More workers die without Cal-OSHA

A new State Senate committee report reveals that deaths among private sector workers increased 53 percent in the first six months after Cal-OSHA was dismantled and its responsibilities handed over to federal OSHA.

The stark facts become all the more alarming with the revelation that work-related deaths in the public sector decreased 40 percent in the same six months. Health and safety in the public sector workers remained under the jurisdiction of the scaled back Cal-OSHA.

The numbers are laid out in an oversight report issued by the Senate Committee on Industrial Relations.

The report is the first attempt to cut through statistical problems and concisely determine the effect upon workers of Gov. George Deukmejian's decision to cut Cal-OSHA funds from the budget and hand responsibilities over to the federal agency.

The new data comes as challenges are being raised concerning administration ballot arguments against Proposition 97, the labor backed general election initiative to restore Cal-OSHA.

The administration has submitted ballot arguments claiming that worker deaths, injuries and illnesses have decreased under federal OSHA.

Senator Bill Greene, (D-LA), the chair of the Industrial Relations Committee declared:

"This report will serve the voters as a source of factual background on which to make an informed decision on Proposition 97..."

The key findings:

- For the first six months after federal OSHA began exercising private sector jurisdiction on July 1, 1987, work-related deaths were 1,071, or 41 percent more than the 76 deaths which occurred and were reported in the same six months one year earlier under Cal-OSHA.
- During those same six months, private sector deaths rose 53 percent, from 66 deaths in July

(Continued on page 2)

Specially Called Meeting
Recording- Corresponding Secretary William M. Markus announces that pursuant to the Local Union By-Laws, there will be a Specially Called District 1 (San Francisco) meeting on Saturday, September 10, 1988, at Seafarers International Auditorium, 350 Fremont Street, San Francisco, commencing at 1:00 p.m., for the purpose of installing Local 3's newly elected Officers and District Executive Board Members.

Local 3 supports reservoir for Contra Costa County

The directors of the Contra Costa Water District have voted unanimously to place a $350 million bond measure on the November ballot to finance the proposed Los Vaqueros Reservoir in eastern Contra Costa County.

With a promise of ending bad tasting, salty water by storing additional water supplies, Board President Donald Freitas believes that the measure will get overwhelming support. "There are over 350,000 people served by the district who know all too well the quality problems," he stated.

To head off potential opposition by environmentalists, the board included a statement in the ballot measure guaranteeing that the project will not be used to increase the export of Delta water from Northern California.

Key among a list of objectives tied to the ballot measure, said Freitas, is that "we have unshackled it from any Peripheral Canal. The project is exclusively to increase water quality for our customers and provide emergency storage."

Further, he said, Los Vaqueros will not add to growth in the region. The resolution noted the district already has a supply contract for more water than Los Vaqueros would hold.

If approved, the reservoir proposed near Brentwood is scheduled to be completed by 1995. It will cost customers an extra $7.50 on their monthly bill.

The District Directors held two public hearings before voting to place the measure on the ballot. At the first hearing, Local 3 Vice President Bob Skidgel urged the District and the voters in the region to support the project.

Noting that the water rationing plan put into effect by the district had already drawn the wrath of customers, he said that the need for long term planning and preparedness is necessary.

(Continued on page 4)
Looking at Labor

By Tom Stapleton
Business Manager

One of the reasons I always enjoyed working in construction was the satisfaction that came in producing something lasting. At the end of each day I could look at the job and know what I accomplished. Later on, when I would drive past the finished project, there was always a certain pride in the knowledge that I had a hand in building it. Pride in craftsmanship. It’s an attitude that is vital for success.

The industrialization of America - construction, manufacturing, research and invention - were the cornerstones that made this nation prosperous and great. We didn’t achieve greatness by selling a billion Big Macs. We achieved it by building steel plants and auto factories, inventing better farm equipment and probing the frontiers of technology.

A vital ingredient in this formula for success was the evolution of the trade union movement, which saw to it that those working men and women who made America’s corporations wealthy by their skill and pride in their work would also get paid what they were worth. It took visionary men like Henry Ford to realize that no one would ever be able to afford to buy his Model T’s if they didn’t earn a decent wage. It took great union leaders like Samuel Gompers, John L. Lewis and Walter Reuther to help workers fight for and win the kind of wages, benefits and working conditions that created the highest standard of living this world has ever known.

But all that is changing. Today we have the largest percentage of “working poor” we have ever had since the days of the Great Depression. These are people who work full time, receive little or no government assistance, and are still living below the poverty line.

We can lay the blame squarely on the shoulders of Reagan and his cadre of small minded, ultra-conservative clones. These politicians - including George Bush, Quayle and others like them - are subservient to corporate moguls whose greed is unbelievable. They are well on their way to achieving what IAM President William Winpisinger refers to as the “5-D” economy: Deregulation, Deindustrialization and Deunionization.

When you add these up, what you get is a service economy. A service economy is built on part-time jobs with no wages, no benefits and no union representation. It’s hard for me to understand that there are actually economists who espouse a philosophy of the United States becoming the “information center” or the “service bureau” of the world. Let our steel plants decline or be sold to Korea or Thailand where they can be transformed into slave wage factories.

The only people who end up making any money in this environment are the Wall Street types who play games each day with stock prices and foreign exchange rates. They don’t produce anything tangible or worthwhile. They simply feed off of an economy that has gone away.

We’ve got to support candidates for office who care about people and believe that America will be stronger someday only if we can be a nation of producers. It’s time we get off our rear ends and start pressing for programs and legislation that penalize industry for selling out to foreign markets.

“We didn’t achieve greatness by selling a billion Big Macs.”

Now we’re talkin’ Union!

Get your new Local 3 ‘Union Yes’ T-shirt now, while supplies last.

Available at your union hall. Made to last with 100% heavyweight cotton. Attractive blue and green ‘Union Yes’ logo. Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL

New low price! $6 each

More workers dying without Cal-OSHA

(Continued from page 1)

through December of 1986 to 101 deaths in July through December of 1987. In the public sector, which still is under Cal-OSHA, where federal OSHA has no jurisdiction, deaths declined by 40 percent, from ten to six.

• Work related injuries and illnesses rose by a total of 2,210 during the six months following July 1, 1987, when federal OSHA began exercising jurisdiction.

• During those months, private sector illnesses and injuries were up 2,438 from the total for the same six months of the previous year. Public sector injuries and illnesses under Cal-OSHA were down by 238.

Greene, in his letter transmitting the report to Senate President Pro Tem David A. Roberti, said the administration had “falsely claimed before the Senate Rules Committee and in a Congressional hearing that private sector deaths, illnesses and injuries had declined under federal OSHA.

“This report refutes the administration’s claim and outlines the numbers and categories in which increases have occurred,” Greene wrote.

“This report further magnifies the original error in disbanding Cal-OSHA,” Greene added. “The state program clearly does a better job than federal OSHA.”

Andrew Shaefer, an Industrial Relations Committee consultant and author of the report, pointed out that an earlier committee oversight report had shown a decline of about two-thirds in inspections under federal OSHA in the first months after the change-over. The U.S. General Accounting Office reached similar conclusions in studies presented during testimony before the Labor Committee of the U.S. Senate last March and before the House Government Organization Subcommittee on Housing and Employment in June.

