

The above photo shows Peter Haas, Campaign Chairman for 1969, standing with James Lydon, Recording Secretary of Local 1245. They are holding a large blown-up copy of the feature story that appeared in the Utility Reporter.

## LOCAL 1245 RECEIVES SPECIAL AWARD

On November 14, 1969, Local 1245 was honored at the annual United Bay Area Crusade Awards Luncheon by being named as the recipient of a "Special Award" plaque. The award read as follows: IN APPRECIATION, presented to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1245 AFL-CIO, in behalf of all Bay Area men and women of organized labor for the outstanding support given to the 1969 United Crusade Campaign.

Paul Speegle made the presentation to James Lydon, Recording Secretary of Local 1245, in front of a group of over 200 people. The award takes on special meaning when you take into consideration the fact that they met their goal for the first time in several years. This of course means that many needy people will receive help during the coming year.

Local 1245 would like to say a special thanks to all the members and Stewards for doing their part to make this a successful campaign.

## Negotiations on Clerical Duties to Begin

The second meeting and first negotiating session on "Indicative

Duties" between Local 1245 and P.G.&E. will be held on Dec. 17, 1969.

Information on the many classifications and duties of clerks in the Customer Services Line of progression has been received from members in the various offices throughout the P.G.&E. System. This material has been recorded, charted and studied and will be used as a base for negotiations.

Union's committee members will be: Joan Bynum, B Clerk-Oakland; Jack Hill, B Clerk-Mt. View; Dick Fleming, A Clerk-San Rafael; Gil Houston, B Clerk-San Francisco; L. L. Mitchell, Senior Assistant Business Manager; Shirley Storey, Business Representative and Ken Lohre, Business Representative.

Bulletins will be issued or articles printed in the paper to keep you informed of the progress made in negotiations.

Please send any corrections of name, address or zip code to P.O. Box 584 Walnut Creek, Calif. 94597

(Name)

(Street Address)

(City)

(State and Zip Code)



# utility reporter

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OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER, 1969

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## G.E. Striker "Tells It Like It Is"

Dear Fellow Union Member:

I would like to tell you the reasons why we, a total of 147,000 workers, are out on strike against General Electric.

The best way I know how to explain is to use my wife and myself as examples. I have worked for General Electric for twenty three and a half years. I am a Machinist for G.E. and at present they pay me \$4.35 an hour. My wife is a wire tester and as part of her job she repairs and brazes wire and also patches insulation plus other duties. Her present rate is \$2.73 per hour.

Ten years ago we enjoyed a cost of living clause, but the Company took this away in 1960 because Unions went in different directions and G.E. took advantage of this situation when they broke the strike. Over the past nine years, the Company has been able to hold us down to the point where we have not even kept up with the cost of living.

Today, we finally have unity and thirteen Unions have agreed to work together for an equitable contract. Our requests are reasonable and I believe modest in today's economy. We want to stop going backwards.

In brief, here is what we are asking for: 35 cents an hour for all employees the first year; 30 cents an hour the second year and 30 cents an hour, for the last six months, on a thirty month contract. We have also asked for an additional fifty cents an hour, pro-rated, for special skills; improvements in medical coverage and vacations and seven days of sick leave a year.

The General Electric Company offered us 20 cents an hour for each and every hourly employee, with wage reopeners in 1970 and 1971 with the right to strike each year if we don't like their offer at that time. They also want to maintain the right to cut our wages if the economy should take a dip.

They also offered an additional 25 cents an hour for special skills which would only effect 1,440 out of 88,500 workers. I, by the way, would have been one of the fortunate few.

In the area of sick leave, they "OFFERED" us two days after five years of service, three days after ten years of service and four days after fifteen years of service. They don't want the sick leave to go into effect until 1972.

All of this, (what little there is) was offered on a take it or leave it basis and we have obviously decided to leave it.

The company's reason for this hard-nosed attitude is to break up the cooperation and unity of labor in dealing with this giant wealthy Corporation so that they can continue to keep us under their thumb. If they succeed, they will set a pattern for all other companies to follow in negotiations.

I ask for your understanding and your backing in this very important fight. If your support continues and grows, we will win this fight and be better able to support our families in a decent manner.

Thank you for your support  
Albert P. Davian  
I.U.E. Member Local 853

P. S. The huge majority of G. E. workers, especially the younger workers with new families, are making around \$3.00 an hour and they can't live on this income alone. G. E. also denies us the right to speak for the pensioners who are on a fixed income.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We thought the best way to explain the basic issues in the G.E. strike was to print this letter from Al Davian to the members of Local 1245. We suggest that any contributions you might wish to make should be sent through Local 1245. Contact your Business Representative for the names of Stewards authorized to make collections; give your donation directly to the Bus. Rep. or send your check or money order, made out to the G.E. Strike Fund, directly to the office of Local 1245 and we will see that it gets into the proper fund.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

As of January 1, 1969 the office of Local 1245, I.B.E.W. will no longer send out delinquent dues reminders. *All members are hereby notified that they are responsible for keeping their membership in good standing in accordance with Article XXIII of the I.B.E.W. Constitution.* Section 1 of Article XXIII specifically states that: "No member is entitled to notice of the monthly or quarterly dues of his Local Union, nor of arrearages, but must take notice when payments are due.

# PITTS RAPS REAGAN'S STAND AGAINST REAL TAX REFORM

Governor Ronald Reagan's charge that the House-passed tax reform bill is some sort of a partisan plot aimed at destroying the nation's free enterprise economy that was "hatched in the backroom, passed in the dark of night and smuggled through the House" was roundly denounced by the State AFL-CIO today as "totally irresponsible" and "a disservice to the taxpayer's sorely felt need for effective tax reform now."

Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, said that remarks made by Reagan at a fund raising dinner in Flint, Mich., "constitute a major affront to most California taxpayers and to the vast majority of California's 38 Congressional representatives who voted for the bill and also grossly distorts House action on the measure."

He pointed out that the House Ways and Means Committee heard weeks of testimony on the tax reform bill and that 33 of California's 38 House members voted for the bill.

