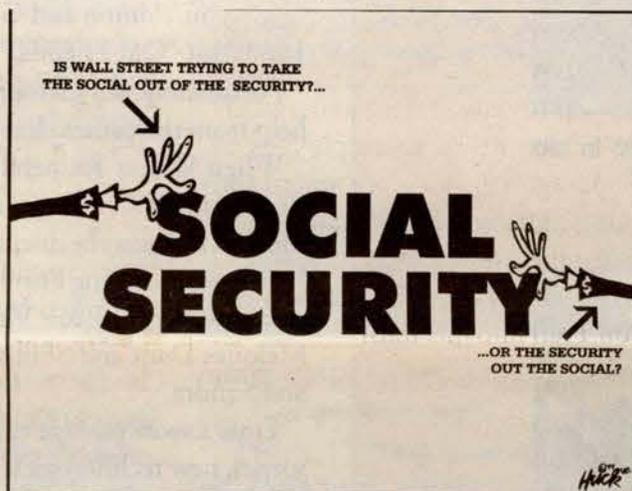
- Increase funding for state infrastructure: schools, roads and parks.

- Enact Single-Payer health care plan.

- Corporate taxes—should be reinstated to former levels.

It is clear to Local 1245 retirees that the struggle still goes on. The battlefield is still the same, only the issues have changed.

Keep the faith!



## Senate Bill 26 targets age discrimination

In the last five years, nearly 15,000 claims of age discrimination have been filed in California, and these claims continue to grow.

Senate Bill 26, passed last month by the California Senate and now under consideration by the California Assembly, seeks to strengthen the hand of workers when it comes to proving cases of age discrimination.

Here's the background:

The California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) is the landmark legislation which prohibits discrimination based upon sex, race, age and other protected categories.

Employees may use one of two legal theories to prove their employer has discriminated against them. They may prove that their employer inten-

tionally discriminated against them ("intentional discrimination") or that their employer's policies and/or practices disproportionately impacted a group of persons ("disparate impact discrimination"). The use of disparate impact analysis may be used to prove race and gender discrimination.

In a 1998 case, *Marks v. Loral*, the California Court of Appeals held that disparate impact analysis may not be used in age discrimination cases. The court held that an employer may choose to hire or retain employees with lower salaries, even though this may result in choosing younger employees. The Marks decision is binding on all trial courts statewide.

Unfortunately, the Marks case gives employers a green light to re-

place older, higher paid workers with younger, lower-paid workers. Without guidance from the Legislature, older workers will lack the legal right to stand up to their employers' acts of age discrimination.

SB 26, authored by Senator Martha Escutis, would permit the use of disparate impact analysis in age discrimination cases and would declare the Legislature's intent that discrimination against older workers can be fought with the same tools and vigor as other forms of discrimination.

If you want to help this bill become law, contact your Assembly Member and ask him or her to please support SB 26 when it comes to the Assembly floor. You may want to mention that this bill had Republican as well as Democratic support in the Senate.



## Make a Date...

The Local 1245 Retiree Club invites you to join us for companionship, discussion and projects. Current meeting locations are:

**East Bay Chapter:** meets 2nd Thursday each month, 10 a.m., at Local 1245 headquarters, 3063 Citrus Circle, Walnut Creek, CA.

**San Jose Chapter:** meets 1st Thursday each month, 10 a.m., at Local 332, 1870 Stone Ave., San Jose.

## Congratulations!

The Local 1245 Retirees Club congratulates these recently-retired members of the union. We invite you to participate in--or start!--a Retirees Club chapter in your area.