Cal-OSHA initiative becomes Prop. 97

The petition drive to place Cal/OSHA on California’s November ballot was overwhelmingly successful. The initiative will be designated Proposition 97. The number was assigned early this month when Secretary of State March Fong Eu assigned positions for the 29 initiatives that have qualified for the November ballot.

“Our initiative now has its official designation, and it is up to us to make certain that every voter in California knows what Proposition 97 means,” said John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation.

The length of the ballot complicates the Proposition 97 campaign, Henning said. Only twice in the state’s history have there been more initiatives placed on the ballot.

The last time was in 1930 when voters had 30 measures to vote on.
Government failing to prosecute firms that violate safety laws

Despite an estimated 60,700 deaths in the workplace each year, the federal government is failing to prosecute aggressively companies that violate safety laws and endanger workers, a study concludes. The Justice Department places such low priority on filing criminal charges that it has managed just two successful prosecutions of safety violators since 1980, said a report on the study by the National Safe Workplace Institute.

During the same period, California successfully prosecuted 112 cases under state operation of the federally funded program, the institute found.

"There are at least 100 good criminal cases every year where deaths have occurred and where employers knowingly and willfully violated federal regulations," Joseph Kinney, executive director of the Chicago-based nonprofit group, said Friday.

"If the government wants to reduce deaths and injuries, go forward with 50 of those. It's clear the use of civil fines just isn't working," added Mr. Kinney.

"Companies simply amortize the fines and look at it as the cost of doing business. Put them in jail and you'd get their attention."

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration is empowered to seek criminal sanctions against employers in 28 states who violate workplace safety standards. The agency also is charged with monitoring programs in the remaining 22 states, which choose to operate federally funded workplace-safety programs themselves.

But the study found that after the federal OSHA cites an employer for safety violations, the case is reviewed by seven different offices before the Justice Department will bring it to trial.

"Instead of trying to determine how justice can be done, they're trying to disqualify these cases. There isn't even one full-time staff member assigned to these cases," said Mr. Kinney.

"Contrast that with California," he said, "where they devote considerable time and resources, and get convictions and guilty pleas."

"The federal government wants to deal with these problems in a reactive way, with their little fines. We've had 18 years of doing it their way and it hasn't worked."

"And the differences between those two approaches is one big reason that a construction worker...

(Continued on page 7)

Your Vote Does Count!

American workers are hearing over and over again—especially in this critical election year—how important it is that they vote in November. Last month's House vote on Davis-Bacon reform forces us to remember that old refrain again: "Get Out the Vote!"

By only six votes, the House of Representatives rejected an amendment that would have virtually killed the Davis-Bacon Act as a protective factor in construction worker wages. The support of six representatives allowed us to defeat an amendment that would increase the Davis-Bacon threshold on federal construction projects to $250,000. At least 75 percent of all DOD contracts would have been exempted from Davis-Bacon coverage had opponents of the Act had their way.

Opponents of the Davis-Bacon Act literally papered the Capitol with inaccurate and inflammatory leaflets regarding the Act. Only the staunch support of six Democratic congressmen prevented the BCTD's Legislative Task Force from defeating the attacks on workers' prevailing wages.

In short, last month's congressional votes show just what a critical role our 1986 support of construction workers played on an important issue. Consequently, it demonstrated what a critical role each of us can play again at the voting booths in 1988.

(Continued on page ?)

Hospital Protest: Striking San Francisco hospital workers, members of Service Employees Local 250 and the California Nurses Association, march to protest management takeback demands. A new two-year contract was reached a few days later with the Service Employees, however, the nurses still remain out on strike. Leading the march are California Executive Secretary-Treasurer John F. Henning, SEIU President John Sweeney and Longshoremen President Jimmy Herman.

'Amercia Works' examines office of the future

"Office of the future," a new America Works Special, examines the impact of rapidly changing technologies on office workers whose clerical and professional jobs have been transformed by new machines. The half-hour program, produced by the Labor Institute of Public Affairs (LIPA), will premiere on public television stations nationwide this Labor Day.

Narrator Maureen Bunyan, co-anchor of "Eyewitness News" and host of "22-26" on WUSA in Washington D.C., traces the evolution of information processing since the beginning of the century and documents the growing number of traditional jobs that are now being performed electronically. Interviews with employees, managers, leading authorities and union representatives reveal that workers in the automated office face many of the same problems and solutions associated with factory assembly lines and industrial work. Karen Nussbaum, President of 9 to 5, the Association for Working Women, observes, "The problems in the automated office seem very new to us, but actually they are very much the same as the problems in the factory."

Today, 45 percent of the labor force works in offices. "Office of the Future" measures the promise held out by the technologies envisioned fifty years ago at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair against the reality of the new automated office where union representatives are urging managers to implement technology in ways that will enhance jobs and ensure safe working conditions for their employees.

WETA, Washington, D.C., is the presenting station for the program which is being distributed to public television stations.
Many small jobs going in Marysville area

There are several small jobs going in the West Side which are keeping a lot of our Brothers working, reports Business Representative Vern Hughes.

Baldwin Contracting is moving right along on their jobs on Hwy. 99 in Chico. Baldwin also is working on Clark Road, between Live Oak and Yuba City. They were low bidder at $740,000.00 for street and underground construction on Onstott Road in Yuba City.

B & H Excavation has started work on the bridge replacement job on Four Mile Road near Maxwell.

Carl J. Woods has started work on a one mile section of river bank protection near Hamilton City. This job should keep several Brothers working until mid-November.

Rent- Me, Inc., was low bidder on the Goose Lake Flood Relief Structure in Butte County.

Hard Rock Construction is keeping several Brothers working on the realignment of Hwy. 89 job at Clio near Graeagle in Plumas County.

Through a project agreement, M & K Construction was able to underbid three non-union companies on the Union Pacific Railroad tunnels in the Feather River Canyon. This job has several Brothers working some long hours.

The work picture on the East Side is still moving along reports Business Representative Dan Mostas.

Granite Construction is moving right along on the four-lane highway project on Hwy. 99/70 in South Sutter County. Granite’s paving crew has moved in to begin paving part of the project. This has been, and should continue to be, a good job through the end of the year.

Tenco Tractor in Pleasant Grove wood Contracting, Inc., from Oroville,” Mostas said. “Sherwood is presently doing the site work on the new store in Oroville. I would like to personally thank everyone who stayed on the picket line during the recent hot spell we had. Some days, the temperature soared to more than 110 degrees.”

“We have had, up until two weeks ago, a picket on the work. We can understand the feelings they have,” Mostas added.

“Some days, the temperature soared to more than 110 degrees. We hope to be able to continue it in the future.

Warmly,

Pat Overberg, M.S.W.

Los Vaqueros

(Continued from page 1)

The measure also has the support of Rep. George Miller, D-Martinez, State Senator Dan Boatwright, the County Board of Supervisors and many city councilors.

Building Los Vaqueros will greatly enhance summertime water quality. The district obtains all its water from the Delta. In the summer and during dry years when the fresh water is low, salt water from San Francisco Bay intrudes deeper into the Delta, greatly increasing sodium and chloride levels in CWWD supplies.

With Los Vaqueros in place, the higher quality water from wintertime flows could be captured and stored for summertime use.