Only three California Congressmen, Rep. James B. Utt of Orange County, Bob Wilson of San Diego and H. Allen Smith of Los Angeles, all Republicans, voted against it. Two other Congressmen, one a Republican and the other a Democrat were not recorded either way, according to the Congressional Quarterly, Pitts said.

The House measure, HR 13270, was passed August 7 by a 394 to 30 vote, with 176 Republicans voting for it and only 10 against. Democrats voted 218 to 20 in favor of it.

"Reagan's wild charge clearly suggests that he believes 13 Congressional representatives of his own party from California voted mindlessly on the bill," Pitts said.

"Beyond that, Reagan's attempts to discredit the House-passed bill are clearly totally irresponsible and a disservice to the taxpayer's sorely felt need for effective tax reform now," he added.

Hearings by the House Ways and Means Committee got underway in mid-February, Pitts said, and House members worked on the measure almost daily since February 18. The Nixon administration's long-delayed proposals were presented on April 21 and the hearings on those proposals were held April 22 and 24. The committee worked steadily on the tax reform bill from then until July 30 when it concluded its work.

The AFL-CIO regards the House-passed bill as a major step forward but believes it needs to be substantially strengthened, Pitts explained.

In the past weeks, he warned, special interest groups have succeeded in hearings before the Senate Finance Committee in substantially gutting a number of the modest reforms proposed in the House-passed bill.

Part of their success, he said, can be attribute to "the failure of the public to keep up a steady drumbeat of letters demanding real tax reform pounding in on their U.S. Senators."

Pitts also pointed out that at the National AFL-CIO convention early last month, delegates representing 13.5 million AFL-CIO union members adopted a policy statement on "Federal Tax Policy" which declared that:

"The House-passed tax reform bill represents a major step toward tax justice but does not go far enough. The House bill should be strengthened and the proposals of the administration which would undo many of the House measures and add additional inequities to the tax structure should be rejected."

Among other things, the AFL-CIO resolution called for:

- Complete removal of the impoverished from the nation's tax rolls.
- A meaningful reduction in the relative tax burdens of low and middle income families.
- And the elimination of the loopholes of special tax privilege for wealthy families and businesses.

"Governor Reagan's unbridled attack on the advances proposed in the House-passed tax reform measure clearly places him in opposition to efforts to close loopholes presently according special tax privileges for the wealthy and the nation's corporate community," Pitts declared.

"For the Governor of the nation's most populous state to take such a stand represents an abdication of his responsibility to the high public office he holds," he added.



The picture above shows Local 1245's negotiating committee for negotiations with Pacific Tree Co. Seated from left to right are: Randy Thalacker, Ralph McClure, Tony Hartman and standing behind them are Business Representatives Dean Cofer, left, and Hank Lucas. L. L. Mitchell, Sr. Assistant Business Manager, and Carl Ingle are also on the committee, but were not present when the picture was taken.

## The Young Generation

"Flower power, peace, and love,  
A student demonstration.  
Ideas we have plenty of,"  
says, the Young Generation.

"Marijuana, pot, and weed  
Gives us good vibrations.  
Loads of drug are all we need,"  
says, the Young Generation.

"To Viet Nam some will not go  
Nor get an education.  
We meditate and let thoughts  
grow,"  
says, the Young Generation.

But stop, wait and see,  
Don't jump to conclusions.  
There is another good side  
to the Young Generation!

"We're the future leaders of the  
country  
We'll fight for our fair nation  
More opportunities you will see,"  
says, The Young Generation.

"So you see; we're not so bad  
We're a help to all creation  
Now there's no reason to be sad,  
Long Live The Young Generation!"

Editor's note: This poem was written by Gaye Lynn Moe, age 13, who is a ninth grader in Wilmington, California. She is the granddaughter of Charline Charles, who is a member of the clerical staff of Local 1245. The poem serves as an excellent reminder to all of us that we should not generalize about the "younger generation" and condemn the whole bunch of them because of the acts of a few. The fact that a 13-year-old is even concerned about our attitude toward her generation should give us all hope and restore our confidence in the "Younger Generation."

## NEW ECONOMICS

The Washington Evening Star, a Republican newspaper, related an astonishing tale of financial hanky-panky which Democrats immediately seized upon as an example of "the new Nixon economics." This is the newspaper's story:

A man bought a fancy \$10,000 car for his girl friend and gave the car dealer his check for that amount. The dealer endorsed the check over to a yacht company where he bought himself a small boat for the same amount. The yacht dealer decided to use the same check for a \$10,000 fur coat for his wife. The furrier no sooner got his hands on the check then he decided to spend it on a new kitchen which came to the same amount, so he endorsed the check over to an appliance company. And so it

went. Nine men endorsed the check before the tenth decided to cash it. He then discovered there were no funds in the bank to back it up. When this news was passed on to the other men who had endorsed the check, all decided—because each had made a profit of \$2,500, which represented the difference between the wholesale and retail prices of their products—to send \$1,000 each to the bank on which the check was drawn to make it good. When their checks were cashed they each still had \$1,500 profit as well as the items they purchased. In fact, they were so pleased with the whole transaction they sent a note of thanks to the man who had written the bad check!

—Oregon Labor Press



**the utility reporter**

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# Medicare Fees Grow Higher

By Sidney Margolius  
Consumer Expert for  
Utility Reporter

Retired people are going to be hit again by increases in both Medicare doctor-bill insurance and the "deductible" they pay for hospital care. This will be the third rise in Medicare's three and a half years of existence.

The increases will be a blow to older people already besieged by living costs hikes. The Medicare fee for Part B doctor insurance is expected to rise about \$5.20 a month (\$10.40 for a couple) on July 1, 1970. The present rate is \$4.00. The rate when Medicare went into effect in 1966 was \$3.00. The jump from \$3.00 to \$5.20 is an increase of 73 per cent.

Beneficiaries who have to go to a hospital also will find they have to pay more. Medicare Part A now pays all but the first \$44 of the hospital bill in each spell of illness. This is called the "deductible" and represents the average cost of one day in the hospital of 30 per cent from the original \$40 "deductible."

Moreover, beneficiaries hospitalized more than 60 days will have to pay \$13 a day for the 61st through 90th day, up from the present \$11 and the original \$10. Those who need post-hospital 'extended care' of over 20 days will have to pay \$6.50 a day, up from the present \$5.50 and original \$5.00.