Angela Messner, 17 years  
Grass Valley, CA

Charles Messner Jr., 38 years  
Grass Valley, CA

Dennis Porter, 36 years  
Santa Rosa, CA

Arlen Rasmussen, 38 years  
Hayward, CA

George Bulum, 36 years  
Stockton, CA

William Dilbeck, 16 years  
Atascadero, CA

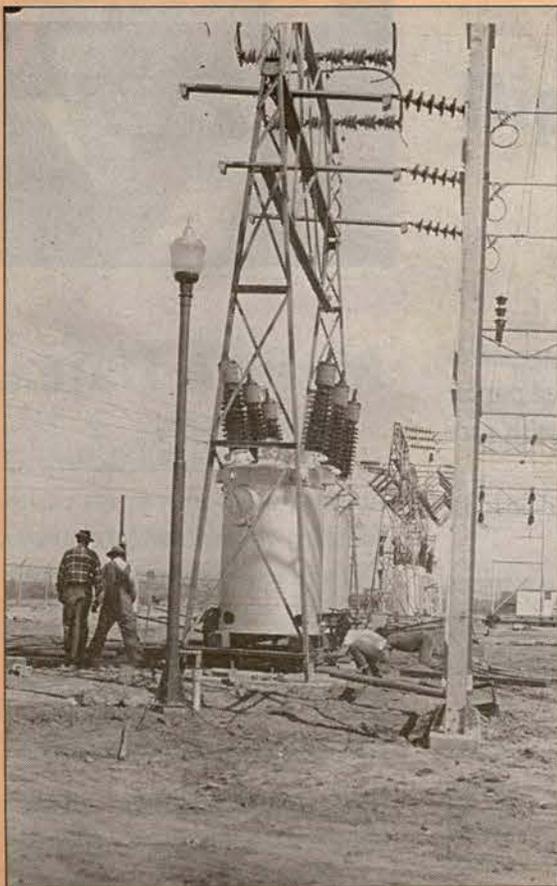
James Godley, 33 years  
Redding, CA

James Keown, 20 years  
Cobb, CA

Arlene Lee, 22 years  
Antioch, CA

David Oliver, 18 years  
Apple Valley, CA

Phyllis Webb, 24 years  
Antioch, CA



Moving 110 KV breaker. Man on right in bib overalls is Hop Meyers, Truck Driver.



Gus Douty, laborer.

# Semi-Tropic Substation

circa 1953



The photographer, Walter Rhinehart, above, as an Apprentice Electrician at Semi-Tropic Substation in Wasco, CA. Occasionally he must have handed his camera off to a co-worker.

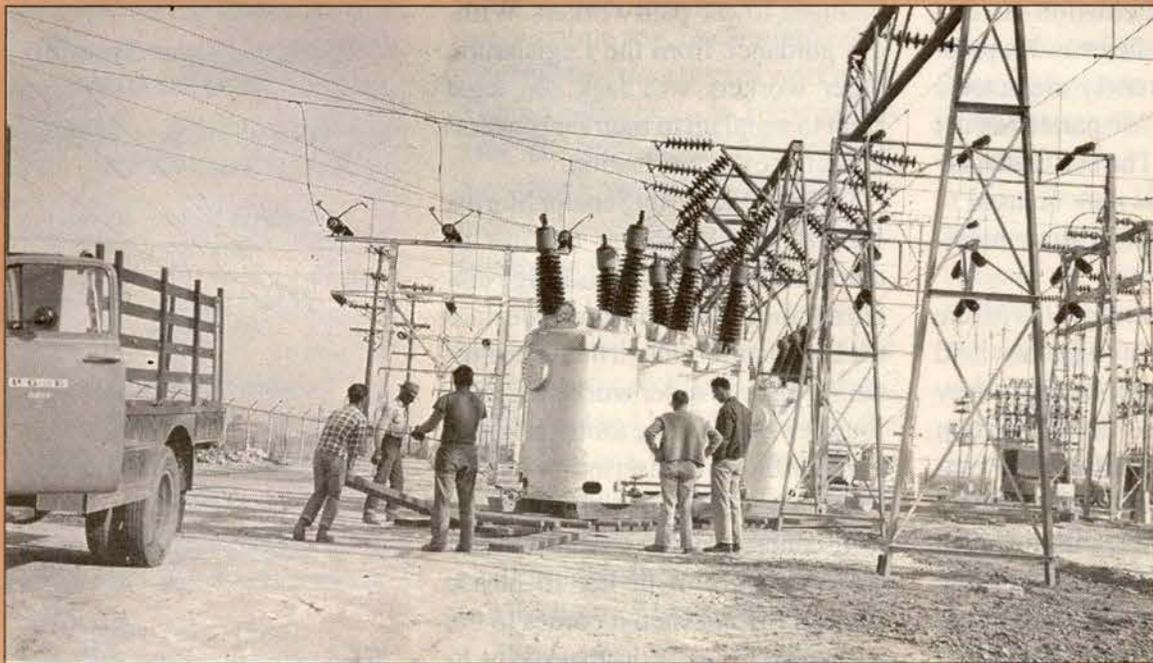
**P**reserve your memories, they're all that's left you,' Simon and Garfunkle advised in their 1960s' hit "Old Friends."

Fortunately, our memories on occasion get a little help from the camera lens.

