

Members to vote

Agreement reached with Davey Tree

After 14 months of negotiations Davey Tree and Local 1245 last month reached a table agreement.

The new agreement, if ratified by the members, provides for the return of double time for hours worked in excess of 12 hours, improvements in meal and per diem allowances, elimination of drive time in North Valley, and a project agreement on vegetation control work with PG&E.

The negotiations were conducted in joint session. During some phases of the bargaining all three union contractors and associated union negotiating team members were present. A federal mediator assisted with the discussions during the final round of bargaining.

"I think Federal Mediator Joel Schaeffer helped immensely in clarifying common issues and keeping the talks focused on issues common to all three contractors," said Business Rep.

See PAGE THREE



DAVEY TREE NEGOTIATING TEAM

Celebrating the completion of negotiations with Davey are members of the union negotiating team (from left): Local 1245 Business Rep. Landis Marttila, Jesus Gonzales, Pete Ely, and Mark Finley. (Photo: Eric Wolfe)

Russ Cridland: 'a super guy'



Russ Cridland, carrying a banner at the IBEW Centennial convention in 1991.

Russ Cridland, director of the Cal-Nevada Joint Apprenticeship Program, died last month at the age of 62.

Cridland was part of the electric construction business for many years, serving as a lineman, foreman, general foreman, and superintendent for numerous contractors. "He worked a lot in the Pacific Northwest," said Business Rep. Art Murray. "He built high lines all over the nation."

Cridland, as an instructor and then director of the Joint Apprenticeship Program, helped pass on his considerable skills to the next generation of linemen. He was initiated into the IBEW in 1954.

Cridland was a strong union member, but also fair to the employers, according to Business Rep. Richard Dunkin.

"He was a super guy," said Dunkin.

Deregulation opens door for electric scam artists

Consumers beware! All the hype surrounding the upcoming deregulation of the electric utility industry could be disguising some shady characters with an eye to making a buck at your expense.

"The con artists are going to be on the prowl and California will see it first," said James Doyle, president of the National Association of Attorneys General during hearings in Washington.

The deregulation of long-distance telephone service provides a taste of what could be in store with electric deregulation. The breakup of "Ma Bell" in the 1980s didn't just create a market, it created a competitive jungle full of dark places in which all manner of sleazy operators could thrive. Even today, more than a decade after long-dis-

tance service was deregulated, there are as many as 1 million consumers each year who complain they've been "slammed," that is, had their long-distance company changed without their permission.

But telephone slamming could be small potatoes compared to what looms ahead in electric competition: consumers spend three times as much on electricity as they do on long distance phone service.

Among the possible scams, according to Doyle: misleading ads about rates, hidden fees, illegal switching and various multilevel marketing schemes.

For now, the benefits of the electric marketplace are just theoretical. But the risks, once the market opens at the end of March, will be immediate and real.



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CALENDAR

February 7-8
Advisory Council
Concord, Ca.

February 20
Service Award Dinner
Pacifica, Ca.

February 21
PG&E Stewards Conference
Oakland, Ca.

February 21
Service Award Dinner
Oakland, Ca.

March 13
Service Award Dinner
Bakersfield, Ca.

March 14
PG&E Stewards Conference
and Service Award Dinner
Fresno, Ca.

March 20
Service Award Dinner
Chico, Ca.

March 21
PG&E Stewards Conference
and Service Award Dinner
Sacramento, Ca.

March 27
Service Award Dinner
San Jose, Ca.



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Workers here and abroad

Rolling the union on...

Taking Charge: After clashing with a social studies teacher who is also the building rep for the Detroit Federation of Teachers, a Detroit high school principal has ordered the teacher to submit to a psychological examination, Labor Notes reported. According to documents obtained by the Detroit Sunday Journal, the testing was required because the teacher "has difficulty remembering that he is not in charge of the building."

Big Sin: The Association of Flight Attendants charges that ValuJet (now

Air Trans) fired the union's chief negotiator for, among other things, "documenting a safety violation," Labor Notes reported.

Smugglers: Last month five Americans pleaded guilty to operating a smuggling ring that since 1993 illegally brought more than 500 nurses from the Philippines and South Korea to work in US hospitals and nursing homes. Federal prosecutors said the ring fraudulently obtained visas for the nurses, charged them as much as \$7500, then sent them to jobs that paid substandard wages.

Great Divide: California's poor and middle-class families have

seen their incomes fall off sharply in the past 20 years while the richest households have enjoyed soaring incomes, according to a new study by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. The study found that the incomes of the richest one-fifth of California families was up 30% since 1978. Meanwhile, the poorest fifth had lost 27% of the income they once had. Middle-class families also mostly lost ground, especially those with earnings under \$60,000 annually.

Memorial Forest: Canadian Union of Public Employees President Judy Darcy has proposed that the Canadian labor movement create a "National Memorial Forest," planting a tree

Scholarship info in error

Last month we incorrectly stated that candidates for the Local 1245 Al Sandoval Memorial Competitive Scholarship and the Local 1245 Trade and Vocational School Grant needed to be graduating from high school in 1997. The correct information is that candidates must be graduating in 1998. We're sorry for the error.

for every Canadian worker killed on the job, Labor Notes reported. At the current rate, that would mean planting 900 trees a year.

Dock Solidarity: Bay Area labor activists, including the Laney College Labor Study Group and the Labor Party, face legal action for supporting Liverpool dockworkers who were fired for honoring a picketline. Last September the Bay Area labor activists set up a picketline to protest a ship docked in Oakland loaded with scab cargo from Liverpool. The ship was stranded in port for days before sailing to Vancouver, where it was turned away. The employers now seek a contempt citation against one of the protesters.

APPOINTMENTS

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CO.

GSBU 94-53 Committee
Manuel Guzman

Materials 94-53 Committee
Carol House

CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS

IBEW 1998 Utility Conference
Anna Bayless
Chris Habecker
Kathy Tindall
Jack McNally
Howard Stiefer
Ed Mallory
James McCauley
John Mendoza
Mike Davis

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus: Eight Annual Meeting
Dorothy Fortier
Lula Washington
Al Fortier

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEES

Mt. Wheeler Bargaining Committee
Shane Boren
Sue Gulley
Bob Savetich

Plumas Sierra Bargaining Committee
Donna Mills
Bob Smith

Tribute to United Farm Workers

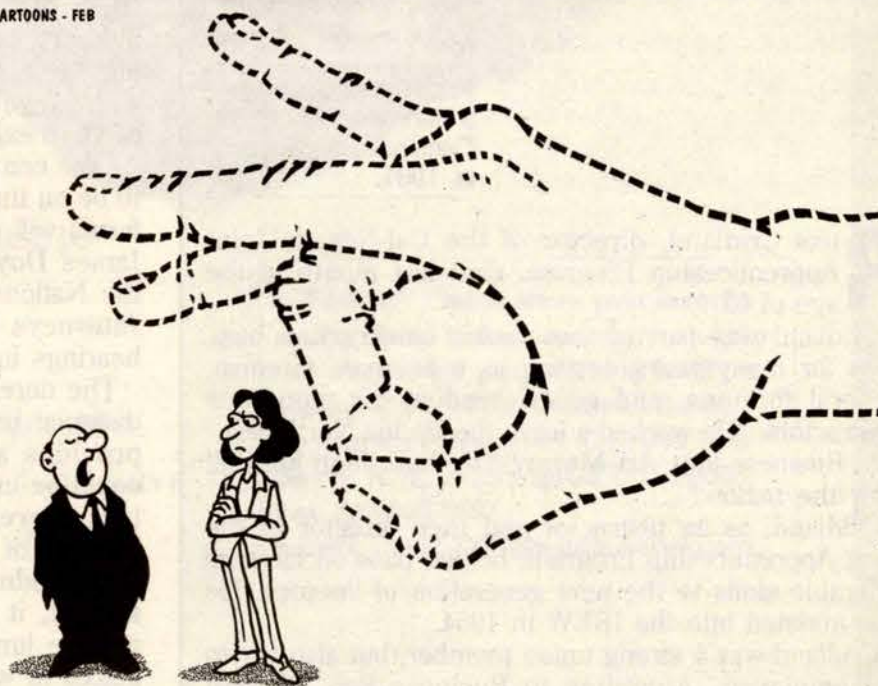
Miriam J. Wells, author of "Strawberry Fields: Politics, Class, and Work in California Agriculture," will be the featured speaker at the annual program of the Labor Archives and Research Center at San Francisco State University.