Behind the sharp increases is a scandalous loophole in the Medicare law which has permitted the doctors themselves to be the judge and jury of what are "reasonable and prevailing" fees.

The way Congress set up the Medicare Part B doctor-bill insurance, after the first \$50 a year of doctor bills Medicare will pay 80 per cent of so-called "reasonable" or "prevailing" charges.

But at the same time the law established intermediaries, called "carriers," who handle the bills for the Government, and decide what is "reasonable" or "prevailing." The carriers in most states are the Blue Shield organizations.

That's the joker. Blue Shield is the creature of the local doctors. They organized and operate the various Blue Shield plans.

They have been noticeably generous to themselves. In the six months before Medicare went into effect, doctors started raising rates to older patients. They claimed that in many cases they had been giving them special low rates.

Thus, when Medicare did become effective, the "prevailing" rates in various parts of the country already were at a higher level.

But the doctors did not stop there. Successive fee hikes kept pushing up the "prevailing rates" in various regions.

The proof of the pudding is that under Medicare, doctor fees for older people, as gauged by the Medicare Part B rates, have gone up far more than for the population as a whole.

For the population as a whole, as shown by Bureau of Labor Statistics data, doctor fees went up just 22 per cent in a little over three years since the spring of 1966. But the pending new rate for Medicare doctor-bill insurance represents an increase of 73 per cent.

This also is far greater than the 20 percent national average in dentist fees in that period of approximately three years, and even the 61 per cent jump in hospital charges.

The rise in doctor fees hits Medicare beneficiaries in another way. In addition to paying a higher premium for the insurance, they also have to pay more for the co-insurance on Part B. The law requires

the beneficiary to pay 20 per cent of the bill, and Medicare pays the rest (if the bill is considered reasonable).

But 20 per cent of a \$6.00 charge for an office visit is only \$1.20. When the charge goes up to \$10, the patient now pays \$2.00. Similarly, 20 per cent of a \$200 bill for a cataract operation is \$40. When the prevailing fee rises to \$300, the patient pays \$60 as his share.

At first the government tended to handle the doctors with kid gloves. For one reason, the government has been anxious to get doctors to accept "assignments" of claims for reimbursement rather than make the patient pay and do his own collecting. The doctor has the choice of billing the government or the patient.

For another reason, Congress, in its infinite lack of wisdom, in passing Medicare had stressed that there was to be a minimum amount of supervision by the government and the maximum use of "third parties" to determine the rates of payment and handle the bills.

The flaw has been that the "third party" supposed to supervise the rates turns out to be the providers of the services themselves, the doctors, through Blue Shield.

Now both Congress and the Administration have become alarmed at the extent of the increases in fees. Both the Senate Finance Committee and Senator Harrison Williams (D., N.J.), chairman of the Senate Committee on the Aging, voiced concern. Last year the Administration wrote to doctors all over the country urging restraint. It also instructed the intermediaries not to arise the prevailing range in their regions without prior approval. In fact, no such approval has been granted in any region since last February.

buyers'

bailiwick

The Administration at least has been successful in getting more doctors to accept assignments from patients, rather than making them pay and collecting on their own. Note that a doctor can charge any fee he wants. He doesn't have to accept the Medicare rate. Two years ago only about 50 per cent of doctors accepted assignments, which would also require them to accept the prevailing rate. Now, about 69 per cent do. It must be said, of course, that it is easier to get doctors to accept assignments when the prevailing rate on which their payments will be based, are much higher.

Thus, while all retirees now will pay more, at least there should be fewer instances of very high charges by doctors who refuse to accept assignments. For example, New York State Senator Seymour Thaler last year reported such instances as a \$1,000 fee for a prostate operation. The usual and customary fee was \$300. So the patient has to pay \$60 as his 20 per cent of the allowed reimbursement, plus the additional \$700 that the doctor charged, or a total of \$760.

Our advice is to continue in Medicare Part B even at the higher rates. The solution to restraining any further fee increases now is up to the Administration and Congress. Even if inflated, half the actual cost of providing this insurance is paid by the government. The Part B insurance at least still is a protection against very expensive medical disaster.

## SANTA CLAUS BLAMES TOY PRICE JUMPS ON INFLATION

By Sidney Margolius  
Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

Toy prices have taken a startling jump this year; much higher in fact than most other goods. Some toy manufacturers even have adopted the "hidden price rise" trick of the food business. They have kept prices the same but have reduced the sizes or number of pieces they give you.

We interviewed S. Claus, long-time toy distributor, to find out why toy prices have gone up so drastically. He explained that government spokesmen recently had attributed higher meat prices to "inflation," and this was true of toys too.

"But 'inflation' is 'higher prices,'" we pointed out. "They mean the same thing."

"That's right," Mr. Claus said firmly. "The higher prices are due to higher prices."

While not all toys have gone up, the majority surveyed have. Some \$4.99 toys have gone up to \$5.99, and \$7.99 toys to \$8.99. Most of the increases are an extra buck (from you to them). But some are even more. A popular toy oven which was \$15.49 last year now is \$17.99. Another that was \$6.99 is \$10.88.

The increases of 10 to 25 per cent on many toys cannot be attributed merely to "inflation," as Mr. Claus has been led to believe. Overall consumer prices are up about 6 per cent from last year, while so-called household durable goods, which would be most comparable to children's toys, are up about 4 per cent.

Some toys do not cost more, but they give you less. For example, the famous Lincoln Logs, a really good construction set, is only \$4.99 instead of \$5.49 as last Christmas. But you get 165 pieces instead of 208. The Lego building blocks now give you 670 pieces instead of 619, but have gone up a whopping \$4 to \$16.99. (Actually you get more if you buy two of the 326-piece sets for \$6.29 each.)

In toy "food mix" sets too, a 130-piece set that was \$8.99 now is \$9.99 for

125 pieces. A set that was \$4.99 last year is the same price, but you now get 42 pieces instead of 45.

Some of the dolls not only have gone up in price, but have shrunk in size. That talkative Mrs. Beasley doll has gone up about \$1 in some stores and has been reduced in size an inch. So has Baby Precious. While our children play with their toys, the toy manufacturers are playing with us.