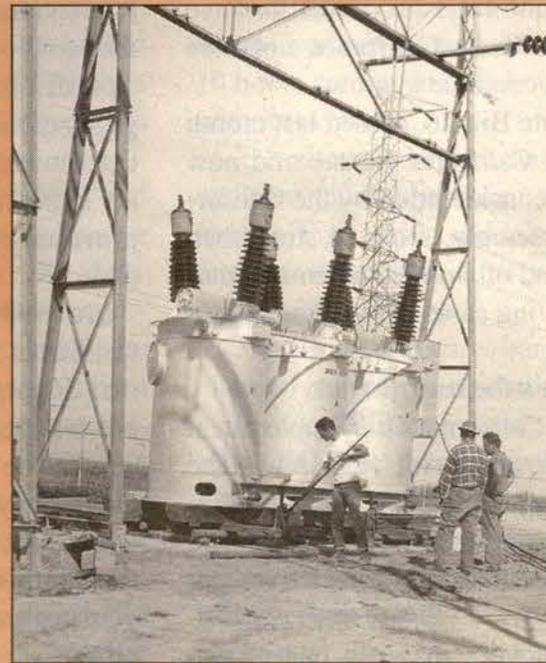
When Walter Rhinehart hired on at Pacific Gas & Electric in 1951, he kept his camera close at hand. Over the next few years he documented worklife at numerous locations, including Eureka, Redding, the Cottonwood area, the San Joaquin Valley, and the now-gone Old Melones Dam and Stanislaus Dam out of Jamestown and Sonora.

Time's swift passage carries us forward to new landscapes, new technologies, new ways of doing the work. But thanks to Rhinehart, we can get a little glimpse of how things looked in times gone by.

Watch future issues for additional photos from The Rhinehart Collection.

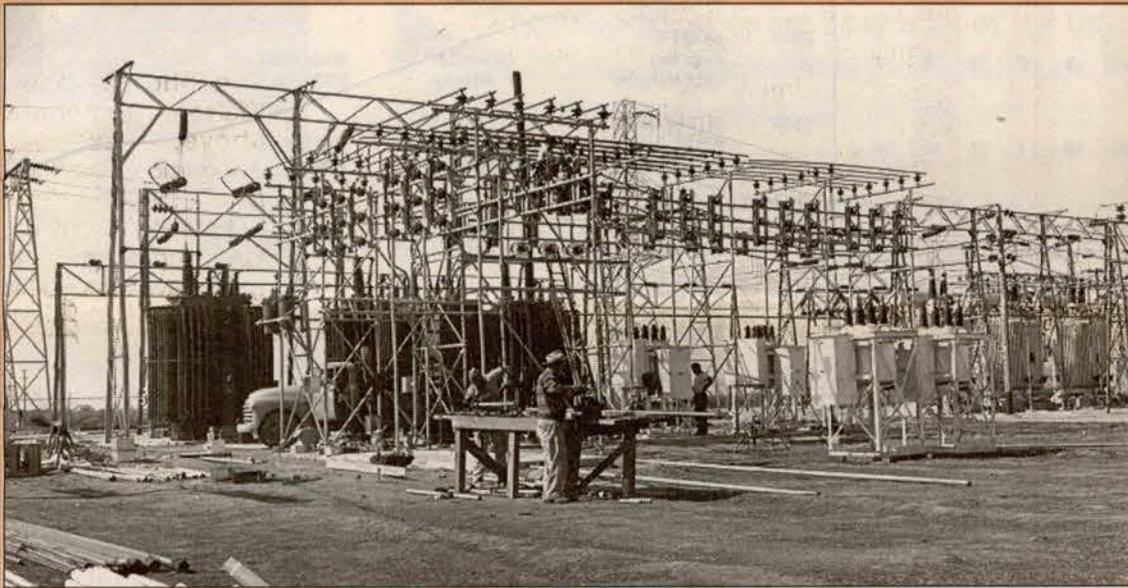
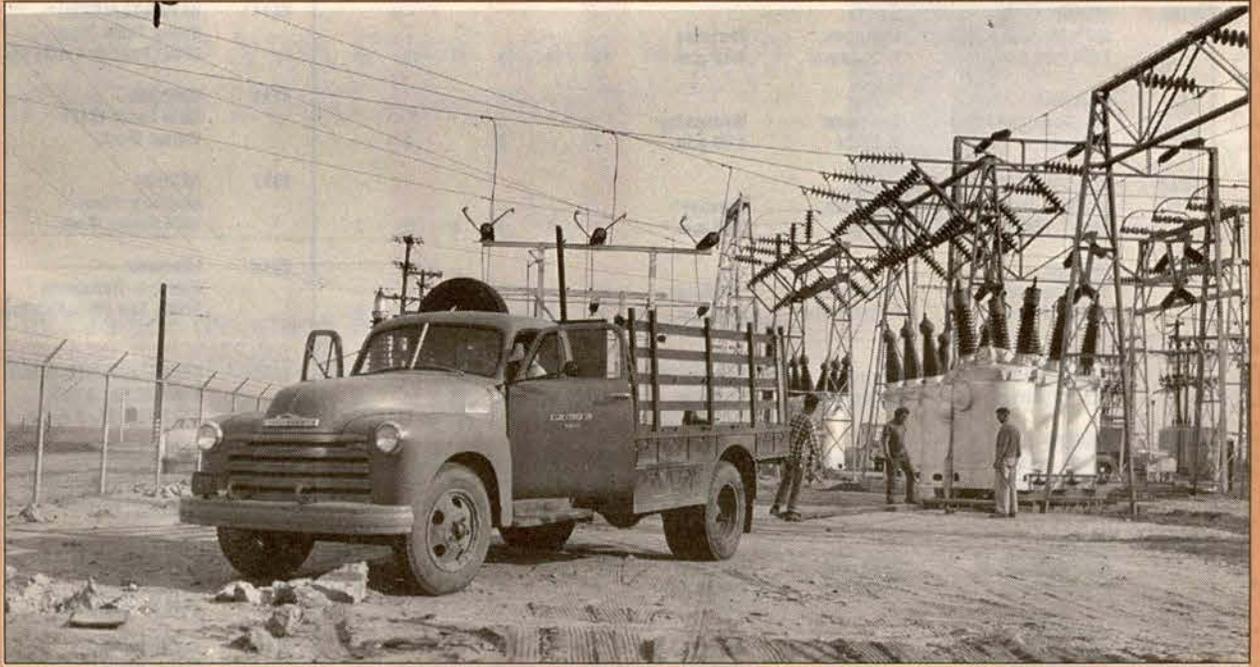