This year's program is a tribute to the United Farm Workers and their struggle to organize strawberry pickers in California.

The program starts at 7:00 p.m., Friday, Feb. 27, at The Sutro Library, San Francisco State University, 480 Winston Dr. in San Francisco. This free program is open to the public.

HUCK/KONOPACKI LABOR CARTOONS - FEB

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YOU DON'T NEED A UNION - AROUND HERE WE LET THE INVISIBLE HAND OF THE MARKETPLACE DETERMINE WHAT YOUR LABOR IS WORTH!

Local 1245 comes through for families

Local 1245's successful advocacy for working women won national recognition last year when the AFL-CIO launched its "Working Women" project and began looking around for examples of good contract language.

Although the AFL-CIO has dozens of affiliated international unions comprised of thousands of local unions, only 30 contract provisions were singled out as examples for others to follow. Of those 30 provisions, four were negotiated by Local 1245 with Pacific Gas & Electric.

The provisions were:

• **Child Care Resource and Referral Program.** This program is available to all employees. The program helps parents find the right solution for their specific needs: a child care center in their community, an in-house caregiver or a child care provider for sick children. The program provides a child care referral hot-line and information to help employees evaluate caregivers.

• **Leave for Adoptive Court Appearances.** This provision offers up to eight hours of paid time off for employees to make court appearances in the course of adopting children.

• **Flextime.** This policy, negotiated with PG&E's Hayward Administrative Services, allows workers flexibility in their daily start and end times, as long as they arrive no earlier than 6:30 a.m. and leave work no later than 6 p.m. All workers must be at work an average of seven and a half hours

per day and must be at work during core hours, defined as 9 to 11 a.m. and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

• **Benefits for Part-Time Employees.** Local 1245 and PG&E agreed that any regular part-time employee (any regular employee scheduled for less than 40 hours a week) is entitled to benefits, including group life insurance, long-term disability coverage, retirement benefits, a prorated vacation allowance, prorated sick leave, paid holidays and medical, dental and vision coverage.

Davey Tree agreement

From PAGE ONE

Landis Marttila. "Discussions can get a little confusing when you have three separate union committees and three different contracting companies, all with their own specific issues and problems."

The tentative agreement will be sent out to the members for a ratification vote this month.

Progress on agreements with Asplundh and Arbor are stalled by both companies' refusal to agree to the appropriate vegetation control wage rate negotiated with Davey Tree. A systemwide award of all vegetation control work (subject pole) on PG&E is currently being reviewed by PG&E. Bidders are Provco (nonunion), Davey, Arbor and Asplundh.

IBEW Local 1245 Election Notice

The election process will begin in March of this year for Local 1245 officers and Advisory Council, with balloting in June for new three-year terms.

Complete information on nominations, elections, duties, and qualifications of officers are found in the Local Union Bylaws and the International Union Constitution. If you do not have copies of these documents, they may be obtained by writing to IBEW Local Union No. 1245, P.O. Box 4790, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

The following officers shall be elected in accordance with Article XVIII of the IBEW Constitution and Article III of the Local 1245 Bylaws: President; Vice President; Recording Secretary; Treasurer; Business Manager-Financial Secretary; Southern Area Executive Board Member, Central Area Executive Board Member, Northern Area Executive Board Member, and At-Large Executive Board Member.

The designated Advisory Council seats are listed in Article 13 of the Local Union Bylaws.

Nomination of officers and Advisory Council members shall be made under "New Business" at the first meeting of the Units in March 1998 (L.U. Bylaws Article III, Section 8).

Section 11, the May issue of the Utility Reporter will contain "a list of all candidates for Local Union office, together with a factual record of their activities within the Local Union, committee assignments performed, offices held, and experience gained for and in behalf of the Local Union..."

Ballots will be mailed before June 1, 1998 and must be returned by June 22.

Rate case important for customers, workers

Jack McNally, IBEW 1245 Business Manager

The upcoming General Rate Case (GRC) may seem like a bunch of technical issues debated by swarms of lawyers, but the outcome could have profound consequences for PG&E's customers and employees, as well as the employees of PG&E's tree trimming contractors and their employees.

As a regulated utility, PG&E's base revenue requirements are set by the California Public Utilities Commission every three years. The next GRC will establish how much revenue PG&E needs to cover the costs of providing service from 1999 to 2001 and possibly beyond.

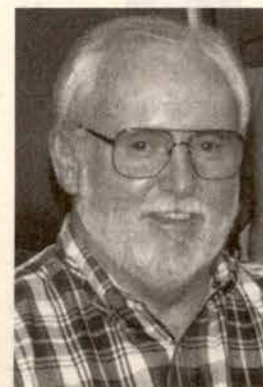
PG&E claims that the rates established for 1996-1998 do not cover the cost of providing current levels of service. The company's argument is simple and compelling.

When the current rates were established, PG&E was planning to lay off about 800 bargaining unit workers. The rates ultimately established by the CPUC did not include the cost of retaining those employees.

But as we all know, those employees were *not* laid off, thanks to massive protests by this union and deep public concern about erosion of service quality. In 1995, PG&E became convinced that reliability and emergency response must be improved. The hiring hall agreement was negotiated to provide PG&E with temporary additional workers to help make needed repairs to its system.

At its peak, the hiring hall had over 2,000 temporary workers dispatched to PG&E. A sizeable, though smaller, number of temporary workers remain on the job.

What this means is that PG&E has not been able to recover the costs for a substantial number of employees who have been working



over the past two-and-a-half years to restore system reliability and improve emergency response.

What happens if the CPUC does not permit PG&E to boost its base revenue requirements? Will the company continue to provide current levels of service out of the goodness of its heart? That's not a reasonable expectation, given the newly-competitive electric service industry.

Consumers and workers alike should be deeply concerned about shortfalls in PG&E's base revenues for its distribution services. (These revenues should not be confused with the cost of electric generation, where a 10% rate cut was mandated by the state legislature and went into effect Jan. 1 of this year.) While PG&E has made great strides toward improving its system—thanks to the efforts of thousands of regular and hiring hall employees—much work remains to be done.

If PG&E is not successful in this rate case, there could be an impact on the size of the workforce, and on the workforces of PG&E's tree trimming contractors. Existing regular positions at PG&E could go unfilled as current employees retire or leave the company.

And for customers, excellent service could become just a dream rather than an attainable goal.

Workers beware!

Anti-labor initiative may qualify for June ballot

Supporters of a statewide initiative designed to weaken labor's political strength may have gathered enough signatures to place the issue on the June ballot.

The anti-labor group circulating the initiative petition said 775,000 signatures had been collected, more than enough to qualify for the ballot.