As before, we suggest **not** buying early. Price cuts get bigger closer to Christmas. Also, don't believe the "list price" is the real price, especially on TV-advertised toys. On some toys we've never actually seen any store charging the full list price. Stores use TV-advertised toys as specials, cutting the exaggerated list prices sharply. This makes for widely-varying prices on the same toy. Some stores may offer specials at only half the price charged by other retailers.

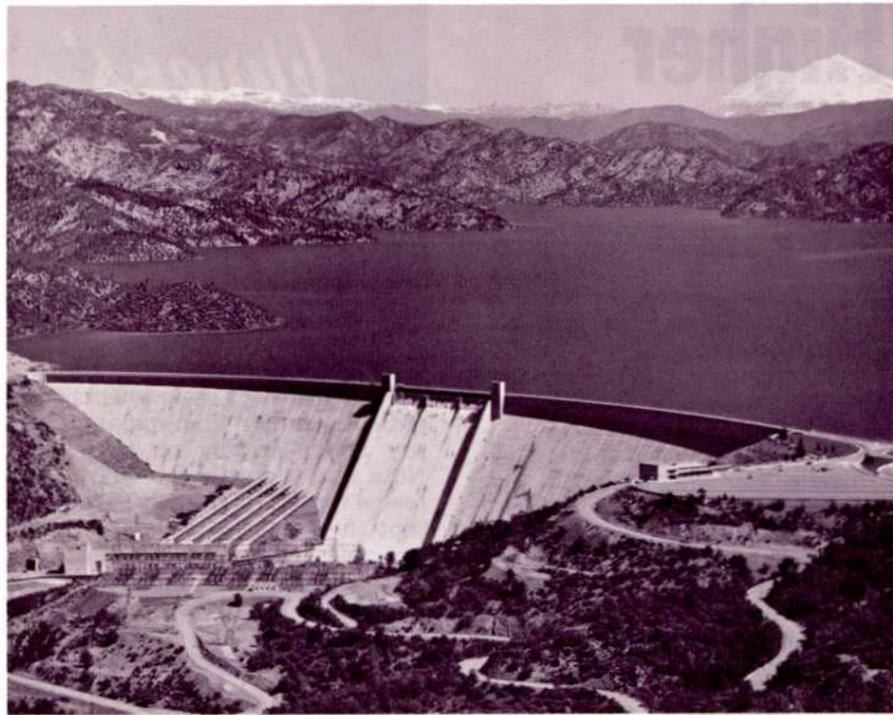
Here, for example, are the wide variations in prices on some of the highly-advertised playthings:

Voice Control Astronaut Base: \$6.99, \$9.98.  
Johnny Lightning 500 Track Race Set: \$8.91, \$9.99, \$10.99.  
Amaze-A-Matic Cars: \$3.99, \$4.99.  
Battling Tops game: \$1.99, \$2.99.  
Hot Wheels Super Charger set: \$10.88, \$16.95.  
Tricky Whistle School Bus: \$7.54, \$8.44, \$8.99, \$9.99.  
Crissy Doll: \$6.81, \$7.77, \$9.99.  
Skittle Bowl (a good family game at a reasonable price): \$3.77, \$5.88, \$6.95.

### Some Good Buys

Miss Union Maid, the famous seven-inch miniature doll offered by unions to acquaint families with union labels, finally has gone up too, after selling for \$1 for six years. Miss Union Maid is \$1.50 plus 50 cents for postage and handling, from Union Label & Service Trades Council, 119 East 27th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016. (They need three weeks to deliver in time for Christ-

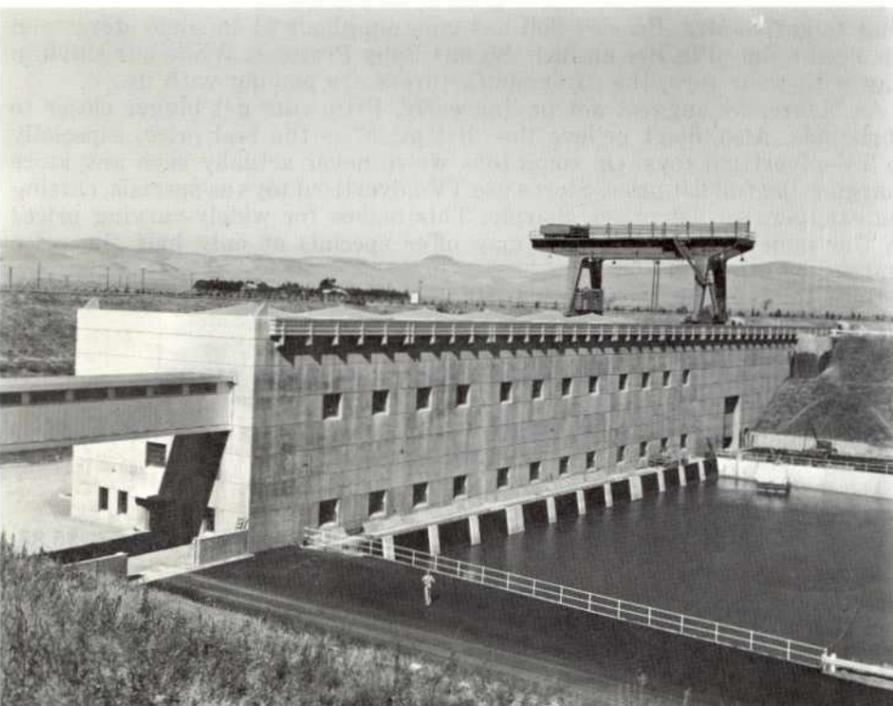
(Continued on Page Seven)



The above photo shows an over-all view of Shasta Dam and Power Plant.



Robert Hammond, Chief of Operations—Region 2 U.S.B.R., is shown making his presentation at the Stewards meeting. Seated on his right is Ron Reynolds, Business Representative.



The Tracy Pumping Plant is shown above.

# U.S.B.R. SHOP STEWARDS

A very interesting and informative Shop Stewards meeting was held by Local 1245 on November 15, 1969 at the Sacramento Inn. There were over 40 people in attendance at the meeting and they came from all over the State of California.