Moving 115 KV breakers at Semi-Tropic substation in Wasco, CA, are Gus Douty, Laborer; Jerry Wells, Mechanic; Rodger Hughes, Apprentice Electrician; Larry Hightower, Field Clerk; and an unidentified field clerk trainee.



Ready to roll out a retired 100 KV OCB at Semi-Tropic Substation are Jerry Wells, Relas Powell, and Rodger Hughes.

Moving 115 KV breakers at Semi-Tropic substation in Wasco, CA, are (from left) Jerry Wells, Rodger Hughes, and Larry Hightower.

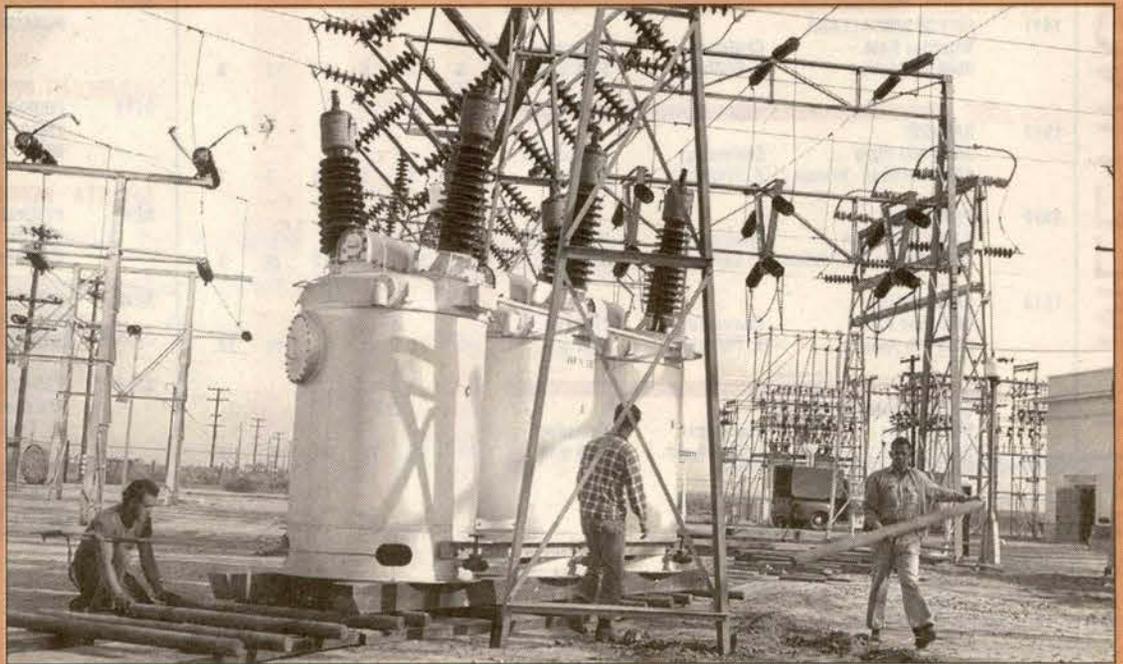


Working on a 12 kv structure at Semi-Tropic Sub are (in foreground) a Mechanic named Doc and Chuck Rafferty, also a Mechanic. In the distance is Field Clerk Larry Hightower.

The  
Rhinehart  
Collection



Jerry Wells, Mechanic.



Moving 115 KV breakers at Semi-Tropic substation in Wasco, CA, are Rodger Hughes, Jerry Wells, and Larry Hightower.

