AFL-CIO Convention Calls for An End to Inflation, Unemployment

By JOHN McMAHON

The AFL-CIO opened its 12th Convention in Los Angeles in early December with an urgent plea for an end to the continued high unemployment, the spiralling inflation and the economic policies of the current Federal Reserve Board.

The meeting of the largest trade union movement in the free world heard President George Meany declare, "We cannot afford the spiralling inflation and the economic policies of the current Federal Reserve Board."

Meany called on the 886 delegates, who represent 12 million national, 9 departments, 46 state central bodies, 193 local central bodies and 12 directly affiliated local unions, to construct a program dedicated to the well-being and advancement of the welfare of the great masses of the American people."

In his opening remarks to the convention, President Meany outlined organized labor's positions on the economic issues facing America.

Meany told the convention that, although the unemployment rate has dropped since President Carter was sworn into office, there are still 10 million Americans out of work. "It is still too early," Meany said, "to grade the Carter administration."

Former Leader Al Clem Dies

A tough, outspoken defender of his union, it was under Clem's leadership in 1957 that Local 3 grew from 30,000 members to its present level of 250,000.

"If he goes, there is hope; if not, the real villains are the building trades. Plus the open shop contractors who have had to compete with that of the President and his administration," according to Meany."

In urging Congress to reform the Open Market Committee and restructure the Federal Reserve Board, "Clem has succeeded in explaining stagnation by shifting the blame from himself to building trades craftsmen and low-wage workers."

In addition to his fiscal policies, Kirkland observed, "Burns has consistently opposed the prevailing wage and minimum wage laws that have benefited workers."

"To be a man of steel," Kirkland continued, "to encourage an industry that abhors the minimum wage. This is the real villain and it is the building trades."
Looking to Peak Year

We are looking forward in 1978 to a peak work year throughout most of our jurisdiction. The closing months of 1977 showed construction continuing at a vigorous pace with $10.4 billion in newly contracted projects reported in November, up 20 per cent from the same month in the previous year.

Increased demand for housing and a mini-boom in commercial and non-residential buildings highlights the best year in construction since the mid-sixties.

Statistics indicate that in the final months of the building cycle, new enrollments in schools, public administration buildings and recreational facilities hit a new peak, registering an added $8.1 billion in November, up 17 per cent over the same month in the previous year.

In the meantime, after several years of bartering with the Brown Administration, we have managed to convince the Department of Transportation to fund a number of smaller projects in northern California that, though low on the priority list, were environmentally acceptable and on line.

As a result, at its most recent meeting in Sacramento, the California State Highway Commission approved several million dollars for the following projects:

San Francisco Bay Area: a total of 11 projects were approved totaling $71 million. The first stage of a new Rte. 101 freeway running between Coitran Rd. in Morgan Hill and Hilltop, near San Jose. The first stage contract involves grading, drainage and structural work at various locations along what will become 11.5 miles of four-lane freeway.

$736,000 for installing crash cushions at various locations in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz and Napa counties.

$80,000 to install earthquake restrainers on structures in Marin County along Rtes. 17 and 101; $31,000 for grooving along Rte. 17 in San Mateo County and $11,000 for channelization and traffic signal modifications at intersections of Rtes. 85 and Stevens Creek Blvd. in Cupertino; $30,000 to reface a section of Rte. 37 just east of Petaluma Creek and $16,000 to install a computer-controlled heating and air conditioning system at Cal-Trans headquarter in Novato.

The big Santa Clara freeway projec-
ted bids in April. No dates have yet been set for the other Bay Jobs.

Central Coast Counties: a total of $365,000, representing four projects added was the State's plans to spend $35,000 to build bicycle lanes on both sides of Highway 41 in Atascadero; $325,000 to channelize and extend acceleration and deceleration lanes on Rte. 101 Prunedale; $337,000 to construct three locations at guardrails and runnings along the length of the crib walls.

One from just north of the San Luis Obispo County line to 1.3 miles north of Big Creek; and $127,000 to reconstruct Rte. 21 and its connection to the Mendocino County line on Rte. 101 at Smith Point; $30,000 added for side removal at a project already under way north of Rte. 101 near Smith Slide River Bridge in Del Norte County; $20,000 likewise added to a previously approved project to realign 6.2 miles of Rte. 299 in Humboldt County with money being used to reconstruct shoulders and restore super-elevation; another $85,000 added to money set aside for replacing obsolete guard and bridge rating at various spots along Rte. 101 in Humboldt and Del Norte counties. No advertising dates have been set for any of these.

North-Central Counties: a total of $1.2 million was added to cover five projects in Nevada, Yuba, Sutter, Colusa, and Glenn counties. This amount was added to supplement the last minute added $1.1 million already voted last year to remove and rebuild decks of three bridges in the Nevada County; $100,000 covering four traffic safety projects (easing of curves and roadside shoulder improvements) three miles north of Nevada City on Highway 49; $108,000 as the state's share of a cooperative project to reconstruct Highway 101 and 43 in Colusa County. No due dates have been established.

Northern Mountain Counties: the Commission added $45,000 to the budget to cover three projects in two counties. $40,000 was marked for construction of a portion of a condition on Highway 40 and $15,000 for a new guard rails at various bridges and culverts along Highways 101 and 43 in Colusa County. No due dates have been established.

Sacramento County: the Commission added $165,000 to the budget to cover a number of projects in Sacramento County including:

1. $1.2 million added to the budget to cover improvement of the West Sacramento River system in the Adin Munic- ipality which will be used to fill the new section main of an Ada Community Services District. These funds will be used to construct various bridge decks, 5 miles, at and near Delhi from 0.4 mile south of State Highway 49 to 8 miles north of State Highway 49, and $185,000 for new guard rails at various bridges and culverts along Highways 101 and 43 in Colusa County. No due dates have been established.