The purpose of the meeting was to better equip the stewards to represent the members of Local 1245 from Region 2 of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and this was beyond a doubt accomplished.

Ron Reynolds, Business Representative, was the chairman of the meeting and introduced the various speakers.

The first speaker of the day was J. Robert Hammond, Chief of Operations of Region 2 of the U.S.B.R.—Department of Interior. Mr. Hammond outlined the general activities and objectives of the Bureau and encouraged the men to continue their efforts towards maintaining good Labor-Management relationships in their areas.

The second speaker of the day was Mert Walters, Assistant Business Manager of Local 1245. Mert explained the new Executive Order No. 11491 which deals with Union agreements with Federal employers. This new order supercedes No. 10988 and Mr. Walters explained the history and background of both.

The next order of business was a section by section discussion on the agreement which was led by Ed Reith, Business Representative, and Bill Peitz, Chief Steward at Tracy.

Frank Brass, Attorney from the law firm of Brundage, Neyhart, Grodin & Beeson gave a very interesting and enlightening talk on the participants rights as prescribed by Federal Law and also told them of the services the law firm provides the members of Local 1245.

The final speaker of the day was Ronald T. Weakley, Business Manager of Local 1245. He discussed the history of Local 1245's association with the U.S.B.R. employees and he also outlined the duties of his office.

The Stewards present at the meeting were very much impressed with the



From left to right are: Ron Reynolds, Business Representative, Bill Peitz, Chief Steward at the Tracy and Ed Reith, Business Representative.



Frank Brass, Attorney, is shown making his presentation at the meeting after Ron Reynolds, right, introduced him to the group.



Mert Walters, Assistant Business Manager, is one of the speakers on Public Employees Order regarding Federal employees.



The above photo shows the Stewards seated on the west side of the meeting room.

# STEWARDS MEET

material presented during the day and many of them expressed that they felt better prepared to carry out their jobs as stewards.

Since many of our members are not familiar with the U.S.B.R., we thought a brief description of its purpose, background and accomplishments would be in order.

The Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior is an agency for the development of water resources. Their main purpose is to reclaim water to keep America growing. For well over half a century, the Bureau of Reclamation has dedicated its efforts to constructing facilities for storing the surplus waters of rivers in times of greatest runoff for use during the dry seasons.

In carrying out its work, the Bureau builds storage and diversion dams, water distribution systems, pumping plants, hydro-electric generating plants, and other related structures on its multipurpose water development projects.

The Bureau provides the following benefits: irrigation water for farms; hydroelectric power; Municipal water; river regulation—to reduce the danger of flooding and to alleviate silt and pollution problems; improved fish and wildlife habitat; and increased recreational opportunities.

The Bureau of Reclamation—known at first as the Reclamation Service—had its inception in the Reclamation Act of 1902, which was signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt. Its original purpose was to equalize flood and drought.

The accomplishments of the Bureau are many; two of which are Hoover Dam and San Luis Dam.

In terms of interest to our readers and members, you will find on pages four and five a picture story of the Stewards meeting and the participants' places of employment. The San Luis Dam and the Delta-Mendota Canal are not shown.



This photo shows the Friant Dam and also the Friant-Kern Canal taking off in the foreground and the Madera Canal on the opposite bank of the San Joaquin River east of Fresno.



ward at the Tracy Pumping Plant,



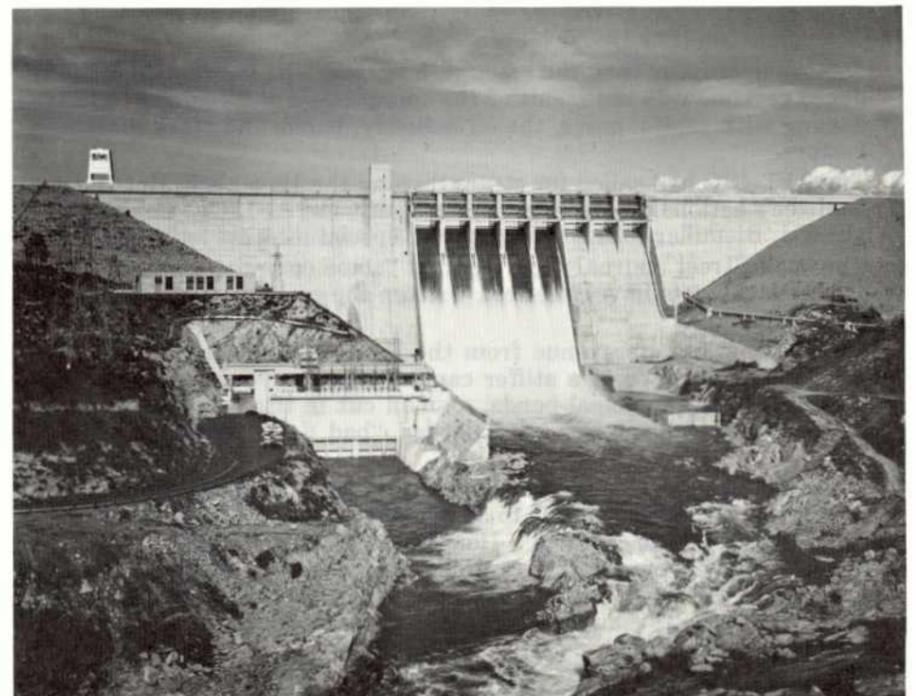
This photo shows the Stewards seated on the east side of the meeting room.



t Walters, Assistant Business Manager, is one of the foremost authorities on Public Employment in the country. He is shown discussing the new Executive Order regarding Federal employees.



Ronald T. Weakley, Business Manager, is shown making his presentation to the group. Under Business Manager Weakley's direction, Local 1245 has gained for its members the best wages and working conditions in the entire Bureau of Reclamation.



This photo shows the Folsom Dam and Power Plant. The pictures in each corner of this center-spread were furnished by the U.S.B.R.

# Attorney Speaks at San Jose—Clerical Meeting

Stewart Boxer, attorney from the law firm of Neyhart, Grodin, Beeson & Jewel, spoke to the clerical members about the legal services available to members of Local 1245.