UNIT MEETING SCHEDULE JULY - DECEMBER 1999

SAN JOAQUIN				JUL	AUG	SPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	EAST BAY				JUL	AUG	SPT	OCT	NOV	DEC										
1111	FRESNO Cedar Lanes Cedar & Shields	Chairman: C. Habecker	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	6	3	7	5	9	7	2301	EAST BAY CLERICAL Hacienda Restaurant * 12020 San Pablo/Rchmnd	Chairman: P. Kelleher	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	7	4	1	6	3	1										
1112	BAKERSFIELD Labor Hall 200 W. Jeffery St.	Chairman: R. Moon	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	14	11	15	13	10	8	2311	OAKLAND PHYSICAL Francesco's Hegenberger & Pardee	Chairman: J. Audelo	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	6	3	7	5	2	7										
1120	SELMA Sal's Mexican Rest. 2163 Park St.	Chairman: P. Sandoval	Thursday 4:30 p.m.	15	19	16	14	18	16	2314*	HAYWRD/LIV/REMT* Round Table Pizza* 28261 Patio Dr Castro Vly	Chairman: D. Garrity	Wednesday* 6:00 p.m.*	21	18	15	20	24	22										
1121	COALINGA PGE Downtown Office Coalinga	Chairman: R. Eakin	Wednesday 4:00 p.m.	7	-	8	-	3	-	2316	CONCORD IBEW Local 1245 Walnut Creek	Chairman: B. Bolen	Thursday 7:00 p.m.	8	12	9	14	18	9										
1122	MERCED IRR.DIST Branding Iron 640 W. 16th	Chairman: J. ellett*	Tuesday* 5:00 p.m.*	6	3	7	5	2	7	2317	ANTIOCH Aladino's Pizza 1324 Sunset Drive	Chairman: D. Tucker	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	14	11	8	13	10	8										
1123	MERCED Branding Iron 640 W. 16th St.	Chairman: P. Galan-Wert	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	6	3	3	7	5	2	2318	RICHMOND Hacienda Restaurant * 12020 San Pablo/Rchmnd	Chairman: C. Jackson	Wednesday* 4:30 p.m.	7	4	1	6	3	1										
1128	LEMOORE Fleet Reserve 788 "D" Street	Chairman: M. Ormonde	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	15	12	16	14	11	9	SAN FRANCISCO				2401	SAN FRANCISCO CLERICAL Beale St. Bar & Grill 133 Beale St., S.F.	Chairman: F. Marshall	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	14	11	8	13	10	8						
1129	AUBERRY Daddy Joe's Auberry Road	Chairman: T. Moore	Tuesday 5:45 p.m.	13	17	14	12	16	14	2412	SAN FRANCISCO Ship Clerks Union Hall 4 Berry St., S.F.	Chairman: M. Phillips	Wednesday 4:30 p.m.	7	4	1	6	3	1										
COAST VALLEYS				STOCKTON				2511	STOCKTON Ed Stewart Post 3110 N. West Lane	Chairman: A. Bayless-Martinez	Thursday 6:30 p.m.	15	12	9	14	18	16												
1211	SALINAS Mtn. Mike's Pizza E. Alisal St.	Chairman: J. Merdan	Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	6	3	7	5	9	7	2512	ANGEL'S CAMP Mike's Pizza Hwy.49/MurphysGrade	Chairman: G. Day	Thursday 4:00 p.m.	8	5	2	7	11	9										
1213	KING CITY Round Table Pizza 500-Beanal St	Chairman: J. Sportsman	Thursday 4:00 p.m.*	8	5	9	7	17*	9	2513	JACKSON Mtn. Mike's Pizza 525 S. Hwy 49	Chairman: M Woods*	Tuesday 4:00 p.m.	13	3	7	5	9	7										
1215	PISMO BEACH Del's Pizzeria Shell Beach	Chairman: T. Castanon	Thursday 4:00 p.m.	15	5	9	7	18	9	2515	MODESTO Days Inn 1312 McHenry	Chairman: F. Malcria	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	14	11	8	13	17	15										
