Rolling their own

Dutra's $9.5 million Cash Creek Settling Basin project features a 1,750-foot roller compacted concrete weir (photo feature on page 10-11).

Photo by James Earp
ELECTION NOTICE: ELECTION COMMITTEE
34TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
DELEGATES & ALTERNATE DELEGATES

Recording-Corresponding Secretary William M. Markus has announced that in accordance with Article XII, Section 3 (b) and Article XIII, Section 1 (b) of the Local Union By-Laws, relative to the election of International Convention Delegates and Alternate Delegates, Election Committee Members shall be nominated and elected at regular scheduled district meeting during the months of September, October and November 1992 preceding the election in February 1993.

There will be one Election Committee Member elected from each district by secret ballot of those members present whose last known address as shown on the records of the Local Union 10 days prior to the first such district meeting in September 1992, was within the area covered by the district.

Nominees for the Election Committee must be registered voters within their respective districts, must have been members of Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 for one year next preceding their nomination and shall not be a candidate or nominator of a candidate for Delegate or Alternate Delegate to the 34th International Convention.

MEETING SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 1992
9th  SALT LAKE CITY - Engineers Building, 2806 W.N. Temple
10th  RENO - Carpenter's Hall, 1150 Terminal Way
15th  FAIRFIELD - Holiday Inn, 1350 Holiday Lane
17th  SANTA ROSA - Luther Burbank Center, 50 Mark West Spring Road
24th  SAN JOSE - Labor Temple, 2102 Almaden Road

OCTOBER 1992
6th  BUREKA - Engineers Building, 2806 Broadway
7th  REDDING - Engineers Building, 20308 Engineers Lane
8th  MARYSVILLE - Veterans Memorial Hall, 249 Sycamore Street, Gridley
15th  MARIN - Alvarado Inn, 6045 Redwood Highway, Novato
20th  MAUI - Wailuku Community Center, Lower Main St. Wailuku
21st  HILO - Kapilani School, 966 Kiluaea Avenue
22nd  HONOLULU - Kapalama Elementary School, 1601 N. School Street

NOVEMBER 1992
5th  STOCKTON - Engineers Building, 1916 North Broadway
10th  SACRAMENTO - Machinists Hall, 2749 Sunrise Blvd., Rancho Cordova
12th  CONCORD - Elks Lodge No. 1994, 3994 Willow Pass Road
19th  FRESNO - Laborer's Hall, 5431 East Hedges
‘We’re undereducated, underunionized and underled’

Bill Clinton addresses cheering crowd of trade unionists at San Francisco meeting

B ill Clinton and 900 trade unionists met July 27 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Francisco, and it was love at first sight.

California Labor Federation convention delegates and guests were rattling the chandeliers with hand-clapping, foot-stomping union songs when the Democratic candidate for president arrived about two hours behind schedule at the Hyatt ballroom.

The public address system couldn’t be heard above the singing. What announced Clinton’s arrival was a crescendo of cheers, swelling as more people glimpsed the candidate, until song was replaced by thunderous chants of “We Want Bill! We Want Bill!”

Clinton stood on the stage soaking up the cheers along with his escorts, which included Executive Secretary-Treasurer Tom Donahue, and Dave Sickler, AFL-CIO regional director.

After waiting out a new round of cheering, Clinton said, "I should have come an hour later. Then you’d really have been fired up."

There was laughter, applause and cheers. Clinton described the week’s California campaign swing, which started the day before with a rally in Ontario and continued the day of Hyatt Hotel speech with a stop in San Jose, an afternoon street rally in San Francisco’s Mission District and a fund-raising party on Nob Hill earlier that evening.

“I’ve been overcome just in the last two days by the number of people who said, I’m a Republican and I’m not going to vote for that stuff anymore. Or I was for Ross Perot but now I’m going to vote for you because I think you represent change. Or I haven’t voted in years and I feel like voting now because I think it matters.”

“There is something very good and very important going on in our country today. The American people are daring to hope again that an election might make a difference. And they are sick and tired of what they have been put through in the past 12 years.”

Against the crowd’s near-intoxicating levels of enthusiasm, every other sentence Clinton spoke seemed to spark a new ovation, and the audience liked what Clinton said. He touched on the North American Free Trade Agreement, health care, unemployment, poverty, education and capturing the peace dividend dollars. He blasted Bush on the environment, unemployment and tax inequities. He challenged union members to sway others to vote for the Democratic ticket.

