Building Trades urge support for Clean Air legislation

A bill which accomplishes the twin objectives of removing roadblocks to industrial construction and preserving workable Clean Air pollution standard received strong support from Building and Construction Trades last week in testimony delivered to the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health and the Environment.

The Building and Construction Trades Department strongly supports the legislation, H.R. 5252, introduced by Rep. Thomas Luken and now under consideration by the subcommittee, because it preserves strict health, air quality and pollution control standards, as well as the federal jurisdiction over such standards. At the same time, however, the bill removes many administrative hold-ups, such as the construction ban sanction, which prevent or delay planning for industrial construction.

Building tradesmen are urged by President Georgine to take prompt action by joining him in writing Rep. Luken and other members of the House Health and Environment Subcommittees, outlining important arguments for H.R. 5252 and urging them to act now—before other important matters in Congress put this vital issue on the back burner.

In testimony delivered before the Health and Environment Subcommittee, the building trades made a strong pitch for passage of H.R. 5252. "H.R. 5252 meets the standards which we have developed after careful examination of the Clean Air Act. Its reforms are aimed at the costly and confusing administrative practices which have, in our opinion, thrown up serious roadblocks in the path of economic growth. At the same time, H.R. 5252 carefully preserves the potential benefits of the Clean Air Act," Phillips alleges that H.R. 5252 "unnecessarily" extends the deadline on compliance with the Clean Air Act, the building trades testimony argued that the present Act contains mandatory penalties which create the potential for "a paralysis of all economic development" in more than 300 counties across the country where compliance would be impossible by the end of 1982.

Furthermore, H.R. 5252 provides for (Continued on Page 2)

Building Trades seek pension fund money to stimulate jobs

The Building & Construction Trades Dept. has announced a program to place some $300 million of union-negotiated pension funds in job-creating investments.

Deputy President Robert A. Georgine said they would come from the various local, regional and national pension funds of the 15 building trades unions. There are about 10,000 building trades locals throughout the United States, and multi-employer pension plans in the construction industry have about $5 billion in assets, Georgine estimated.

He said about $4 to $5 billion is being added to the system every year.

The stimulus of construction activity, both residential and commercial, through the use of union pension funds is a self-help approach to an industry where the unemployment rate is 18 per cent or more nationally and even higher in many areas of the country.

The new program will try to achieve its objectives, Georgine said, by making available coordinated investment opportunities. These will be presented at a series of two-day pension investment expositions to be held regionally, bringing together management and union trustees and their legal counsel. They would hear presentations from the sponsors of job-creating investment vehicles.

Large local trust funds could undertake projects by themselves, Georgine noted, while the pooling of investments would be appropriate for smaller funds. He said the program would operate within the framework of federal regulations.

In addition, the department announced that it will undertake joint sponsorship with federal, state and local governments of a major cooperative pilot construction project, using capital from building trades pension funds. The development of a major coal port was cited as an example of the type of project being considered.

"Such cooperative ventures were contemplated by Congress when ERISA was enacted," Georgine said. "It is time for us to take the lead in bringing this on line."

The new investment program follows up on the department's educational seminars conducted in six cities in late 1980 and early 1981. These seminars were designed to help local unions control their pension fund assets and prepare them for investment opportunities and pitfalls.

A year after that initial program, Georgine said, the pension community is experiencing a "renaissance" that is changing the course of pension investments.
Clean Air Bill

(Continued from Page 1)

the ability to deal with these "non-
attainment" areas by providing for an-
other extension to 1993 under very
rigid requirements.

"The Clean Air Act embodies highly
important goals and principles which are
also important for all the country,
the testimony continues. "For that
reason, the Building and Construction
Trades Department would not sit still
for any attempt to seriously erode or
weaken the goals of the Act of the means
for accomplishing those goals."

"H.R. 5252 does not represent such a
threat to the Clean Air Act. It is, instead,
a moderate set of amendments which
remove from the Act overreaching, com-
plex and uncertain administrative
requirements which cannot be demo-
strated to aid in the search for improved
air quality.

Write letters in support of H.R. 5252
to members of the House Subcommittee
on Health and the Environment. Urge
them to act now. Democratic Henry
Waxman, Chairman (Cal.); James
Scheuer (N.Y.); Thomas Loken (Ohio);
Doug Walgren (Pa.); Barbara Mikulski
(Md.); Ron Wyden (Oreg.); James Flor-
noir (N.J.); Toby Moffett (Conn.); Richard
Shelby (Ala.); Phil Gramm (Tex.); and
Mickey Leland (Tex.). Republicans:
Edward Miedlar (Il.); Clarence Brown
(Ohio); Gallian Dannermayer (Cal.);
Bob Whittaker (Kans.); Don Ritter
(Pa.); Cleve Benedict (W. Va.); and
Thomas Biley (Va.):
PROJECT

BuRec presents sizable bonus for rapid work on San Luis Dam

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation regional director Michael Catlin has handed Peter Kiewit Sons Co. a $100,000 bonus for beating an April 1 deadline on slide repair work at San Luis Dam. To receive the full $100,000 bonus, the contractor was required to complete the work on the toe of the dam from elevation 327 to elevation 415 five or more days ahead of the April 1 schedule. The bonus provision was attached to the deadline as the most critical of the challenging deadlines for maximum water storage in San Luis Reservoir this spring.