1216	SANTAMARIA Giavanni's Pizza Orcutt	Chairman: B. Bell	Tuesday 4:00 p.m.	13	3	7	5	9	7	2516	CITY OF LODI Round Table Kettleman Lane	Chairman: B. Fisher	Thursday 4:30 p.m.	1	5	2	7	4	2fs										
1217	TEMPLETON The Pizza Place Templeton	Chairman: G. Burk	Tuesday 4:00 p.m.	20	10	14	12	16	14	2517	SONORA Stuft Pizza Hwy 108 East	Chairman: B. Owens	Tuesday 4:30 p.m.	20	10	14	12	16	14										
1219	HOLLISTER Straw Hat Pizza 191-A San Felipe	Chairman: J. Vermilyer	Tuesday* 5:00 p.m.	7	4	8	6	10	8	2518	MODESTO IRR. DIST. Pizza Pub Kansas Avenue	Chairman: R. Wright	Wednesday 4:30 p.m.	7	4	1	6	3	1										
1220	DIABLO CANYON Margie's Diner San Luis Obispo	Chairman: D. Lockwood	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	14	4	8	6	10	8	2519	TIGER CREEK Pioneer Vets Hall 25100 Buckhorn Ridge	Chairman: R. Davis	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	21*	17	21	19	23	21										
1221	BUELLTON Antonio's Pizza Buellton	Chairman: T. Mathews	Monday 4:00 p.m.	19	9	13	11	15	13	PG&E GAS TRANSMISSION NORTHWEST				3021	SAND POINT PG&E GTNW Office	Chairman: T. Anderson	Monday 5:00 p.m.	12	9	7	4	8	6						
PIPELINE				1313	TOPOCK PSEA Rec. Room Topok Station	Chairman: K. Feil	Thursday 4:45 p.m.	-	5	-	7	-	12	3023	WALLA WALLA PG&E GTNW Office	Chairman: M. Prior	Wednesday 4:30 p.m.	14	11	8	6	10	8						
1311	HINKLEY PSEA Rec. Room Hinkley Station	Chairman: P. Earl	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	-	4	-	6	-	1	1314	KETTLEMAN PSEA Rec. Room Kettleman Station	Chairman: S. Jameson	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	20	-	21	-	16	-	3025	SPOKANE PG&E GTNW Office	Chairman: S. Jordan	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	15	12	9	7	11	9
SANTA CLARA				1314	SANTA CLARA				1411	CITY OF SANTA CLARA Vesuvius Rest. 3044 El Camino	Chairman: B. Wallace	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	8	12	9	14	11	9	3026	PORTLAND PG&E GTNW Office	Chairman: M. Gustafson	Wednesday 12:00 p.m.	28	25	22	20	24	22	
SAN JOSE				1511	SAN JOSE				1512	PENINSULA* T.W.U. Local 505 1521 Rollins Rd./Millbrae	Chairman: B. Quinn	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	14	11	8	13	10	8	3111	HUMBOLDT EUREKA Labor Temple 9th & "E" Street	Chairman: C. Wood	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	13	10	14	12	9	14	
1513	SANTACRUZ VFW Post #7263 2259 7th Avenue	Chairman: A. Freitas	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	13	10	14	12	16	14	SHASTA				3212	REDDING Pietros 995 Hilltop Drive	Chairman: A. Streetman	Wednesday 5:15 p.m.	14	11	8	13	10	8						
CITY OF OAKLAND				2211	OAKLAND GENERAL Francesco's Hegenberger & Pardee				Chairman: L. Rodriguez	Thursday 4:00 p.m.	15	19	16	21	18	16	3213	BURNEY Sam's Pizza Johnson Park	Chairman: T. Marymee	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	13	10	7	12	9	7			
												3214	RED BLUFF The Green Barn #5 Chestnut	Chairman: H. Iness	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	15	12	9	14	11	9								
												CITY OF REDDING				3217	CITY OF REDDING Labor Council 900 Locust Street	Chairman: J. Kropholler	Wednesday 5:15 p.m.	7	11*	8	6	3	8				