“You have the chance now to influence people that you never could have influenced in an election before because two-thirds of the American people want a change…”

In reference to an earlier speech, Clinton said, “I told the Urban League in San Diego this morning, you know what the Republicans are going to do now,” he said. “They’re going to have their convention and drag out all their old chestnuts. They’re going to try to get the American people to vote their fears instead of their hopes, to vote against us.

“I’ve got news for them. This campaign is not about tax and spend. It’s about America coming apart when it ought to be coming together. It’s about the Japanese prime minister saying he felt sympa-

Members approve Nevada AGC agreement

By James Earp
Managing Editor

OPERATING ENGINEERS in Nevada narrowly approved a new three-year AGC Master Construction Agreement on July 18 that calls for a 70-cent wage increase effective July 1, 1992.

Additional increases of 40 cents an hour are slated for the second and third year of the new agreement and will be allocated to wages and/or fringe benefits at the option of the union, based upon a survey of the affected employees.

In addition to the economic package, the language covering minimum shift rates was strengthened so that work performed on the first day of employment, on jobs of less than one day’s duration and on the last day of the job now provide not less than a full eight hours pay. The only exceptions to this requirement are in the event of major mechanical breakdown or when work has been suspended due to weather conditions or by order of the contracting authority.

One of the key provisions of the new agreement is that the old private work addendum was pulled out of the Master Agreement and negotiated as a separate, one-year Private Work Agreement.

“The Private Work Agreement was necessary to give the union contractor more opportunity to capture residential and other private sector work that has been almost entirely lost to the non-union in Nevada,” Local 3 Treasurer Don Luba said.

Although it is a separate agreement from the Master Agreement, the AGC employers insisted that both contracts had to be voted on as a package.

As chairman of the negotiating committee, Luba acknowledged that the closeness of the vote reflected a “lack of enthusiasm on the part of the membership” for the Private Work Agreement. “Judging from the discussion at the ratification meeting, the members appear to be happy with the Master Agreement,” Luba said.

“But, like us, they are not thrilled with having to give up hard earned wages and benefits in an attempt to recapture a market that has been lost to the non-union.”

The negotiating committee explained to the membership that if the union were to hold out for 100 percent wage rates for private work, non-union contractors would end up with all the private work in Nevada.

“That’s how the non-union end up with the biggest piece of the pie,” Luba stressed. “When we ignore them long enough for them to enlarge their capabilities in the private market, then they become a real threat and take us on in the public sector and other work that has traditionally gone to our ‘master agree-

ment’ contractors. This is exactly what happened in Utah, and now we are fighting for our lives against a well-entrenched open shop movement.”

The Private Work Agreement provides approximately 72 percent of the Master Agreement economic package on all private work, except work subject to a prevailing wage law, work which is funded by multi-employer trust funds or work that is only available to union signatory contractors.

“This is a one-year agreement,” District Representative Ray Mcgrar pointed out at the ratification meeting. “We made it one year to see if it will work, and if it doesn’t, we’ll have to change it.”

The Private Work Agreement requires employers to “aggressively bid within the private work market” and to provide Local 3 a “quarterly report of all private work bids... and shall indicate in the report these jobs bid and not awarded to the Employer.”

“The whole purpose for a private work agreement is to get new work for our members that we otherwise could not get,” Luba pointed out. “If the employers fail to use the tools they say they need to be more competitive, then the union will take them back. That’s the reason we negotiated those protections into this agreement.”
The Reagan-Bush legacy
How 11 years of Republican presidential leadership has decimated America's working class

By Steve Moler
Assistant Editor

First of a three-part series

What I want to see above all is that this remains a country where someone can always get rich.
— Ronald Reagan

Remember election day in November 1980, when Ronald Reagan and his sidekick George Bush captured the White House by crushing Jimmy Carter by more than 8 million votes? The victory was so convincing Carter conceded defeat on national television before the polls closed on the West Coast. After the ballots were counted, the Reagan-Bush ticket had won 489 electoral votes to Carter's measly 49.