In addition, the reservoir would provide the district with a six-month backup supply should its Delta sources become contaminated.

CCWD now has only one small reservoir, Contra Loma, near Antioch. It stores a three-day supply of water.
The downtown area is finally busy reports Dave Young.

The Renaissance Tower is well underway working two elevators and one tower crane operator. The senior citizens building on "1" Street is near completion working one elevator operator working for Campbell Construction.

The Library Plaza is well into construction. Cleveland Wrecking has completed the site demolition, and Grade-Way Construction performed the site grading. Mike Zayas, owner-operator, has been working with the historical excavation crew and the pilings are soon to follow.

Harbison-Mahony-Higgins’ building project at 29th & L streets is well underway working Associated Concrete Pumping, Sacramento Valley Crane, and AAA Crane, Inc.

L. E. Wentz Construction at Cal Center Drive is at about mid-point of construction. Conco Pumping, L & H Crane, Sacramento Valley Crane, and Peninsula Crane are performing work at this site.

Granite and Teichert Construction and plant shops are at an all time high for workloads. Granite and Teichert’s asphalt plants can hardly keep up with clients’ needs, not to speak of their own.

Clark’s Welding’s shop is in full production of their asphalt pick-up machine, which is the state of the art in their field.

Action Equipment’s shop contract is presently being negotiated, and we are hopeful for fair increases.

There are a lot of new industrial developments in and about the Sacramento city area. Buzz Oates plans 700,000 square feet of new warehouse space, which will consist of 22 buildings at Oates Industrial Park and Florin Depot in the Power Inn Road area.

The Sacramento City Council is reviewing for compliance five major office projects proposed for the "R" Street Corridor. We hope they will allow them into the master plan for Sacramento.

Real estate loans for the week of August 8, 1988, in the areas of Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Rancho Cordova and Carmichael exceeded $20.45 million for some 13 sites and will place strong demands on labor and materials.

Business Representative John Bonilla reports that work in the Placer County area has really picked up. Kiewit Pacific has just picked up a little more than $12 million at Johnson Ranch in Roseville. Granite Construction is also working at Johnson Ranch on an $8 million project. Granite has begun their $14 million project on I-80 at Atlantic Street in Roseville. C. C. Myers will be doing the structural work on that project.

Grade-Way Construction is keeping about 15 Operating Engineers working on two jobs, one is the Albertson Distribution Center, the other is a big shopping center in Rocklin.

Mallory/Greenhalgh is also keeping about 15 Operating Engineers busy at Stanford Ranch. Lund Construction is busy working on a subdivision on Junction Blvd., they are keeping approximately 15 operators busy. R. C. Collet has two subdivisions going rather well on Foothill Blvd. in Roseville. They also have a $1 million road project about ready to start on Baseline Road. A. Teichert & Son has a subdivision going in on Baseline Road.

Morrison-Knudsen is busy on their I-80 project at Auburn. They are keeping about 20 Operating Engineers busy. Joe Chevreaux’s rock plant in Meadow Vista is also busy at this time with about 15 operators working there. We have recently signed a contract with Trenchline Corp. out of Arizona.

Nevada endorsements

The following candidates running in the September 6 Primary Election in Nevada have been endorsed by Operating Engineers Local 3:

United States Senate
Richard Bryan (D)

U.S. House of Representatives
Dist. 2: Jim Spoo (D)

Nevada State Assembly
Dist. 21: Danny L. Thompson (D)
Dist. 22: Jack Jeffrey (D)
Dist. 24: Vivian Freeman (D)
Dist. 25: Elizabeth Shay (D)
Dist. 29: John Sampaga (D)
Dist. 30: Jan Evans (D)
Dist. 31: Len Nevin (D)
Dist. 32: Robert M. Sader (D)

Nevada State Supreme Court
Seat C: Robert Rose

Sparks Justice Court
Chris Mumm

District Judge, Department 2, Fourth Judicial District, Elko: Thomas L. Stringfield

Over 550 attend Reno picnic

Over 500 members of Local 3 and their families enjoyed the pit roasted beef. Ken Allen’s world famous beans, salad, beer and soft drinks at the annual Nevada district picnic held in early August at the Deer Park in Sparks. In addition to dancing by the Cliff and Howard Luzier Band, there were speeches by Local 3 endorsed candidates including Governor Dick Bryan who is running for the U. S. Senate. Bryan is shown at left with District Representative Ray Morgan and Business Manager Tom Stapleton. Business agent Ed Jones and his wife Helen (below) sold the raffle tickets for the door prizes.
Report from the President

By Don Doser, President

We have just concluded the Hill Brothers Caterpillar Dealership negotiations for the Stockton and Los Banos stores. We were successful in obtaining a six percent increase in wages the first year, a five percent increase in 1989 and another five percent in 1990. In addition to the wage increases, we gained an annual ten cents per hour on pension. We also improved the medical benefits by switching them from the Company’s plan to the Operating Engineers Health Welfare. The Agreement was ratified by a very close vote. Even though the cost of living is running at 5.7 percent at the present time, this increase still gives the members, in this bargaining unit, a 2.7 percent increase above the current inflation rate. This raises their standard of living by 2.7 percent. The second and third year factors are unknown but, if the inflation stays down to the present rate of increase as it has in the past six years, the members should also gain in their standard of living in these next two years.

Brothers and Sisters, if and when you need to file a grievance against the company, where you are working, be sure and read the grievance procedure in your Collective Bargaining Agreement because there is a time limit within which the grievance must be filed. The Master Construction Agreement has a fifteen day filing time, but other Agreements have varying time restrictions.

Remember to read your contract and know your contract. If you need help in interpreting contract language, contact your Business Agent and ask for his assistance. If you don’t have a copy of your contract, you can request one from your District Office. They will be happy to furnish it.

I have been attending as many of the Redding Meetings as my schedule will allow. I have missed some of these meetings due to other work assignments. At those meetings which I have attended, I have had the pleasure of meeting some of the retirees who helped build this Local Union and made life better for today’s younger Operating Engineers.

Remember, the National Presidential Elections are coming up in November. It is an important year to make some changes in Washington, D.C. If we can elect some senators, congressmen or president who is sympathetic to the working man and woman, maybe we can pass some laws which will help us—the working people.

I-5 job moving right along

Redding has best work picture in years

The work picture in the Redding area is the best we’ve had in the last few years, reports Tom Hester. The dirt crew for Kiewit Pacific on I-5 is moving right along. This job should finish in the fall of 1989.

Stuapel-Wiebelhaus started their Hwy. 36 job at Forest Glen. We have about twenty Operators working at this break. Stuapel-Wiebelhaus alsoawarded the Iron Mountain Mine Hazmat Project last week. This should put about fifteen Operators who received the 40-hour training to work. J. W. Brashar, Inc. started their Big Springs Road job at Lake Shastina. This should keep a few of the boys working all summer.

Grass Lake Construction was the low bidder at the Fish Ladder Project on the Sacramento River at Red Bluff. As of this writing, the job hasn’t been awarded.

The bid opening for the Buckhorn Dam is scheduled for July 28. This project was advertised at 5 to 10 million.

Tullis & Associates are moving right along with their job on Hwy. 395 at Terra. They should finish up around September.