**Your Union, Your Voice--  
Attend Your Unit Meetings!**

UNIT MEETING SCHEDULE JULY - DECEMBER 1999

NEVADA				JUL	AUG	SPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	SACRAMENTO				JUL	AUG	SPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
3311	RENO IBEW Hall LU 401 2713 E. 4th Street	Chairman: W. Paterson	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	7	4	1	6	3	1	3011	SAC REG TRANS Club 65 65th & Broadway	Chairman: J. Mendonca	Thursday 4:45p.m.	8	12	9	14	11	9
3312	CARSON CITY Carson City Fire Dept. Station #3	Chairman: W. Keating	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	13	10	14	12	9	14	3801	SACRAMENTO CLERICAL Sac. Cntrl Labor Council 2840 El Centro	Chairman: A. Edwards	Thursday 5:15 p.m.	15	19	16	21	18	16
3314	SOUTH LAKE TAHOE Steamer's 2236 Lake Tahoe Blvd.	Chairman: P. Stahl	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	8	5	2	7	4	2	3811	SACRAMENTO Florin Odd Fellow 8360 Florin Road	Chairman: J. Macias*	Wednesday* 5:00 p.m.*	7	4	1	6	3	1
3315	MT. WHEELER/ELY Ely Fire Department Dept. Meeting Hall	Chairman: R. Miller	Wednesday 4:30 p.m.	14	18	15	20	17	15	3812	VACAVILLE 140 Browns Vly Pkwy Vacaville	Chairman: B. Yaws	Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	13	10	14	12	9	14
3318	ELKO Stockman's Hotel Elko	Chairman: L. Allen	Thursday 5:30* p.m.	15	12	9	14	11	9	3814	WOODLAND Amer. Legion Hall 523 Brush Street	Chairman: B. Wallace	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	1	5	2	7	4	2
3319	WELLS R.E.C. SilverSage Sr. Ctr. 1st Street, Wells	Chairman: C. Swett	Thursday 7:00 p.m.*	15	19	16	21	18	16	3911	SMUD Ctr.Labor Council El Centro & I-80	Chairman: G. Richie	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	14	11	8	13	10	8
3320	NORTH LAKE TAHOE Carpenter's Hall Kings Beach	Chairman: B. Warmuth	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	21	18	15	20	17	15	3912	FRESH POND (SMUD) 50 Grand Pollock Pines	Chairman: D. Newton	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	7	4	1	6	3	1
<b>DESABLA</b>																			
3412	QUINCY Moon's Pizza Lawrence Street	Chairman: J. Dolloff	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	7	4	1	6	3	1	<b>CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS</b>									
3417	PARADISE Red Lion Pizza 6611 Skyway	Chairman: B. Lovett	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	8	5	2	7	4	2	4012	SUSANVILLE Grande Cafe 730 Main Street	Chairman: J. Sheppard*	Thursday 5:15 p.m.	15	19	16	14	9*	16
<b>DRUM</b>																			
3511	AUBURN Moose Lodge Sacramento & High	Chairman: T. Andreucci	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	13	10	14	12	9	14	4013	ALTURAS The Brass Rail Hwy. 395	Chairman: M. Nelson	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	14	18	15	13	10	15
3512	ROSEVILLE Fast Freddie's Pizza 130 Main Street	Chairman: T. Bakkie	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.*	6	3	7	5	2	7	4014	ELK GROVE Laguna Town Hall* 3020 Renwick Elk Grove*	Chairman: D. Morrison	Thursday 6:30 p.m.	20*	26	23	21	18	23
3513	GRASS VALLEY Swiss House 535 Mill Street	Chairman: T. Gilbert	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	14	11	8	13	10	8	4015	BURNEY Sam's Pizza Hwy 299 East	Chairman: D. Trobridge	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	6	10*	7	5	2	7
3813	PLACERVILLE Spanky's Pizza 197 Placerville Drive	Chairman: P. Flecklin	Tuesday 4:00 p.m.	6	3	7	5	2	7	<b>TREETRIMMERS</b>									
<b>COLGATE</b>																			
3611	MARYSVILLE Marcella's 1245 Bridge Street	Chairman: J. Edwards	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	7	4	1	6	3	1	4404	DAVEY TREE/OAKLAND Francesco's Hegenberger & Pardee	Chairman: A. Garcia	Tuesday 4:30 p.m.	6	3	7	5	2	7
3613	OROVILLE Eagle's Hall 2010 Montgomery	Chairman: J. Hall	Tuesday 5:15 p.m.	20	17	14	19	16	14	4406	DAVEY TREE/PARADISE Red Lion Pizza 6011 Skyway	Chairman: M. Fehrenbach*	Thursday 6:00 p.m.*	8	5	2	7	4	2
<b>NORTH BAY</b>																			
3711	MARIN COUNTY Roundtable Pizza S. Novato Blvd., Novato	Chairman: I. Snyder	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	14	11	8	13	10	8	4418	DAVEY TREE/EUREKA Labor Temple 9th & E. St.	Chairman: A. Stockham	Thursday 6:30 p.m.	8	12	9	14	11	9
3712	SANTAROSA Roundtable Pizza Steele & Cleaveland	Chairman: L. Stubblefield	Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	6	3	7	5	2	7	4419	DAVEY TREE/REDDING Pietro's 995 Hilltop Drive	Chairman: B. Irwin	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	21	18	15	20	17	15
3714	UKIAH Discovery Inn 1340 N. State St.	Chairman: K. Wilson	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	7	4	1	6	3	1	4711	ASPLUNDH TREE Mtn. Mike's Pizza Redwood City	Chairman: D. Sanchez	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.*	21	18	15	21	18	15
3715	LAKEPORT Senior Center 527 Konocti Avenue	Chairman: B. Dawson	Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	6	3	7	5	2	7	4712	ASPLUNDH TREE/SELMA Sal's Restaurant Park & Skelton	Chairman: A. Martinez	Thursday 4:30 p.m.	8	5	9	7	11	9
3716	NAPA/VALLEJO Mary's Pizza Jefferson St, Napa	Chairman: J. Kent	Thursday 7:00 p.m.	1	5	2	7	4	2	<b>OUTSIDE LINE</b>									
3717	FORT BRAGG/PT ARENA Masonic Temple 426 N. Main	Chairman: G. Fernandez	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	15	19	16	21	18	16	4911	OUTSIDE LINE/SACRAMENTO 2840 El Centro Sacramento	Chairman: J. Madigan	Saturday 10:00 a.m.	10	14	11	9	13	11
3718	WEST GEYSERS Giorgio's Pizza Healdsburg Ave.	Chairman: A. MacLean	Tuesday 6:30 p.m.	20	17	21	19	16	21	4912	OUTSIDE LINE/RIVERSIDE Riverside Hall Riverside	Chairman: J. Johnstone	Saturday* 10:00 a.m.*	17	21	18	16	20	18