How did the Republicans win by such a landslide? During the campaign, huge numbers of ordinary middle-class working folks, many of whom were Democrats, became mesmerized by Reagan's "America is back" economic and military muscle flexing, his folksy demeanor and father-figure personality. For the nearly 44 million Americans who voted for Reagan, the former movie actor and California governor symbolized the quintessential capitalist gunslinger poised to take America for a prosperous ride into the economic sunset. And if all went well, sidekick Bush, the quintessential Eastern establishment aristocrat, would take over the reins after Reagan's second term and continue the joy ride for at least another four — possibly eight — years.

Through the 11 years of Reagan-Bush, Americans have certainly been taken for a ride all right. Unfortunately, it hasn't been the one they expected or everyone else. Here's how they have done it:

• Created a tax system that's firmly weighted against the middle class.
• Neglected the nation's infrastructure in favor of huge increases in military spending.
• Enabled companies to trim or cancel health-care and pension benefits for employees.
• Granted subsidies to businesses that create low-wage jobs that erode U.S. living standards.
• Undermined long-term stable business and communities by encouraging leverage buyouts and corporate mergers.
• Rewarded companies that transfer jobs abroad and eliminate jobs in this country.
• Placed home ownership out of reach of a growing number of Americans and made the financing of a college education impossible without incurring hefty debt.

All of this — shrinking paychecks, disappearing jobs, fat salaries for corporate executives, uncontrolled consumer, business and foreign debt, and a deteriorating living standard — is the visible consequences of the Reagan-Bush revolution. America's economic competitiveness — its ability to produce goods and services for domestic and international markets — is eroding slowly but steadily. The United States, from the 1980s until now, has been left behind by other nations while America's citizens to earn a rising and sustainable standard of living.

The Reagan-Bush duo has built the greatest pyramid of affluence by rigging the system through legal and legislative gimmicks that favor the privileged, the powerful and the influential at the expense of everyone else. Here's how they have done it:

During this period, the once great American middle class experienced an economic depression, an orgy of unprecedented domestic and international indebtedness, conspicuous consumption and tax reduction for the wealthy, while beggars filled the streets, homeless people slept in city parks and the average family's real disposable income declined dramatically.

More shocking was the fact that during this relatively short period in U.S. history the country went from being the world's largest creditor nation to the world's largest debtor.

In contrast, the same period has represented a great triumph for America's elite. For this small segment of society — the investment bankers, corporate stockholders, real estate speculators, corporate executives, attorneys and other highly compensated professionals — the 1980s was a great decade in which a combination of decreased government regulations, tax reductions for corporations, disinvestment, financial speculation, booming markets and excessive debt helped inflate the country's huge economic bubble. This "supercharged conservative-capitalist overdrive" period allowed the country to experience a phenomenal upward redistribution of wealth and power while at the same time decimating America's previously vibrant middle class.

In the past 11 years, the United States has experienced the greatest transfer of wealth in its history, from the lower and middle strata of society to upper-bracketed Republican elites. Favorable federal policies implemented by the Reagan and Bush administrations have created an extraordinary pyramid of affluence, a record number of billionaires and millionaires, while a majority of working-class Americans struggle to make ends meet.

A recent Census Bureau study showed that nearly 14.4 million workers in 1990 worked full time most of the year but didn't earn enough to keep a family of four out of poverty, nearly double the 7.8 million workers earning below the poverty line in 1979. Three out of five new jobs created in the late 1980s were paying just over $6 an hour, and low-paying jobs, like minimum-wage hamburger flippers, remained the fastest-growing sector of the economy from 1987 to 1989, producing 42 percent of jobs taken by new job seekers or the unemployed. Worse yet, projections through the year 2000 show the bulk of an expected 36 million new jobs will be low-wage cashier, clerk, waitress and hospital cleaning positions.

Even the pay of most college educated workers failed to keep up with inflation over the past 11 years.

The Reagan-Bush duo has built this great pyramid of affluence by rigging the system through legal and legislative gimmicks that favor the privileged, the powerful and the...
commodities, and rapidly increasing foreign ownership of businesses, real estate and financial markets. Many experts attribute the nation's fall to major structural problems in the economy created by Reagan and Bush's "trickle down" economic philosophies, which are based on the theory that placing wealth in the hands of the rich is somehow good for everyone. But if current policies are allowed to continue, many experts believe the United States will be condemned in the near future to disastrously slower growth than all of the world's other major industrial countries. If something isn't done now, future generations of Americans will live in a country that has no control of its destiny and will be occupied by foreign economic and technological forces.

