

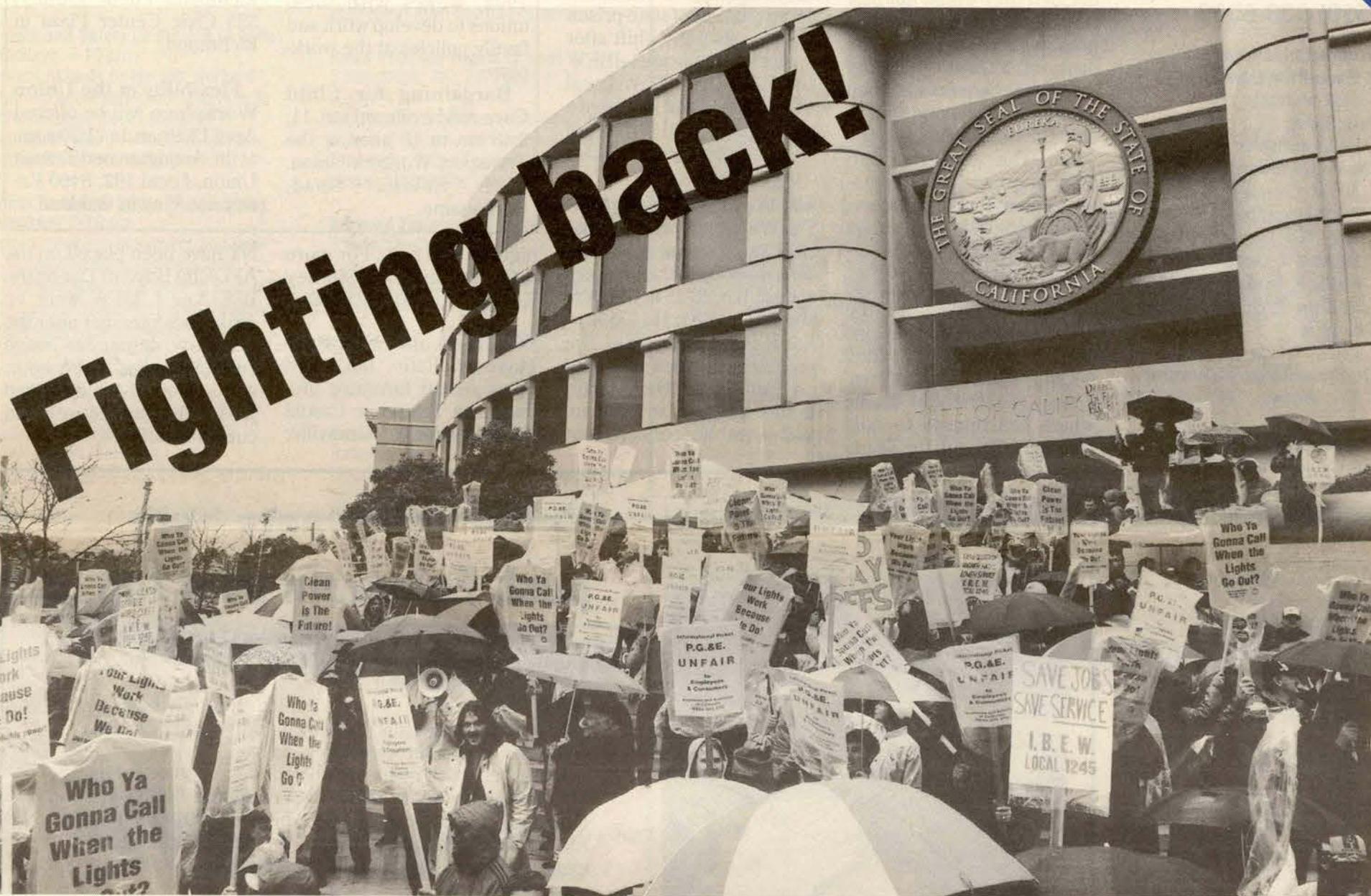
# 1245

International Brotherhood  
Of Electrical Workers  
Local 1245, AFL-CIO  
January 1995  
Vol. XLIV No. 1



# UTILITY REPORTER

Al Sandoval Scholarship  
See Page 16



Unionists, environmentalists, and ratepayer advocates rally at the California Public Utilities Commission in San Francisco on Dec. 14. (Photo: David Bacon)



A delegation of Local 1245 members including Business Manager Jack McNally and Senior Assistant Business Manager Darrel Mitchell, assembled at the Walnut Creek office on Dec. 20 to meet with PG&E President Stan Skinner.

## Skinner meets with union members

**P** G&E President Stan Skinner heard a different view of downsizing on a rare visit to the union hall Dec. 20.

Union members from physical and clerical classifications offered Skinner a ground-level perspective on what is actually happening to service in the field as a result of workforce reductions.

The members raised concerns about deferral of maintenance, service cutbacks, and erosion of the company's ability to mount an effective response to a major emergency.

Skinner said he found the meeting informative and enlightening,

but made no commitment to actually change any company policies. Layoffs are currently scheduled to begin in early 1995.

Meeting with Skinner were Joe Audelo, Bill Brill, Mike Brocchini, Willie Bouzek, Leslie Davis, Jim Findley, Dan Lockwood, Jim Lynn, Steve Moore, Jim McCauley, Mark Newman, Bob Olsen, Joe Osterlund, Millie Phillips, Norma Ricker, Dan Robertson, Russ Rylee, Ray Shepard, and Steve Ward, along with Business Manager Jack McNally and Senior Assistant Business Manager Darrel Mitchell.

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**WAPA**



*Workers here and abroad*

## Rolling the union on...

**No Trombones:** When management of the San Francisco Symphony declined to pay overtime for an Oct. 12 rehearsal, Labor Notes reported, orchestra members decided they would not play past noon, when overtime hours would have begun. The orchestra was halfway through Scheherazade when a trombonist shouted "Stop!" and the musicians left the stage. The walkout apparently stunned the director—not to mention the audience, which had paid \$15 a person to attend the rehearsal.

**Swan Hotel Boycott:** The AFL-CIO has added the Swan Hotel to its Boycott List. The Swan Hotel was added because it has the same owners as the Dolphin Hotel, which has refused to hold contract talks with the Team-

sters. Employees voted for Teamsters representation in August 1993.

**No Toys 'Fr Us:** The Toys 'R Us store in Aurora, Ill., suspended at least temporarily its use of state-prison labor on its night shift after two unions in the area—IBEW Local 701 and UFCW Local 881—objected and mounted a highly publicized boycott of the nonunion toy-store-chain outlet.

**Workers' Songfest:** The Western Workers Labor Heritage Festival will sponsor a weekend of labor music and art Jan. 13-15 at Machinists Lodge 1781, 1511 Rollins Road, Burlingame, Ca. The program includes a tribute on Jan. 15 to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at 1:00 p.m. and a public concert that

## 'Working Families' workshops

**T**he Labor Project for Working Families is sponsoring "Balancing Work and Family: A Union Approach," a workshop series addressing work and family issues. The Labor Project, founded in 1992, works with local unions to develop work and family policies at the workplace.

**Bargaining for Child Care** will be offered Jan. 11, 3:45 a.m. to 12 noon at the Transport Workers Union, 1521 Rollins Road, Burlingame.

**Family and Medical Leave Act, One Year Later** will be offered Feb. 15, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at ILGWU Hall, 660 Howard St., San Francisco. This workshop will also be offered on March 1, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Richmond Public Library, 325 Civic Center Plaza in Richmond.

**Flexibility at the Union Workplace** will be offered April 12, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 192, 8460 Enterprise Way in Oakland.

night at 7:00 p.m. For more information, call Shelley Kessler at (415) 572-8848.

**Telescope Furniture Boycott:** Patio, lawn and other casual furniture produced by Telescope Casual Furniture Co. of Granville,

NY have been placed on the AFL-CIO Boycott List by the IUE. Local 36FW went on strike in September after the company demanded wage cuts averaging \$5 an hour, elimination of seniority and job bidding procedures, and cuts in benefits.



## Union volunteers help push Feinstein over top

Union volunteers helped carry Senator Dianne Feinstein (below right) to victory last November in her bitterly-contested fight for re-election.

Feinstein's narrow victory was made possible by thousands of telephone calls made by members of Local 1245 and other unions throughout California.

A major effort on Feinstein's behalf was mounted in San Mateo County, where Local 1245 members Bob Quinn (left) and Gary McGee (below left) helped staff the phones. Also providing volunteer help in the San Mateo County effort was Local 1245 member Leo Tablizo.



## Dear Members,

I want to extend my deepest personal thanks to the hundreds of union brothers and sisters who helped us stir things up at the California Public Utilities Commission on December 14th.