In November Gov. Pete Wilson sponsored a resolution at the national conference of Republican governors, endorsing the Anti-Workers Initiative for all states in the country. Similar measure may be on the

ballot in Oregon and Nevada.

The California initiative, deceptively entitled the "Campaign Reform Initiative," would prevent labor organizations from using union funds for political purposes without acquiring written authorization from each member on special forms devised by the state.

If passed, the initiative would deal a crippling blow to the labor movement's political action programs. It would make it much more difficult for unions to contribute money to candidates who support working families. It would also severely hinder labor's ability to fight for such important

worker issues as reviving the eight-hour day, preventing California from becoming a right-to-work (for less) state, keeping prevailing wages intact, and preserving the state civil service system.

The initiative would greatly limit Local 1245's ability to lend support to political candidates who support the interests of utility workers in the dawning era of utility deregulation.

The initiative would impose no restrictions on corporations and other special interest groups. Big business would be able to spend money on politics while unions would have to sit on

the political sidelines and watch their members' benefits and safety protections get systematically dismantled.

If the measure makes the ballot and is passed by voters in June, it would take effect July 1, in time to have an impact on the November elections, when voters will pick a new governor, other constitutional officers, a US senator, a congressional delegation and 100 members of the state Legislature.

When the anti-worker campaign started to bog down earlier this fall, the campaign got a huge lift when J. Patrick Rooney, an

insurance tycoon from Indianapolis and big Republican contributor, provided financial support to speed up signature gathering. Rooney also asked Wilson for help gathering signatures.

Deceptive Tactics

Wilson agreed to write a letter seeking voter signatures. The letter was sent in envelopes bearing the governor's seal and the words: "Official State of California Election Document Enclosed, Do Not Destroy, Return Within 24 Hours." In tiny letters, the letter added, "not printed at taxpayer expense." The mailing was financed by Americans for Tax Reform, a Washington DC organization headed by Grover Norquist, a prominent promoter of conservative causes.

A lawsuit filed by the California Labor Federation contends that the California Election Code requires the attorney general's official title and summary to appear at the top of any petition circulated for voter signature. If the lawsuit is successful, the initiative may not qualify for the June ballot.

One of the motives behind the anti-labor initiative is to sufficiently weaken unions, particularly the California Teachers Association, to pave the way for another school voucher initiative similar to California's Prop. 174, which voters rejected in 1993. Prop. 174 would have allowed parents to send their children to private or religious schools using tax dollars. Many of the initiative's key leaders, including Marc Bucher, Rooney and Norquist, have strong ties to ultra right-wing school board politics and school prayer and voucher campaigns.

In addition to the lawsuit, organized labor is gearing up for a major campaign to fight the initiative if it does in fact qualify for the June ballot.

Fly on wall hears 'gag-the-worker' strategy

By Bob Balganorth

You can almost hear Gov. Wilson laughing with a couple of his cronies. One is from a Washington, D. C., right-wing think tank and the other runs an Indiana insurance company.

"We'll run this initiative," one of them says. "It'll say that unions have to get permission from their members before they can spend one red cent of their dues for political action. And we'll tell the public and especially union members they might get a dues refund. They'll love that."

"They'll never figure out that what we're *really* going after is the entire labor union movement. Then unions won't be able to protect the prevailing wage, health insurance, pension plans, worker safety and all those other things the unions do for their members," says another. "After all, those high wages and benefits should be in our pocket."

"I love it," Wilson says, "But how do we get the signatures for a ballot mea-

sure like that?"

"Easy," says the insurance tycoon. "I'll put up the money for the signatures."

"And we'll tell the people in front of the supermarkets that we want to keep foreigners from contributing to elections in America," chimes in the guy from the think tank. "They'll never know it's already against the law. And we'll call it something appealing, like 'The Campaign Reform Initiative.' We just won't tell 'em that we're really going to 'reform' unions right out of existence."

"Great idea," Wilson says. "They've made my life miserable with all their court battles. After this is passed, the only contractors left will be those in the ABC. We'll get rid of that batch of union-friendly legislators, I'll get rid of the prevailing wage, and we'll cut construction pay by 20%! Business will love us."

"And if we do it in California," says the Indiana insurance tycoon, "we can destroy labor unions across the country. Then Congress will approve my medical savings

accounts, and I'll be a helluva lot richer than I am now."

"And I could be President," Wilson says, twisting his lips into a smile.

"And if you're President, I could be your advisor," says the guy from the right-wing think tank.

"Just think of the possibilities," they all say in unison.

Right-to-Work

"We could make every state a right-to-work state and do away with unions altogether," Wilson says.

"And then we could privatize Social Security, voucherize education and sell \$270 billion worth of airport and wastewater treatment plants and cut government to the bone," says the think-tanker from Washington. (Grover Norquist actually said this.)

Although no one was in the room with a tape recorder, these imaginary conversations involving Pete Wilson, Grover Norquist of Americans for Tax Reform and J. Patrick Rooney, board chairman of Golden Rule Insurance Co. of Indianapolis,

Ind., portray the thinking behind the initiative.

The point is that this initiative on the June 2 ballot is designed to do one thing: silence workers' voices. If it passes, instead of serving their members, business agents will spend their time gathering members' signatures, year after year after year, on a special government form. Without that form, unions can't fight laws that would rip off prevailing wages, destroy minimum wage, safety, health and pension benefits. And the voices of these greedy guys will be louder than ever.

Join the fight to protect your paycheck. Register and vote. Don't let them gag us. If you can spare a donation in any amount to help stop these purveyors of deception, send your check to Members' Voice of the State Building Trades, 921 11th St., Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 96814.

Bob Balganorth is president, California State Building Trades Council.

Reported injuries decline in 1996

Work is safer—at least according to the federal government's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The BLS reports that in 1996 fewer workers were injured on the job and employer-reported injury rates declined in most industries. However, injuries rose in 9 of the 25 industries with the highest injury and illness rates.

BLS noted, "Too many workers, however, are still injured on the job...."

Repetitive stress injuries

declined, but it is still the most insidious workplace affliction—half of all workers suffering with carpal tunnel syndrome missed 30 days or more of work. Women outnumbered men by about 3 to 1 in these cases, but women were just as likely to be injured on an assembly line as at a keyboard.

In short, cumulative trauma disorders, which cost the American economy more than \$100 billion annually, continue to take a

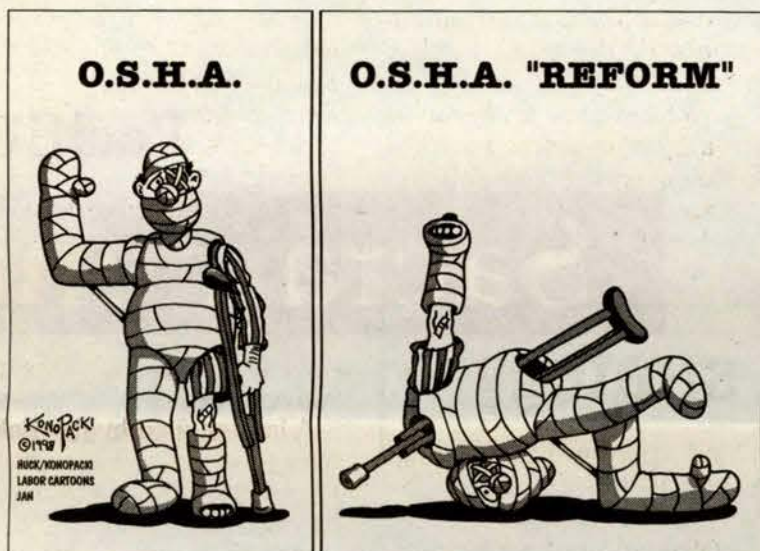
severe toll on working women.