\* Indicates recent change

**Make Your Voice Heard--  
Attend Your Unit Meetings!**



# States explore financing for family leave

## WOMEN WORKERS' HISTORY

### Rising Up Against Privilege

The early trade unions had a firm supporter in Frances Wright (1795-1852), a powerful speaker and writer best known as an advocate of abolition and women's rights. Born in Dundee, Scotland, she settled in the US at age 30, already well-known as the author of a book on American life based on a previous visit.



Frances Wright had inherited her parents' radicalism and their wealth as well.

When she came to the US in 1825, she spent half her fortune freeing slaves and establishing a community for them. She lectured widely on the evils of slavery.



In her lectures Frances Wright proclaimed that women should enjoy the same legal rights as men. Women, she said, should be freed from all "political and economic handicaps." She endorsed equal education for women, birth control and liberalized divorce... daring topics for the 1830s!



Speaking up for an early labor party in 1833, she described it as "labor rising up against idleness, industry, against money and privilege." "It has long been clear to me that in every country, the best feeling and best sense are found with the laboring classes." Frances Wright wrote her sympathies led to the recognition that unions were the best hope of working people!



Efforts are underway to make family and medical leave affordable for workers who want, but cannot afford, to take this leave, according to the National Partnership for Women and Families.

It is an irony of modern political life that politicians can bemoan the deteriorating state of the family and then turn right around and oppose legislation that would make it easier for parents to spend time with their children during those first few impressionable months of a baby's life.

Currently, the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) guarantees covered employees 12 weeks of unpaid leave each year to care for a newborn or newly adopted child or seriously ill family member, or to recover from their own serious health condition.

While the Act was a valuable step forward, FMLA leave is unpaid. Because of this, many employees cannot afford to use it. Two-thirds of employees who needed but did not take family or medical leave cited lost wages as the reason, according to a 1996 study by the bipartisan Family Leave Commission.

To make family leave more affordable for more working families, advocates are mobilizing behind a range of innovative financing proposals. Current efforts include:

### Poverty solution

If women received the same pay as men, the poverty rate in the United States would be just half its present rate, according to a study by the AFL-CIO and the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

Currently, women in the US receive just 74 cents on the dollar compared to what men receive.



AS A STREET PERFORMER, JODY FOUND IT RELATIVELY EASY TO JUGGLE WORK & PARENTING...

**California:** A bill has been introduced to study the cost of extending the state's Temporary Disability Insurance program to include employees taking family leave. The bill is sponsored by the California Labor Federation and supported by a coalition of labor, women and children's advocates.

**Iowa:** A bill introduced during the 1998 legislative session aimed to establish a fund for providing benefits to employees who took family leave and proposed to create a work and family task force to examine the impact of this program.

**Maryland:** A bill has been introduced to expand unemployment insurance to include employees who voluntarily leave work immediately following the birth or adoption of a child and are the child's primary care providers.

**Massachusetts:** Bills have been introduced to extend unemployment benefits to employees taking family leave and to create a "family and employment security trust fund." The estimated cost of providing unemployment benefits for family and medical leave is less than \$1.25 per week per employee. Rallying support for these bills is a diverse and active Family Leave Coalition, spearheaded by the Women's Statewide Legislative Network.

**Minnesota:** As of July 1998, a state-funded, at-home infant child care program has allowed working parents who fulfill income eligibility requirements to receive subsidies for caring for infants under the age of one.

**New Jersey:** A bill was introduced in the 1998 legislative session to extend New Jersey's statewide Temporary Disability Insurance system to cover family leave. The bill would also establish a task force to study the impact of family leave benefits on workers, their families, employers, and the general public. Advocates plan to reintroduce similar legislation in the 1999 legislative session.

**New York:** A bill has been introduced to amend New York's Temporary Disability Insurance law to cover employees taking family leave. A coalition of New York labor unions and child care advocates has made passage of this bill a priority in the 1999 legislative session.

**Vermont:** A bill has been introduced to authorize unemployment benefits for employees who take family or medical leave.

**Washington:** A bill has been introduced to extend unemployment compensation benefits to employees who voluntarily leave work to care for newborn children.