Cal-Tran is going to get to work with about 8 1/2 million next year for work in northeastern California. This will include a lot of work of Hwy. 395.

Kiewit Pacific has started paving on their Redding I-5 job and are finishing up on I-5 at Grenada.

The out-of-work list is at the lowest its been in the last five years. The 50th anniversary of the building of Shasta Dam will be held September 3 and 4 at the Seniors Center Hall in Central Valley.

There will be a dinner on Saturday the 3rd and a pancake breakfast on Sunday the 4th. Also, special tour of the Dam will be available. Be sure and mark the dates on your calendar.

The Redding Annual Picnic was a huge success. We fed around 475 people. I would like to thank the following people for all their help: Jim Matson, Frank Rose, Ken Bettis, George Morgan, Ray Morgan and his wife, Ken Allen and his wife, John and Barbara Hinote, Bonnie Smith and her daughter, Barbara Hester, Mike and Carol Lusk, Jo Ann Doser, Bill Silvanis, Willie Houghtby and his wife, Willy and Norma Horan, Sandy Nichols, Henry DePatie, Carolie and Jim Cross. A special thanks to Financial Secretary Wally Lean for sending over the delicious pineapples and lovely flowers from Hawaii.

One of the first districts to hold an annual picnic, the Redding picnic was still one of the best! Above, John Hinote slices the beef, while Willy and Norma Horan (left) prepare the salad.

Why be handicapped?

I've got two arms and two legs, two feet and two hands, 10 toes and 10 fingers. I've got two eyes. What's more, all these things are in good repair and I want to keep them that way.

When a person is missing an arm or a leg, or can’t use some part properly, we say that person has a handicap. And you know what a handicap is, in horse racing it’s an extra dead weight a good horse has to carry to give poorer horses a chance to win. In golf or bowling, it’s a system that gives the better player a disadvantage in scores so that mediocre players have a chance to win.

In life, a handicap, like missing an arm or a leg or being blind or deaf, is something that makes the whole business of living and working a lot tougher. Some people can do great things even with a handicap. But those people have to work harder than the rest of us to accomplish just as much as we do.

There’s nothing in our work operations that needs to cause handicapped people to leave you handicapped. But there’s a lot of work in which handicapping accidents doesn’t happen.

Any piece of moving machinery can cripple if not handled properly.

If you try to oil, clean, adjust or repair a machine in motion, you’re asking for an injury that may cause you never again to do a good day’s work.

When you handle anything heavy, you risk a damaged back unless you lift with your legs instead of your back, unless you get help if it’s too heavy. Heavy things can also smash feet unless you handle them properly and protect your feet with hard-toed safety shoes.

An eye is very easily damaged, a tiny sliver of metal or piece of emery or other dust can damage it. So can acids and other chemicals.

That’s why certain work operations call for the use of eye protection, to keep you from the terrible handicap of blindness.

Then there are all those handicap-producing accidents that can happen at work, play or home. Falls, burns, and so on. None of us like to think about them happening. But they can and do happen. So if you want to avoid handicaps—learn to work safely, to respect things that can burn or explode, and to keep an eye open for traffic, whether it be on the highway or at your job site.
'Political realities' win passage of plant closures bill

A plant closing bill that guarantees workers a 60-day notice before their jobs are wiped out became law last month on a tide of public support that overwhelmed employer and Administration opposition. In the end, President Reagan backed off from his veto threat, acknowledging what he termed "the political realities." Reagan still wouldn't sign the labor-supported bill. But it became law automatically when the 10-day deadline for a presidential veto expired.

The "realities" were that Americans overwhelmingly supported the legislation, there was a strong probability that the veto would be overridden, and Republicans in tight election contests were openly imploring Reagan to let them off the hook.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland welcomed Reagan's decision to veto the bill as "a victory for fairness" to workers, their families and their communities.

Kirkland praised the congressional leaders who shaped a strategy that led to enactment of both plant closing notification and the omnibus trade bill. The two are linked by a provision in the trade bill requiring states to set up a rapid response mechanism to provide retraining and job placement assistance to workers displaced by shutdowns and layoffs.

The goal of the rapid response provision—to have a job program in place before layoffs occur—is only achievable when workers and communities have advance warning. And that's what the plant closing law seeks to assure.

It will take effect on Feb. 4, 1989—six months after enactment. Firms with 100 or more full-time employees will be required to give workers and their communities 60 days advance notice of:

- A plant closing that would result in 50 or more employees at one site losing their jobs.
- A layoff of six months or longer affecting 50 or more workers who constitute at least one-third of the workforce.
- A layoff of 500 or more workers, even if they are less than one-third of the workforce.

The required notice must also be given to local and state governments, and to unions representing affected workers.

Sets penalties

A firm that fails to give adequate notice will have to pay its workers damages equal to one day's pay plus the cost of other employment benefits for each day notice was not given. The employer can also be required to pay damages of up to $500 a day to the local community.

Fairfield picnic:

Over 200 people enjoyed a picnic lunch of barbecue steaks, beans, salad, bread, beer and soft drinks at the annual Fairfield picnic held in July at Lake Solano Park. Although the temperature was over 100 degrees, the breeze and shade of the park made it tolerable. After lunch, entertainment was provided by a Polynesian dance team.

It's only fair

House Speaker Jim Wright is congratulated by Democratic Presidential candidate Michael Dukakis after enrolling the plant closing bill passed by Congress, so that it can formally be submitted to President Reagan. Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio), a chief sponsor of the bill and Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (D-Tex.), the vice presidential candidate applauded.

A layoff of 500 or more workers, even if they are less than one-third of the workforce. The employer can also be required to pay damages of up to $500 a day to the local community.

U.S. Safety record

(Continued from page 3)

in a federally regulated state is three times more likely to die on the job than one in California," Mr. Kinney said.

Justice Department spokesman Patrick Korten defended the federal system. "When we get a (criminal) case that has prosecutorial merit, we prosecute it," he said.

"But it is very difficult given the regulations that govern such cases, and the case law in this area, it is often more appropriate to file and prosecute such cases in state court, where you have a wider variety of laws that apply," Mr. Korten said.

And OSHA's civil enforcement can be effective, said agency officials Frank White, citing the $4.2 million fine against Bath Iron Works in Maine for safety and health violations.

"We think it's not the best use of our resources to chase corporate outlaws," Mr. White said.

But the institute's study concluded the federal government's reluctance to bring criminal prosecution has discouraged efforts by state and local prosecutors to pursue safety violations in certain cases.

It noted, however, that more local prosecutors are going forward with such cases since prosecutors in Illinois brought murder charges against officials of Film Recovery Systems Inc., stemming from the cyanide poisoning death of a worker at the company's suburban Chicago plant.

The 1985 conviction of three of the firm's executives "forever changed the course of responsible management in the U.S. with respect to job safety," the report said.

Mr. Kinney said 50,000 of the estimated 60,700 workplace deaths each year were the results of disease, most often cancer, and usually the result of exposure going back at least 10 years.