In mid-January, Kiewit crews began working two nine-hour shifts, 72 continuous hours per week, to achieve the goal. By late December, access road construction was complete and a quarry work contract was underway. Kiewit began moving equipment and personnel to San Luis for the $8 million prime contract to construct the state's first dam slide repair and to complete the damaged upper dam embankment.

Dumbarton Bonds Bill

A serious obstacle to financing the completion of the Dumbarton Bridge was eliminated this month when Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., signed into law SB 1347, by Senator John Holmdahl (D-Alameda Co.). The bill raises the interest rate ceiling for revenue bonds to 12 percent of the completion cost of the bridge. The 12 percent limit will apply to the March 24, 1982, bond sale, which will raise the last $25 million of $81.5 million needed to complete the project. The Holmdahl bill will also apply to the sub-grade drain totaling about $142,000. Completion time for the job is estimated at up to 5,100 working days. Liquidated damages will be $500 for each calendar day thereafter.

I-5 paving job draws six

The California Department of Transportation has awarded Ferrante Construction Co., Santa Rosa, CA, a $1,797,330 contract to reconstruct a section of highway. To capture the award, Ferrante bid below six competitors and undercut the engineer's estimate by about $100,000. The bid of the runner-up, Granite Construction Co., Watsonville, CA, was about 6% below the winning price.

Ferrante was awarded a 6.1-mile section of route I-5, a four-lane divided highway. It will recycle 28,000 tons of asphalt concrete at $15/t and will supply 2,350 tons of paving asphalt at $210/t. The project also includes installation of over 50,000 lin. ft. of plastic subgrade drain totaling about $142,000. Completion time for the job is 90 working days. Liquidated damages will be $500 for each day thereafter.

Bridge width choice causes Caltrans flap

A California state legislative committee has subpoenaed the governor to explain why he has not hired the Director of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The apparently unprecedented action stems from a dispute over the design width of a 123' bridge. Caltrans Director Adriana Gianturco had overruled a recommendation by two Caltrans engineers that a bridge to replace a deteriorating 55-year old structure be 40' wide. She instead specified a 32' width. Cost of a 40' wide replacement structure is estimated at up to $748,000. A 32' bridge would cost up to $700,000.

As a result of Gianturco's decision, G. L. Russell resigned from his position as Caltrans' deputy director for project development and construction to take a lesser job in the agency. He claims a 32' wide bridge would compromise safety. But there have been no accidents on the existing 20' wide bridge in the past 15 years, according to a Caltrans spokesman.

The Caltrans controversy sparked an investigation by the state senate select committee on southern California transportation. Chairman Paul Carpenter, chairman of the committee, and Brown are expected to call on Gianturco to testify. The Caltrans controversy could, if it spills over to the nation's capital, boost the issue of expanding the nation's infrastructure for both transportation and national security.

Japanese Win BuRec Job

The Bureau of Reclamation has awarded Ohbayashi-Gumi, Ltd., Japan, an $11,204,190 contract to construct a water tunnel in Wasatch County, Utah. To capture the award, Ohbayashi-Gumi outbid 11 competitors and undercut the engineer's estimate by about $5.1 million. The bid of the runner-up, Harrison Western Corp., Lakewood, Colo., was only $55,810 higher than Ohbayashi's.

The firm will construct a new inlet tunnel, gate shaft and chamber, and connecting tunnel as part of BuRec's Strawberry Tunnel rehabilitation. Contractors were provided alternate bidding schedules for the work and materials required to complete the four major components of the project.

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Feasibility study approved for Shasta Dam enlargement

A seven-year joint Feasibility Study on Enlarging Shasta Lake was recently completed and approved by the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The study was conducted under Public Law 96-375, which authorizes the state of California to undertake its studies and to contract with the federal government for participation in the study.

The existing Shasta Lake, the major storage facility of the Central Valley Project, will be enlarged to increase water supplies for the Central Valley Project (operated by the USBR) and the State Water Project (operated by DWR). The potential for increasing hydroelectric power generation, improving fishery and recreation conditions, and reducing flood damage along the Sacramento River will also be looked at. Other aspects of the study, such as ecological, and economic effects of filling a larger reservoir into the Sacramento River system will also require detailed studies.

By HAROLD HUSTON, President

A Personal Note From The President's Pen

I have looked at your Pacific Gas & Electric bill lately? If you haven't, I would suggest you sit down before your wife shows you the bill. Although Pacific Gas and Electric customers were warned last month that the rate hike would boost their bills an average of 14 percent, thousands of customers are being stung by arriving bills that are often five times the old amount.

PG&E, the State Public Utilities Commission and consumer groups are being deluged by unprecedented numbers of complaints about the new bills, spokesmen for the groups have reported.

The PUC, which approved the new rates last December 30, has received more than 1,000 letters in the last several weeks also complaining that the new bills are drastically higher than the customers had braced themselves for.

PG&E spokesman Dennis Pooher explained the surgingly high bills by pointing to the "Lifeline" rate that is applied to all residential bills. (With the "Lifeline" rate on, the bills increased by 24 percent.) The increases in the price of electricity and gas beyond the Lifeline rate also went up - 14.2 percent.

The Lifeline rate for electricity increased 18.2 percent.

The new rates immediately, change its rate structure for all electric homes and resume a conservation program it had suspended.

The PUC also announced that it will reopen hearings on its December 30 decision giving PG&E a whopping $909.4 million rate increase, which ignited a firestorm of protests throughout Northern California.