The Republican Party's historic role, particularly when it controls the federal government for two or more terms, has always been to tilt power, policy, wealth and income toward the richest portions of the population. Reagan and Bush's campaign to enhance the already affluent hasn't been unique, rather it represents a fundamental philosophy whose roots can be traced to previous "conservative-capitalist blowout" periods over the past 100 years.

Conservative political analyst Kevin Phillips, in his book The Politics of the Rich and Poor: Wealth and the American Electorate in the Reagan Aftermath, draws historic correlations between the Reagan-Bush revolution and two similar periods in recent American history. While the robust 1920s was a period of fabulous wealth accumulation by the richest Americans, the United States has actually passed through three "conservative-capitalist heyday" epochs over the past century: the Gilded Age (from around the early 1880s to the mid-1890s), the Roaring '20s, and the Reagan-Bush era. All three periods have striking similarities:

- All were led by Republican presidents, except Grover Cleveland from 1885 to 1889.
- All involved tough times for organized labor. Strikes and widespread labor violence proliferated in the late 1800s, followed by anti-union pressures that caused the AFL-CIO and the big coal and railroad unions to lose members in the 1920s. Permanent replacements of striking workers, anti-scab and minimum wage laws were thwarted or vetoed during the Reagan-Bush era, resulting in further declines in union membership.
- All involved reduced roles for government. The Gilded Age saw the height of laissez-faire and limited government. The Roaring '20s brought significantly reduced regulatory and antitrust enforcement, and in the 1980s there was substantial deregulation, privatization of the public sector (see related story page 16) and diminished regulatory and antitrust enforcement, which paved the way for the leverage buyout binge, savings and loan scandal and other economic debacles.
- All involved large-scale corporate restructuring. The first trusts were organized in the 1880s, followed by a merger and consolidation wave and subsequent rise of great corporations. The Roaring '20s saw a second merger wave and organization of the first investment trusts. The 1980s experienced more merger mania, the rise of giant pension funds, and emergence of junk bonds and leverage buyouts, resulting in wage cuts, massive layoffs and the transferring of tens of thousands of jobs overseas.
- All gave tax reduction to the rich. The Civil War income tax was eliminated in favor of reliance on tariffs during the Gilded Age. The top personal income tax rate was reduced from 73 percent to 25 percent during the Roaring '20s, while the top personal income tax rate was reduced from 70 percent to 28 percent during the 1980s, contributing to a huge surge in the federal budget deficit.
- All permitted large concentrations of wealth. There was a large increase in millionaires in the Gilded Age, followed by the height of 20th century U.S. wealth concentration in the 1920s, with the top 1 percent of Americans having 40 percent of U.S. wealth. In the 1980s, a large increase in billionaires emerged, with 3-4 percent more of the country's total income concentrated in the top 1 percent.
- All encouraged debt and speculation. There were major increases in individual, corporate and foreign debt during the Gilded Age. U.S. railroad bonds, that era's junk bonds, were sold to the British. The Roaring '20s saw the introduction of installment buying and purchase of stocks on margin, resulting in massive expansion of personal debt. The 1980s saw a ballooning of personal and corporate debt, a huge surge in the U.S. budget deficit and the emergence of a large-scale U.S. trade deficit. The United States has emerged from all this as the world's leading debtor nation, with a rapidly declining economic base and standard of living.
- All three periods ended in economic ruin. The Gilded Age concluded with the panic of 1893 and subsequent depression. The Roaring '20s ended with the crash of 1929 and subsequent Great Depression. In the 1980s, the country experienced the stock market crash of 1987, then the mini crash in 1989, followed by the current recession, one of the worst in recent history.

There's no question the Reagan-Bush era has represented a major restructuring of the country's economic and social foundation, and depending on where you stand in society - whether you're a wealthy investor or a hard-working wage earner - the future is either solidifying or crumbling beneath you. In many respects, the 1992 presidential election will determine if the current "conservative-capitalist heyday" period will continue or if the extremes of wealth, debt and inequality will be brought under control.

Next month: how the Reagan and Bush administrations favored the rich and shafted middle-class workers...
J. H. Pomeroy constructs water project to quench Half Moon Bay’s thirst

During California’s 1976 drought, Half Moon Bay in San Mateo County found itself in the same predicament that Santa Barbara has been in during the current six-year drought. The coastal town of nearly 9,000 people located about 20 miles south of San Francisco didn’t have a sufficient backup water supply to survive consecutive drought years. Sixteen years later, however, the area is on the verge of finally having that drought-busting secondary water source.