"But there are 10,000 traumatic deaths each year... and another 1.8 million injuries, of which 60,000 result in permanent disability. "People think of these kinds of things as being part of our (labor) past," Mr. Kinney said, "but this is our present."
Work in Oakland picks up after slow start

Work had been somewhat spotty in Southern Alameda county, but now it is looking better, reports Gil Anderson. Gradeway is busy at their lane addition job on Highway 880 from Alvarado/Niles Blvd. south into Milpitas, and their jobs in Livermore, Sacramento and Folsom.

Ferra is keeping most of their hands busy on smaller jobs. They are also working on a two million yard job in Richmond.

Redgwick doesn’t have any large jobs but is keeping most of their hands working.

Oliver DeSilva has started their lane widening job on highway 680 in Pleasanton with six or eight hands. Benco and Parish are sub-contracting for DeSilva, and DeSilva is still plugging along on the Hopyard over-crossing in Pleasanton.

Oliver DeSilva and C.C. Myers are going great guns on the I-580 highway 238 maze. On July 29, 1988 CalTrans opened one of the big bottle-necks by opening the on ramp north on I-580 off east bound 238. The two lane approach ramp to east bound I-580, which was a single land approach ramp, was also opened. The rock plants are rocking along. They have built huge stock piles anticipating a strike. But thanks to Mr. Norris Casey, Mr. Don Luba and six job stewards who acted as observers, we have an agreement that was ratified by the members on July 17, in

(Continued on page 11)
Local 3 members build massive sea wall at San Francisco's Ocean Beach.

A lot of concrete going into Ocean Beach sea wall job

By John McMahon

At San Francisco's Ocean Beach, great mounds of sand have been piled up, creating a deep ditch, which now has its own little rail line.

For a third of a mile, several operators with heavy equipment, working for the joint venture of Olsen/Francis are busy building a massive seawall between Noriega and Rivera streets, a sector where bluff erosion from battering seas has been a constant problem ever since the Great Highway was built in the 1920s over what had been a section of beach.

Severe clawing at the bluff has on occasion forced the closing of highway traffic lanes. That problem might have persisted indefinitely if San Francisco had not decided to build a huge sewer line under Great Highway, reaching from a sewage treatment plant in Golden Gate Park to a pipe that takes sewage four miles out into the Pacific.

The line also will connect with a new treatment plant next to the San Francisco Zoo that is planned to replace the Golden Gate facility. As a trade-off for the pollution control project, the city was required by the California Coastal Commission to stabilize the beach bluffs as a defense against ocean waves breaking into the Great Highway sewer line.

Construction of the $7 million concrete seawall began in mid-March and is expected to be completed next January. The concave configuration of the wall, with formed blinder seats facing the ocean, replicates the O'Shaughnessy Seawall, built farther north near the Cliff House in the 1920s and named for M.M. O'Shaughnessy, the city's longtime chief engineer and mastermind of the Hetch Hetchy water system.

As much as the two seawalls will look alike, there are big differences in construction techniques and components. The steel reinforcing bars going into the new seawall are coated with plastic so that they can better withstand the corrosion caused by salt water. Olsen/Francis also has built a rail system for moving a custom made gantry form used in laying the two-foot-thick wall section by section.

"This is not a run-of-the-mill job," construction superintendent Peter T. Alhorn said as the forming was under way near the foot of Rivera Street.

A Lot of Concrete

He said 11,000 cubic yards of concrete—enough to fill 9,200 dump trucks—will go into the 25-foot high wall. Below its buried footing, steel piles will reach 22 feet deeper.

A 16-foot-wide promenade will extend along the top of the wall, giving strollers grand views of the ocean and beach. Several stairways will drop down to the beach, which is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

The city is paying $5 million of the seawall construction. The balance is covered by a $2 million grant from the state Department of Boating and Waterways.

A second stretch of seawall construction, with an estimated cost of $3.4 million, is planned for the beach section between Ortega and Moraga streets. Financing for the work, which is to be put out to bid shortly, hinges in part on obtaining a $2 million state grant that is awaiting Governor Deukmejian's signature.

Landscaping along the Great Highway, where construction of one sort or another has been going on since 1981, is expected to be completed with the planting in the fall of more dune grass.
I have talked with many members who have expressed concern about the Social Security program and what they might expect to receive for Social Security Retirement. In recent years we have all read that the Social Security program funding was in some jeopardy. Then we were told that it was placed on a sound footing through the year 2000. This news can make anyone feel uneasy about the status of the program, especially when you hear comments like this.

While we do not have a direct hand in "fixing" the program, (if it indeed needs fixing) except through our elected representatives, we can keep careful track of our own individual earnings records and also of how the program can work for us.

Social Security provides for retirement income, payments if you are disabled, payments to your family if you die, and the Medicare program.

What will Social Security give me for retirement?

Call the local Social Security office to find out how to obtain a free estimate of benefits. Remember, it is difficult for them to accurately estimate what you might get in monthly income if your retirement is many years away. But they will be happy to assist you with information on how benefits are calculated under the present scheme.

And ask Social Security for a copy of your Earnings Record once every one and a while. Since your benefits are based on earnings, it is good to make sure all your employers are reporting properly and you are being credited with all earnings to which you are entitled.

What if I am disabled?

You may be entitled to monthly benefits if you become totally disabled, unable to engage in substantial gainful work. Your family members may also be entitled to benefits in certain cases. Check with Social Security for all the details. They will be able to give you advice about start dates for disability pensions, vocational re-education services, what happens if you are able to work again, etc.

And what if I die?

Social Security provides survivors’ benefits, so check with them regarding possible benefits for the family members in the event of your death.

Medicare

The Medicare program is of course the broad hospital and medical insurance program for those 65 and over and those disabled. As you may have read, Congress has recently passed significant legislation regarding Medicare, and these changes will be discussed at another time and place. As you are aware, Medicare pays for a significant portion of hospital and doctor bills for retirees, and after Medicare has made payment, the Retiree Medical Plan then pays its part of the balance for those covered.

The coordination of benefits then between Medicare and the Retiree Medical Plan pays its cost of every medical bill for covered retirees.

We just wanted to highlight some of the main provisions of the Social Security program in outline form. Social Security people are the experts, remember. So for all the details, give them a call, or better yet, go on down to your local Social Security office one of these days and pick up some literature. They would be happy to be of assistance to you.

A United States citizen who lives outside the U.S. can continue to receive his or her checks regardless of the length of time the person remains outside the country, a Social Security manager said recently.

However, Social Security checks may not be sent to people in Albania, Cuba, Democratic Kampuchea, East Berlin, East Germany, North Korea, or Vietnam.

In addition, checks cannot be sent to Iran or the U.S.S.R. However, the manager said, a U.S. citizen can receive all the checks that had been withheld once he or she leaves that country and goes to a country to which checks can be sent.

In general, a person who is not a U.S. citizen cannot receive any checks for months spent in one of these countries even though he or she leaves that country and satisfies all other requirements.

For more information about payment of benefits outside the United States, ask for a free copy of the booklet, "Your Social Security Checks While You Are Outside The United States," at any Social Security office.

That is one of the questions most frequently asked by workers—and particularly baby boomers—worried about the integrity of the Social Security Program.

Fortunately, the answer is an unequivocal "Yes." According to both Social Security and private industry actuaries, Social Security is here to stay. And the Save Our Security (SOS) coalition, which represents over 100 national, state and local labor, aging, and disability groups) agrees. It should know.