However, PUC Commissioner Richard Gravelle said that "people should not be optimistic that what is being done today is going to have a big impact on their bills. Effective immediately, PG&E must cut rates 100 million, or 66 cents for the average bill using 500 kilowatt hours, the Commission ruled. PG&E had asked that the rollback take effect April 1. PUC President John Bryanson added that further rate reductions due to the heavy storms may be forthcoming before summer. But commissioners cautioned that reductions probably won't be "substantial," although hearings will be held next month on changing the rate structure.

This steep PG&E rate increase severely hurts the customer who is working, but think of all the others who are not working and all the retired brothers on a fixed income, to them "this is a disaster." All of us must become involved and attend the scheduled hearings and express our feelings! I see more and more of the public in attendance, "It's fighting for your rights ladies," Together, I believe we can get the job done.

Not long ago the state Public Utilities Commission was largely unknown, and in the course of relatively obscure work it routinely approved most of the proposals made by Pacific Gas and Electric.

Commissioners were something like the state Board of Equalization - few people knew or cared what they did.

That's history now. The whopping PG&E bills arriving at Northern California homes have thrust the once low profile PUC into the public eye.

There are five members on the PUC, four commissioners and one Executive Director. They are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. Their term of office is six years, they cannot be removed from office except through the impeachment process. Vacancies are appointed to serve the remainder of the term.

There are many ideas being discussed in Sacramento concerning revamping the PUC and its process, however, only one bill has been introduced thus far. Assemblyman Duffy has introduced a bill which would open up the process to more public input and participation. It would also add an additional layer of hearings to the approved process. An example of the type of reform discussed by Duffy would be similar to the Environmental Impact Report process, in which the PUC would hold their initial hearings, both public and private, after which an administrative law judge would issue a report on the initial decision. The record would then be open for an additional period of time for public response before the PUC would issue their final report.

Senator John Garamendi and Assemblyman Doug Bosco are both preparing a number of bills which would concern the actions of the PUC, neither has introduced any legislation. So far.

Maybe it's time we the people elect the commissioners and they serve at the pleasure of the people, and are responsible to the people. What do you think? Please let me know.

Please, let me take this opportunity to remind the brokers who are not working, jobless California workers who have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits within the past six months should check immediately with the nearest state Employment Development Office, to see if they are eligible for extended benefits.

The extended benefit program, which had ended in California on March 21, has been reactivated again effective Sunday, February 7, and provides up to 13 weeks of additional benefits.

I'm informed that members of congress passed a bill that allows them to deduct all expenses connected with their work in the Capitol - just like businessmen on the road. This includes housing, food, and auto travel. I'm sure there is no difference in the deduction of expenses and other goodies. They can choose one of three ways to compute the deductions. Choosing the best way to suit their particular situation - the most surely will - virtually exempts them from personal income tax.

On behalf of my mother and all the rest of the Huston family, we want to express our appreciation to everyone who expressed their kindness to us by calling, sending flowers, and sympathy cards, during the recent loss of my dad, Brother George P. Huston. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and may God richly bless you and your families.
Very recently I was sent to Denver, Colorado by Business Manager, Dale Marr. The purpose of this meeting was to try to draft a single agreement for new excavation for a railroad from Rangely, Colorado to the property line of the Deer Lake Coal-Fired Power Plant, now under construction with the nearest town being Vernal, Utah.

Within this project different than the Moon Lake project (which is covered by a project agreement) is that this job involving the coal mine itself being 100% in Colorado, and in fact, at least 13 to 15 miles outside of Local No. 3's jurisdiction into the jurisdiction of Local No. 9. Also, it is outside the project agreement completely and further, is owned by a private consortium.

Therefore, it is not covered at all by Federal laws and for that reason, no prevailing wage and fringe benefit package. The railroad has a length of about 33 miles, of which 13 is located in the jurisdiction of Local No. 3 in Utah. However, in terms of construction and dollars required for the construction of this very large - roughly terminal project requiring a great deal of rock and dirt excavation, about 80% of this job in terms of real work, will be performed in Colorado.

Therefore, to have a project agreement covering this entire job irrespective of where the work is being performed, a mutual agreement had to be made, not only with the employers bidding the project, but certainly with our sister local, Local No. 9 who has jurisdiction of Colorado. The relationship between these two locals the past 8 to 10 years that I have known about and have been involved with has always been most cooperative and with a spirit of progress.

We were the first two locals to sign a Key Man Transfer Agreement, that not only allows the transfer of key men (one for one up to a total of 5 key men), but also to allow the payment of fringe benefits back to the person's respective local union where, of course, it does the most good, irrespective of which local union he happens to physically be working in. Since that time we now, of course, have done a similar turn by signing near-like agreements with all but four of the Western Conferences' portable & hoisting locals.

At the offices of Regional Director, Tom Bills and Sandy Sandridge of Local No. 5, myself and a Teamster representative, we met with 7 Union Construction Companies headed by Marty Benneman of the Morrison-Knudsen Company.

All people concerned wanted to see if common agreement could be reached by the parties irrespective of where any work was being performed. After all, it made little sense to completely change work crews just because the progress of the job carried into another state. From the beginning of the talks, it was obvious that some serious problems were in front of all of us.