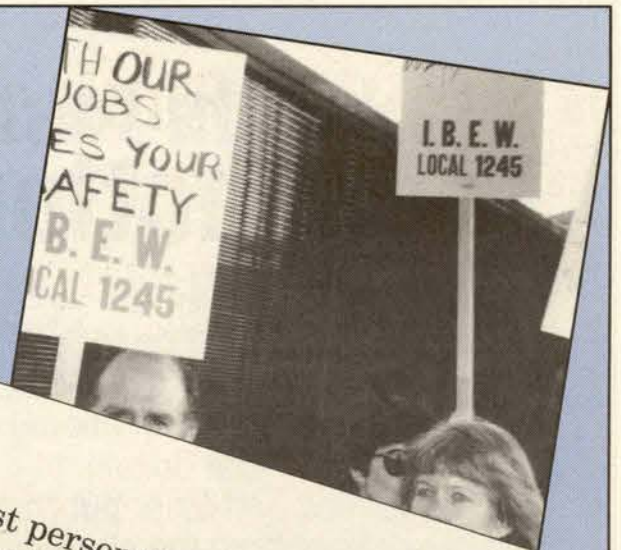
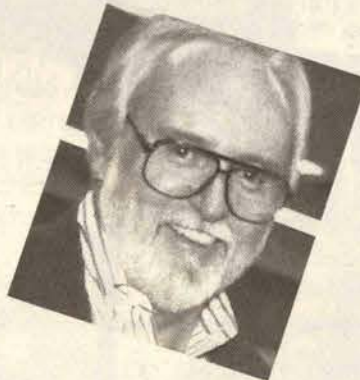
Your presence, your high energy, and your pride in your craft was communicated to people throughout the state by radio, newspaper and television. We definitely turned up the heat on the CPUC commissioners by confronting them head on with the issues of service reliability and safety.

This was truly a united effort. Members pitched in to help set up the stage, distribute fliers, assemble picket signs, clean up trash, and assist with the march to PG&E. For a lot of you, coming to this rally meant getting up early and driving a lot of miles. And every single one of you did it on your own time and at your own expense. That's dedication.

I also know that many of our members throughout the system are wearing buttons, walking on picketlines, and organizing other forms of protest at PG&E. I want all of you to know: you are making a difference. There are many challenges ahead of us, at PG&E and our other employers. With your continued commitment and energy, we will meet these challenges head on. Don't give up the fight!

In unity,

Jack McNally  
Business Manager



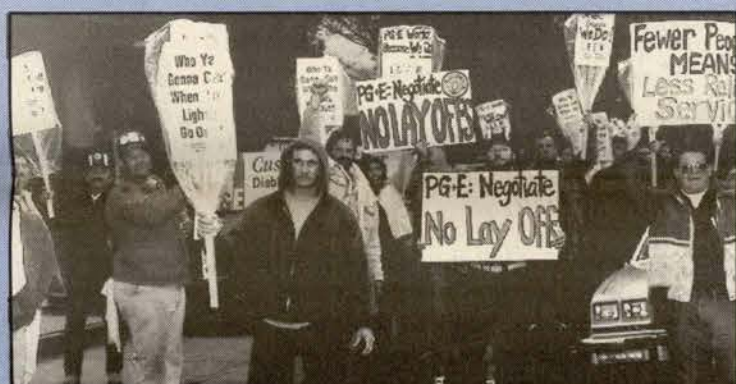
# Local action

In the days leading up to the December 14 rally, Local 1245 members mounted informational picketlines and other actions at PG&E facilities and other public locations throughout the state.

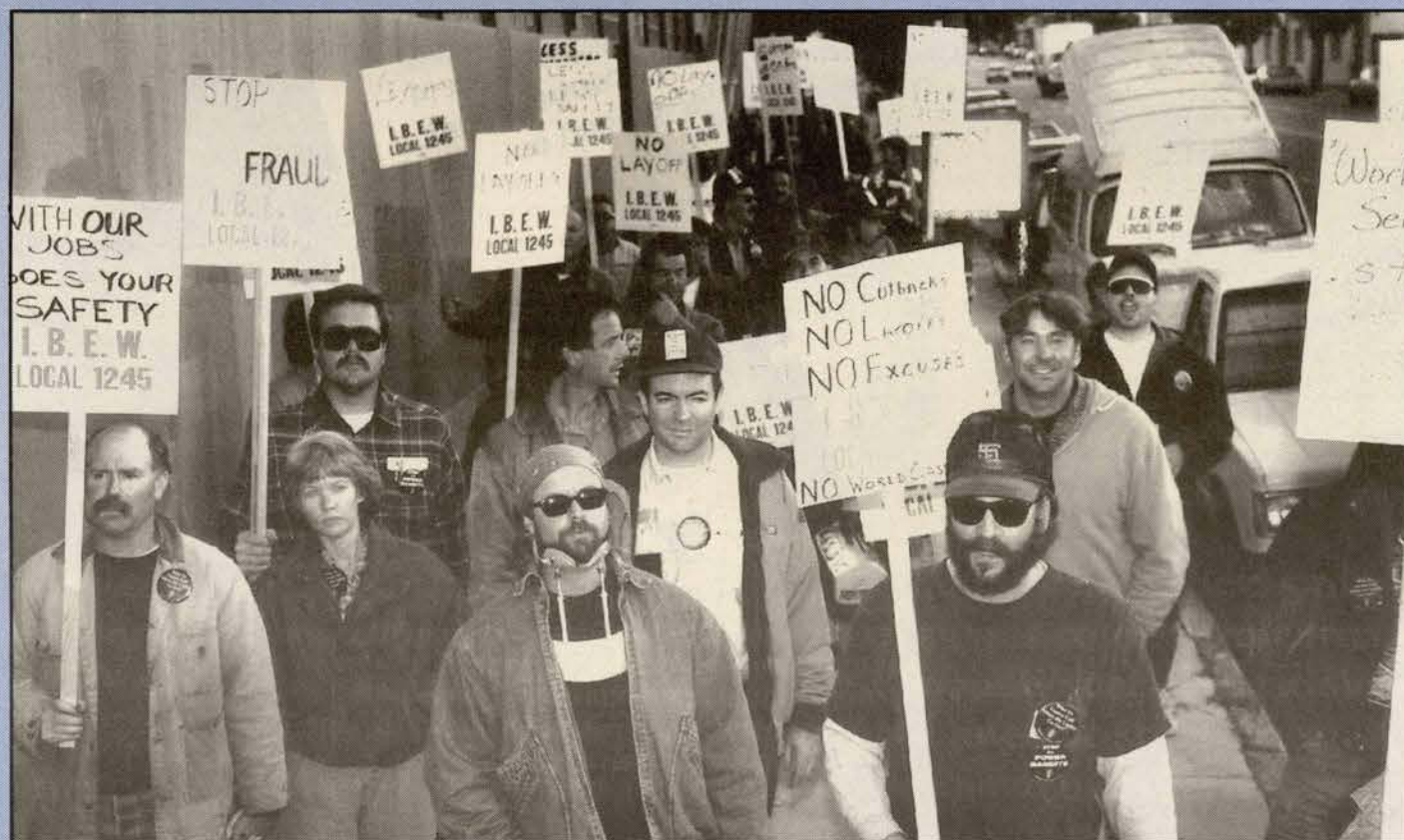
Local actions were scheduled to continue following the December 14 rally.



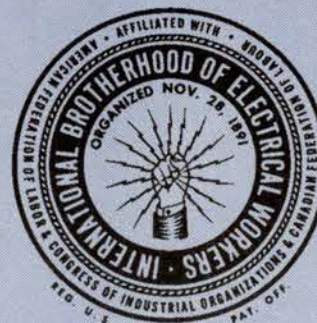
Informational picketline at PG&E Shotwell yard in San Francisco.



Members demonstrate in Concord.



Informational picketline at PG&E Shotwell yard in San Francisco. (Photos: Landis Marttila)



Unity  
Is  
Strength

# Huge rally and march take aim at utility deregulation and layoffs

**U**p to a thousand utility workers, ratepayers and environmentalists jammed the entrance to CPUC headquarters at Van Ness and McAllister in San Francisco last month in a raucous demonstration against utility "deregulation" and layoffs.

Blustery winds and driving rain failed to dampen spirits as union members chanted, "Service Yes! Layoffs No!" and "Who ya gonna call when the lights go out?" Passing motorists, including many PG&E trucks, drew huge cheers when they blasted their horns in support.

"For over 50 years the members of our union have dedicated themselves to building, maintaining, and operating one of the best gas and electric systems in the world. It's the foundation of our state's economy," declared Business Manager

Jack McNally, surrounded by microphones, scribbling reporters, and television cameras. "We say to the California Public Utilities Commission: Don't throw this system out. Don't dismantle the workforce that keeps this system operating."



Union members voice their concerns to the public at CPUC. (Photo: David Bacon)

The Dec. 14 protest was organized by Local 1245 to alert the public to a CPUC plan to restructure the state's electric industry. The union maintains that the "competitive market" proposed by the CPUC is already endangering the safety and reliability of electric service in California.

"This isn't some distant threat. Service is already being eroded because PG&E has abandoned some services and maintenance functions, and they are looking for more things to cut," McNally said.