7. $250,000 for Phase-Second of a traffic safety project at Barry Rd., $200,000 for a project at Vista, $95,000 to complete a cooperative project to reconstruct Highway 101 and 43 in Colusa County. No due dates have been established.

In addition to the above, the State Department of Transportation has announced tentative schedules for ten multi-million dollar highway projects, to include:

Largest project of the ten is the $20.0 million project to replace the bridge structure in Menlo Park, Fremont and Newark, and at near Dumbarton Bridge No. 35-38. The work is included in a statewide list of 25 major highway projects. Three are tentatively scheduled for January, February and March.

Their listing, Cal/Trans makes, is not to be considered as a commitment that there are many factors which may delay or possibly advance project advertising.

Plans and progress reports will not be available after the project is advertised.

The nine other northern area projects are:

Humboldt County 101: four-lane structure and approaches 3.5 miles, from 2.9 miles to 11.9 miles north of Mendocino County line, Smith Point Bridge, 6.5 million.

Lake County 25: lake passing track and shore widening, 2.2 miles, from 10.7 miles east of Route 53 to 2.8 miles west of Colusa County line, about 14.3 miles east of Clearlake Oaks, 1.3 million.

Tahoe County 40-1: corridor roadway, 12 miles from 0.3 miles north of Dibble Bridge near Red Bluff to Cottonwood Creek Bridge and over an additional 10.8 miles to 0.3 miles north of Dibble Bridge near Red Bluff, 2.3 million.

Nevada County 80: residence bridge decks, 5 miles, at various locations from 8 miles south of Lake Shastina to 0.3 miles west of Lake Shastina, 80 million.

Alameda County 900: ramp and truck lanes, 3.2 miles from Millin Blvd. in Fremont 0.6 mile west of Arcoade Road, 8.3 million.

Contra Costa County 24, grade, maybe, turn-off, whatever. Other members of this project from Milpitas to Wilber Ave. to So Joaquin River Bridge, 41,200,000.

Sutter County 101: grade, surface and structure, 2 miles, in Santa Rosa on Route 101 and an exit from 0.3 mile north of 35, 0.3 mile west of Airway Drive, 3.5 million.

Marin County 39: four-lane freeway, 1.5 miles, and at and near Delta from 0.4 mile south to El Capitan Way to 0.6 mile north of Turlock Irrigation District lateral to 6, $6.5 million.

Stanislaus County 5: safety roadside rest, about 28 miles from Santa Cruz-San Joaquin County line, 1,200,000.

Finally, we are looking at big construc-
tion years in energy development for this area, both in and especially in Utah and Nevada. However, to avoid the boom or bust of past years, we will keep up the good fight to bring additional and badly needed construction facilities in the fields of water storage and water treatment. With your help and support, we think some ten years of full employment is ahead for our industry.
Belgium Labor Official Visits Main Office

Paul Breyne, a member of the Confederation of Christian Unions in Belgium spent an afternoon at the offices of the AFL-CIO in San Francisco, concluding a busy trip through Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania and Michigan. During the course of his visit, Breyne commented that he was impressed in many ways by the labor movement in America, but was surprised at some of the differences in the labor movement of the two countries.

In Belgium, for instance, nearly 80 percent of the labor force is unionized—a considerably higher figure than in America. Breyne noted that his country sponsors special invitation organizations such as the Confederation of Christian Unions, of which he is a member, and the Confederation of Socialist Unions, which has approximately the same size as membership to represent 3 million workers in a country with a population of 10 million.

The structure of the labor movement in Belgium differs strikingly to that found in the United States. The confederations provide the direct leadership for the union workers, carrying out wage negotiations and processing grievances for the workers.

There are no local unions in Belgium organized according to trade jurisdiction, Breyne pointed out. Rather, the confederated unions are broken down primarily by geographical boundaries, much like local and regional governments.

However, in negotiations, Breyne said that wage rates are drawn according to craft skills. Petroleum workers and members of the building and construction trades are among those with the highest wages in Belgium. In Belgium, the minimum wage is computed on a monthly basis, and is 2,200 Francs per month, or $571. This is significantly higher than the monthly salary of $396 computed on the current American minimum wage of $2.35 an hour.

The Social security system in Belgium is also different than in America, Breyne commented. In his country, employers carry the majority of the costs of social security, while in the United States the costs are borne equally by the workers and employers. During periods of unemployment, workers are paid at or near 100 percent of their wage rate from the Social Security system.

In Belgium, with an unemployment rate of about eight percent, Breyne said that workers are most concerned with job security, rather than wage increases. Much of Belgium's insurance and industry, he noted, comes from large, multinational firms, over which the government has very little control. Occasionally these companies will pull out of Belgium entirely, leaving thousands of workers jobless, with no opportunity for re-employment.

"What can you do as a government," Breyne noted, "when these companies have budgets as large as our nation's?"

As in America, there are no official relationships between labor unions and political parties. Breyne said, although the philosophical lines of the two main confederated unions are easily identified with specific political parties.

The Christian Democratic Party commands the largest constituency, with about 40 percent of the voting public, followed by the Socialist party, which has about 30 percent. The remainder is divided between smaller parties including a conservative group which has about 15 percent of the vote.

Breyne concluded his visit to Local 3 with a tour of the computer facilities, which contain the records of the union's membership and transactions. Breyne commented that the high degree of automation found in the Local 3 operation is not yet to be found in Belgium.