For starters, the difference of the Colorado Wages & Benefits VS. the Utah Wages & Benefits total package were considerable. The Utah package exceeded the Colorado package by more than $6 per hour in the Heavy Duty Repair classification. Since 80% of the total work was in Colorado, the employers naturally wanted the Colorado Contract in total but it was so much more expensive, the bottom line is one of compromise.

The Local No. 3, Area II rate of pay was instituted, and the Colorado Contract booklet is to apply for the job which will be adjusted to those involved the last 12 to 15 months. The Colorado Fringe Benefit package will apply after an additional $0.38 of new money was added. Further, a common hiring hall for both locals will be at a site in Grand Junction, Colorado, which is the nearest place to the actual jobsite.

At any rate, the only thing to be done is to stock pile the product and continue to search for a solution. Needleless to say, this atmosphere wasn't one lending itself for big bargaining strength.

In light of settlements in many other industries the reader already aware that cut backs and takeaways are almost the rule, I guess our settlement is okay. At any rate we 8 are all hoping for better economic times everywhere, which will hopefully make this industry come back to life and grow. The contract was ratified unanimously.

A special thanks to the Business Agents (Continued on Page 9)

HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

At its meeting on January 9th the Executive Board approved Honorary Memberships for the following Retirees who have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3:

Name Reg. No.
Thomas A. Byars 386663
Carl Debrum 344865
Charles H. Dory 459116
P.F. Ekberg 382000
Glenn Gallivan 234316
Mark Haines 300386
Glenn A. Heimsoth 481901
James E. Henthorn 312556
James N. Hoppes 315926
Frank S. Mizer 508750
Raymond Ochs 307962
Elmer L. Pike 519988
Morris W. Ray 523200

Rigging Lines
By Bob Mayfield
Asst. Business Manager & Vice President

Lousy weather, economy keep Reno unemployment high

Business Representative Ed Jones says, with the District 11 out of work list at about 45% unemployed and the rest only working part time due to weather or lack of work, this should be a good time to register to vote in the September 14th primary election and the November 2nd general election. Nevada law says you must be registered thirty days prior to the election day.

The state of Nevada has a voting age population of more than 530,000 and only 264,915 of these people are registered to vote, which means that about 51% of adults do not vote, which is not a good record. This lack of participation threatens democracy itself.

Nevada is not the only state in which people have dropped out of the electoral process. It is a problem all across the nation. But now is the time to do something about it in Nevada where approximately 278,000 persons have not registered to vote. This means that every other adult you meet has abandoned this simple act of registering to vote and punching a ballot.

The only work coming up for bid in the Reno area is road, rock and paving and crushing of ballast rock for phase two of the Elko railroad relocation project, which will make a few operator jobs.

The Nevada Joint Apprenticeship Committee this month graduated eight apprentices. Pictured to the right following graduation ceremonies are (back row) Jim Anderson, Apprenticehip Administrator; Jamie Aranda, graduate; Dale Beach, District Council Representative; Richard Walker, graduate; Otis Tilton III, graduate and Mike Bailey, Asst. Nevada JAC Administrator. Pictured in the front row are graduates James Tucecic and Ted Pardick. Graduates not pictured are Thomas Ardagna, Alton Cannon and James Navaer.

Nevada JAC graduates eight

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MARCH 1982/ENGINEERS NEWS/PAGE 5
Treasurer's Report to the Members

By DON KINCHLOE, Treasurer
Home Phone: (415) 837-7418
Work Phone: (415) 431-1568

Workers endangered by Reagan's slashing of OSHA program

American workers are not as safe on the job since Ronald Reagan took office more than a year ago, and the probability is they will be even less safe a year from now. OSHA, the agency charged with protecting workers, is in a "lock-step" phase. The president has in his words approved the policy of "get government off the backs of business." A Republican Administration effort to "get government off the backs of business," not without the help of Democrats in Congress, who in turn come to workers in this instance, or to consumers in other cases. Labor's aim, he said, will be not only to cut health costs but to "lock-step. They form a path leading to a balanced budget." President Reagan quoted in Newsweek November 16, 1981.

By DON KINCHLOE, Treasurer

The Davis-Bacon Act protects small contractors as well as their employees, the AFL-CIO Building & Construction Trades Dept. testified at Senate hearings this month. Legislative Director Dan Mundy told the committee opening day that a subcommittee Chairman Don Nickels (R-O. Okla.) that "small business and the 91 percent don't mix." Mundy said the prevailing wage law gives well-managed small construction firms a chance to win government contracts on the basis of efficiency and productivity. Otherwise, he said, the competitive advantage would lie with "fly by the seat of their pants" contractors who can pay substandard wages to less competent workers.

Nickles is chairman of the Senate Labor Committee that has jurisdiction over the Davis-Bacon Act. But he presided in his role as chairman of a lock-step phase. They form a path leading to a balanced budget."

President Reagan quoted in Newsweek November 16, 1981.

Labor, business launch program to cut health costs

National representatives of labor, business, health care providers and insurers have agreed to cooperate at the local level in efforts to bring health costs under control.

Citing a "new climate" in which the federal government is withdrawing its funding and participation in local coalition programs, the AFL-CIO - underlined the urgency in launching the program for some 70 communities.

The diverse group was brought together by John Dunlop, former Secretary of Labor, who disclosed at a press conference that representatives of the six national organizations have been discussing a local coalition approach for six months. Participating organizations, in addition to the AFL-CIO, are the American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Associations, the Business Roundtable and the Health Insurance Association of America.