Consumer activists say a few large corporations could benefit handsomely from the CPUC plan, but that residential ratepayers and smaller businesses are unlikely to get any rate relief. Environmentalists believe the CPUC plan could undermine programs that have made California a leader in promoting energy efficiency and developing renewable energy resources.

## In the 'Right Place'

The rally, which was followed by a mass march to PG&E headquarters at 77 Beale Street in downtown San Francisco, drew Local 1245 members from as far away as Eureka to the north, Bakers-

field to the south, and the Sierras to the east.

Lineman Greg Burk was one of nine PG&E employees who journeyed to the rally from Templeton, about a six hour drive.

"I thought it was really great," said Burk. "I talked to a lot of people just walking by asking what was going on. I told them their service may be in jeopardy."

Troubleman Bob Lovett teamed up with five others to drive down from Chico in a rented minivan.

"We knew we were in the right place when we got there. We thought it was well worth the time and effort to get down there and we were excited by it," said Lovett. "I got a great warm feeling be-

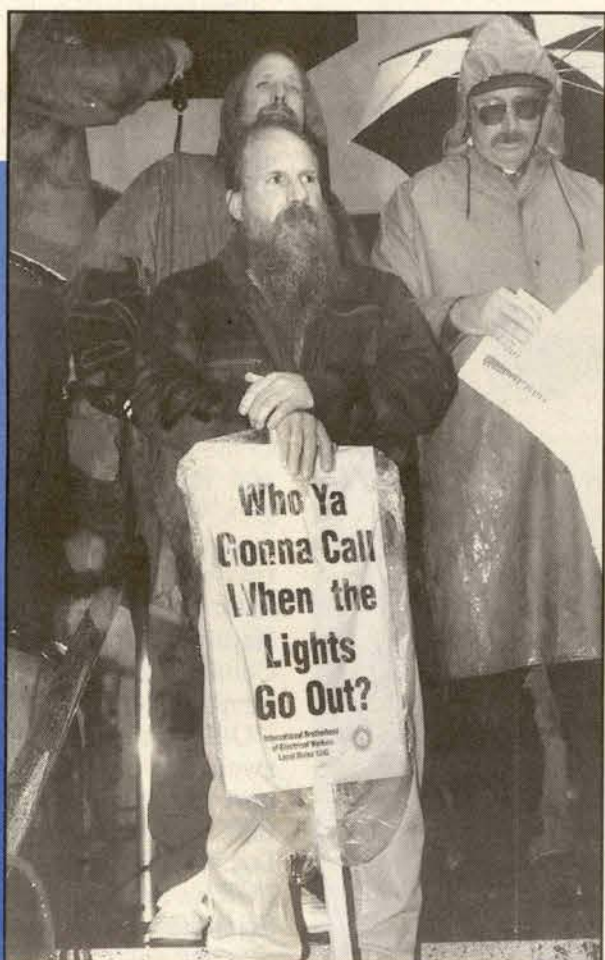
ing with that crowd. It was good being amongst them."

Barbara Saunders, a fieldman in the Hollister gas department, carpoled to the rally with union members from King City, Monterey and Salinas. Her daughter helped her bake muffins and brownies for the journey.

Saunders shrugged off the bad weather, noting that employees who work outside "are acclimated to it."

Saunders and others had words of praise for the state police, who helped accommodate the crowd as it swelled to several times the predicted size and spread out to all four corners of the intersection of Van Ness and McAllister. Several members

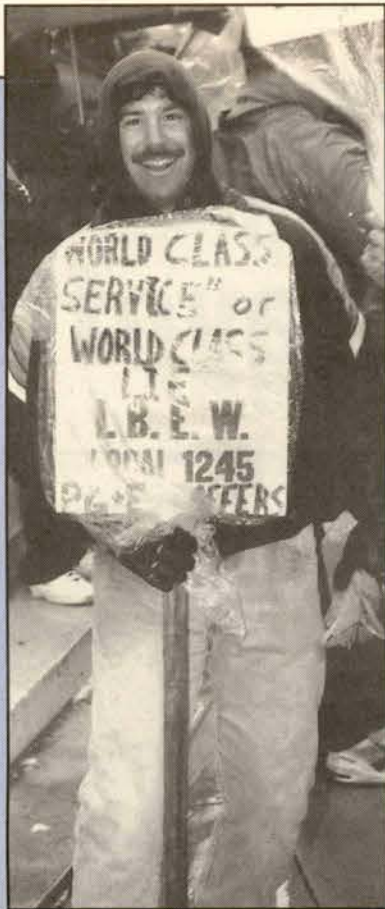
See PAGE SIX



"We knew we were in the right place when we got there. I got a great warm feeling being with that crowd. It was good being amongst them."

*Bob Lovett, Chico troubleman*

## RALLY AND MARCH



World Class Service or World Class Lie? (Photo: David Bacon)



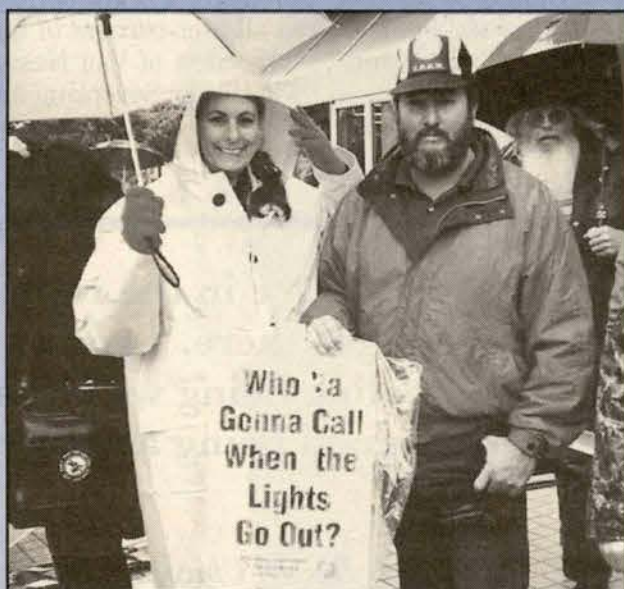
Union members jam the steps leading to CPUC. (Photo: Wayne Greer)



Signs confront motorists from all four corners. (Photo: Landis Marttila)



Dressed for weather. (Photo: Wayne Greer)



Who Ya Gonna Call? (Photo: Wayne Greer)



Union members shout their message. (Photo: David Bacon)

From PAGE FIVE

also commended the efficiency of city police in controlling traffic to assist the march to PG&E offices on Beale Street.

### 'Who Ya Gonna Call?' 'Nobody!'

John Fromer and Alex Bagwell of the Freedom Song Network got the rally got off to a foot-stomping start with a biting critique of downsizing, based on the Ghostbusters theme song, "Who Ya Gonna Call?"

"Winter storms, powerlines down—who ya gonna call?" they sang.

"Nobody!" the crowd roared back.

"No more linemen, left in town—who ya gonna call?"

"Nobody!"

Environmentalists and consumer advocates mingled easily with union members, everyone seeming to enjoy the opportunity to make common cause. Greenpeace activists carried picket signs declaring, "Labor and enviros, working together," while here and there union members hoisted signs proclaiming, "Clean power is the future."

Other signs declared: "Your Lights Work Because We Do!" and "Ratepayers Beware: the CPUC is Selling You Out!"

Environmentalist Lori Jablonski told the crowd that the CPUC's plan "would abdicate this state's worldwide leadership" in developing renewable energy technologies. She warned that "decades worth of progress" on environmental and "social justice" issues were jeopardized by the CPUC plan.

Jablonski's organization, Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies, worked to boost attendance at the rally, as did the Union of Concerned Scientists, the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council and other environmental groups.

Other unions also helped swell the crowd, with support coming from Carpenters, Service Employees, and Local 1245's sister union at PG&E, the Engineers and Scientists of California. Sev-

See PAGE TEN

*Text of remarks at the rally*

# McNally warns public: your service is in jeopardy

**T**hank you for coming out today--even in the rain.

I hope the commissioners take a look outside today. They've got some visitors.

They probably wonder who the hell is making all the racket.

I'll tell you who we have here today. We've got California ratepayers--the people who use natural gas and electric service.

And we've got utility employees--the people who work hard to make sure that gas and electric service in California is prompt, reliable, and safe.

We also have environmentalists, seniors, and consumer advocates here today, and we'll hear from some of them a little bit later.

We are here today with a warning for the people of California. The level of gas and electric service you have always been able to count on is now being threatened.

The California Public Utilities Commission is in the process of deregulating the utilities that provide gas and electric service.

This isn't some distant threat. Service is already being eroded because PG&E has abandoned some services and maintenance functions, and they are looking for more things to cut.

Last year, PG&E cut its workforce by 3,000 em-

ployees--and they are still cutting. By next summer, they say another 3,000 people will be gone.

Most of these are the front line workers. These are the people who come to your home when you smell gas.

These are the people who repair power poles so they don't drop live electric wires on your house.

These are the people who saved countless homes during the East Bay Fire by racing ahead of the flames and shutting off the gas.

These are the people who worked around the clock to get power back up after the Loma Prieta Earthquake.