Mr. Boxer outlined the services and then answered many questions from the floor. It's amazing how much money, fear and anguish could be avoided if members would contact a lawyer when any legal matter arises and that includes signing a sales contract of any kind. There were over 40 people in attendance at the meeting and they were very appreciative of Mr. Boxer's appearance at their unit meeting.

Another highlight of the meeting, was a discussion on the Unit's



The above photo shows the unit meeting in progress. From left to right are: Stewart Boxer, Attorney, Percy Rome, Advisory Council member, George Howard, Recording Secretary, Larry Hope, Unit Chairman, and Orv Owen, Business Representative.

forthcoming proposal for the 1970 negotiations. It was encouraging to see the amount of preparation and thought they are putting into this very important subject. A sub-committee was formed over six months ago and they have met a number of times to go over each section of the contract and make suggestions for improvement. This type of in-depth study on proposals will certainly help the negotiating committee when they are going through the hundreds of proposals that will be submitted.

They also discussed the progress on plans for a dance which will be held on December 6, 1969 and will begin at 9:00 p.m. The dance is being co-sponsored by the San Jose-Physical and San Jose-Clerical Units.



The above photos show a general view of the members in attendance at the unit meeting.

## Tax Reform Bill Threatened

The Senate Finance Committee has restored what a House tax bill proposed eliminating—hundreds of millions of dollars in tax loopholes for businesses, banks and millionaires.

Having completed its work on the loophole-closing sections of the House bill, the committee turned its attention to the measure's tax relief sections.

Although no exact figures were immediately available, one calculation showed the committee stripped more than \$500 million in proposed annual new revenue from the House bill.

**More important than the amount, however, was the fact that the reduced revenue was the result of the committee's weakening of sections dealing with capital gains, the oil industry, banks and stock market investors.**

The AFL-CIO had called for strengthening the House bill. But the Senate committee's actions reflected the influence of what AFL-CIO Legislative Dir. Andrew J. Biemiller termed "an army of special interest lobbyists."

The Wall Street Journal reported that "some committee sources contend that these lobbyists have, in effect, written the main sections of the bill applying to them."

Most of the loss of revenue from the House bill comes from the Senate panel's watering down of a stiffer capital gains tax, restoration of tax-exempt interest on municipal bonds, a small cut in the tax-free oil depletion allowance, and continuation of a padded "bad debt" tax-free reserve for banks.

**On the plus side, the committee kept the maximum tax rate where it now is instead of reducing it to 50 percent as the House proposed.**

The committee also rejected a House provision that would have extended present "income-averaging" to capital gains, waging and gift income; and it improved a minimum tax provision in the House bill. Both committee actions will increase revenue and are similar to recommendations made previously by the AFL-CIO.

The committee also made changes in House provisions covering foundations. It substituted a one-fifth of 1 percent tax on a foundation's assets for a House-proposed 7.5 percent tax on investment income. It placed a 40-year limit on the life of foundations which pass out money grants rather than operate specific charitable or health programs.

AFL-CIO News

## ARE YOU LOSING BENEFITS?

As an electrical worker, how much do you earn—\$8,000 a year, \$10,000 a year—or more? When you get your paycheck the deductions are probably more than you once made in total wages. The high cost of living concerns all of us; but probably you now have more protection from loss or reduction of income than any employee in history.

For instance, take the deduction for Social Security, shown as FICA tax on your pay stubs. Most everyone knows that Social Security provides partial replacement of income upon retirement. Lesser known, however, is that Social Security provides payments for disability. For example, let's take a look at the case of John Jones, age 32, who has been an electrical worker for 10 years. The doctor tells John that he has active tuberculosis and will have to be hospitalized. After four months of observation, his doctor has John on the road to recovery, but his clinical evidence indicates that John will be off work for at least a year.

As soon as John learns that he will be unable to work this long, he should contact his nearest social security office. The people there will assist him in completing an application for disability insurance. Starting with the seventh month of John's disability, he can receive \$175.20 monthly, until he can resume work, or permanently, should

he never be able to work again. In addition, John's wife and two minor children additionally can receive \$196 monthly.

How would your family manage in the event of your death? Your Social Security may prove to be the best insurance you have. Social Security survivors' monthly benefits can greatly ease the financial burden to a family.

Suppose John, in the foregoing example, met with a fatal accident, either before or after his disability. His wife and two children could, first, receive a lump sum death payment of \$255. Additionally, they would each receive \$123.80 monthly. Each child's payment would continue until he reaches 18, or until age 22, if he remains a full-time student.

Social Security survivor payments can also be paid to children if they have a working mother who dies. Even though she died several years ago or was not working at the time of her death, benefits may be payable.

A recent change allows monthly benefits to severely disabled widows over age 50, if they become disabled within seven years of their husband's death.

It pays to check with your Social Security office to see if your family is missing out on benefits. Social Security is not automatic and there are time limits. Are you one who may be losing out?

# East Bay Stewards Meet

The Shop Stewards for the entire East Bay area met at the Saranap Inn in Walnut Creek on November 17, 1969. The meeting was part of Local 1245's continuous program of Steward education.

Ron Weakley, Business Manager, brought the group up to date on his activities and also encouraged the Steward's to direct their interests to the 1970 negotiations.

John Wilder, Assistant Business Manager, gave a report on the status of the Review Committee cases and discussed the problems connected therewith. The Review Com-

mittee met every day during the week of November 17 to November 21, 1969 to attempt to reduce the number of cases and speed up the action at the Review Committee level.

Jack McNally and Pete Dutton, Business Representatives, assigned to the East Bay area, answered questions from the floor regarding problems at the various headquarters.

The final speaker of the evening was Al Davian, a striking G.E. employee, who gave the group a run down on the main issue of the strike.

# TOY PRICES UP THIS YEAR

(Continued from Page 3)

mas.) The doll is dressed in a nylon net ballroom gown, has sleeping eyes and moving arms, and comes with a 10-inch dome. Organizations can buy these dolls for \$1.50 with the Council paying the postage, in lots of three dozen or more.