While endorsing the objectives of the local coalition approach, Federation Social Security Director Bert Seidman pointed out at the press conference that organized labor will continue to pursue its goals of national health insurance or federal legislation to contain hospital costs.

Dunlop, who is coordinating the coalition effort, said the organizations came together "out of a deep concern with the rate of growth in health care costs and the effects of public and private policies on the quality and access to health care."

He said the coalition members recognize their different concerns over national policies and legislation, yet agreed to cooperate locally in today's new circumstances.

Seidman agreed. "The chances of a national legislation are much less" at the present time, he said, and so labor is responding in a "proactive way" as it has done in other fields.

Seidman noted that the federal government is "pulling back from its responsibilities" and unions would be encouraged to work with other groups at the local level.

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Kiewit gets bonus for work on San Luis Dam

District Representative Claude Odom reports that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is pleased with the work of Peter Kiewit Sons Co. of Concord. The firm is rebuilding a section of the three and one-half mile long San Luis Dam damaged by a slide last September.

The speed with which they completed the job will be rewarded by a $100,000 payment from the Bureau. The $100,000 is part of a contractual arrangement agreed to last December when the Bureau and State Department of Water Resources, partners in the San Luis unit of the Central Valley Project, were hard pressed to repair the dam to meet water deliveries.

Moving an average of 40,000 cubic yards of earth and rock per day, six days a week since December 30th, Kiewit is three weeks ahead of schedule on completing a 1,900 foot long buttressing berm, a major feature of the dam's rehabilitation. The slide occurred when clay material from ancient stream drainage became saturated and gave way. That material has been removed and replaced with stable earth and rock. The entire project should be completed by July 1982.

Good news for fishermen:

By the time this goes to print, the Dinosaur Point area of the San Luis Reservoir State Recreation area in Merced County will be open for fishing, car-top boat launching and picnicking. The area is south of Pacheco Pass on Highway 152, eighteen miles east of Los Banos. New launch ramps have been constructed but due to the slide, launching will be restricted to car-top boats until the reservoir water level rises. The Dinosaur Point area will be the only launching facility open at the reservoir until repairs to the dam are completed.

Fred J. Early has finished the excavation and started pouring concrete on the Pine Flat Powerhouse Project. This job has also kept a few brothers busy over the past year with a couple of years to go.

A pre-job conference was held with Gentz Construction Co. for their $4 million sewer plant job in Corcoran. The project should start around May 1st and provide work for several brother engineers. The contract calls for a one year completion date.

Aqueduct repairs due

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation plans to spend approximately $9 million this summer to raise the lining along three major sections of the California Aqueduct—San Luis Canal between Los Banos and Kettleman City.

The San Luis Canal is a 101.5 mile section of the 444 mile aqueduct. It runs from O'Neil Reservoir to Kettleman City. A spokesman for the Bureau's Fresno office said twenty miles of the canal's concrete lining will be raised on both sides from one to four and one-half feet. An additional seven miles of the canal's operation and maintenance road will be raised three feet.

The major sections to be raised are from the Dos Amigos Pump Plant, ten miles south of Los Banos, to the Fresno-Merced County line. Another section to be raised is fifteen miles west of Mendota to Highway 33 near Three Rocks and the other section is near Kettleman City. The lining has settled because of pumping of groundwater. From 1969 to 1971, the Bureau spent $2 million raising the lining as much as four feet along parts of the same sections. The work is scheduled to begin in May.

S.F. building boom keeps some members working

The recession has caused a virtual standstill in home construction throughout California, but Business Representative Roy Henricks says it does not seem to have slowed commercial building in San Francisco yet. Although work is still slow, the downtown building boom has managed to keep some of the brothers working. Pictured left is a Chicago Boom being operated by Mike Mannix (lower right) on the Pacific Gateway building on the corner of Mission and Meha. Sal Flores (picted right) is the elevator operator on this job. Pictured above are ironworkers loading up the boom with wallboard.
High hospital bills making patients sick

Hospitals used to be the place that they would take the victim for treatment after they were injured. Today, patients are being referred to hospitals when they need treatment, and the hospitals are charged for their services. Many more Operating Engineers than usual have had to rely on their hour banks or even make self-payments to keep their health coverage in force. Misunderstanding about the Health & Welfare eligibility rules can cause additional problems. Here is a look at how your Health & Welfare eligibility rules work.

Initial Eligibility

Operating Engineers and their dependents first become eligible for all Health & Welfare benefits the first of the month their hours must be made. They have worked a total of 270 hours over a 3-month period. A total of 90 hours are needed each month to maintain eligibility, therefore these 270 hours will provide the first 3 months of coverage.

Continued Eligibility

Operating Engineers must work at least 90 hours each month to maintain eligibility. All hours worked and reported are deposited into the members hour bank and each month the required 90 hours are withdrawn to provide eligibility for the upcoming month. Hours worked and reported in excess of 90 remain in the bank to provide extended coverage for months when 90 hours were not worked.

Operating Engineers can "bank" up to 1080 hours to provide extended eligibility due to months when they have low or no employment. Eligibility continues automatically so long as there is at least 90 hours remaining in the bank. When the hour bank falls below 90 hours, the member and his dependents no longer are eligible for Health & Welfare benefits.