SOS counts among its founders two former Secretaries of Health, Education, and Welfare (the late Wilbur Cohen and the current Co-Chair Arthur Flemming), two former Commissioners on Aging, a former Commissioner of Social Security, and some of the pioneers who helped shape the system over the past 50 years. These experts all note with satisfaction that the Social Security trust funds will be fiscally solvent until well into the next century.

And by that time, 21 percent of the voting public will be eligible for Social Security benefits, so it seems unlikely that any Congress will abandon our historic commitment to a stable, solvent, Social Security system.

But Social Security is more than a pillar of American social policy. Its unassailable popularity derives from its record of helping working men and women, their children, and persons with disabilities, meet the uncertainties of life with confidence and security. It is a retirement income program for 26 million Americans, to be sure. But it is much more, as well.

It is a workers’ program that affords protection against loss of income arising out of long-term disability, assuring three million disabled Americans monthly disability benefits to help pay the bills. It is a family program that shields surviving spouses and dependent children against the deprivation that would otherwise result from the death of a breadwinner for 8.4 million Americans (5 million widows and 3.4 million children). It is a program that frees a young, struggling family from the financial strain of providing care for elderly parents, permitting fuller and more independent lives for everyone.

In fact, it has been estimated that a family consisting of a 35-year-old husband, a 32-year-old wife who does not work outside the home, and two minor children would have to purchase both a $200,000 life insurance policy and a $200,000 disability insurance policy to have comparable protection through the private sector. When viewed this way, Social Security is not only a worthwhile investment...it is also a great bargain!

Will Social Security be here when the next generation needs it? You bet it will...But it will be as long as we understand why it is so important and why all of us must defend the system against those who are trying to weaken it.

Retiree Meetings

Auburn: Epsilon Chapter
10 a.m. Wed Sept. 7.
Auburn Rec. Center
123 Recreation Dr.

Lake County
10 a.m. Tues. Sept. 13.
American Legion Post # 437
14770 North Clearlake, CA

Santa Rosa: Chi Beta Chapter
2 p.m. Tues. Sept. 13.
Veterans Memorial Bldg.
1351 Maple St.

Watsonville: Iota Chapter
10 a.m. Thurs. Sept. 22.
V.F.W. Post 1716
1950 Freedom Blvd., Freedom, CA

San Jose: Kappa Chapter
2 p.m. Tues. Sept. 27.
Holiday Inn Park Center Plaza
282 Almaden Blvd.

LOCAL 3 MEMBERS

Save dollars on your Disneyland trip. Ask for your free membership card. Mail this coupon below to:

ROSEMARY GARVEY
Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3
474 Valencia Ave., Suite 3
San Francisco, CA 94103

Please send me: A membership card for the Magic Kingdom Club (Please allow one week for returning by mail.)

My name is:

Address:

City State Zip

Phone (___) S.S.#
Oakland

(Continued from page 8)

Livermore.

There were also four to six business agents involved over the Rock, Sand and Gravel Agreement.

Norris Casey started using observers three years ago and it works very well. The steward observers were: Frank Parrish, Don Moses, David Muns, Jerry Riche-son, John Roderick and Jeff Roy. These observers part in the nego-
tiation meetings and for example, an employer brings up a point that doesn’t sound right, Casey would confer with the business agent or steward. This cuts out a lot of “B.S.” and keeps everyone pointed in the right direction. A “big thank you” to all the fellows involved for a job well done.

I would like to tell the members who live in the Hayward/Union City/Fremont area, that the Foothill freeway was on the agenda of the Hayward City Council meeting Thursday, July 28. This had been on the books for twenty-eight years and had a good chance of passing if we could have shown up to support this issue and Mayor Giuliani. But only one union hand was there, along with Business Agent Brian Bishop. This job might have generated over 130 million dollars worth of work and we needed your support. So please keep your eye on the DAILY REVIEW and ARGUS for notices of future Council meetings. At least twenty or thirty people singing the same song can turn these things around.

We passed a half-cent sales tax last year for the widening of I-880 and Gradeway is now working that job with Local 3 hands taking home the paychecks.

So, it is important to attend your meetings and go to the polling places to vote so you can get your fair share of the pie. After a long battle with the Planning Commission of the City of Oakland, the company received an “O.K.” to continue their quarry operations until the year 2008, reported Brian Bishop. This quarry has been operating at its location off of 580 since 1933. The operation is a vital element to Gallagher & Burk in every day operations which generally utilizes 50 to 60 employees and approximately 90 other employees, most of whom have had to look for work elsewhere.

The opposition to the quarry came primarily from the developer and property owners who have recently purchased property or homes around and above the quarry. Most of the long time resi-

Pictured above are Larry Faura (left), shop mechanic and Charleston “Charlie” McGuire, master mechanic. Below are Sam Olivares, H.D.R. apprentice and Robert Malley, plant mechanic.

August 1988

Work in Eureka finally moving after slow start

After an extremely slow start on the North Coast, we are finally going great guns, reports Eureka District Representative Bill Burns. The fine to ten inches of rain we had in June really hurt the member's pocket book.

Tutor Salita Perini, on the Redwood Highway Bypass in Orick is running two shifts with over 200 Operating Engineers. In talking with Steve Braithwaite, Master Mechanic, they have 55 scrapers, 25 dozers, 6 loaders, 5 excavators, 6 blades, 3 BG's and 4 compactors. They also have 22 heavy duty repairmen and 8 lube engineers.

On the Pelican Bay prison in Crescent City, there are 35 to 40 Operating Engineers working. J.A. Jones is building the level IV housing for $38 million. These are all tilt up panels, two story cell blocks for maximum security inmates. Walsh Construction has all the level I housing and support build-

August 1988

Honorary Members

At the Executive Board Meeting on July 9, 1988, it was reported that the following re-
tirees have 35 or more years of membership in the Local Union as of July 1988, and have been determined eligible for Honorary Membership, effective October 1988:

Victor Alves 0744976
Bill Bly 0775427
Louie Bricie 0750237
Neal Bridges 0668740
Gordon Carpenter 0759292
Walter Fields 0304348
Joe Gasaway 0772952
Arthur Junqueiro 0758368
John NJrich 0772880
Howard Odenweller 0750521
Cecil Preston 0736392
Benson Qualis 0651450
Howard Sander 0779265
George Songer 0772991
H. P. Thomas 0661159
Roy Tucker 0759008
Carl Wellman 0707282

Kevin Williams, C.E.O. apprentice

mended of Gallagher & Burk sat side by side with mem-

bers of the Operating Engineers running phone banks trying to get Oakland voters to cast their ballots for our friends.

All of our supported candidates were elected and this 6 to 0 vote shows the value of supporting and voting for labor endorsed can-

11
Utah district holds crane safety class

The Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 and Ball, Ball & Brosamer, Inc., held a crane safety class for journeymen at the Utah Joint Apprenticeship Committee’s training site at Spanish Fork Saturday, July 30, 1988. The class was under the direction of Donald Strate, District Representative and Acting Administrator for the Utah training office.

The class dealt with basic aspects of crane safety, providing six hours of classroom time and two hours of field instruction. Training included load charts, lifting safety with cranes, knowing a crane’s limits, and cable and chain safety. One of the more positive aspects was the discussion on interaction of crane operators and other craftsmen with whom they work on the site.