Breyne received degrees in law and political science in 1968, after which he became a legal counsel for the Confederation of Christian Unions. He is also a member of the National Labor Council, an organization that roughly parallels the function of the NLAB in the United States. At this time, he is serving a special post as consultant to the Minister of Transportation of Belgium.

Prior to visiting Local 3, Breyne spent several days in Washington, D.C. with labor leaders from throughout the country. He then went to Pittsburgh to get a first look at the steel industry, after which he spent some time in Michigan observing the political structures of the state.

LOCAL 3 VICE PRESIDENT Bob Mayfield (center) explains the computer system to Belgium labor leader Paul Breyne, as flies large corporations will pull out of Belgium entirely, leaving thousands of workers jobless, with no opportunity for re-employment.

secretary Carol Jones makes a demonstration on the terminal, by calling up information on Mayfield's membership status.

On November 14, and 15, 1977, I attended the California AFL-CIO Conference on Workers' Compensation at San Francisco with more than 140 trade union officials from throughout California.

The primary forces of the conference were directed at a series of eight measures—AB 1655, AB 1728, AB 1958, AB 1960, AB 1968, SB 841, SB 824, and SB 1289—that have been undergoing interim hearings by the workers' compensation sub-committee of the Assembly Finance, Insurance and Commerce Committee chaired by Assemblyman Richard Robinson (D-Danville).

Most of the attention at the conference centered on AB 1655. The Federation's general counsel warned that AB 1655, the principal bill in the series of anti-worker bills sought by insurance and employer interests, "would abolish the existing workers' compensation system. "They've done, or is to seek to abolish our workers' compensation system and create a new one.

Among other things, AB 1688 would abolish the present statutory requirement of liberal interpretation in favor of employers and require all issues to be con- sidered with equal consideration for all parties despite the fact that California workers gave up their right to trial by a jury of employers for industrial disabilities in exchange for a guarantee of limited compensation, "irrespective of the fault of any party," when the pro- gram was established in 1911.

BILL WOULD CUT BENEFITS

The basis for the computation of benefits under AB 1655 is the maximum fee schedule which would apply to workers selecting their own doctor, a factor that might adversely affect the willingness of doctors to treat industrially injured workers.

The position of the Federation is in full support of what the state constitution mandates the legislature to do—provide full protection of injured employees and in the event of death, protection of dependents as well and fully complete medical treatment and re- habilitation benefits.

ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW

Governor Reagan, in his message to the 1977 legislature, said that there are "many bills before the legislature, including a conservative group which has about 15 percent of the vote."

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"The disparity between $154 for permanent total disablement among policemen, firefighters, and other safety workers is caused by their jobs.

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I would like to start this month’s article by passing on a very different venture to which we turned our sights to this month. It is a drilling rig being operated by the company I work for, and it is located in Battle Mountain, Nevada. This has been a copper property unexploited for many years. Good copper deposits are not often found, and through his leadership and coordination with all the instructors and support staff, he has caused many compliments to be passed on by many of these apprentices for the quality of the training held up or up and above the standards set by other companies. All too often in life only the bad things or uncompromising remarks are heard, are what that whole gang might have heard; however, I am certain that as a result of our training, the apprentices and instructors have been able to adhere to those most willing and ready to dig in and learn, their families will have a better life. I wish to convey the message of the importance of training. A Drilling rig is a very complex and important area of work. A training school should be having an election with a coal mine operator whose name was Western States Coal. I am sorry to say we weren’t successful at this time and are delayed for the time being from getting our foot in the door of this important energy sector. In the areas of Utah and Nevada, the Local Union was in trouble and coordination with all the instructors and support staff has been accomplished. In the areas of Nevada and Utah, the Local Union was in trouble and coordination with all the instructors and support staff has been accomplished.

As of this writing, the Training Center is shut down for the holidays and New Year season when training is needed. The type and kind of industry is nearly impossible anyway. Reopening of the center is scheduled for the first week of March, 1979, though hopefully the building will resume. The rig has been deferred to the insurance companies so that the work of the apprentice can be in existence. At that time training could be set up to be offered and headed toward an early spring start for a full and prosperous 1979 construction season.

The meeting was held in Los Angeles with Business Manager Dale Marr and Oil Field Representative Frank Towlley and our counterparts in Local No. 12 headed up by their Business Manager Wagoner. The purpose of this meeting was to attempt to work with Local No. 12 and the owner of Hummert & Camp Drilling Company and representatives of Compy Drilling Company in settling a contract dispute with Local No. 12 only, which resulted in a strike since February, 1979, for Hummert & Camp Drilling Company and a strike of somewhat shorter duration but other complications resulting in some National Labor Relations Board charges.

The meeting, I’m happy to report, resulted in a complete settlement with Hummert & Camp and hopefully will pave the way for the Camay settlement, and as an end result might someday become a pattern for a state-wide agreement for all drilled copper mines. We are held by some drilling contractors as a result of this settlement and hopefully continued good future Labor-Management relations, that a program might be reached on an early date by the parties to initiate a training program for future drilling entry jobs. By this I mean some training school could be acquired for the actual on-site training being performed at Rancho Murieta Training Center.

Of course, all criteria would be drilling oriented and hopefully a drilling rig could be acquired for the actual on-site training being performed under real conditions. At present, the turnover rates for entry jobs on the floor (or workers as they are commonly known) is tremendous. In addition, a large percentage of on-the-job accidents occur among the inexperienced, which is a peril not only to themselves as far as injuries go, but also to all those in conjunction with this work. This, in turn, drives compensation insurance (which is already costly) out of sight.