The largest reduction came in industries that receive a great deal of attention from labor unions, OSHA and employers, said Peg Seminario, director of the AFL-CIO Department of Occupational Safety and Health.

"The report clearly illustrates that continued Republican-led efforts to weaken the OSHA law and reduce enforcement are wrong-headed," Seminario noted.

"The report clearly illustrates that continued Republican-led efforts to weaken the OSHA law and reduce enforcement are wrong-headed."

Peg Seminario,
AFL-CIO



Premature suit could backfire

A recent California Court of Appeals decision threw out a dying man's lawsuit against an asbestos manufacturer for mesothelioma because he had already sued for "breathing difficulties, asbestosis, and/or other lung damage," according to the Worksafe! newsletter.

The court said that in California there already is a special statute of limitations designed to protect workers. That statute allows workers to wait until they are actually disabled before the time to sue starts to run.

For men and women still working, that means you don't lose your right to sue until one year from the time you are actually disabled and can no longer work. For retirees it means you can delay for an indefinite time.

You don't, however, get

two bites of the apple. You have a right to sue earlier based on a lesser problem, but if you do and are later diagnosed with lung cancer or mesothelioma, your lawsuit against the same defendant will be barred. The court said, "when [you elect] to file suit, [you give up] the statutory option of waiting longer, [you have made] the choice and cannot sue again after one year passes." There is no exception for a late-developed cancer injury like mesothelioma.

Beware of Screenings

So beware of asbestos screenings, Worksafe! warns. Beware of those companies and lawyers that approach unions and councils with offers of "free" asbestos screenings. They make their money on diagnosing

and bringing lawsuits based on minimal evidence of asbestos lung changes, usually without any evidence of disability or impairment.

You can sue now and win something, but you may ultimately lose—lose the right to a lawsuit for significant damages if you are diagnosed later with a serious life-threatening or disabling illness.

Cases brought after screenings when there is no significant disability, result in practically no recovery despite the wrong doing of the asbestos industry and despite the pain and suffering you and your family may endure later on should tragedy strike. This case makes clear that taking a few thousand dollars now may cost millions later, when you and your family really need it.

Safety Matters

By Local 1245
Safety Committee

Check out what's above

As you go about your activities at work and home, take a moment to make yourself aware of hazards around and especially *above* you.

There was a recent near-miss at an IBEW-represented facility that illustrates this point.

A worker was turning a chain-controlled valve. Due

to corrosion, the shear pin broke.

The resulting jerk broke the chain mechanism loose from its corroded mounting, narrowly missing the worker underneath.

Try to place yourself clear of falling objects. Assume that if it can fall, it will.

Treat drills like real fires

When is the last time you heard the blaring of the fire drill alarm, grabbed your coat and marched outside—without whining, no questions asked? Chances are you were still in school.

Unfortunately, fire drill performance isn't so good in the American work environment, according to Rodale Press' Safety Check. Employees often respond to fire drills by continuing their phone conversations, and maybe glancing around to see if anything seems amiss.

According to Robert Laford, instructor for the Massachusetts Fire Fighting Academy, workplace locations account for about 9% of reported fires in the US. Some 3,000 deaths are caused each year by fire, and nearly 40% of overall dollar loss or about \$3.2 billion each year is from

industrial and commercial fire loss.

Laford stress the importance of knowing your company's emergency plan, and treating fire drills like they're the real thing.

During an emergency, stress levels are high, and people will revert to actions that have become habit. By always joining the fire drill brigade, you will establish actions that will become second nature.

So, get off the phone, stop what you're doing, and act! Evacuate the building immediately and go to a pre-designated gathering point.

If your building's fire alarm system is not designed to automatically notify the fire department, someone in your workgroup should be assigned that task—in advance.



"You know the absentee policy, Alice. I need a note from your doctor."



Steve Smith



Pete McKissack



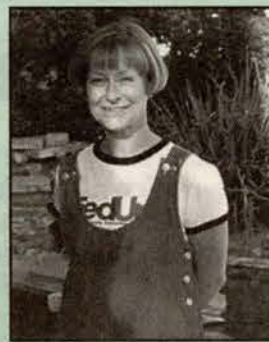
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Alicia Smiley



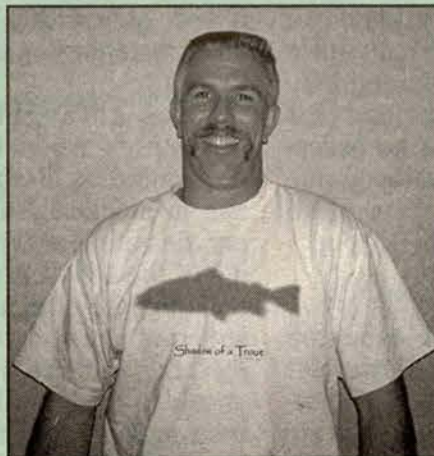
Jennifer Gonzales



Linda Byfield-Lawrence



Arlene Edwards



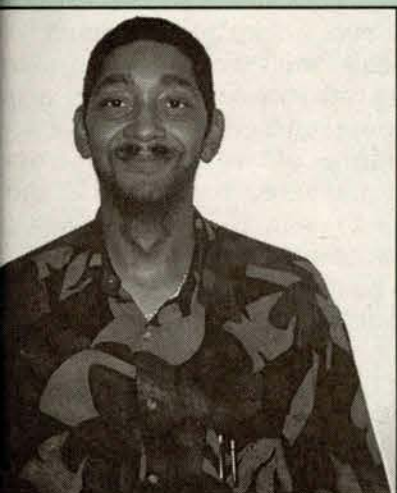
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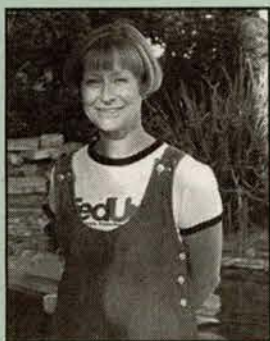


Rosetta Burnett

Pacific Gas & Electric

Sacramento Call Center

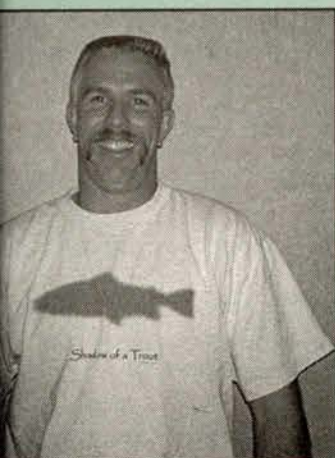
Shop Stewards



Linda Byfield-Lawrence



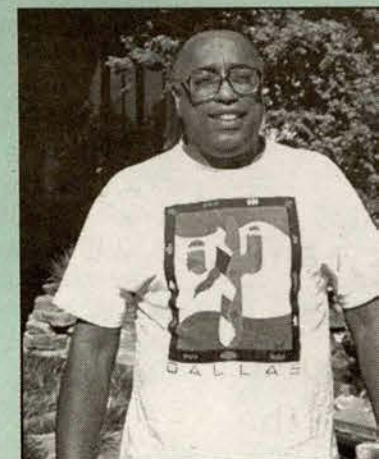
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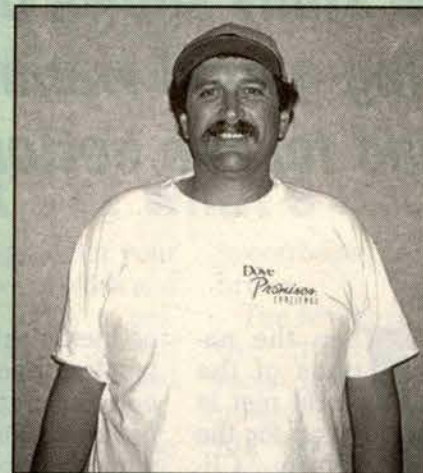
John Martinez