Those in attendance were Adel Yassin, Shawn Craig, Rod House, Bill Dezell, Rocky Romero, Tom Nimrod, Will Hicks, Brent Maier, Nyle Boyce, Joe Martinez and Business Representative Nyle Reese.

The crane safety program of Ball, Ball & Brosamer followed, and this will help the journeymen become more safety conscious when working around cranes. Many thanks go to B, B & B for encouraging their employees in this training.

The training was a first for all journeymen in attendance and those who made preparations for the use of the site, Training Coordinator Rickie Bryan and Instructor Joseph Richins.

Sacramento cont.

(Continued from page 5)

They are doing work for both Granite Construction and Kiewit Pacific at Johnson Ranch. They’re just picked up another project in Rocklin and they are looking to set-up a permanent office in Rocklin.

Work is going well on the southeast side of the Sacramento Valley. Teichert, CFB, and Lorang Bros. are all doing subdivision work in the Barton Road area. Lund Construction is doing extensive subdivision work in American Canyon off Franklin Blvd., in Marina Village, and off Calvine Road. Kocio Construction is going again on Calvine Road after a lull in work. Teichert is working in numerous spots in the south part of Sacramento—Calvine to Galt.

Joe Vicini is working at Cambridge Road. Teichert is also working at Cambridge Road in Cameron Park and at Bass Lake Road.

Gabe Mendez and Syblov-Reid are both working on “the ridge” in the Sierra foothills. This is an expensive subdivision with lots of the entire valley going for $130,000-$170,000 for 130-160 ft. parcel.

Boyd Sears and Fox Excavating are still working at Missouri Flat Road in Placerville.

Grande Construction is firing up work in the Laguna Creek area with 1-2 million yards to move before the rains.

Kiewit Pacific is just about finished in the Blue Ravine area of Folsom. In the plants, Industrial Asphalt, GS Roofing, Lone Star Industries, Pacific Ready Mix, and Granite are working 6 to 7 days a week.

Sacramento Valley Crane made quite an impression when they carted four of their truck cranes to the Port of Sacramento to load rice on container ships.

Work should be good for the rest of the season if the water shortage in some areas does not stop the planning commissions from issuing building permits.
Senator Pete Wilson ‘close minded’ on plant closings legislation

Senator Pete Wilson has once again proved himself no friend of California workers by voting on July 6 against requiring companies to give 60 days’ warning before shutting down a plant. Wilson’s opposition to the plant closure notice is indefensible. Requiring companies to give a 60-day notice before shutting down a plant is plain common sense. It gives people a little time to find a new job or even learn new skills. It gives them more control over their lives.

I am not alone in observing Wilson’s betrayal of the best interests of most Californians. Senator Howard Metzenbaum, the bill’s author, pointed to Wilson’s callous remark that “The plant-closing provision is stupid.” Metzenbaum rightly responded: “Tell that to the workers who have given 20 to 30 years of their lives for a plant, and suddenly the plant closes down, without any notice.”

Last April Wilson voted against—and President Reagan ultimately supported—an omnibus trade bill that included provisions for 60-day notice of layoffs and plant closures. This means the passage of the 60-day notice bill—particularly in light of the massive Republican defection—should be regarded as a rebuke of both the President and his supporters, including Wilson.

Bipartisan supporters of the bill point to a recent survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics which starkly demonstrates the need for 60-day notification. Of the more than 100,000 workers who were laid off in 1986 and 1987, 64 percent received no advance notice, and 16 percent were laid off less than two weeks in advance.

Pete Wilson opposes the bill. Under the grounds it unfairly restricts corporations’ freedom to react to market conditions, Wilson overlooks the fact that companies stricken by unforeseeable economic conditions already are exempted. Wilson not only opposed the bill, he offered an amendment which would have greatly weakened it. Fortunately, his amendment was soundly rejected by a vote of 37 to 58.

Historic trade bill finally passes

With plant closing notification safety written into law, Congress quickly completed action this month on a job-expanding trade bill that will help the next President bring U.S. exports and imports into closer balance.

The focus is on opening new markets for American products—through negotiations to bring down barriers, but with the club of retaliation available if negotiations fail.

It expands trade adjustment assistance to more groups of workers displaced by imports. It incorporates a major retraining program for dislocated workers—regardless of the cause of their job loss—that includes a “rapid response” to notices of plant closings or layoffs.

The measure doesn’t go as far as the AFL-CIO had sought in guaranteeing a reduction of the trade deficit. A reluctant President will have “wiggle room” to avoid taking action. But an Administration that wants to use them will find new weapons in its trade negotiation arsenal.

For the first time, the U.S. Trade Representative will be able to take retaliatory action against a country that flouts internationally accepted employment standards by actions such as denying the right to organize or use of child labor. That would be branded an “unreasonable” trade practice, subject to discretionary retaliation.

In the same category would be countries that have undercut U.S. firms by export targeting—a government supported policy of building up industries beyond domestic needs in order to capture a large share of the American market.

President Reagan has sought to eliminate the trade adjustment assistance program, which provides retraining opportunities and supplemental unemployment benefits to workers who have lost their jobs because of increased imports.

Instead, the new legislation expands eligibility for TAA benefits to include jobless oil and gas workers and so-called secondary workers in firms providing goods and services to industries hurt by increased imports.

The legislation directs the President to seek an international agreement on a small import fee to go into a trust fund to support programs such as a TAA that assist workers affected by imports.

Another provision of the bill is intended to open up foreign telecommunications markets to the United States, with retaliation the stick at the bargaining table.

In another section, the timetable for import relief to give battered domestic industries a chance to become more competitive is speeded up.

Reagan’s veto of the first version of the omnibus trade bill, because of its plant closing provision, raised fears that House or Senate amendments could derail the entire measure. But congressional leaders jettisoned the provision to ensure the bill passed and mustered big bipartisan majorities—376-45 in the House and 85–11 in the Senate.

Plant closings

(Continued from page 7)

and public opinion, that overcame Administration and business hostility.

Reagan, Vice President Bush, and the Republicans in Congress who allied themselves with the business lobby found themselves on the wrong side of the fairness issue in an election year.

The presidential contest contrasted the strong support for plant closing legislation by Democratic nominee Michael Dukakis with Bush’s uncomfortable embrace of a toothless “voluntary” notification bill as a substitute for the mandatory notification required by the vetoed measure.

Furthermore, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, had been one of the architects of a strategy that led to the passage of both plant closing notification and the trade reform bill to which it had originally been attached.

Trade reform and plant closing notification—both high on labor’s legislative agenda—were joined last year when the House-passed trade bill was being reworked by the Senate. The plant closing compromise—essentially the proviso as written into law by bipartisan support and was added to the trade bill by a 60-40 vote.

50-year pin: Retired Local 3 member Louis Payse received a watch in honor of his 50 years of membership at a Retiree Association meeting held recently in Ignacio. Payse joined Local 59 in 1938 and became a member of Local 3 when his original local was amalgamated. Presenting the watch to Payse is Local 3 Business Manager Tom Stapleton.

Caltrans makes boo boo

A slight $20 million error

The Santa Rosa office is working with Supervisor Janet Nichols on a project to get monies owed to the County by CalTrans, due to an accounting error, reports District Representative Chuck Smith.