PG&E says it can continue the same level of service with 6,000 fewer people. Do you really believe that?

We've already seen the warning signs. Last month, on November 12th, a natural gas explosion burned a house to the ground in Pleasanton. That explosion was *directly related* to service and workforce cutbacks at PG&E.

Six thousand workers will be gone. But, we will still have winter storms. We will still have fires burning. We will still have earthquakes--all this with 6,000 fewer people to respond. *Who are ya gonna call?* It may be a long wait.

Some of the big corporations pushing this thing say that deregulation is going to make electric rates go down. And for the biggest corporate customers, rates *will* go down.



Business Manager Jack McNally: "We are here today with a warning..."

But for you, the residential customer, your rates most likely will go up.

At least that is what has happened on the gas side since the beginning of gas de-regulation in 1988. Large users, huge reductions in rates. Residential customers, rates continue to rise.

Do you really think the lawyers and lobbyists huddled inside that building are worrying about *your* electric bill?

Do you think they are paid to think about whether *your* gas and electric power is safe?

I want to clarify something. Concern for residential ratepayers is not the driving force behind utility deregulation. This thing is being

driven by big corporations who want cheap power and by independent power producers who want to sell it to them.

That's what this is all about! The P.R. people and special interest groups will come out and tell you how wonderful deregulation is, and how well it has worked in other industries.

But we say this: Electricity is not a telephone! Natural Gas is not cable TV!

Gas and electricity are extremely dangerous. They can and do kill. We know that because we work with it every day.

It takes trained and skilled utility workers to see that gas and electric service is provided in a safe and reliable manner. And we have been doing that for most of this century.

The CPUC is supposed to regulate gas and electric service for the people of California. That is their obligation under the public utilities code of this state.

Utility deregulation is not a trivial issue. The stakes in this fight are huge.

We're talking about

whether we want to continue programs that improve our state's environment.

We're talking about assistance to low income consumers.

We're talking about fair equitable rates for residential ratepayers.

And we're talking about the continued safety, reliability, and promptness of gas and electric service.

The utility workers of this state are an extremely valuable asset. For over 50 years the members of our union have dedicated themselves to building, maintaining, and operating one of the best gas and electric systems in the entire world. It's the foundation of our state's economy.

We say to the California Public Utilities Commission: Don't throw this system out. Don't dismantle the workforce that keeps this system operating.

The ratepayers of this state want and deserve safe, reliable service.

And we say -- the time has come to stand up and fight for it.

Thank you.

**"For over 50 years the members of our union have dedicated themselves to building, maintaining, and operating one of the best gas and electric systems in the entire world. It's the foundation of our state's economy."**

**"We say to the California Public Utilities Commission: Don't throw this system out. Don't dismantle the workforce that keeps this system operating."**



Less Workers = Less Safety. (Photo: David Bacon)

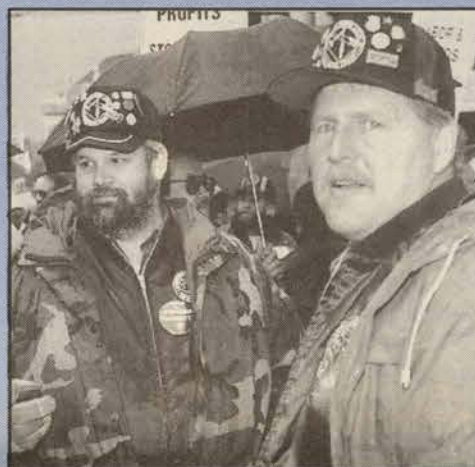


Ready for rain. (Photo: Wayne Greer)

# Fight Back



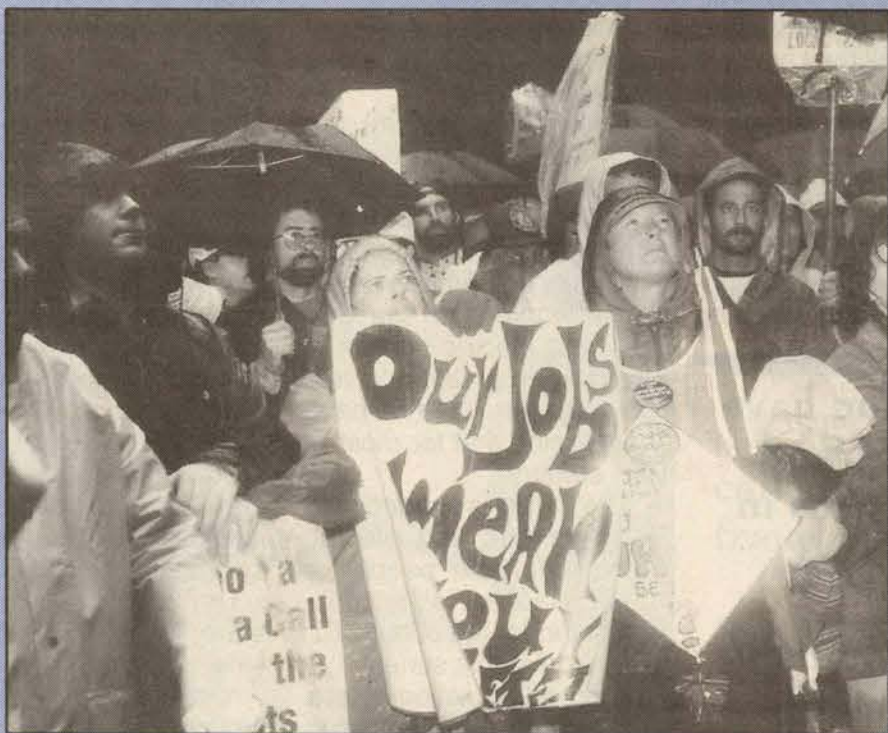
Local 1245 Communications Director Eric Wolfe asks: "Who Ya Gonna Call?" (Photo: Wayne Greer)



Carpenters stand with us. (Photo: Landis Marttila)



San Mateo Central Labor Council Executive Committee banner refers to CPUC building as a "crime scene."



Members listen to exchange between Local 1245 Business Manager Jack McNally and PG&E President Stan Skinner after the march to Beale St. headquarters of PG&E. (Photo: Landis Marttila)

## WHO YA GONNA CALL? (Tune: Ghostbusters)

When the lights go out,  
in the neighborhood  
Who ya gonna call? *Nobody!*  
And the PUC, ain't doin' what it should  
Who ya gonna call? *Nobody!*

Gas starts leakin', in your home  
Who ya gonna call? *Nobody!*  
Ya need help fast, ya run to the phone  
Who ya gonna call? *Nobody!*

Hills start burnin', in the fall  
Who ya gonna call? *Nobody!*  
Homes exploding, in firey balls  
Who ya gonna call? *Nobody!*

Winter storms, powerlines down  
Who ya gonna call? *Nobody!*  
No more linemen, left in town  
Who ya gonna call? *Nobody!*

Earthquake hits, powerlines fall  
Who ya gonna call? *Nobody!*  
No more service, for ya all  
Who ya gonna call? *Nobody!*

Disaster strikes, most any day  
Who ya gonna call? *Nobody!*  
If you think, everthing's OK  
Who ya gonna call? *Nobody!*  
Who ya gonna call? *Nobody!*  
**WHO YA GONNA CALL? NOBODY!**



Alex Bagwell (left) and Jon Song performing at the protest.



Wayne Greer)



ters stand with us. (Photo: Landis

# Fighting Back!



San Mateo Central Labor Council Exec. Sec. Art Polaski notes that police ribbon refers to CPUC building as a "Crime Scene."



Advisory Council member Bernard Smallwood leads some chanting prior to rally. (Photo: David Bacon)

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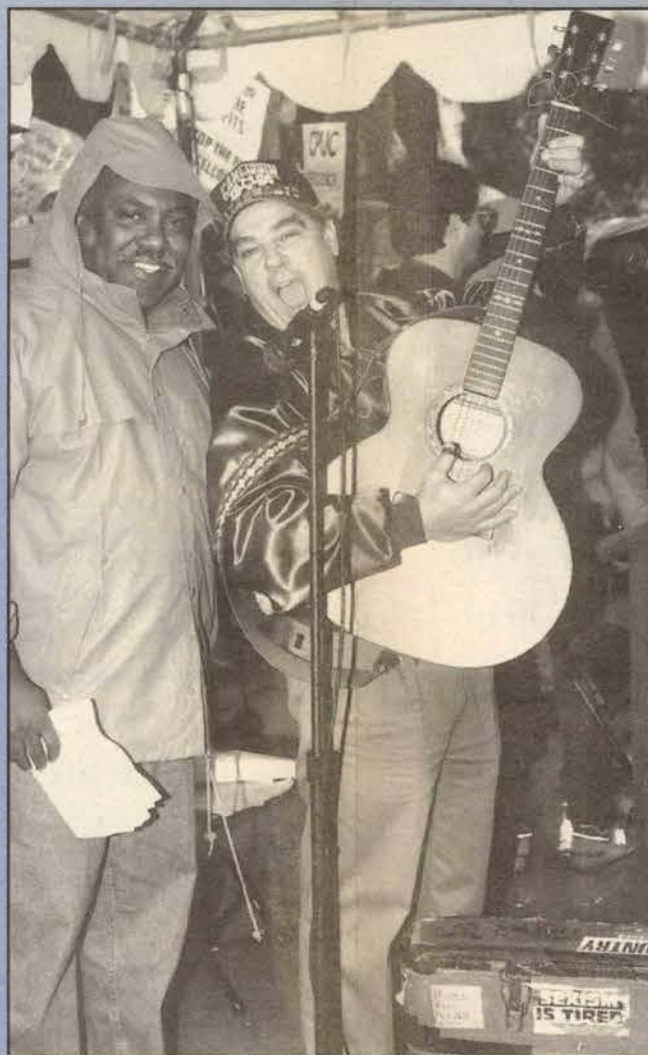
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Who ya gonna call? *Nobody!*  
WHO YA GONNA CALL? *NOBODY!*



Alex Bagwell (left) and John Fromer of Freedom Song Network. Also performing was David Welsh.