Self Payments

Whenever an Engineer’s bank falls below the required 90 hours and he will lose his continued eligibility, he can keep his Health & Welfare coverage in force by making payments directly to the Trust Fund. Self-payments can be made for up to 3 consecutive months for full benefits (current rate is $125 per month) and for up to 9 consecutive months for the Hospital, Medical, Surgical and Burial benefits (current rate is $410 per month).

Supplemental check issued to retirees

On March 10, a Supplemental Benefit check issued to all Local 3 Retirees, or their beneficiary, whose pension award dates were prior to January 1, 1982, and who were eligible for such benefits on March 1, 1982. This marks the 11th extra check issued to Local 3 members since January, 1975, and is a result of favorable Pension Plan investments.

The response by Retirees and Beneficiaries who received the check has been overwhelming. Retirees have always appreciated the extra income and never failed to express their thanks. This year, members seem to carry the theme of gratitude and understanding during difficult economic times. We are indeed proud and grateful to our members and retirees and as a follow up to their many thanks and appreciation to all of the Board of Trustees for the supplemental payment check which came at a very critical time in the members' lives.

Work in Sacramento still slow

District Representative Clem A. Schmunk said that work in the Sacramento area has not picked up yet due to the wet weather. "We don't have a lot of work to look forward to, but we can't start what we have until the weather settles down," Hoover said.

There is quite a bit of work in the Lake Tahoe-Truckee area. Northern Nicks was awarded a $7 million plus contract for an expansion of the Truckee-Sierra treatment plant. Several smaller jobs will be starting up as soon as weather permits, reports Business Representative Raymond. There is in the neighborhood of $1 million of work to start in that area. This is very encouraging as the work in the valley is not a very rosy picture.

"We would like to thank the Brothers who attended the District Meeting on February 23, 1982, and elected Bill Bailey to the Grievance Committee," Hoover added. "We also would like to thank the members for their support and patience when they need to attend these meetings. We will keep a few Brothers busy for a while, but the work on the Grievance Committee is a job that we cannot get by without.

The SOFA Project is now going through the water rights hearings before the State Water Resources Control Board. A Business Representative and Business Manager Ernie Louie. "The hearings are progressing smoothly, so we are very optimistic that the work will be granted. We would then expect to see some work started on this project sometime this year.

There are several high rise buildings under construction in the downtown area, with others to be put up for bids later on. These projects keep a few of the Brothers on housing equipment busy.

Granite Construction Company will finish the bridge across the river in a few weeks. This has been a good job for several of the Brothers in the under-35 group. We would like to thank the Brothers who attended the issue meeting on February 23, 1982, and elected Bill Bailey to the Grievance Committee," Hoover added. "We also would like to thank the members for their support and patience when they need to attend these meetings. We will keep a few Brothers busy for a while, but the work on the Grievance Committee is a job that we cannot get by without."

"Sure was a welcomed surprise. It Retirees and as a follow up to their many thanks and appreciation to all of the Board of Trustees for the supplemental payment check which came at a very critical time in the members' lives."

Supplemental check issued to retirees

We want you to know that we came at it a time when it was really needed and it was appreciated.

We want to say thank you and we appreciate this supplemental payment authorized by the Board of Trustees.

"We are indeed proud and grateful to belong to this dependable and generous Union. Thank you again for this additional check and it's timely arrival.

We received this check at a time that couldn't have been better...

"...express my thanks and appreciation to all of the Board of Trustees for the supplemental payment which came at a very critical time in the members' lives."

Local 3 and the Board of Trustees are always pleased to do what they can for their members and retirees, and to express our thanks for cards and letters—you're very welcome.

Benefits express thanks

We appreciate the extra income and never failed to express our thanks. This year, members seem to carry the theme of gratitude and understanding during difficult economic times.
TRIAL RESULTS

Pursuant to charges filed in accordance with the International Constitution, trials in accordance with the By-Laws were held before the membership at regular quarterly district meetings. The following are the results of those trials.

HAROLD WATSON, Register No. 1235184, tried in absentia before the District 86 membership on October 8, 1981, on charges filed by the Local Union alleging that Brother Watson crossed a legal Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 picket line on 4/6/81, 5/11/81, 5/26/81 and 5/27/81, which was placed on Kirkwood-Bly, Inc., at a job located at Sly Creek Reservoir in Butte County in violation of the Local Union By-Laws Article III, Section 1(a) and (j) and the Constitution of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Article XXIV, Subdivision 7, Section 6. Brother Watson was found guilty by vote of the members present and was fined One Hundred Dollars ($100.00).

EARL WOOD, Register No. 176484, tried in absentia before the District 86 membership on October 8, 1981, on charges filed by the Local Union alleging that Brother Wood crossed a legal Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 picket line on 4/22/81, 5/8/81, 5/11/81 and 5/26/81, which was placed on Kirkwood-Bly, Inc., at a job located at Sly Creek Reservoir in Butte County in violation of the Local Union By-Laws Article III, Section 1(a) and (j) and the Constitution of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Article XXIV, Subdivision 7, Section 6. Brother Wood was found guilty by vote of the members present and was fined One Hundred Dollars ($100.00).

JOHN HARTY, Register No. 182 0617, tried before the District 1 membership on October 15, 1981, on charges filed by the Local Union alleging that Harty failed to work and accumulate his required 90 hours within those 12 months, the hour bank is voided and just when you decide it won't rain anymore, here comes another good groundsoaker of a rain. He was placed on the no-growth list. He was recalled on 6/19/81 for 10 days and was fined One Hundred Dollars ($100.00).