It seems CalTrans billed the county twice for the same project, namely the Cloverdale By-Fass. There is over $20 million in question. The County should get money back from the CalTrans budget for our highways. We’d like to get it all back as our highway system is getting more obsolete every day.”

The Akinston/Ostrander job at Cloverdale has finished with the bulk of the dirt and they are shooting to have it paved by the time the rains hit.
From drugs to dirt track

Larry Martinez thought he had the world by the tail. He had a good job. He was making good money. Good money that allowed him to support a very expensive habit...drugs! But Larry didn’t have a drug problem. To him life was just fine. He had it all. That is until he had to face the reality of his situation. Larry Martinez began his apprenticeship as a CEO back in 1979. He worked his hours and slowly advanced upward in his apprenticeship. But, Larry also became more and more involved with drugs throughout his apprenticeship.

During this period in his life he was a heavy drug user. He became divorced from his wife, lost his house, his car, his family, and all of his money went towards his drug habit. It was an extremely low point in his life.

While completing a two week stay at Rancho Murieta Training Center to pass his competency tests, Larry tested positive for the (then mandatory) drug testing program. In July, 1983, he was sent for thirty days of drug treatment at Azure Acres, a medical chemical dependency treatment program and went to weekly Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Larry decided to pick up his life and do something with it. One weekend he and some friends attended a sprint car race at Santa Maria Raceway. While watching the races and admiring the cars, he felt the same sense of exhilaration and high feelings he had when he was on drugs. It was at that moment that Larry decided he wanted to race cars. With encouragement from several people, employers, and the apprenticeship program, he began building his sprint car in June of 1987.

Granite Construction helped sponsor the car by providing use of their shop to construct the body and work on the engine. Larry says it if weren’t for the support from Jack Angel, Dan Beecham, and Bill Dorey, the completion of his sprint car wouldn’t have been possible. With help from Mark Clark and all of the mechanics in the Granite shop in Monterey, Larry put together his $16,000 dream machine. This limited Sprint Car contains a hefty 360 cubic inch V8 Chevy engine. On the body and spoiler of the car are the logos of the Apprenticeship Program and Granite Construction.

Last October 23, the “Freedom from Drugs” sprint car had its initial outing. Racing at Baylands in Fremont, Larry finished seventh out of fifteen cars. Not bad for the first time out.

Larry says that the money he used to spend on drugs now goes towards a more positive effort. He invests it all into his sprint car.

Larry Martinez has come a long way. It’s not easy fighting off a drug habit that takes over your life.

But he did it and so can others. It is important that Larry Udhe, Claudia Dias and Paul Heading for their persistence in convincing him that he needed help. Currently he is working on getting back together with his wife, Sandy, and his two children, Misty Dawn, 7 and Lawrence Raymond III, 6.

Recently, the A.R.P office spoke with Larry and he reported being an accident during a race on June 11, 1988. The car was damaged and he was slightly hurt, taken to a hospital pretty shaken up, but okay. Larry plans to repair the car and participate in the new sprint car season.

Local 3 member designs turntable

Local 3 Robert Besser of Chico, CA has patented a design for a truck and equipment turntable designed to turn vehicles around on top of levees and break water projects.

The basic unit is 14 feet wide, 24 feet long and 30 inches high. It is designed to carry 100 tons or more. The entire turntable can be towed to a project site by a truck or loader.

There are four retractable wheels on the bottom and four outriggers to help stabilize the turntable. The entire turntable sits flat on the surface of the ground.

The power source to operate the turntable is mounted on a small trailer located at a remote location with a control box and operator. The turntable can be towed from either end.

Persons interested in getting more information on the turntable can contact Robert Besser at (916) 342-4548 or write to 3115 Aloha Lane, Chico, CA 95926.

Teaching Techs

Gene Machado to retire at year’s end

At the end of this year Gene Machado will be retiring from his present position as Administrator of the Surveyors Apprenticeship Program. He will be ending a career of eighteen years of surveying, seven years as a Technical Representative for Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 and eight years with Apprenticeship. A long time union member and surveyor, Art McArdle, will be replacing Gene.

Art, a member and Operating Engineer since 1958, is now working with Gene and will take the reigns on January 1, 1989. During the past fifteen years, Art has been instrumental in training over one hundred surveyor apprentices. His job has kept him in close contact with the NCSJAC and he has been a supporter of apprentice training from the beginning.

Art knows first hand the type of training necessary to turn out surveyors for today’s industry demands. He is familiar with the Union contract and knows how important that contract is in order to hold the industry together and to keep the training program intact so that we can train our survey workforce to keep up the pace with the new technology and survey methods that are changing at a very rapid rate.

Art understands as well as anyone that a well trained workforce is one of the biggest tools the union has today to combat the non-union infringement encouraged by our State Government and the current President of the United States, Ronald Reagan.

The Joint Apprenticeship Committee is happy to welcome Art to the new position he has taken. We are sure the members will give him their support.

We are happy to announce that in the group that took the L.S.I.T. test this year, at least four that we know of were apprentices: Dan Staples, Mike Rennick, Larry Savio and Dennis Pedersen. Mike and Larry are both instructors for our Oakland area classes and Mike is blessed with a new chairman, Colin Gary Rennick, who was born January 3, 1988.

Congratulations to all and to those members we have no knowledge of, who took and passed the test, especially those of you who were previous apprentices. We know that a good deal of work, time and study went into the preparations for this test.

We would again like to explain our Journeyman Upgrade Training courses that are available to all you journeyman. Gradechecking-Slopestuking, HP41CV Calculator course, Tunnel and the Heavy Construction courses are all available.
During the Great Depression American workers faced an economic disaster, a crisis too enormous for them to solve alone. It took the strong leadership of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his "New Deal" to turn the country around. From his experience grew the realization our nation's political system had to play a more direct role in the workplace. On September 5 we'll mark the 94th anniversary of the Labor Day holiday established to salute the achievements of working people. We'll celebrate the fact the Depression is a phenomenon of the past.

For most of us, while our state and country today are prospering, many California workers still lack adequate wages and safe working conditions.

The Governor has used his veto power to eliminate the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration, claiming the federal government performs the same job.

Unfortunately, the federal program doesn’t measure up:

- Federal OSHA has fewer inspectors than Cal-OSHA, and that translates into more worker accidents, injuries and deaths.
- Cal-OSHA had stricter regulations in virtually every area, including logging, oil drilling, construction, mining, and tunneling. The federal program does not regulate exposure to more than 170 toxic chemicals in the workplace that Cal-OSHA covered. Also, Cal-OSHA banned use of the short-handled hoe by agricultural workers; federal OSHA has not followed suit.

The Fresno Annual District Picnic will be held on Saturday, September 17 from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. The location is Keach Park, Provo City. A $7.00 fee, with kids under 12 free. This year's menu includes barbecue steaks and hamburgers, salad, rolls, beans, beer, soft drinks and cakes. There are plenty of shade trees in the park to beat the heat. Entry into the park will be by way of a voucher you receive when you get your ticket. Tickets are available at the district office or from any of the business agents. We encourage you to get your ticket ahead of time so that we can order enough steaks.

Lt. Governor Leo McCarthy