The Coastside County Water District, which also serves the smaller communities of Pillar Point, Princeton and El Granada, is nearing completion on a $20 million project that will bring water over the coastal foothills from Crystal Springs Reservoir to Half Moon Bay. Crystal Springs Reservoir is a primary source of drinking water for San Francisco and several other peninsula cities.

The project involves constructing a 160-foot vertical shaft, a 600-foot horizontal tunnel, a pump station, plus a 4.5-mile pipeline and expansion of a water treatment plant. When the project is completed in Spring 1993, the water district will be able to bring in an additional 2.5 million gallons per day, and once the treatment plant is fully expanded in the future, capacity will reach 12.5 million gallons per day.

J.H. Pomeroy & Co. Inc. out of Petaluma, Calif. won the contract to build the tunnel, vertical shaft and pump station. Free Construction of Livermore, Calif. is installing the pipeline and Gateway Pacific Contractors Inc. based in Sacramento is modifying the water treatment plant.

What’s made this project so interesting is that Pomeroy used an unusual technique to sink the 20-foot diameter vertical shaft. Instead of boring down and pouring a concrete liner from the bottom up, Pomeroy built a circular steel cutting shoe and poured the first 15 feet of 12-inch thick concrete lining on top of the shoe at the surface. By excavating the center of the shaft and underneath the cutting shoe, the weight of the liner allowed the shoe to slip down and shave the sides of the shaft.

Operating engineers – working three, eight-hour shifts per day – are playing a vital role in the project. For example, Pomeroy brought in a modular barge made up of 10-foot by 40-foot sections to drive caissons in the lake bed so that the intake feeding the tunnel could be installed. An 80-ton Link-Belt crane was placed on the barge to move the two caissons. Containment booms, absorbent pads and vermiculite had to be placed around the barge to prevent any equipment spills from contaminating the reservoir.

Excavation of the shaft began with construction of the 20-foot diameter caisson and the 8-foot ring wall. Once the liner was in place, a Nissan SB15 mini-excavator was lowered inside the liner and operating engineers began digging. The muck was loaded into a 1.25-cubic-yard bucket, lifted out of the liner by a crane and stockpiled in an adjacent pit. Loader operators then loaded the material into dump trucks for hauling to a disposal site.

The tunnel will include 520 feet of 7-foot diameter bore and 80 feet of 9-foot diameter bore. The arm of a Takeuchi TB21 mini-excavator was modified so that it could dig inside the tunnel. Small skid steer loaders are being used to carry muck through the tunnel and fill the buckets at the base of the shaft. Once the tunnel is dug out, it will be lined with 12 inches of concrete, which will be pumped down the shaft through a slick line.

Right: At the Crystal Springs Water Supply Project, two cranes are being used to move muck out of the tunnel and to move construction materials.
Above left: The tunnel extends 600 feet from the shaft to the intake. Some 1,400 cubic yards of concrete will be used to line the tunnel.

Above right: Crane operator Don Rose, top right, Business Agent Andy Mullen, left, and foreman Ed Hankins.

Center: The 20-foot diameter vertical shaft drops 160 feet to the tunnel. Pomeroy project manager Tim Rippin estimates that the concrete liner weighs 1.35 million pounds from top to bottom.

Below left: Foreman Ed Haskins, left, with HDR Bill Waltz.

Below right: Crane operator Joe Roe.
A centennial déjà vu

This year’s presidential campaign closely resembles Populist movement of the 1890s

By Richard Tulaferro

The history of the United States and the foundation of the American labor movement illustrate that unions and American democracy are based on a similar principle: “United we stand, divided we fall.” Labor unions in American society historically have been the guardians of democracy and have bravely fought to bring real meaning to the phrase “justice for all.”

Since the beginning of the labor movement, unions have used political action to achieve their goals, but they have almost always used outside pressure rather than electing their own leaders to political office. Samuel Gompers, the father of the American labor movement, who said, “We will reward our friends and punish our enemies with votes,” was opposed to using too much of a direct political approach, fearing that if labor got involved in national politics, unions would lose sight of their immediate needs for gaining better wages and working conditions at the local level. He also feared that labor would become controlled by corrupt politicians if unions allowed their power to depend on government alone.