Additionally, we think in the near future strict certification requirements for Drillers and possibly Derrickmen may occur both for offshore and onshore work. A training school could in all probability be able to certify any such requirement, should such rules be mandated. The bottom line of the whole thing is that with the mutual cooperation of labor and management, a combination of money, energy and a talent of both, a very unusual and innovative good for the industry could soon be accomplished.

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Continued on Page 11, Col. 1

**In East Bay**

**Shop Work Holds Up Well**

Assistant District Rep. Ron Butler reports that work in the shops continues to hold up well, with much more full employment in this industry.

Negotiations have recently been concluded and ratified with Horizon Equipment Co. in Newark and Nixon-Right Equipment Co. in Hayward.

We would like to thank the brothers at Peterson Tractor Co. who turned out for our recent health and welfare and pension meeting. Butler said: "Their enthusiastic participation made this event a success."

Business Rep. Bill Dorresteyn reports that crane and rental work is going good in Oakland and San Francisco, but has been doing exceptionally well in the San Jose area.

Biggs in Santa Clara and Peninsula are going well with lots of overtime. Peninsula just hired two new operators as an older. Looks good for them.

Bean is doing well as is San Jose Crane. The owner of San Jose Crane, Charlie Chipara is back at Cape Kennedy taking down a missile tower. It’s a big job. “I heard they lost a boom on one crane, so it must be a bit rough,” Dorresteyn says.

Shoulder is very busy and are gearing for some work at the Geysers. They have been fairly busy in San Francisco and down the Peninsula and in the Sacramento area.

Winton Jones is doing fair to good and are in a few of the refineries.

Reinhold is very busy all over the place. They have a lot of tower cranes going up this year and next year too.

Biggs is doing well in the Oakland area, as far north as Clear Lake, Concord, Walnut Creek, Antioch, and also some work on the Peninsula.

“They’re a winner. The combination of their people and the company makes for a good combination,” says Butler.

“Looks like the work will be good for a while with quite a lot of overtime so when you’re working long shifts, work as safe as you can,” Dorresteyn cautioned.

Butler Barsky reports that the cranes in the mill and open Hearth have been steady for the last month, heavy on structural and ball material. The re-bar market seems to be still slow, while the house building remains strong.

The southern end of Alameda County is going big guns in the housing development and warehousing and commercial such as parking lots and small stores as service centers. Barsky said.

The gravel plants are also reporting a boom year, with the exception of 1 or 2 of the large producers who are only average or below.

**An Excellent Safety Record**

LOCAL 3 RECENTLY recognized employees of Lone Star Industries’ Clayton rock, sand and gravel plant for their excellent safety record. At the time the picture was taken, they had worked 2,099 consecutive days without a lost time accident. Pictured, from left to right, are Local 3 Safety Rep. Jack Short, Business Rep. Chuck Ivy, Jack Cullum, Jerry Richeson, John Collins, Charles Hard, Harold Yancey, Clinton Barton and Stanley Soto. Other Local 3 members not pictured are A. Sanchez, L. Willo, J. Enos, T. Simmons and S. Perez.

**Notes**

- On a more successful note, the Duval contract was extended.
- Shop Work Holds Up Well.
- An Excellent Safety Record.
Especially the Elderly

Hearing Loss Affects All Ages

By MIKE KRAJTICK, Director of Fringe Benefits

Doubt Cast on Breast X-Rays

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is the conclusion of a three part article on hearing loss.

Hearing loss affects all age groups, but it is especially common in the elderly, often impacting the young, older than six million of the 14.5 million who have difficulty hearing. More than six million of the children of school-age children. For many, a hearing aid will provide a semblance of normal hearing under most circumstances. For some, the hearing loss is so severe, and the causes of the hearing loss so complex, that a hearing aid provides only an awareness of sound.

A wide variety of conditions and circumstances can contribute to hearing loss, including, tumors, head injuries, birth defects, exposure to loud sounds, and reaction to drugs. The aging process itself is one of the most common factors in hearing loss. Regardless of the specific cause, there are four categories of hearing losses, and a person who is hard of hearing can be suffering one or more of these.

Conductive losses are caused by physical interference with the passage of sound waves through the outer and middle ear to the inner ear. If you have this kind of hearing loss, sounds may seem muffled as if someone were holding his hands over your ears. Further, conductive losses can be treated medically or surgically, and therefore may not require the use of a hearing aid. When a hearing aid is not recommended, hearing aids are usually helpful to treat conductive losses.

Sensorineural losses result when the sensitive nerves in the inner ear, or the nerve pathways along the brain to the brain, are damaged or malformed. Such hearing loss is characterized by the inability to hear different sounds. Conductive losses in sound used in normal speech and sometimes by an acute sensitivity to loud sounds. Sensorineural losses are more complex than conductive losses so finding the most effective aid is more difficult.

Central hearing losses occur when the portion of the brain that receives the auditory signals is malformed or damaged.

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Outlook

Operating Engineers Trust Funds

High Blood Pressure Can Be Controlled

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is the conclusion of a three part article on obesity.

High blood pressure is a coronary risk factor that can usually be kept under control by medication, weight reduction and salt restriction. When your doctor takes your blood pressure, he is measuring the pressure in your blood vessels created by blood pumping through the heart and circulatory system. If blood pressure remains inappropriately high, the heart weakens, and the blood vessels may become damaged or become disfigured. They are not simple answers to such causes of hypertension as diabetes, but, if done in the proper manner, they can help to lower blood pressure.