## YOUR ELECTRIC LIGHTS (Tune: This Little Light)

Your electric lights so fine,  
We're the ones who make 'em shine.  
Your electric lights so fine,  
We're the ones who make 'em shine.  
Your electric lights so fine,  
We're the ones who make 'em shine.  
Make 'em shine, make 'em shine, make 'em shine.

When your house goes still and dark,  
We bring the lights back on.  
When your furnace has no spark,  
We bring the heat back on.  
In the neighborhoods and streets and parks,  
We keep the power on.  
Power on, power on, power on!

When you're shivering in the cold,  
We get the heat on line.  
For the young, the sick and old,  
We get the heat on line.  
We don't leave you stuck on hold,  
We get the heat on line.  
Back on line, back on line, back on line.

When they let all of the workers go,  
Who the hell ya gonna call?  
When they downsize, terminate, layoff, eliminate,  
Who the hell ya gonna call?  
In the fire storm, ice storm, snow storm, flood!  
Who the hell ya gonna call?  
No more help, no more service, for ya all.

# ting ck!



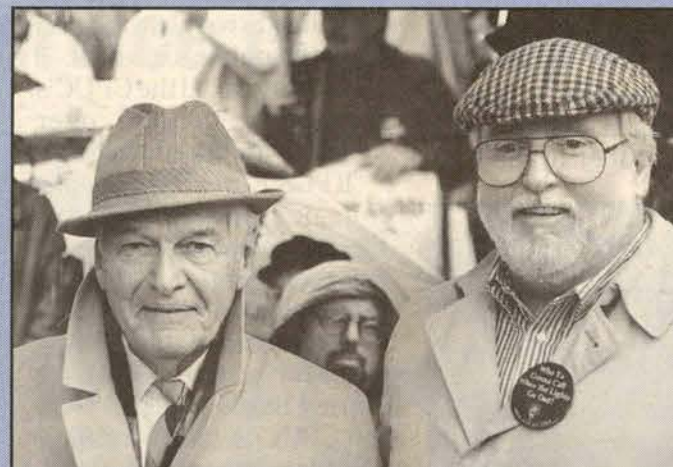
Sec. Art Polaski notes that police  
prime scene."



John Fromer of Freedom  
sing was David Welsh.



Advisory Council member Bernard Smallwood leads  
some chanting prior to rally. (Photo: David Bacon)



Jack Henning (left) and Jack McNally. (Photo: David  
Bacon)



California's children have a stake in safe, reliable power, too.

## YOUR ELECTRIC LIGHTS (Tune: This Little Light)

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We're the ones who make 'em shine.  
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In the fire storm, ice storm, snow storm, flood!  
Who the hell ya gonna call?  
No more help, no more service, for ya all.



Ralliers pack every square foot of sidewalk space.



Russ Rylee (left) and Arnie Streetman display photo of recent  
Pleasanton house fire related to PG&E cuts. (Photo: David Bacon)

## RALLY AND MARCH

(From PAGE SIX)

eral Central Labor Councils also showed up in support.

### "Fraud and Fiction"

Union members roared with delight when Jack Henning, leader of the Cali-

### Investigate unemployment benefits

Anyone who is concluding employment at PG&E, including those leaving through VRI or severance, should check with the local unemployment office to find out about possible eligibility for unemployment benefits.

fornia Labor Federation, castigated PG&E for recent job cuts, and chastised the CPUC for failing to regulate the utility in the public's interest.

Henning called the CPUC's regulatory control over PG&E "a fraud and a fiction."

"If PG&E fires 5,000 people, the people should fire PG&E," Henning declared, and then suggested that the time may have come for "public ownership of the utility."

Senior citizen activist Shirley Bierly similarly took the CPUC to task for failing to represent the public, charging that the CPUC plan would bring down electric rates only for the biggest energy consumers.

"That's why you've got all these big corporations parading into this building day af-

ter day, telling the PUC what to do. But do you think *your* electric bill is going to go down," asked the diminutive but feisty Bierly, provoking a chorus of "No's" from the crowd.

"Let me tell you, Santa Claus is coming to town, but he's not coming to your house or my house. He's going to be delivering presents from the PUC to the Fortune 500," Bierly declared.

### Focus on Service

Business Manager McNally kept the rally's primary focus on the connection between a reduced workforce and reduced service.

The on-going cuts at PG&E, he said, are mostly "front line workers."

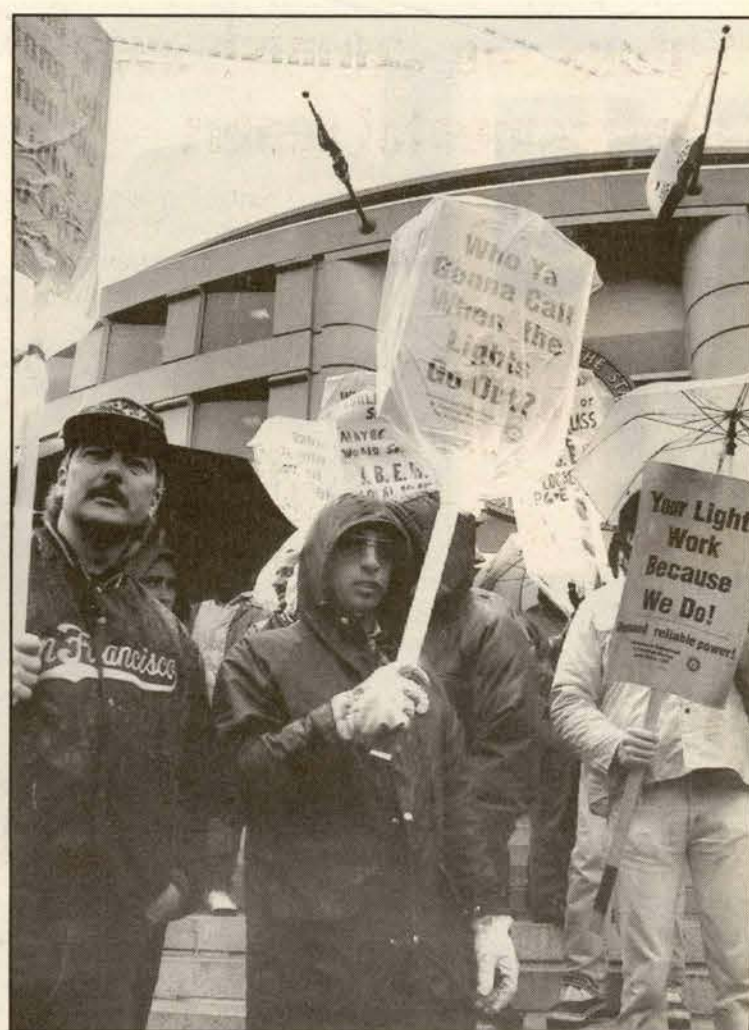
"These are the people who repair power poles so they don't drop live electric wires on your house. These are the people who saved countless homes during the East Bay Fire by racing ahead of the flames and shutting off the gas. These are the people who worked around the clock to get power back up after the Loma Prieta Earthquake," declared McNally.

"PG&E says it can continue the same level of service with 6,000 fewer people. Do you really believe that?" he asked.

Judging by its response, the crowd did not have a great deal of confidence in PG&E's claim.

If the current downsizing is carried through, McNally warned, 6,000 workers will be gone.

"But we will still have winter storms. We will still have fires burning. We will still have earthquakes - all this with 6,000 fewer people to respond," declared McNally,



who then asked, "Who are ya gonna call?"

"Nobody!" roared the crowd.

"It may be a long wait," agreed McNally.

### Extreme Danger

McNally warned that "the P.R. people and special interest groups" talk about how wonderful deregulation is and how well it has worked in other industries.

"But we say this: Electricity is not a telephone. Natural gas is not cable TV!" McNally declared.

"Gas and electricity are extremely dangerous. They can and do kill. We know that because we work with it every day."