The jobs are ready in Santa Rosa, but weather isn’t ready. The jobs are ready, but our weather just won’t cooperate,” reports Santa Rosa District Representative Paul Wise. “This is part of the course for this time of year in our area. The sun shines long enough to get things drying out nicely and just when you decide it won’t rain anymore, here comes another good groundsoaker of a rain.”

Good material at the Warm Springs Project will allow for a quick start soon after the rain stops, reports Business Representative Pat O’Connell. Lots of dollars will be busy on the finishing stages of this large project, and the major earthwork will be completed this year. Auburn’s management team has indicated that an upturn will come just as soon as there is a break in the weather. The Army Corps of Engineers has also stated that approximately $80,000,000 would be allocated this year for roads to service the area around Lake Sonoma. This is good news, since the Highway 101 project has yet not originally planned to do the work this year.

Another job that wasn’t figured on this year is also coming out to bid. The long awaited Cloverdale Bypass project is actually going to start. The first stage, which has an engineer’s estimate of $4,000,000 will be bid in July.

Pat O’Connell will be the agent on the job and is pleased to report it will be done in stages over the next three to five years and will mean the loss of a total of $30 million worth of work for Local 3 members.

Another bright spot this year is the Helvetia project. Already this year over $40 million worth of work has gone to good union contractors and there is at least that much more soon to be bid. There is also a good road job coming up on Botts Rock Road which is the northernmost road servicing the Geysers area.

Our local contractors have begun to get some work on the books, but because of the soggy old adobe, only a few key elements were recalled.” Wise added. “Quite a few jobs have been bid and we are hoping for the interest rates to keep dropping. Lower interest rates would spur commercial and residential development. Let’s keep our fingers crossed that the interest rates continue on the down trend.”

None of the conditions reviewed above are referring to this attitude. “Safety thinking. Everything that we do is either rule book, it is not strictly enforced. The main thing you need to do, if you are a resident of Rohnert Park, is get to the polls on April 13, 1982 and vote YES on A. Let’s help ourselves to a better local economy and more jobs this summer.”

The fact that the members of District 10 are able and willing to get involved was illustrated on April 11th when over 200 members attended the District Meeting in Santa Rosa. Our congratulations to Les Crane, Paul Heather and Jim Killen who were unanimously supported in their bid for re-election to the Grievance Committee. These dedicated Brothers have worked hard. Les Crane was also elected as District 10’s delegate to the Election Committee.

We had a good showing with an underlying theme which is worth repeating: as union members we need to be responsible by supporting and voting for candidates and causes which will promote us with a strong economy and a prosperous job market in the future. By getting together and supporting the winners, we can make the difference.

More from Bob Mayfield

(Continued from Page 8)

 whose help was essential, plus a very special thanks to Stewards, Manuel Barel and Floyd Alvey is owed, in what has to be a most difficult role in the face of such adverse conditions in a town (Moab, Utah) that has really been over the years quite non-union by nature. The best man for the job, with the promising and early summer that I will be involved in will be the contract covering the blue collar unit of the Duval Gold Mine located near Battle Mountain, Nevada. In the entire Blanding area of our economy and the world, even gold and oil prices are softening somewhat. Therefore, a stabilization of prices of gold will help in contract negotiations and an increase would be a bonus,

MARCH 1982/ENGINEERS NEWS/PAGE 9
TALKING TO TECHS BY PAUL SCHISSLER, DIRECTOR TECH. DEPT.

Teaching Techs

One of the great American pastimes is to sit around and complain about the state of the world. Washington and Sacramento. If you listen long enough it seems that even the good guys are bad guys. It doesn't make any difference if you work for a union or are appalled by a voting record. It does matter that you do what you can to defeat or support the political representative that is serving your best interest or not.

We exist in a representative form of government. In most matters, large and small, the elected official speaks and acts in your name, decides the amount of your tax bill, how much unemployment is good for the economy, manipulates the inflation rate and in some way touches the lives of us all on a daily to day basis.

These are pretty important people that literally regulate our lifestyles but in every election there are many people who never make it to the polling place. They leave the selection of the person, who will effect their lives in major ways, to those dumb voters who do take the time to cast a ballot.

There is a surprising number of otherwise intelligent persons who don't know the names of the persons who speak and act in their names as a representative on school boards, house of representative, State Legislators, the United States Congress or the Local Union.

A has been actor was elected State Governor of California and now holds the highest office in the nation because he can say a script well and looks good on T.V. He is your personal voice to the rest of the world and in every election there are many who never make it to the polling place. They leave the selection of the person, who will effect their lives in major ways, to three or four Journeyman upgrading their skills. As the occupation becomes more competitive more skilled Journeyman, who are out of work, now have the time to increase and broaden their skills.

Why not take a crack at it - just takes a little time - you have more time than the candidate program - why not be the job market competitor that is working? Just say "Send an Application". Address it to NCCJAC, 360 Happy Valley Road, Suite 200, Lafayette, CA 94549.

But also be informed - Register - Vote

Talking to Techs

Union-busting and high unemployment have always gone hand in hand. Businesses used the highest possible profits - no matter what the cost in human terms always too high when the next year has been suspended month by month until the work picture improves.