Millions of Americans have high blood pressure and are simply unaware of it. High blood pressure is often called the "silent killer," but symptoms in the damage slowly, without symptoms. If you don't know which blood pressure test, certainly you should have it checked by your doctor.

Hypertension is not often cured, but it can be controlled. Warnings about the dangers to one's heart from a high cholesterol level have been widely publicized in recent years. But what some of the publicity frequently doesn't say is that although the amount of cholesterol found in the blood is important, diet is not by itself, of course, the only thing everyone still needs some cholesterol to live. 

Cholesterol is a fatty substance found in all living tissue. When your body accumulates more cholesterol than it actually needs, the excess is deposited in the walls of the arteries, and this causes "atherosclerosis." The disease process goes, after many years, the accumulation of cholesterol in the arteries can slow or completely block the flow of blood.

Fortunately, cholesterol levels can be lowered. The key is to reduce the fat in the diet. The fat in the diet includes both cholesterol and saturated fat. Some foods are high in both. Eating cholesterol-rich foods, such as eggs, can raise cholesterol levels in the blood. When you change eating habits to include foods that are high in saturated fats and low in cholesterol, the odds against heart disease are further reduced. If an individual is currently overweight, the change in eating habits will probably result in weight loss and this in itself is a decided advantage in developing a healthier heart. The American Heart Association suggests that a good diet will include foods such as lean meat, fish, poultry, fruits, and vegetables. Instead of fried foods, cooking methods that help to remove fat, such as baking, broiling, boiling, and roasting should be used.

Because the exact relationship between many of the contributory risks and heart disease are not yet completely understood by medical science, they are not considered "major" risk factors. But that does not mean that a person can escape igniting the fire. Diabetes is an impairment of the body's ability to use sugar. Researchers know diabetes contributes to "atherosclerosis.

Persons with diabetes are more likely to develop atherosclerosis, and at an earlier age and more severely, than non-diabetics. Fortunately, under proper medical supervision, diabetes can be controlled and the risk of heart disease can be reduced. Doctors know that a regular program of exercise strengthens the heart and lungs, and improves muscle tone and overall health. But they also know that exercise alone is not enough to prevent heart attack.

Systolic blood pressure, which is the important factor in heart attack. One of the major areas of research currently under way is to determine whether heart attacks among families are caused by environmental factors, or whether the tendency is carried genetically.

Understanding the causes of heart problems is a good first step toward preventing a heart attack. Take the time for a personal assessment of which risk factors might apply to you. You may be glad that you did.
A Vigorous and Happy Meany Puts Critics to Shame

Reelected unanimously with a prolonged standing ovation at the 12th AFL-CIO convention was a vigorous and happy President George Meany. The convention delegates praised Meany's leadership, noting that he has "responded magnificently" to the leadership demands of the past two years, giving with "full vigor and without reservation his gifts of steadfast courage, moral strength and intelligent, progressive leadership." Meany's leadership at the convention provided a convincing rebuttal to the claims of much of the general (and largely ignorant) press that the house of labor is stagnating.

Nick Katzi, a well known Washington reporter, who refuses to jump on the critical bandwagon carrying most of the press, said recently of Meany: "Earlier in the year Meany suffered some multiple physical ailments and was discouraged, but he now seems perfectly fit again, is back at his golf game and is as invigorated and dynamic as ever in dealing with the tasks of the office as he sees them. During a 75-minute interview I had with him recently, I found him razor sharp with an instant command of facts and figures on every conceivable current topic, and an assured political definedness in handling difficult questions."

The convention delegates hailed Meany in a resolution declaring him "a champion of those who struggle against injustice, poverty and bigotry. It said that "he speaks out consistently for the kinds of programs we need to maintain our record of economic progress."

Still too Early to Grade Carter, Meany Says

(Continued from Page 1)

Administration. For the pluses, and they are many, are clouded by the continued slack in the economy and high rate of unemployment."

Meany voiced concern that "realistic action to meet these problems has been stymied by an apparent shift of priorities away from the President's major theme: one campaign issue—jobs—and toward the number one issue of the conservative opposition—balance the budget."

The best and surest way, however, to balance the budget is to get the jobless back to work, and not to continue to fight inflation by maintaining a high unemployment rate. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office recently estimated that every one percent reduction in unemployment cuts the federal budget deficit by $19.5 billion, or approximately $15 billion coming from added tax receipts and $4.5 billion coming from lower social program costs due to unemployment compensation.

Meany reported that the small pickup which has occurred in the construction industry has still left workers who form "the backbone of the American economic system" facing depression level unemployment rates. Even though President Carter has shown a greater commitment to housing than his predecessor, Meany said that the current level of housing starts is way below the number necessary to make up for the Nixon-Ford years of neglect.

"The single greatest deterrent to housing construction remains the high interest rates and tight-money policies of the Federal Reserve Board under Dr. Arthur Burns. The major factor in escalating housing costs in mortgage interest rates — an inflationary factor that perpetuates unemployment and denies America the housing her people need and want."

Meany explained that "for nearly nine years, Dr. Burns has been advocating and instituting high interest rates and tight money policies he said would cure excess demand inflation. But the inflation of the past nine years has not been caused by excess demand. Consumers have not had too much money with which to buy too few goods. Rather, the price of goods—fuels by price increases for food, oil and interest rates—have been higher than consumers could afford. It is doubtful Dr. Burns' policies would cure excess demand inflation, but it is obvious they do not cure—but in fact contribute to—price inflation and high unemployment."