This approach didn’t stop labor leaders from various union factions, such as the National Labor Union, Socialist Labor Party, Knights of Labor and others, from making several attempts to form a third political party. In the 1888 presidential election, the Farmers’ Alliance joined forces with several labor unions to run presidential candidates at a National Labor Party ticket, whose platform included: public ownership of communications and transportation industries, immediate payment of the national debt, an end to convict labor, protective child labor laws, pensions for all honorably discharged U.S. servicepeople, equal pay for equal work for men and women, greater taxation of the rich, and women’s right to vote. Although the Labor Party failed to gain national acceptance, many of its demands became law in the early 1900s.

Shortly after the failure of the Labor Party, a new political party was forming that would ultimately shake the established order to its foundation. During this time, the United States was in the grips of its first major “conservative-capitalist heyday” period, known as the Gilded Age, in which there was fabulous wealth accumulation by the richest Americans, reduced government enforcement of antitrust laws and business regulations followed by the rise of huge corporations, tax reductions for corporations and wealthy elites, tight money policies, and, of course, difficult times for labor.

In the face of such laissez-faire capitalism, the Populist Party was born. The movement consisted of small businessmen, farm organizations, labor unions, socialists and others who felt that big business had become too powerful. The time had come to “take back America,” coincidentally one of the Democrat’s battle cries of this year’s election campaign.

“Wall Street owns the country,” said orator Mary Ellen Lease, at the Populist conven

Just as the excesses and greed of the Gilded Age resulted in a populist backlash, so perhaps has the excesses and greed of the 1980s.
How new health benefits affect you

I know all of you read carefully the recent special bulletin titled Status Report, and that you also read the recent mailing regarding the changes in your plan effective July 1. We urge you to keep both those mailings handy and refer to them from time to time. For those members who are on the Regular Plan, we strongly recommend that you use preferred providers (PPOs) to help control rising costs and to keep your own out-of-pocket expenses to a minimum. We present here for your review three of the examples from the recent mailing to illustrate the differences in plan payments and member out-of-pocket expenses when preferred providers are used. If you have any questions about the plan changes, be sure to call the Fringe Benefit Service Center in Alameda at (510) 748-7450 or the trust fund office in San Francisco at (415) 777-1770.

The Mobile Health Testing Program for active eligible members and spouses (Schedule A only), provided by Health Examinetics, has returned. You will be notified when the program is in your area. Call for an appointment toll free at 1-800-542-6233, between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Friday. All scheduled locations are in California and all dates are in 1992:

- Vacaville - Sept. 15
- Vallejo - Sept. 16
- Martinez - Sept. 17
- Antioch - Sept. 18
- Walnut Creek - Sept. 19
- Oakland - Sept. 22
- Hayward - Sept. 23
- Fremont - Sept. 24

Redwood City - Sept. 25
Burlingame - Sept. 26
San Francisco - Sept. 28
Mt. View - Sept. 29
San Jose - Sept. 30

Retiree Association meetings

The round of Retiree Association meetings is in full swing, so be sure to check the schedule on page 18 and come on out to the meeting in your area. See some of your good friends, meet some new ones and stay in tune with the goings-on of the union and the benefit plans. Come on out and join us.

Retiree medical plan reminder

If you are retired and on Medicare, be sure to have your doctor or other provider file first with Medicare. After you have received the Medicare Explanation of Benefits, file your claim with the trust fund office. When you send your claim to the trust fund be sure to send along a copy of the Medicare Explanation of Benefits. Unless the trust fund receives a copy of your Medicare Explanation of Benefits with your claim form, your claim cannot be processed. Sending a properly completed claim form along with a copy of the Medicare Explanation of Benefits will ensure prompt and accurate processing of your claim.

YOUR CREDIT UNION

By Bill Markus, Treasurer

Financial hints for the recession

The recession often makes it difficult to have enough money to cover life’s major necessities such as housing, food, clothing and transportation, let alone anything else. Your credit union has ideas on where to look to ease the money crunch.

Review outstanding loans and credit card balances. The interest rate you’re now paying should show on your monthly statement or original loan agreement. If you are paying more than 14 percent on unsecured loans or more than 13.9 percent on your credit cards, it’s time to talk with the credit union. Your credit union will save you money on interest and could even lower your monthly payment. Your credit union’s VISA card has no annual fee. This can save you some dollars.