The J.A.C. is losing many of the potentially fine apprentice Technical Engineers who simply have to find another way to survive. This will mean virtually starting from scratch again sometime down the road as far as new entrants are concerned.

The Apprenticeship program is, however, still intact and functioning. As in each of the 21 years of it's existence the J.A.C. enrollment has remained very high from 2 to 3 to 3/4 Journeyman upgrading their skills.

As the occupation becomes more competitive more skilled Journeyman, who are out of work, now have the time to increase and broaden their skills.

Good citizenship demands involvement in the selection process will be happening. Just as in the partisan political candidates. Digging in is the only way to select our political candidates. Digging in is the only way to select our political candidates.

It is a heck of a lot less complicated to open a can of beer and watch the news on T.V. or read the sports pages than it is to dig into the background of political candidates. Digging in is the only way to select a representative that speaks and acts in your best interest as both achievable and practicable.

The U.S. is a nation of free political candidates. Digging in is the only way to select our political candidates. Digging in is the only way to select our political candidates.

Thirty days after the first dispatch of an Apprentice trainee to a Union's service, they must be given the opportunity to work hard, earn enough money to pay the taxes that pay their wages.

Register - Vote

Field work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in any one work day or forty (40) hours in any one work week shall be paid for at one and one half times the regular rate of pay. Field work performed on Sunday, as defined below, shall be paid for at two (2) times the regular rate of pay. Field work performed on Sunday, as defined below, shall be paid for at three (3) times the regular rate of pay. A shift which commences on or after 1:00 a.m. on Saturday morning shall be deemed Sunday work for the entire shift.

Effective March 1, 1982 field work performed on Sunday, as defined below, shall be paid for at two (2) times the regular rate of pay. Field work performed on Sunday, as defined below, shall be paid for at three (3) times the regular rate of pay. A shift which commences on or after 1:00 a.m. on Saturday morning shall be deemed Saturday work for the entire shift.

MEMBERSHIP CORRESPONDENCE

The Tech Department received this letter from one of our members and we would like to share it with you:

"Operating Engineers, 675 Hegenberger Road, Oakland, California 94621. Attention: Mr. Paul Schissler. Gentlemen: I would like to express my appreciation of the Tech Department for providing a thorough, comprehensive and up to date related training program for its surveyors and apprentices.

Having recently passed the I.S.T.I., I can attest to the value of our Tech surveys and the course material contained therein.

With the economy in its present state, all technical engineers should consider the program as a means of increasing not only their basic skills, but their employability as well. Ken Morrison. March 2, 1982."


FOR SALE: 1400 GAL. W/3 IN PUMP, $8,500. Eweli


FOR SALE: 1970 PARK TRUCK. beautiful 40 s' style, large bed. Cab over, Fiberglass box & Hollander bed & Slides, 10,000 lb. GVW, Leslie Muller, 79 Southwyde Dr, Daly City, CA 94014. Ph. 415/333-9056. Reg. #154371. 3/82.

FOR SALE: 73 JEEP COMMANDO 304 VB engine, 43,000 miles, Zahn & Sons, 3130 Santa Fe Ave, Long Beach, CA 90807. Ph. 503/484-7396. Reg. #1025237. 3/82.

FOR SALE: 1200 GAL. W/3 IN. PUMP, $8,500. Eweli

FOR SALE: 1970 DATSUN automatic 510 wgn, red/3 oil At its meeting on January 27, 1982, the District 1 membership re-elected the following to serve on its Grievance Committee for the ensuing year: Brothers Joseph Blasca, Jay Powders and Darrell Robinson.

FOR SALE: 1953 JEEP WILLYS, all original, 58,000 miles, Ph. 916/687-6519. Reg. #1171873. 3/82.

FOR SALE: 1970 DATSUN automatic 510 wgn, red/3 oil At its meeting on January 28, 1982, the District 2 membership elected the following to serve on its Grievance Committee for the ensuing year: Brothers Robert R. Young, John Hoopi, Jr., William Logue, John Westbery, 6305 Westwood Dr., Rocklin, CA 95677. Ph. 916/687-6519. Reg. #1171873. 3/82.

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ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS

Will close final gap
Utah lets two I-15 sections

The Utah Department of Transportation has let two sections on the 41-mile stretch of Interstate 15 between Nephi and Scipio, reports Business Representative Bill Markus. Gateway & Reed Company of Salt Lake City was low bidder at $2,883,963 for grading and drainage facilities on a 5.5-mile section from the Juab County Line to the Sevier River. The engineer's estimate was $3,532,809.

Owl Constructors of Inkerman, California submitted the low bid of $7,404,960 for grading and drainage work on a 13-mile section from Mills junction north to a point 5.5 miles south of the Sevier River. The engineer's estimate was $9,836,962.

These two sections of Interstate are located at the north and south ends of the section which will be completed by W. W. Clyde Co. Before the winter weather set in, W. W. Clyde had approximately 450 workers on the job and a manpower size will probably return to that number when the job starts up again in the spring. W. W. Clyde Co. expects to have this section completed by the fall of '82.

Completion of the 41-mile stretch from Nephi to Scipio will close the gap in Interstate 15 and provide four lanes of freeway from Tremonton to the Arizona state line. Within two years, approximately 88 percent of the last 41-mile section of Interstate 15 between Nephi and Scipio will be completed by the fall of '82.ing towers on Units 1 & 2. M-K Power is cooperating with the Sevier River. The engineer's estimate was $3,532,809.

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