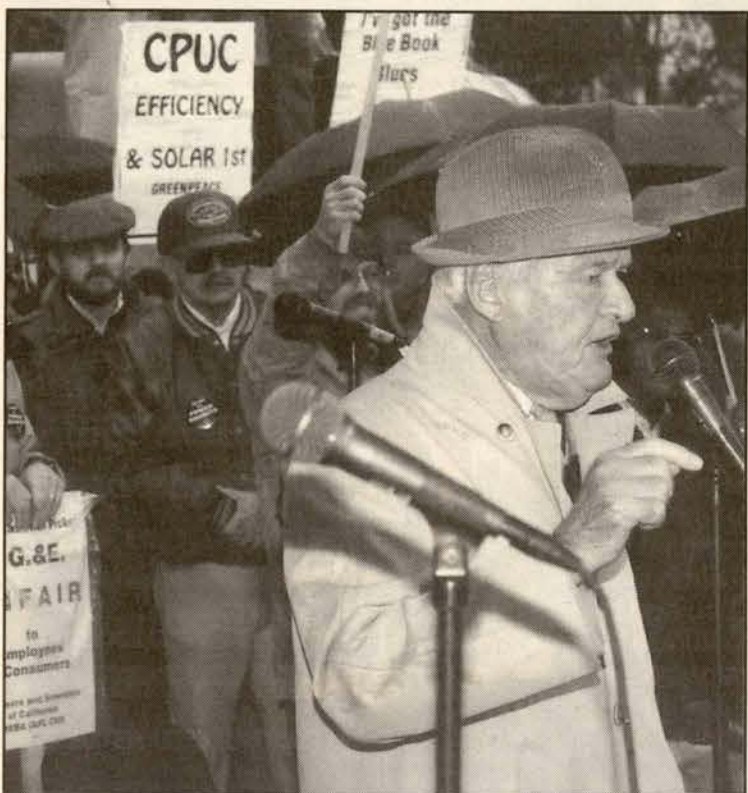
He noted that just four weeks earlier a natural gas explosion had burned a house to the ground in Pleasanton. Next to McNally on the stage was a full-color poster showing the house in flames, surrounded by firefighters.

"That explosion was directly related to service and workforce cutbacks at PG&E," McNally said. (See Page 14.)

### March to Beale

Following the rally, McNally joined several hundred rally participants in a march down Market Street to PG&E headquarters at 77 Beale Street.

"The walk up to Beale



Jack Henning

California Labor Federation leader Jack Henning called the CPUC's regulatory control over PG&E "a fraud and a fiction."

"If PG&E fires 5,000 people, the people should fire PG&E," Henning declared.

He said the time may have come for "public ownership of the utility."

## Unions win skirmish over environmental report

**A**fter six months of delay, on Dec. 7 the California Public Utilities Commission handed Local 1245 and the Coalition of California Utility Employees an important victory in the battle against irresponsible deregulation of the electric utilities in California.

"The CPUC finally acknowledged that it must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act before it carries out its retail wheeling proposal," said Marc Joseph, an attorney with Adams & Broadwell, the firm representing the Coalition of California Utility Employees in proceedings before the CPUC.

"This means that the CPUC would prepare an En-

vironmental Impact Report (EIR), which would examine the environmental effects of competition among generators, such as increased use of out of state coal plants and decreased energy efficiency programs," said Joseph.

Preparation of an EIR would take about one year. Retail wheeling could not be implemented until the EIR was completed, according to Joseph.

The CPUC's recent order set March 22, 1995 as the projected date for releasing the Commission's revised retail wheeling proposal. The final proposal would be released in May, after which the Commission would begin to prepare the EIR, Joseph said.

Street was great," recalled Burk, the Templeton lineman. "A lot of store owners came out to ask what was going on."

When the marchers arrived at PG&E headquarters, Burk said, they began shouting for PG&E President Stan Skinner to come out and meet with them.

After a few minutes, Burk said, "I looked over my right hand shoulder and there's Stan Skinner walking around."

Two of Burk's co-workers from Templeton talked to Skinner "about reliability of service and safety, and getting rid of the people and what the impact would be," said Burk. "[Skinner] said there shouldn't be any impact and we said there would be."

Burk said he admired Skinner for coming out to speak with the employees, but he doubted that Skinner understood the service consequences of layoffs as well as the employees did.

"We're out there. We see it—he doesn't," said Burk. "We climb the pole, we can see whether it's bad or not. We open the underground box to see if the cables are still good or not."

Before returning to his office, Skinner pledged to meet with a delegation of rank and file members to discuss their concerns. That meeting was later scheduled for Dec. 20.

### Worksite Agitation

Virtually everyone present judged the rally an enormous success, both in terms of educating the public and recharging union members battered by two years of downsizings and displacements.

But a battle of this magnitude is not won in a day, a point that became painfully clear the day after the rally when PG&E released details of the layoffs scheduled for early 1995.

"Our people have done an incredible job these past few weeks," said McNally, noting that members have agitated at the worksite, conducted informational picketing outside company gates and other public locations, handed out thousands of leaflets, and generated significant newspaper and television coverage.

"Our job now is to keep the pressure on PG&E to back off these unwise layoffs and to use attrition in cases where workforce reductions can be justified."

*Text of Shirley Bierly's remarks*

## Average ratepayers will suffer

**Y**ou know what this building is? This is the California Public Utilities Commission. Their job is to protect us, the public.

But, I've got to tell you, as a member of the public, I'm not feeling too secure.

The PUC says we need "deregulation" to lower our electric rates. So they come up with a plan where all of us are supposed to shop in the marketplace for electricity. Everybody gets to shop.

There's just one little hitch. The huge corporations get to go first. The PUC proposal lets the biggest customers start shopping in 1996. Next, the medium-sized corporations get to do their shopping.

So, when do people like us get to start shopping for our electricity? Not until the year 2002.

Now, how many of you have ever gone to a sale at your local department store? You know how it works. If you show up early, you're going to find some pretty good buys. If you show up at the end of the day, all that merchandise is going to be picked over by everybody who came ahead of you. Not many good deals left.

Well, if the electric sale starts in 1996, how many good deals do you think are going to be left in the year 2002? In this PUC plan, the big guys are the early shoppers. They are the ones who are going to snap up the cheapest sources of energy. Are their rates going to go down? Of course their rates are going to go down. That's why you've got all these big corporations parading into this



Consumer and senior activist Shirley Bierly.

building day after day, telling the PUC what to do.

But do you think your electric bill is going to go down? Let me tell you, Santa Claus is coming to town, but he's not coming to your house or my house. He's going to be delivering presents from the PUC to the Fortune 500.

Let me tell you something about the senior citizens of this state. I've worked on their issues. I've seen seniors and other low income people have to choose between paying their bills and buying groceries. It's not fair to ask poor people and middle-income people to subsidize rate breaks for the biggest, wealthiest corporations in the state.

Of course, the PUC says we're going to get rate relief in 2002. Well, you know, to those of us who are already up in years, that's not a whole lot of comfort is it?

Who the heck is the PUC supposed to be serving? This Public Utilities Commission was set up over 80 years ago to serve us, the public.

I see all the buttons: "Who're You Gonna Call When the Lights Go Out?" That's a very serious question for older people. Up to

now, we've been able to count on PG&E. I know a lot of you here today are hard-working PG&E employees and I want to thank you for the job you've done.

But, I wonder what's going to happen to my service when you're no longer there? What's going to happen when PG&E keeps cutting its workforce? What's going to happen when my lights go out? Will PG&E have the people to come out right away and fix it? Or am I going to have to wait in line behind Chevron and Exxon and all the other big customers.

We need to send a message to the Public Utilities Commission. And this is what I think we need to say to them:

"You are supposed to serve the public. You're supposed to safeguard our access to affordable, reliable and safe electric power. You're supposed to be the Public Utilities Commission. Now start acting like it."

*(Shirley Bierly is convenor of California Legislative Council for Older Americans.)*

**"It's not fair to ask poor people and middle-income people to subsidize rate breaks for the biggest, wealthiest corporations in the state."**

# Members carry protest to PG&E's Beale St. office



Union members picket PG&E. (Photos: Landis Marttila)

## Skinner comes down for a chat



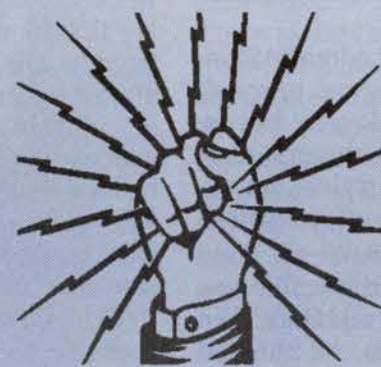
Stan Skinner



Business Manager Jack McNally (left), San Francisco Unit Chair Millie Phillips, and David Walters at PG&E headquarters.



Union pickets protest cutbacks at PG&E.



## Media start to notice

After months of virtual silence on the subject of utility restructuring, the area's news media has finally started to listen up, thanks in large part to local picketing by Local 1245 members and the union's mass rally in San Francisco on Dec. 14.