Douglas Thorne



Rosetta Burnett



Robert Uschmann

& Electric Call Center wards



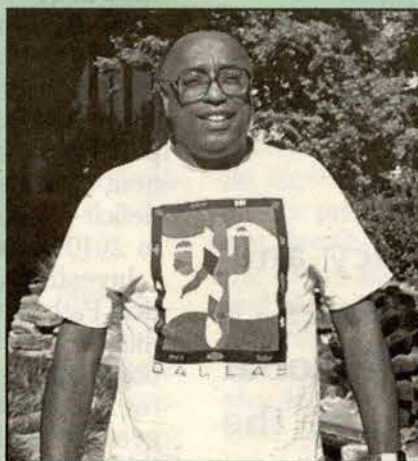
Thelma Dixon



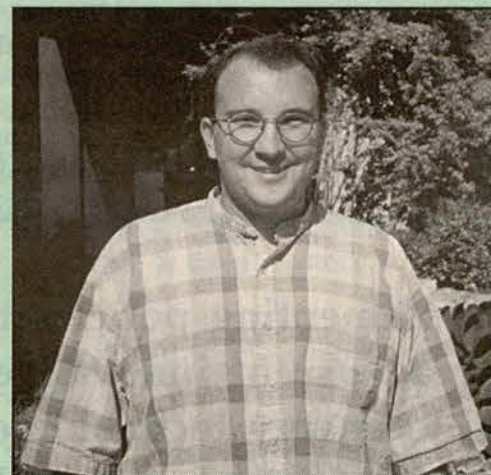
Norman Ricker



Ruth Best



Douglas Thorne



Bryan Carroll



Plugging into clean power:

A new study shows that fighting global warming is good for the bottom line



When the nations of the world met in Japan for the Kyoto Climate Summit in December to tackle the problem of global warming, there were many dire warnings that helping the environment could damage the economy.

But a recent report by the Union of Concerned Scientists and several other national groups points the way to a healthier environment and a more efficient economy.

The report, *Energy Innovations: A Prosperous Path to a Clean Environment*, shows that by implementing policies that stimulate the widespread use of innovative energy-efficiency and renewable energy technologies, the United States can cut emissions of carbon dioxide, the chief global warming pollutant, by 10% below 1990 levels by the year 2010. And instead of endangering our economy, this path will reduce national energy costs \$530 per household annually and create nearly 800,000 net new jobs.

The report analyzes two scenarios: a "Present Path"

of inefficient, fossil-fuel-dependent energy production and consumption; and an "Innovation Path," which assumes a mix of new incentives, better standards, and market mechanisms to guide the economy toward more-secure, lower-cost, less-polluting ways of producing and using energy. Working together for nearly two years, energy and transportation experts from Union of Concerned Scientists, the Alliance to Save Energy, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, National Resources Defense Council, and Tellus Institute, gathered data and used government analytic models to assess the effects of these different policy paths on the economy and environment.

Key Technologies

The key technologies that form the cornerstones of the Innovation Path include fuel cells, advanced gas turbines, integrated green-building designs, membrane technology, biomass fuels, advanced wind turbines, thin-film photovoltaic modules, and much-more-efficient cars, trucks, and airplanes. These technologies allow us

to harness more usable energy out of each tone of coal, barrel of oil, or cubic foot of natural gas burned, while facilitating an orderly shift from our current overwhelming dependence on fossil fuels to an increasing reliance on clean, renewable energy sources.

The combined effect of more efficient energy use and the shift to cleaner sources is a substantial reduction in carbon emissions. Instead of a 21% increase from 1990 levels in 2010 under the Present Path, carbon emissions are cut 10% below 1990 levels under the Innovation Path. By 2030, the gap is even wider: a 45% reduction from 1990 levels compared to an increase of over 40% under the Present Path.

These reductions create progress toward the global warming treaty's ultimate objective: stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of heat-trapping gases at levels that would prevent dangerous interference with the climate system.

While the cleaner technologies stimulated by the

Innovation path's package of policies will require substantial incremental up-front investments compared with more-polluting energy sources, the savings they would generate from reduced fuel and electricity consumption are even larger. Energy Innovations documents net savings that reach \$58 billion—equivalent to \$530 per household—by 2010. These savings don't even include the benefits to society of air pollution avoided under the Innovation Path—nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide emissions are cut by 5 million tons and 6 million tons, respectively, in 2010 compared with the Present Path.

The report also highlights the energy-security benefits of more-efficient energy use and a shift to renewables. Under the Present Path, oil consumption increases from the current 17 million barrels per day (mbd) to 21 mbd in 2010 and 25 mbd by 2030. By contrast, the Innovation Path cuts oil use to 16 mbd in 2010 and 12 mbd in 2030. The nation's oil import bill—the major component of our persistent trade deficit—is cut by \$21 billion in 2010 alone.

Investing in the Innovation Path enhances employment as well: 800,000 additional jobs by 2010, beyond the baseline employment growth embodied in the Present Path. Consumers spend their fuel-cost savings in nonenergy sectors of the economy, which generate

more jobs per dollar of spending than the capital-intensive energy sectors. Reduced oil imports also contribute to greater domestic employment under the Innovation path.

It should be noted that these results are conservative, for several reasons: the government models we used include a variety of unrealistically restrictive assumptions; we don't assume any technological breakthroughs, just implementation of existing technologies and predictable improvements; and we did not comprehensively examine a number of likely innovations, such as small-scale cogeneration and use of electrochromic "smart" windows in homes and offices.

Energy innovations shows that there is a way to address the threat of global warming while creating new jobs, lowering energy costs, and easing local pollution all at the same time. Now the question becomes: Is there the political will? Our policymakers, from President Clinton on down, must summon the courage to protect our children's future by taking on the fossil fuel lobby and its counsel of inaction and delay.

(Excerpted from an article by Alden Meyer, director of government relations for the Union of Concerned Scientists).

By implementing policies that stimulate the widespread use of innovative energy-efficiency and renewable energy technologies, the United States can cut emissions of carbon dioxide, the chief global warming pollutant, by 10% below 1990 levels by the year 2010.

Deregulation & 'green' marketing

Promoters of 'clean power' may not be telling customers the whole story

The coming of electric utility deregulation to California has brought a flood of advertising from companies promising to deliver "green" power to their customers.

And no wonder. A 1996 study by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates indicated that 30% of California residents would be "very willing" to pay 10% more for energy from clean sources, such as wind, biomass and solar.

But there's a problem lurking behind the facade of green power. Companies offering green power in California don't have to spend their revenues to build new power facilities utilizing green power. They can simply buy already-existing green power from other power producers.

Furthermore, there is no method for segregating green power from other sources once the power flows into the grid. So when the power actually comes to the homes of would-be green consumers, it is actually a mix of all power flowing into the system.

In California today, about 9% of the electricity generated by California's utilities comes from green sources, including wind, solar, and biomass. The only way that percentage will grow is if more facilities utilizing renewable energy are built.