According to George Meany and the entire AFL-CIO, the first barrier to resealing economic health to America is Dr. Arthur Burns, and he should not be reappointed and denied the leadership position of the Federal Reserve Board under Dr. Arthur Burns. Instead, the new chairman should be Dr. Arthur Burns, who has been advocating and instituting high interest rates and tight money policies he said would cure excess demand inflation. But the inflation of the past nine years has not been caused by excess demand. Consumers have not had too much money with which to buy too few goods. Rather, the price of goods—fuels by price increases for food, oil and interest rates—have been higher than consumers could afford. It is doubtful Dr. Burns' policies would cure excess demand inflation, but it is obvious they do not cure—but in fact contribute to—price inflation and high unemployment."

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Meany ended his address to the convention with a call for the American labor movement to continue to speak out for the rights of all workers, whether residing in this country or behind the iron curtain. "What we are—are what we mean as a movement—what we have done and what we seek to do—all speak with a voice that cannot and will not be silenced. And, our voice for progress, for justice, for human rights shall be heard—we shall never be silenced."

AFL-CIO President George Meany congratulates Vice President Walter F. Mondale on winning the Murray-Green Award for "outstanding service to America." Hubert Humphrey was a previous winner.
Daniel Schlesinger pauses during his address to the AFL-CIO convention in Los Angeles. He brought a pledge from President Carter that there was "no higher priority next year than the passage of labor law reform in the Senate."
Paul Schissler, Assistant Director of the Tech Engineer Department, has once again scheduled the annual presentation of a series of American Red Cross Multi-Media First Aid Courses for Journeymen, Apprentices, and their families. Elsewhere on this page of the Engineers News, the time, date, and place of each session is printed.

Posession of a Certificate of Completion is mandatory for every Apprentice in order to continue in the Apprenticeship Program. Beyond that, the mandatory requirement for Apprentices is just it is common sense that the protection this knowledge gives to fellow workers and the family should make the one day course a self-imposed mandate on every Journeyman. The fact remains that it is sometimes difficult to treat yourself under many circumstances so why pay the odds? Bring your wife and/or kids and/or another member of your household. It might be you laying there on the ground and it would be comforting to know that someone else knew how.

The Teacher of our Sacramento Related Training Classes provided the Administrators of both the Northern and Southern California Joint Apprenticeship Committees the opportunity to review several audio visual presentations that the State of California has produced concerning Surveying.

The Northern California Surveyors Joint Apprenticeship Committee now has some of those presentations in its possession. There appears to be a lot of pertinent material, but a great deal of editing will take place before the material will be suitable for our Related Training Classes.

In viewing the raw material, it is interesting to note the difference in technique and the emphasis between a government operation and the reality of the competitive private enterprise system.

In dealing with that reality, the personal, individual involvement of Local Union No. 3 Journeymen Tech Engineers has been phenomenal.

Before, during and after the imposed ratios, Journeymen have made up the predominant portion of the involved group. The new Apprentices should take a hard look at these "old timers" who understand the value of additional knowledge. Even though they have a job and probably can stay there, they choose to invest their own time in order to increase the paycheck, or in many cases just to keep up with their pride in the occupation.

A proposal to expand the BCTD Multi-Media First Aid Courses for Journeymen, Apprentices, and their families is expected to add about $600,000 to the department's revenues. Most of the added funds will be channelled into the new BCTD Organizing Division.

A proposal to expand the BCTD executive council from 10 to 15 members failed to win support of the convention's laws committee. Its position was upheld by a voice vote of the delegates.

The convention also approved another $30,000 each in the annual salaries of the department's top officers. BCTD President, Hugh Bodam, had an annual salary of $65,000 and Sec-Treas. Joseph F. Maloney's salary was raised to $60,000.

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San Francisco Dist. Report

Business Rep. Charles Snyder reports that in San Francisco, Granite Yamanishi, J.V. has been awarded another sewer contract, the North Shore WW pump stations and outfall for $12,029,614. The completion date is set for approximately March 1978. This contract will be in the same area as their other $11.6 million job.

Underground Const. Manager, J.V. was awarded an $8,079,796 sewer outfall contract C53 with a completion date set for January 1978. This contract is in conjunction with the Bank of America job at 11th and Market and will serve as a parking for the new center.

Swinerton and Walberg are also the general contractor on the $10.7 million project at Pier 39.

Local 3 now represents over 4,000 police officers, over 4,000 school employees and municipal workers throughout Northern California.

Clem is also credited with the establishment of the largest apprentice training facility in the construction industry. The Rancho Murieta Training Center near Sacramento serves as a training facility for all apprentices of the union and journeymen who wish to upgrade their skills.

AL CLEM IS PICTURED ABOVE speaking to a group of retirees at the Rancho Murieta Training Center in September 1973.

Recording-Corresponding Secretary James R. Ivy has announced that in accordance with Local 3 By-Laws Article X, Section 19, the election of Grievance Committee members shall take place at the first regular quarterly district or sub-district meeting of 1978.