Among the televised media outlets present at the rally were Channel 4 (KRON), Channel 5 (KPIX), Channel 7 (KGO), Channel 14 (KDTV, Spanish), and Bay TV (cable-all news station). Channel 50 (KFTY in Santa Rosa) did an interview with John White of CEERT, who offered an environmental perspective. (See Lori Jablonski's remarks at right for CEERT's perspective on utility deregulation).

Radio stations present at the rally included KGO, KCBS, KQED, and KPFA. In addition, the day before the rally KPFA featured a 15-minute interview with Local 1245 Communications Director Eric Wolfe and Ralph Cavanagh of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Newspapers present at the rally included The San Francisco Chronicle, The San Francisco Examiner, The Oakland Tribune, and the San Jose Mercury News, as well as the Reuters news service.

Newspapers with recent articles, columns or letters to the editor on utility restructuring include: The Modesto Bee, The Benecia Times Herald, Oakland Tribune, Tri-Valley Herald, The Santa Cruz Sentinel, The San Francisco Examiner, and The San Francisco Chronicle.

Of course the most complete coverage of the utility restructuring issue has been delivered right to your mailbox: The Utility Reporter!



*Text of Lori Jablonski's remarks*

## CPUC plan puts environment at risk

It is certainly ironic that the California Public Utilities Commission chose Earth Week (during April 1994) to introduce its sweeping proposal to deregulate California's electric industry.

The CPUC's plan would devastate decades worth of progress towards an environmentally sustainable and socially just electric system in this state.

It would gut state policy that makes it profitable for utilities to encourage the most efficient energy use by the consumer.

It would allow big businesses to abandon their utility for the cheapest power possible, forcing residential customers--just like you and me--to foot the bill for the existing system and to bear all risk for future fuel price increases and the costs of efforts to reduce air pollution.

It would abdicate this state's worldwide leadership in new renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency services, and with it California's most important opportunity to create new jobs and economic development.

It would expose low-income customers to the potential decimation of lifeline services and home weatherization programs simply because some big businesses no longer want to pay for environmental protection and the guarantee of universal access--even though electricity is vital to the maintenance of a humane standard of living in today's society.

And it would threaten the environment of our neighbors as out-of-state coal and big hydro emerge as the cheapest way to meet California's huge electricity appetite.

All for what? Instant rate relief for only a few of the biggest electricity users, while the rest of us get only the vague promise of some far-off, future opportunity to save maybe a few cents on our electric bill.

The CPUC says it wants more competition in the electric industry. Environmentalists also want more competition.

But while the Commission seeks so-called free energy markets where only a few can shop and "cheapest" prevails, environmentalists want a market where all Californians can choose affordable clean resources and conservation to meet their energy needs and where the broader public trust values of environmental and human resource protection are valued and honored.

Do any of us believe that California's air is clean enough; that the environment in places like Utah, New Mexico, Wyoming and Mexico is up for grabs; and that trickle-down economics really works?

In hearing rooms throughout the state, environmentalists, labor representatives, small consumers, retirees, health care workers, responsible businesses, low-income and ethnic community activists, mothers and fathers, grandmothers and



Lori Jablonski acknowledges the crowd's applause with a smile. (Photo: Landis Marttila)

grandfathers have been telling the Commission that there are ways to both reduce costs and invest in cleaner resources now.

They have been telling the Commission that plugged rivers and dirty air were the costs of cheap power in the past, and it certainly won't be any different now.

And they have been telling the Commission that its proposal will actually wind up cheating Californians if more pollution is the result.

It's time for Commissioners to let us know whether they've been listening!

For the past 20 years, California has led the world in the creation and implementation of policies designed to encourage the development and use of cost-effective clean resources such as solar, wind, geothermal and energy efficiency services.

Renewables are safer and healthier than fossil fuels and possess job creation opportunities that are virtually inexhaustible.

Let's be real. Environmentalists didn't put these practices into place. The bipartisan mix of lawmakers who signed these policies into law did so because they realized that renewables were indeed the future in terms of jobs and development. They knew the horizon was unlimited because renewables can and will eventually replace widespread fossil fuel use and California was well-positioned to take full advantage.

Looking overseas to Europe, Japan and other Asian countries, all are expanding their commitment to renewable resources as they seek to retool themselves and, in fact, the rest of the world. But unlike us, Europe and Japan do not have in place the programs that over the years have encouraged Californians to take the risks and invest in these technologies.

We must tell the CPUC loud and clear: Don't pull the rug out! We had the vision. We made the policies. We invested the time, creativity and money. Now, let us finally start reaping the benefits!

(Lori Jablonski is outreach coordinator for the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies.)

**"The CPUC's plan would devastate decades worth of progress towards an environmentally sustainable and socially just electric system in this state... It would abdicate this state's worldwide leadership in new renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency services, and with it California's most important opportunity to create new jobs."**

# Wake-up call

**P**roponents of downsizing are fond of asserting that "Customers will continue to enjoy the same high levels of safety and reliability." But reality has a way of catching up with unsubstantiated rhetoric. Such was the case on Nov. 12, when a natural gas explosion and fire burned a Pleasanton home to the ground.

The three-bedroom home on Stanley Boulevard had been tented in preparation for fumigation. In the past, PG&E has sent out experienced personnel to turn off the gas during house fumigations.

But not this time. PG&E had recently decided to discontinue providing this service. The service was a victim of company downsizing.

And there was another victim: the Barry Price family, which lived in the Stanley Boulevard home.

Without experienced PG&E personnel available to shut off the gas, the fumigator attempted to do it on his own. Unfortunately, the gas meter valve broke off in his hand, according to Pleasanton Fire Inspector Micahdale Brock.

The resulting fireball shot up from the roof and out of the windows. Firefighters kept it contained by hosing down the sides of the house, but they were unable to put it out.

"It was very frustrating. We were squirting water at something and it just keeps going," Brock told a reporter for the Valley Times.

Yes, natural gas is frustrating like that.

The fire was not extinguished until PG&E employees-union members-drilled through the street and crimped the gas main.

As PG&E accelerates its downsizing program, the Pleasanton fire should be a wake-up call for all Californians.

But it's not yet clear whether anyone is paying attention.



(Photos: Larry Strong, Valley Times)



## Laney College Labor Studies

Spring Semester, 1995

(510) 464-3210

Classes begin January 17, 1995

All classes are at Laney College, 10th & Fallon Streets, Oakland (one block from Lake Merritt BART Station). Fees are \$13/unit for undergraduates, \$50/unit for people with BA degrees, plus a \$2 Student Center Fee. Tuition assistance may be available.

### Health and Safety on the Job (3 units)

Mondays, 7-10 pm

Covers hazards on the job, workers' rights to know and to act, and how to enforce them. Room B253.  
Instructor: Elaine Askari, UC Labor Occupational Health Program

### Labor Research Strategies (3 units)

Tuesdays, 7-10 pm

How to research employers and their finances, finding pressure points; uncovering and documenting local union history, and exploring labor-related subjects of interest to workers and students. Room A120.  
Instructor: Albert Lannon, Labor Studies Coordinator

### Collective Bargaining (3 units)

Wednesdays, 7-10 pm

Nuts and bolts of negotiating, including preparing the membership, bargaining math, table manners, strikes and alternatives, with simulated bargaining sessions for hands-on experience.  
Instructor: Albert Lannon, Labor Studies Coordinator

### Economics for Labor and Community Leadership (3 units)

Thursdays, 7-10 pm

How the economy works, or doesn't work, including deindustrialization and the shift to a service economy, unemployment, plant closures and job export. Room A120  
Instructor: Ellen Starbird, organizer

### Know Your Job Rights (1 unit)

3 Saturdays: Jan. 28, Feb. 4 & 11  
9 am - 4 pm

Covers basics of discrimination law and workers' rights, union and non-union.  
Instructor: Tanya Russell, attorney and former Machinists' steward

### Steward Training (1 unit)

3 Saturdays: March 4, 11, 18  
9 am-4 pm

Includes rights and responsibilities of union stewards, identifying and investigating grievances, presenting issues to management, internal organizing. Room G206.  
Instructor: Albert Lannon

### Pension Workshop (1/2 unit)

Saturday: May 6

Understanding pension plans, including actuarial assumptions, funding issues, ERISA rights and regulations. A quick look at the current state of pension plans and how they work. Room G206.  
Instructor: Henry Levy, CPA and past Machinists' steward

## San Francisco State Labor Studies Program

Spring Semester, 1995

(415) 338-2885

### Labor 250: Introduction to Labor Studies (3 units)

Wednesdays, 7-9:45 pm

Overview of history, economics and politics of labor in the US. Focus on women and minorities in the labor market and current issues such as health care and pensions.  
Instructor: Brenda Cochrane

### Labor 251: Know your workrights (3 units)

Mondays, 7-9:45 pm

Overview of basic statutory protections covering American workers, including wage and hour, safety and health, workers' compensation, unemployment, family leave, etc.  
Instructor: Albert Lannon

### Labor 343: Women and Work (3 units)

Thursdays, 4:10 - 7 pm

Historical and current examination of issues and problems facing women in

the labor market. Includes an analysis of the interaction of race, class and gender in the labor market.  
Instructor: Brenda Cochrane

### Labor 570: Urban Health Policy (3 units)

(Call for dates and time)

Political economy of urban health. Workplace health and safety. Special role of women and minorities in community health care systems.  
Instructor: Debbie Leveen

### Labor 677: Intro to Federal Labor Law (2 units)

Saturdays: 2/25, 3/11, 4/1, 5/6  
9:30 am - 4:30 pm

An overview of the structure and functions of the US Department of Labor.  
Instructor: Jack Cunningham

### Labor 699: Special Study (1-3 units)

Topics determined through discussion with instructor.