Environmentalists generally supported electric deregulation in California because they believe that, given a choice, many consumers will select green power. As more and more people express their preference for green power,

environmentalists believe, it will create a strong incentive for companies to build renewable energy facilities.

While this may be a laudable goal, the prospect of "green customers" eagerly lining up to pay premium prices for green power has given rise to questionable marketing tactics in California and elsewhere.

In New Hampshire, where a small fraction of the electric market was opened to competition in 1996, Working Assets Green Power made a big pitch for green customers by "offering people an opportunity to save money and save the environment at the same time."

'Green Wash'

But according to Jon Entine, an Emmy award winning journalist, Working Assets' promises about renewable energy appear to be "more green wash than green power."

The energy mix going to Working Assets' customers comes from the New England Power Company, and is generated mostly from coal, nuclear, oil and natural gas, reported Entine in an article for Dollars and Sense (September/October 1997). Less than 5% of the power going to these customers comes from non-hydro renewables, primarily landfill gases and trashburning incinerators. "Not one solar or wind electron is fed into the grid or into the homes of Working Assets' customers," says Entine.

Working Assets' CEO Laura Scher says her company's intention is to create a critical mass of de-

mand so that power marketers like Working Assets can someday actually offer green energy.

But in the meantime a real danger exists that some business interests will attempt to exploit the green market simply to generate some green dollars. In Massachusetts, for example, one power company advertised its electricity as coming from a small hydroelectric plant. In reality, however, the company simply pumped water behind a reservoir in order to power a generator. The electricity to pump the water uphill came from a nuclear plant.

In California, such tactics are forbidden, according to a recent story by Kenneth Howe in the San Francisco Chronicle. "Moreover," Howe writes, "all green power sold by unregulated power companies has to be new to California. The green power cannot come from

California's pool of system power, which already contains some green power."

Nonetheless, major utilities with a diverse portfolio of power sources, are trying to jump onto the green bandwagon, raising the spectacle that utilities whose primary sources of electricity are fossil fuels and nuclear power will be portraying themselves as purveyors of green power.

The Electric Restructuring law in California (AB 1890) provides \$540 million in subsidies for four years to support companies generating green power, a recognition of the power wielded by the environmental lobby as well as the seriousness of global warming and other environmental problems attributed to the burning of fossil fuels.

But it remains to be seen how much customer demand there will be for green power, and whether that demand will translate into the construction of new generating facilities utilizing

renewable resources.

"In the long run, if it's recognized that customers are willing to pay more for green power, it may attract additional investment," MIT economist Paul Jaskow told Entine of Dollars & Sense. But there's no guarantee that a green customer base will develop in the way that environmentalists hope.

"The biggest risk to renewables development now is reliance on the unproved assumption that renewable energy will prosper without policy support in competitive markets that ignore external costs and benefits," Paul Jefferiss of the Union of Concerned Scientists told Entine. In other words, green power may be able to save the public money in the long-run by avoiding costly pollution, but those savings won't be reflected in the current price for green power so there's no immediate financial incentive to "go green."

If green power fails to gain a competitive foothold in the next few years, additional subsidies may be required to keep the green industry—and the benefits it could bring in the future—from withering on the vine.



Green power may be able to save the public money in the long-run by avoiding costly pollution, but those savings won't be reflected in the current price for green power so there's no immediate financial incentive to "go green."

Economic falsehoods should be challenged

By Jeff Faux

Ever wonder why so many people who ought to know better take the side of big business in an argument? Even many union members nod their heads when some corporate CEO or conservative politician says the country "can't afford" more money for schools, or that making it easier for people to join unions is "impractical," or that national health insurance "can't work."

It's no accident. For more than 20 years, business groups have been training people to argue for conservative economic ideas—over the back fence, on talk radio, in letters to the editor. In effect, they've created an echo chamber for their ideas, which get repeated and repeated until the average person begins to think it must be so.

A dozen years ago, when I lived in Maine, I was invited to debate the case for unions at the state university. When I showed up, there were about 100 people in the room, along with my

opponent—an insurance salesman.

You could see he was nervous, that he wasn't used to speaking in public. He had a few notes on 3 x 5 cards and his hands shook a little. But he was game. And, although I think I won the argument, by the end of the debate he had warmed up and wasn't doing too badly. Afterward, I asked him where he got his information. He told me that he'd gone to a program sponsored by a business group on how to argue for conservative economic ideas.

A couple of years later I was driving late at night and I heard him on a talk radio show. This time he was sharp, relaxed and had his story down cold. According to his story, American workers were doing just fine. Anyone having a hard time paying bills was either unskilled or had a bad attitude. He said that unions made wages and benefits so expensive that business was "forced" to outsource to Mexico and Asia. He claimed that minimum wages, health and safety

regulations and laws protecting consumers against harmful food and drugs were bad economics. And, of course, he said that taxes on corporations should be cut.

His ideas were just as wrong as they had been two years before. But he was a lot more convincing. He used words like "union bosses," "protectionism," "lazy bureaucrat," the ones you hear in the speeches of right-wing politicians or on Rush Limbaugh-type television and radio shows. It was a classic example of the echo chamber at work.

That's why the effort by the AFL-CIO and its unions to create a national dialogue about how the economy works is so important. It's time that business had a little competition from labor in the marketplace of ideas. It's time for union members around the nation to start arguing back, to make the case that unions and the progressive policies they stand for are good for all Americans.

Working families need to create their own echo cham-

If wages are kept too low, customers won't have the money in their pockets to buy the goods and services that business produces. In a market economy like ours, if nobody spends, nobody works...If you left it up to business, workers wouldn't have enough money in their pockets to buy the goods they make.

ber with the message that paychecks are more important than stock market speculation, that people are more important than profits.

Understanding basic economic issues is mostly a matter of common sense. Let's take the minimum wage. Most union members make more than the minimum wage, and many think it doesn't affect them. But it does. If wages are kept too low, customers won't have the money in their pockets to buy the goods and services that business produces. In a market economy like ours, if nobody spends, nobody works.

This helps explain why we need government policies, such as the minimum wage or lower interest rates, to maintain purchasing power. If you left it up to business, workers wouldn't have enough money in their pockets to buy the goods they make.