The schedule of such meetings at which the Grievance Committee members will be elected is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting Place</th>
<th>Engineering Bldg., 2005 Broadway, Berkeley, California 94703</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4—REVEKIA</td>
<td>January 10th</td>
<td>Engineers Bldg., 2005 Broadway, Berkeley, California 94703</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7—REDDING</td>
<td>January 11th</td>
<td>Engineers Bldg., 100 California St., San Francisco, California 94111</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6—OREGON</td>
<td>January 12th</td>
<td>Prospectors Village, Oroville Bldg., Oroville, California 95965</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1—SAN FRANCISCO</td>
<td>January 18th</td>
<td>414 Valencia St., San Francisco, California 94117</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17—HONOLULU</td>
<td>January 22nd</td>
<td>Washington School, 1633 Olive St., Fresno, California 93721</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15—HILLO</td>
<td>January 26th</td>
<td>Sacramento Bldg., 1958 W. 11th and Market, Sacramento, California 95811</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3—STOCKTON</td>
<td>February 2nd</td>
<td>Capital Bank of Oakland, 1969 Kibbe Ave., Hilco, California 95811</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5—FRESNO</td>
<td>February 7th</td>
<td>Engineers Bldg., 321 E. Olive St, Fresno, California 93720</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8—SACRAMENTO</td>
<td>February 28th</td>
<td>100 California St., Sacramento, California 95814</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12—SALT LAKE</td>
<td>March 1st</td>
<td>100 California St., Sacramento, California 95814</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11—RENO</td>
<td>March 2nd</td>
<td>Musicians Hall, 124 West Taylor, Reno, Nevada 89501</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18—SANTA ROSA</td>
<td>March 9th</td>
<td>Maple St., Santa Rosa, California 95401</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I want to thank all members for their excellent support in 1977. Your Credit Union now has approximately $30 million in assets and is one of the three largest labor-union credit unions in the United States.

You make the credit-union idea work. By doing most of your saving and borrowing with the Credit Union, you insure that Local 3 members will have a source of high-return savings, low-cost credit and other financial services.

Members borrowed close to $14 million at low interest rates this year. If they would have had to borrow this money elsewhere at higher interest rates, they could have been hundreds to thousands of dollars poorer as a result of higher finance costs.

Income the Credit Union earns on its low-cost loans to members is paid back to members' share accounts after paying operating expenses and required reserves. There are no outside stockholders who profit from your doing business with your Credit Union.

More than $1.3 million was paid to members in 1977 in dividends on their share (savings) accounts. The semi-annual dividend, which will be posted to members' accounts on January 1, 1978, will amount to more than $700,000.

An additional $75,000 was paid to members who have bought more than $1,450,000 of the Credit Union's 7 per cent Investment Certificates.

To Credit Union members who would like to know more about services and to Local 3 members who haven't joined the Credit Union, we extend an open invitation to call, write or visit us in 1978.

We hope all Local 3 members and their families have a healthy and prosperous 1978.
Letters From The Members

Dear Officers and Members of Local 3:

Thank you for the beautiful white Bible in memory of my husband Harry Michel- son. I will always cherish it in the years to come.

Mrs. Erma Michelson
El Socante, R.

Dear Sirs:

I want to thank you for the Card Gold and my 35-year honorary membership in Local Union No. 3. It has been a great honor and satisfaction to me to have been a member of this great union for so many years. I think the Executive Board of this union is doing a great job for the members. Thank you again for the Card Gold.

J. D. Dela Vega
Fallon, Nev.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Last May I was granted an honorary membership and Card Gold of which I am very proud and I want to be associated with and to have been a member of the best dagone union in the world. We have had and still do have the best and most reliable leadership of any organization in the United States and I have a long way to go in making it possible for a working man to hold his head high and be proud to be part of organized labor. With kindest regards.

Edward W. Locke

Dear Officers of Local 3:

I wish to express heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Operating Engineers for the beautiful white Bible which I shall always treasure. Sincerely,

Margaret Schuette

Operating Engineers:

On behalf of my beloved husband, Harvey Cecil Lincoln, I want to extend my appreciation and thanks for the kind note of comfort and the memorial edition of the Holy Bible you gave us. At times like this, it is comforting to realize the many friends Harvey had, and their sharing in our loss. Sincerely,

Elzie Lincoln

Dear Sirs:

For 35 years my husband supported the union. He was always a strong union man, no matter what job he worked on, no matter how long he was laid off during the rainy season. Throughout those 35 years the union always supported us with innumerable benefits. We have never more appreciated the support of the Operating Engineers Local 3 than in the past month since my husband's death. The people in the union have been a comfort to us in our sorrow, and the beautiful Bible is just one more good memory for Dave and the union. Sincerely,

Mrs. David Brown

Gentlemen:

I want to send a word of thanks to the Operating Engineers Local 3 for the beautiful Bible you sent when I lost my beloved husband, Bob. It will remain one of my most valuable treasures of his memory. May I also thank you for the prompt check to help defray his funeral expenses. It was truly appreciated.

Mrs. Clarence "Bob" Kirbaugh
Redding, CA

Dear Sirs:

This letter is to let you know I received your Gold Card. I want to thank all concerned for it. I have always been proud to say I am a union member of Local 3 for these years. I pray all those in Local 3 will believe as have in their union, and will work for its good standing in the labor movement.

Floyd Carr

Wife of Robert Haigard

Dear Family and Friends:

I have always been proud to say I am a member of this great union for so many years. With kindest regards.

Helen Shannon
Central Valley, CA

I-80 Contract Awarded in Nevada Dist.

Business Rep. Craig Canepa from Reno reports that Robert L. Helms of Sparks was awarded construction of a portion of Interstate 80 in Pershing and Humboldt Counties for $3,476,236. Canepa Construction of Las Ve- gas was second. Construction of U.S. 395 at Topaz Lake was awarded to Bob L. Helms with a low bid of $3,018,332. Frehner Construction also came in second on this one.

Gerhardt & Berry and Holcomb Construction were awarded Schedule A & B to construct a 1.5 million gallon reinforced concrete reservoir and to rehabilitate and re-roof the existing 1 million gallon reservoir.