Instructor: Brenda Cochrane

**Knowledge = Power**

## Jim Arnold Sr. Scholarship Fund

Sponsored by the

Nevada State AFL-CIO

1995 Essay Topic:

"Unions impact on communities standard of living."

The purpose of this essay contest is to award two \$2,000.00 scholarships for attending an accredited public or private Nevada university, community college, vocational or technical school.

### Requirements and Eligibility Criteria:

1. There will be two \$2,000.00 scholarships awarded to two students.
2. Applicants must be a natural or legally adopted child of an active or retired member in good standing of any local union affiliated with the Nevada State AFL-CIO.
3. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors when making application.
4. Applicants must currently have a 2.0 grade point average and have maintained such for their last full year of school prior to application.
5. Financial need is not a criteria for this scholarship.
6. Applications must be picked up at any Nevada State AFL-CIO affiliated local union (or fill out and submit the application below).
7. A copy of the grade transcript to support claim of 2.0 grade point average and a statement of career goals or intent must accompany the application.
8. All applications must be accompanied by a written essay, 1,000 words minimum, on the subject designated by the Nevada State AFL-CIO Executive Board.
9. Essays should be submitted on 8-1/2" by 11" paper, on one side, preferably typed and double spaced, with applicant's written signature at the conclusion of the essay.
10. Applications must be mailed by registered or certified mail only and postmarked by May 1, 1995, to: **Nevada State AFL-CIO, 223 South Division Street, Carson City, Nev. 89703.**
11. The Scholarship Committee shall review all applications to assure that all eligibility criteria and requirements have been followed and met.
12. Essays will be reviewed by a selected committee and scored by at least three readers.
13. Failure on the part of the applicant to meet the rules may subject the applicant to disqualification by the Committee. If disqualified, the decision of the Scholarship Committee shall be final.
14. Scholarship shall be awarded after acceptance to school of applicant's choice.
15. An appropriate notification will be presented to the winners by an Officer of the Nevada State AFL-CIO prior to June 30, 1995.
16. The Scholarship will be awarded at the Nevada State AFL-CIO Annual Convention.

### Application

Jim Arnold Sr. Scholarship Fund

Sponsored by the

Nevada State AFL-CIO

Carson City, NV 89703

(702) 882-7490

223 South Division St.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby make application to compete for the Jim Arnold Sr. Scholarship Essay Contest sponsored by the Nevada State AFL-CIO.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
(last) (first) (initial)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(street) (city)  
(state) (zip)

Name of Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Local Union \_\_\_\_\_ Local Union No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address of High School \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to attend \_\_\_\_\_ College or School

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that the above named candidate is currently enrolled as a student at \_\_\_\_\_, and will be graduating in \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_. He/She is currently maintaining a 2.0 grade point average and has maintained such during his/her last full year prior to this application.

Principal's or Counselor's signature \_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that I am an active or retired member in good standing of \_\_\_\_\_, and the candidate, whose name is signed to this application, is my \_\_\_\_\_, and will graduate during the term ending \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Local 1245

#### Trade and Vocational School Grant

The purpose of these grants is to provide aid to the children of members to attain a trade or technical education.

1. The grants will be as follows:  
\$500 per year, for up to two years for two candidates, as long as a passing grade is maintained, and a parent maintains membership in good standing in Local Union 1245.
2. In order to be a candidate in this contest, you must be a daughter or son, natural, legally adopted or a legal ward of a member of Local Union 1245. You must be a high school student who has graduated or is graduating in 1995. A copy of your diploma or a letter from your high school stating that you will graduate in 1995 must be attached to your application. Additionally, a letter of recommendation from your vocational teacher, department head, or school principal must accompany the application.
3. Applications may be secured by addressing the Recording Secretary of Local Union 1245, by calling the Union office, or by using the form printed in the Utility Reporter.
4. The grant will be made only to a candidate who intends to enroll full time in any industrial, technical or trade school, other than correspondence schools, which are accredited by the national Association of Trade and Technical Schools or the Association of Independent Colleges and Schools.
5. Applications must be mailed to IBEW, Local Union 1245, PO Box 4790, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, by registered mail or certified mail only, and be **postmarked no later than the first Monday of April each year (April 3, 1995)**.
6. Two names will be drawn by the Judge of the Competitive Scholarship Contest from those submitting applications. These two will be recipients of the grants.
7. Checks will be paid directly to the school upon presentation of tuition bills to the Local Union.
8. Presentation of awards will be made to recipients at the unit meeting nearest his/her residence following the drawing.

#### Application for the Local 1245 Trade & Vocational School Grant for Members' Children Enrolling in Technical, Industrial, or Trade Schools

Sponsored by Local Union 1245  
International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO

PO Box 4790  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
(510) 933-6060

##### Candidate Information

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
High School \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address of High School \_\_\_\_\_  
What school do you expect to attend? \_\_\_\_\_  
Where is it located? \_\_\_\_\_  
What trade or craft will you be studying? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why this particular skill? \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

##### Statement of Member/Parent

Name of Member/Parent \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am a member in good standing of IBEW Local Union 1245, that the Candidate named above, \_\_\_\_\_, is my \_\_\_\_\_, and that the Candidate will graduate from high school during the term ending \_\_\_\_\_, 1995.

Signature of Member/Parent \_\_\_\_\_  
Union Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that the above named Candidate is currently enrolled as a student at \_\_\_\_\_ and has or will be graduating in \_\_\_\_\_, 1995.

Official's Signature and Position \_\_\_\_\_

### Local 1245

#### Al Sandoval Memorial Competitive Scholarship

The purpose of this contest is to provide a grant in aid for scholarships to colleges and junior colleges, thereby making financial assistance toward the attainment of a higher education.

1. The grant will be as follows:  
\$500 per year, up to four (4) years, as long as a "C" (2.0) average is maintained, and a parent maintains membership in good standing in Local Union 1245.
2. In order to be a candidate in this contest, you must be a son or daughter, natural, legally adopted, or a legal ward of a member of Local Union 1245. You must also be a high school student who has graduated or is graduating in 1995. A copy of your diploma or a letter from your high school stating that you will graduate in 1995 must be attached to your scholarship application.
3. The scholarship grant will be made only to that candidate who intends to enroll full time in any college certified by their State Department of Education and accredited by the local accrediting association.
4. Application may be secured by addressing the Recording Secretary of Local Union 1245, by calling the Union office, or by using the form printed in the Utility Reporter.
5. Checks will be paid directly to the college upon presentation of tuition bills to the Local Union.
6. All applications shall be accompanied by a written essay, not to exceed five hundred (500) words, on the subject designated by the Executive Board.
7. Essays should be submitted on 8-1/2" by 11" paper, on one side, preferably typed and double spaced, with applicant's written signature at the conclusion of the essay.
8. Applications and essays must be mailed to IBEW, Local Union 1245, PO Box 4790, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, by registered or certified mail only, and be **postmarked no later than the first Monday in March of each year (March 6, 1995)**.
9. Each year the scholarship shall be presented at the Advisory Council meeting in May; the judge and a guest and the recipient and parents shall be invited, at Local Union expense, to present and receive the scholarship award.
10. A suitable trophy or plaque shall be purchased by the Local Union, at a cost not to exceed \$75, to be presented to the scholarship recipient.

The topic for the 1995 Al Sandoval Memorial Competitive Scholarship Essay is:  
"WHAT DO MOST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THINK OF LABOR UNIONS?"

#### Application for the Al Sandoval Memorial Competitive Scholarship

Sponsored by Local Union 1245  
International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO

PO Box 4790  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
(510) 933-6060

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
High School \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address of High School \_\_\_\_\_  
What college or school do you expect to attend? \_\_\_\_\_  
Where is it located? \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

##### Statement of Member/Parent

Name of Member/Parent \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am a member in good standing of IBEW Local Union 1245, that the Candidate named above, \_\_\_\_\_, is my \_\_\_\_\_, and that the Candidate will graduate from high school during the term ending \_\_\_\_\_, 1995.

Signature of Member/Parent \_\_\_\_\_  
Union Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that the above named Candidate is currently enrolled as a student at \_\_\_\_\_ and has or will be graduating in \_\_\_\_\_, 1995.

Official's Signature and Position \_\_\_\_\_