Miss Union Maid is one of the few dolls still made in the U.S. Many of the others, such as Barbie, are made in Japan but still sell for several times the price of Miss Union Maid.

You can buy attractive gift books for youngsters from the government itself, or more precisely, the Division of Public Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

These include **Exploring Space with a Camera**, \$4.25; **Explorers and Settlers**, \$3.50; **Outdoors USA**, \$2.75; **The Book of Mars**, \$5.25; **Questions About the Oceans**, \$2; **Founders and Frontiersmen**, \$3.

A good gift item for adults is the famous **Co-Op Cookbook**, available for \$1 from local co-ops or by mail from Consumers Cooperative of Berkeley, 1414 University Avenue, Berkeley, Calif. 94702.



From left to right are: Pete Dutton, Business Representative, John Wilder, Assistant Business Manager, and Jack McNally, Business Representative, shown answering questions from the stewards.



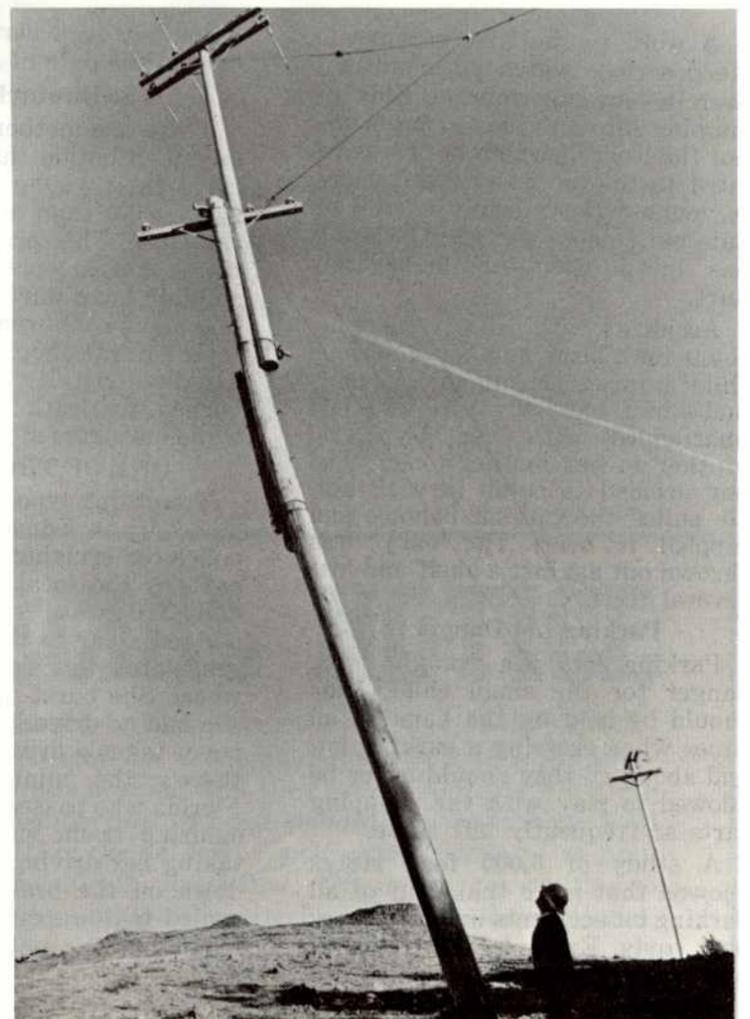
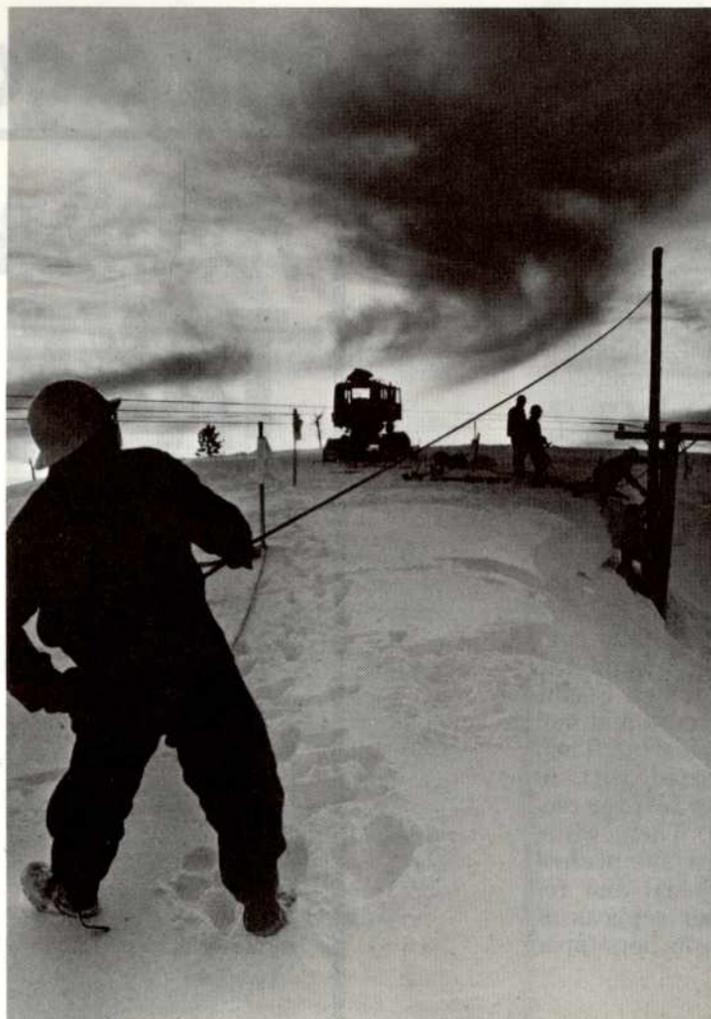
Shown from left to right are: J. J. Wilder, Asst. Bus. Mgr., Ronald T. Weakley, Bus. Mgr., and Jack McNally, Bus. Rep.



The above photos show the large number of people present at the East Bay Shop Stewards meeting.