Canepa Construction of Nevada was awarded the Hunter Lake storm drain in Reno with a low bid of $15,065,243. M. H. Byars was second. Canepa's project at Love- lock was temporarily shut down by Local 3 because of their failure to comply with the working rules. Canepa said.

G. P. Construction of Las Ve- gas, at $21,211,859, outbid Frehner Construction of Las Vegas by $15,875 for construction of Interstate 80 from Risco Guard to Yearz Car. Construction is to start in March 1978.

Canepa's Reed Construction is trying to outbid Nevada Paving and Robert L. Helms for highway construction and asphalt paving in Washoe Valley with little suc- cess and are picking up mostly small jobs such as the $32,204 grading and paving of parking lots at Washoe State Park. Highway construction bids are being called for in December for a portion of Interstate 80 in Elko County, west of the Nevada-Utah State line for a length of approximately 4.5 miles.

Hotel Construction

Construction on seven hotel-casinos is well under way in the Reno-Sparks area, with the M.G.M. Grand topping out all of them. These hotels, when com- pleted, will employ approximately 8,000 employees resulting in apartment and single dwelling construction and asphalt paving to unheard of proportions for this area.

The cost of homes has risen to a point where it is becoming extremely difficult for the Brothers to qualify for loans. Canepa com- mented. Rentals are practically non-existent at this time.

Max Riag has completed a third job on I-80 at Winnemucca for $4.2 million. This combined with the three contracts the company should keep many Brothers busy this coming year. Jack Parsons has completed a 1,480 job at Wendover at $6.5 mil- lion.

In the mining industry, Duval's contract was to expire Jan. 31 and was extended until Sept. 30, 1978, due to the copper industry and Duval's transportation agreements. Terms of the extension include COLA to continue each quarter with a 10 percent increase.

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In addition to the contract extension at Duval, Local 3 has set- ted two twenty two grievances concern- ing eleven employees af- fected by a layoff. Duval paid these eleven Brothers $12,000, to be divided equally, as reimburse- ment for the time they lost.

Carlin Gold is starting their car- bon cold treatment and, no unforeseen problems, it should be on the line first of the part 1978.
In final closing, we now know that 1977 has produced more man-hours of work than since any time back to at least 1972. Nonetheless agreed that rather than go through with the arbitration regarding grievances which we (the Union) had filed on Duval Company officials also reached a pre-arbitration settlement if possible. The happy ending is that 11 of our members shared equally the $12,000.00 that was offered and accepted by them.

Check your District Meeting Schedule and either come in and participate and become more involved with the Union. The first run for the office yourself. At any rate, the main thing is to become more involved with the Union. 

In closing, I certainly would wish that many more of our rank and file members would become involved with the Union. Historically, all 1st Quarter Meetings in every district are where and when the local District Grievance Committees are elected. Check your District Meeting Schedule and either come in and support the Committee of your choice, or if you desire, run for the office yourself. At any rate, the main thing is to participate in the work that is being done by the Union. The first such meeting of the new year begins with Eureka’s meeting of January 10. Not to be outdone, we now know that 1977 has produced more man-hours of work than since any time back to at least 1972. Nonetheless agreed that rather than go through with the arbitration regarding grievances which we (the Union) had filed on Duval Company officials also reached a pre-arbitration settlement if possible. The happy ending is that 11 of our members shared equally the $12,000.00 that was offered and accepted by us on their behalf. This amounted to almost $1,000 each—which is not too bad of a Christmas present to be handed to them.

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Some Mythical Resolutions for The Prominent

When I was a good deal younger I used to examine my life condition at the end of each year and make several dozen resolutions that I hoped would make me a better person the following year. With age and experience I have drastically simplified since I found it impossible to comply with such ambitious demands. This year I have resolved not to make a single resolution for myself, however, as a columnist with the poetic and editorial license that title implies, I have decided to provide a list of suggested resolutions for some of our more prominent and noteworthy citizens. Say for:

EDMUND G. (Jerry) BROWN, JR.—I resolve to put California before running for governor, before running for president, before running for supreme leader of both the known and unknown world.

PRESIDENT CARTER— I resolve to have Ed Wierzinski of East St. Louis check all Polish translators for accuracy in the vernacular before going to Poland again. I also resolve to stay away from all 'closed' microphones when discussing affairs of state.

BELLA ABZUG— I resolve to stop running for every elective office that comes along and find co-sponsor International Mens Year and to concentrate on running for secretary of state.

NOAH THE PAGAN— I resolve to stop running for liberal Republicans so that we may bring the Grand Old Party into the 20th Century and get about the business of strengthening the two-party system.

KEN ERWIN— I resolve to give up my ski resort and move to Sweden where taxes are 400 per cent higher but where the air is clear and pure.

ROBERT REDDY— I resolve not to bitch about anything, let alone everything.

HELEN REDDY— I resolve to sing 'I Am Woman' (for free) in every park in the State of California and donate all proceeds to equal rights for Australian aborigines.

MAYOR PETE WILSON— I resolve never, but never to put my political life in a basket of eggs labeled 'Right-to-Work Initiative.'

GRAY DAVIS— I resolve to keep Jerry Brown running until the governor's seat is vacant.

POLICE CHIEF ED DAVIS— I resolve to go to Sweden where though the taxes may be 400 per cent higher, there is no crime and no faggots, only suicide.

JACK HENNING— I will go to Sweden.

Building Trades President JAMES LEE— To hell with Sweden, I'd rather be a drunken kamikaze in Ireland.

So ends our mythical resolutions for 1978. If any of these resolutions actually only be entering a new year we will be on the threshold of the millennium.