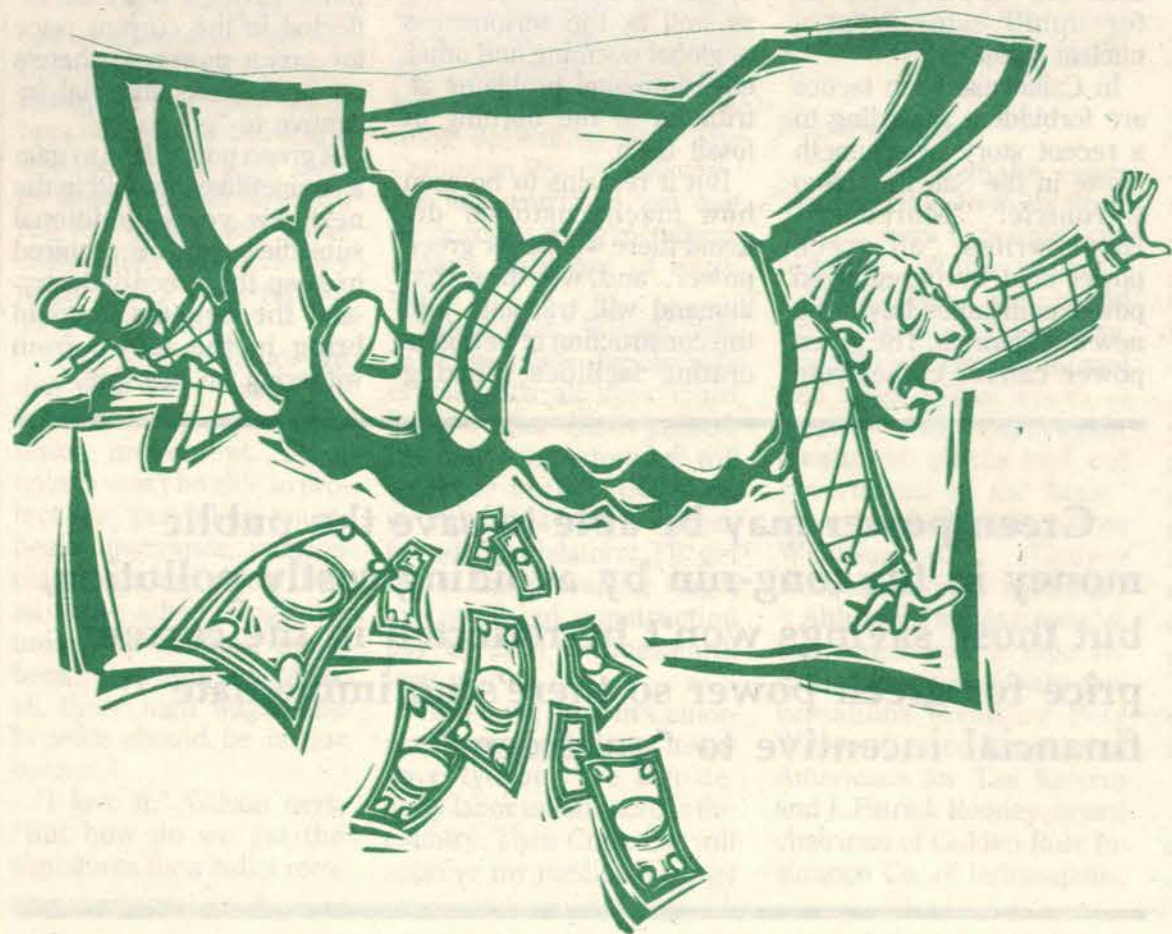
The late Walter Reuther, former president of the United Auto Workers, once walked through a plant with a vice president of the Ford Motor Co. The executive showed Reuther the new high-tech machinery the company had bought and added that the machines would put six dues-paying UAW members out of work. Reuther asked, how many

cards would the machines buy?

Don't be fooled by people who use numbers to twist the truth. Torture a statistic, goes the saying, and it will tell you anything. For example, the pro-NAFTA politicians have been telling us for the past two years that exports to Mexico and Canada are up. What they don't tell us is that imports are up much further, and the result has been a net loss of more than 400,000 American jobs. Reporting the exports without the imports is like giving you only the runs that one team scored in a baseball game.

The more you hear about the economy from the point of view of people who work for a living, the more you'll begin to spot the distortions in the newspapers and on television. Arm yourself with some reliable facts that make sense to you, and start debating. Write a letter to the editor or call in on the talk shows. Maybe one of these days you'll meet up with that insurance salesman from Maine. If you do, give him hell.

*Jeff Faux is an economist and president of the Economic Policy Institute in Washington DC. His latest book is *The Party's Not Over*, published by Basic Books.*



Local 1245 seniors active in community

By Orv Owen

Local 1245 Retirees Club members are expanding their time and efforts in becoming active participants in local and state agencies and community groups established to support—and to extend and secure benefits for—seniors and American workers and families.

Brother Jack Hill was recently elected as Region 4A's delegate to the Congress of California Seniors. Jack attends not only the monthly meetings of Local 1245 Retirees in San Jose, he also attends five other monthly meetings with lo-

cal community groups, such as: Council on Aging, Meals on Wheels, Housing for Seniors, and Medical Care for Seniors.

Brother Watie Anthney was re-elected as Trustee for the Federation of Retired Union Members of Santa Clara County (FORUM). Watie attends monthly meetings of Local 1245 Retirees in San Jose as well as all monthly meetings of the FORUM and directly assists in all legislative and social activity of the FORUM.

Brother Richard Murphy, re-elected as president of the San Jose Local 1245 Retirees Club, also attends

and participates as a delegate to the Santa Clara County FORUM monthly meetings. Richard attends monthly meetings of various veterans groups, and is extremely active in veterans' issues. When he can, Richard attends the Local 1245 unit meetings of the City of Santa Clara electrical workers. When he can, he walks the picket lines in support of workers and their unions.

All three of these Local 1245 retired activists have participated as Local 1245 delegates to the Congress of California Seniors conventions. Last month, Richard,

Watie and Jack were participants at the CCS Region 4A meeting covering issue priorities for 1998, which were: continuing efforts to pass the patient bill of rights and improve the quality of care; protect and expand Medicare and Social Security; win universal health care for all Californians; and increase and expand affordable housing for low income seniors and families.

I am sure I speak for all seniors and workers and their families in expressing our appreciation and thanks to Jack, Watie and Richard for caring.

Keep the faith!

IBEW
Local
1245



Retirees Corner

Retiree Club dates

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

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

Gov. Wilson's veto responsible for killing HMO reform

While Democrats geared up to push a "patient bill of rights" in the US Congress, efforts to reform the health care industry in California were stymied by a flurry of vetoes by Gov. Wilson.

At the close of the last legislative session, Wilson vetoed five key bills that were designed to curb HMO abuses.

Among the bills he vetoed:

HMO Public Disclosure

AB 536 would require HMOs to disclose criteria they use for denying care. Right now HMOs can overrule your physician's care decisions, but don't have to provide the public with their criteria. HMOs say these criteria are "trade secrets."

HMO Medical Director Liability

AB 794 would have required that Medical Directors of HMOs and medical groups play by the same rules as treating physicians in terms of professional licensing and discipline. HMOs claim direct examinations would force hiring of hundreds of extra doctors.

Breast Cancer Treatment (Autologous Bone Marrow Transplants)

AB 760 would have required HMOs to cover a new form of cancer therapy for breast cancer.