## PREPARATIONS FOR WINTER

**BURYING A PROBLEM** — An other winter's at hand . . . which lends interest to these "then" and "now" photos attesting to the severity of high Sierra snow problems which reached a climax last February. Pacific Gas and Electric Company troubleshooters battled mountainous snowdrifts near Boreal Ridge in California's Nevada County, in this case (left photo) installing a 20-foot extension on a 40-foot pole to lift the power line and eliminate a hazard to skiers. At the right is the same pole today — extension still in place — as it's about to be "retired" from service. PG&E has installed underground cable to replace the pole line and improve service reliability in the Donner Summit area.



# The Safety Scene

## Accidents Never Take A Holiday

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following is a speech put out by the National Safety Council for use during the holiday season. It contains a very important message for all of us and we thought it was an appropriate article for the Safety Scene.

Probably the most exciting season of the year is the period starting with Thanksgiving and ending with the arrival of the New Year. For children, especially around Christmas, it is a time of fun and unparalleled joy. The holiday season for adults means baking and preparing foods, last minute shopping trips, gatherings of family and friends, tree trimmings, wrapping of packages and a constant state of busy and frantic preparations.

Whatever the holiday, whether it be a national holiday or a holy day, all have similarities that can make them the scene of a tragic accident. And accidents are frequent visitors to homes during the holiday season. Accidents never take a holiday.

This year why don't you give your family a gift of safety for the holidays. I'm not talking about a material gift—although that would be appropriate also—but I mean providing your family with a safe holiday season. Nothing can be of greater value or importance to family members than a hazard free home in which everyone can enjoy themselves.

Careful planning in advance can do a lot to eliminate hazards in and around the house. It will also allow you a little more time for those extra jobs so that fatigue won't set you up for a tragic mishap. Some special precautions should be taken ahead of time since everyone is less likely to be safety conscious when there are numerous activities going on in the home and elsewhere.

The kitchen is normally the scene of many minor and more serious injuries and during the holiday season it will be in use more frequently. People always like to congregate in the kitchen for some reason; however, keeping them out will not only make the job of preparing food easier, but will make the kitchen a safer place. Normal safety rules, such as wiping up spills, using sharp knives and others, are always necessary. It is wise to keep toddlers out of the cooking area and all other tasters and snoopers out during the busiest times of preparation. The more items that can be prepared ahead of time the more likely accidents will not happen. Delegate jobs to one or two helpers at the last hour to assist with last minute preparations.

Even though your Christmas tree should not be purchased until just prior to trimming, safe decorations can be planned ahead of time. Select a skirt for the tree, hanging ornaments and other trimming materials of substances that won't burn. Get out your old light sets and check the cords for frayed wires, loose connections or broken plugs. If you need to purchase a new light set make sure it carries the UL marker.

A tree can be a beautiful symbol of the season, but unless you are careful, it can also be a fire hazard. The best precaution you can take against fire is keeping your tree as fresh as possible. (Don't put it up too soon or keep it up too long.) A dry tree if ignited by the tiniest spark can burn in less than a minute. Place your tree well away from radiators and fireplaces and out of the flow of traffic so it won't be knocked over. Always set the tree in a container of water and replace the water daily.

I'm sure we've all been to parties or seen pictures of gorgeous centerpieces and decorations using lighted candles and greenery or other items that could burn very quickly. With a little planning, decorations for the mantel, buffet or tables can be nonflammable and just as pretty. Use flame-proof crepe paper, cotton batting or fire resistant paper to make these decorations. Glass, metal, asbestos and other noncombustibles can also be used safely with candles.

Check toys before you purchase them to make sure they are suitable—and safe—for the age of the child. Inspect all toys for babies and toddlers to be sure they have no sharp edges or parts that will come loose for a youngster to swallow. Some toys for older children may also need special instruction or directions. Take time on Christmas day to teach your child how to use these toys safely.

Your holiday guests are important also and you should plan ahead to make their visits to your home safe ones. Outside walks and steps should be kept free of ice and snow. Provide a bright welcome for your guests by lighting up the walk and driveway. Don't relax though once your guests are inside the house. Make sure the fireplace is covered with a fire screen. Plan ahead and place ample, large ashtrays around the house.

Careful planning can help make this holiday season one in which young and old will all enjoy the sights, sounds and scents of these festivities. The gift of safety is suitable for all families and all ages, regardless of the holiday. Make this holiday season a safe and happy one for your family!

## Kids and Markets

A word to the wise parent . . . Keep a close watch on small children in your supermarket. Kids are running into all kinds of problems, not the least of which are those related to the power-operated doors. A youngster can easily outrun an automatic door—get to it before it has time to open—and be severely hurt.

Accidents with grocery carts account for a large number of serious child injuries. Example: A year-and-a-half old baby girl was left unattended with her 4-year-old brother in her mother's cart. The boy decided to climb in with her. He pulled the cart off balance and toppled it over. The baby was thrown out against a shelf and lost several teeth.

### Parking Lot Dangers

Parking lots are fraught with danger for the small child. Kids should be held by the hand at all times when crossing a parking lot, and above all they should never be allowed to play with the shopping carts so frequently left there.

A study of 5,000 food stores showed that more than half of all parking lot accidents involved shopping carts. Example: One fatality was caused by one boy pushing an-

other boy in a cart, which tipped over in the path of a car.

### The Unwatched Child

There are mothers who have the mistaken notion that it's better to leave their young children in the parking lot than to take them into the store. This practice has led to tragic consequences. A number of children have started fires in locked cars and have burned to death while their parents shopped. Example: In a midwestern city three youngsters burned to death in a locked car while onlookers stood by helplessly.

### ONE OF THOSE DAYS

You think you have your bad days? Up in Edmonton, Alberta, a police car cruising to spot a recipient for the local safety council's daily \$10 award for careful driving nudged a car to the curb and congratulated the woman behind the wheel. She burst into tears. Seems she had no driver's license and had never taken a driving test . . . Then there's the mini-skirted girl in Florida who passed her test for recognizing traffic signs. Then, while taking her driving test she pushed down on the brake pedal and revealed to the examiner replicas of all the signs painted on her upper leg.

## Safety is not an accident

FOR THE HOLIDAYS  
**TAKE CARE**  
HERE · THERE · EVERYWHERE



HOLIDAY SAFETY CAMPAIGN • Courtesy of National Safety Council