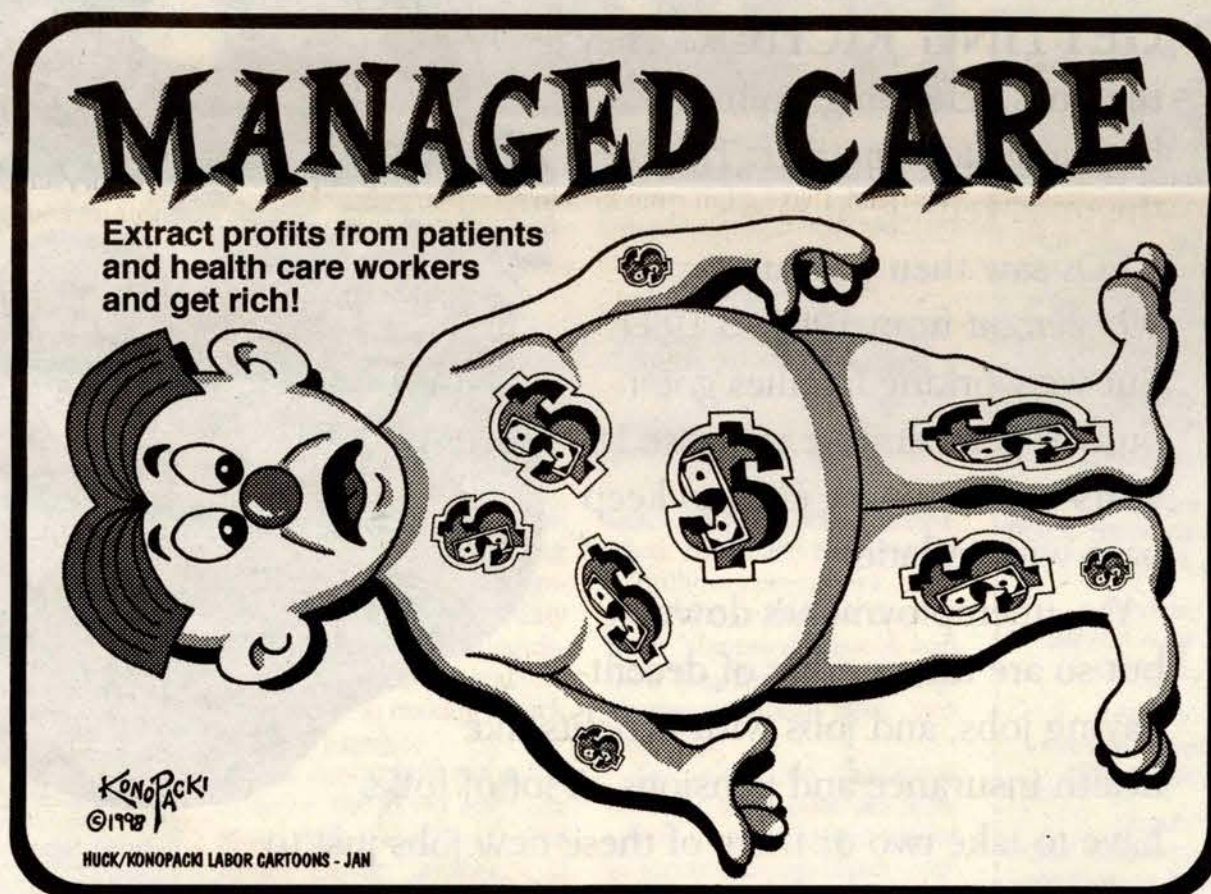
Prostate Cancer Screening

SB 296 would have required health plans to cover screening and diagnosis of prostate cancer, including the prostate-specific antigen testing or any technology proven to detect prostate cancer. HMOs call this mi-

cro-managing, but consumers would not need these laws if they could get the care they need when they really need it.

Treatment of Diabetes

SB 1220 would have required health plans that cover prescription drugs or durable medical equipment to also cover insulin, syringes, lancets, insulin pumps, Ketone urine test strips, and blood glucose meters.

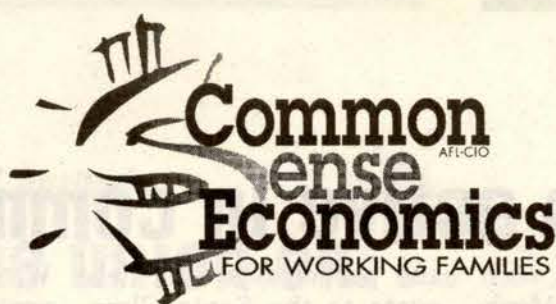


Congratulations to the newly-retired!

The Local 1245 Retirees Club extends its congratulations to these recently-retired members of the union. We invited you to participate in a Retirees Club chapter in your area, or to start one in your area if there is none! Call Julie Rodriguez at 510-933-6060 Ext. 208.

Name	Residence	Yrs/Srvc.
William Hoff	Sunnyvale, CA	45
Feliza Leon	San Leandro, CA	25
Gus Aaberg	Santa Rosa, CA	12



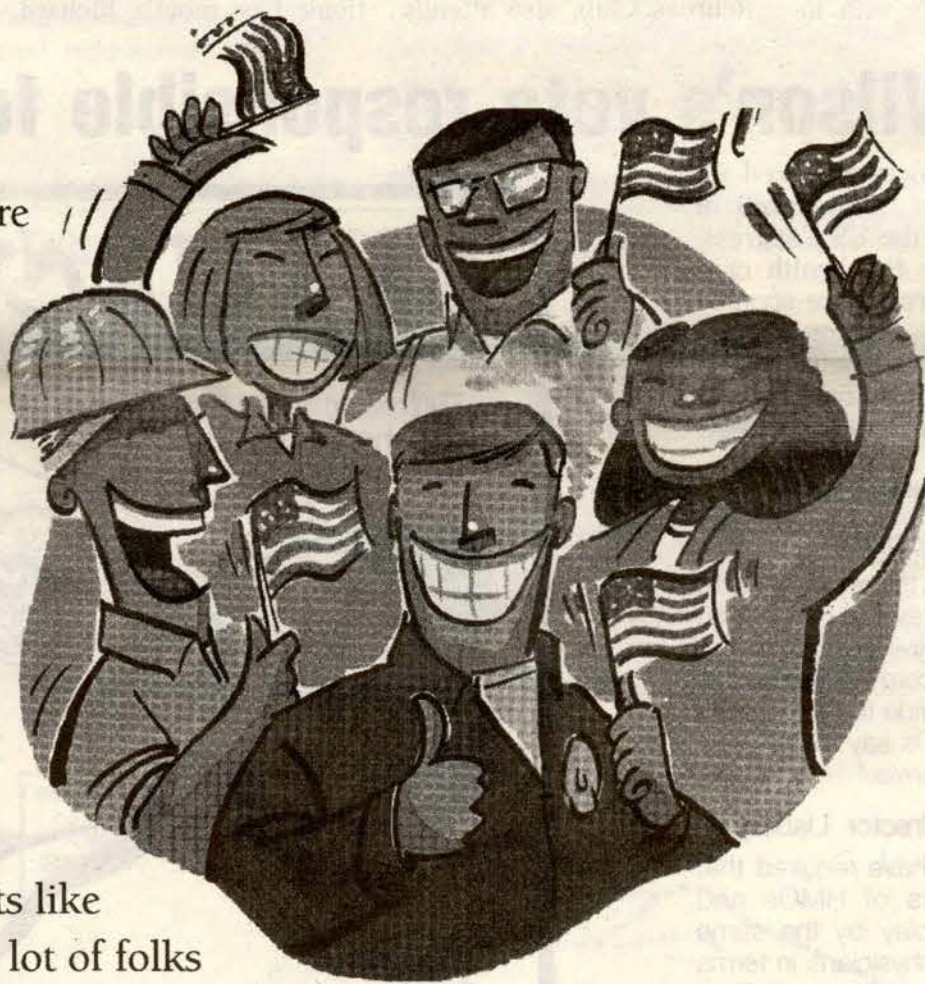


THE NEXT TIME SOMEONE TELLS YOU *the economy is in great shape*, SPEAK UP—AND SHARE THE FACTS:

ONLY THE RICH ARE GETTING RICHER. They're the ones benefiting from the booming stock market. They're the ones getting fat raises. CEOs saw their pay jump 499 percent from 1980 to 1994. But we working families got a puny 9 percent raise in those 15 years—not enough even to keep pace with inflation.

Yes, unemployment's down—but so are the number of decent-paying jobs, and jobs with benefits like health insurance and pensions. A lot of folks have to take two or three of these new jobs just to make ends meet.

The bottom line: The economy today is great for the lucky 10 percent—that minority of Americans who have 70 percent of the country's wealth. The rest of us are having a rough time.



SPEAK UP! Please share your favorite myths about today's economy, and stories about how your working family is coping. Contact the Common Sense Economics Project, AFL-CIO, 815 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. Fax: 202-508-6987. E-mail: 71112.2271@compuserve.com.

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