Look at vehicles not presently financed with the credit union. Contact one of our branch offices to see if the particular automobile or recreational vehicle you have could be refinanced at a lower interest rate. Again, it could save you money on interest and monthly out-go. Remember too, unlike other financial institutions, your credit union does not have a pre-payment penalty.

If you still have your checking account with a bank and are paying monthly service charges or per check charges, you need to transfer your checking account to the credit union, where there are no monthly service fees or per check charges. With many financial institutions charging $8 or more in monthly service charges, this could become a substantial savings over the course of a year. Your credit union has direct deposit, overdraft protection and an ATM card program. With our 13 branches to serve you, it’s convenient to have your checking account with the credit union and save money as well. You can even earn dividends by maintaining a balance of thousand dollars or more in your checking account.

Maybe plans to purchase a new or used vehicle is in your budget. If so, contact our Vehicle Information and Purchasing (VIP) Center. The VIP Center is able to price new and used automobiles and used recreational vehicles such a boats, trailers, mobile homes and motor homes. By knowing the price before you shop you will be in a better negotiation position, possible saving hundreds to thousands of dollars. Or use the credit union broker service, and let them do the negotiation on new automobiles for you.

With interest rates on real estate loans being so low, it may be the time to refinance your home or apply for a home equity loan. Lower interest rates make for lower payments. Adjustable and fixed rates are available with a selection of terms. The Real Estate Department will answer your questions and create a loan that works in your best interest.

Contact your credit union and see how many ways it can save you money.
Dutra in hr Cash Creek

Article and photos by James Earp
Managing Editor

The dirt is flying and all gears are in high as Dutra Construction nears the one-year mark on the $9.5 million Cash Creek settling basin project near Sacramento.

Most of the project involves moving 3 million yards of dirt to construct about 13 miles of earth filled levee. A key feature of the job, however, is a 1,750-foot roller compacted concrete (RCC) weir, which acts as a flood gate between the Cash Creek overflow area and the floodplain. Local 3 operators were putting in as much as 12 hours a day, seven days a week during construction of the weir.

Dennis Hinrichson (top left) puts a smooth touch on the rolled concrete weir. Business Agent Frank Herrera (above right) discusses the job with finish blademan Vern Wing. Pictured directly above are Les Anderson, owner of Anrak Corp.; Ken Davis, plant engineer; Martin Brown, plant operator; Andrew Cheechov, loader; Frank Herrera, business agent; Dave Slack, job steward; Jack Ryan, laborer and Jerry Davern, Loader.
The Sacramento Corps has never done an RCC job of this magnitude," says job superintendent Rick Rhoads. "This material is batched like traditional concrete, except with an extremely low water to concrete ratio. We can place it with dump trucks, spread it with a dozer and roll it."

Constructing the weir with RCC results in a tremendous cost savings to the Corps. "Structural concrete in this application would probably cost $400 per cubic yard," Rhoads explained. "The RCC will come out at about $60 a yard."

During the peak "pour" period, Dustra - with Anrak Corp. batching the RCC - was putting down 375 yards an hour.
New hands-on schedule announced

By Art McArdle, Administrator

Last month we applauded the Job Corps in Sacramento for the great job it did in helping us set up our 1992 hands-on competition. However, our article neglected to give photo credit and acknowledgement to lead heavy equipment operator and instructor Bill McHenry. Thanks Bill for helping us put a complete program together!

As we go to press with this article, we have just finished our tentative 1992-1993 hands-on course schedule. This year we will add three Saturday training days to the program for a total of nine. The first four training Saturdays will be special courses in data collection, GPS, heavy construction and state plan reading. The second four sessions will be practice for the ninth Saturday, which will be the hands-on competition and will include topics in boundary, solar, slope and lot surveying.

Data collection will be presented by Marc Severson of California Surveying and Drafting Supplies, with Skeisha equipment being used. Marc has been actively involved in the training and promotion of data collection for a number of years and will provide students with practical field problems. The GPS course will be presented by Tom Morris of Trimble Navigation and will introduce students to the "new world" of surveying. Mike Conser will instruct the state plan reading course and Floyd Harley will present heavy construction. Both of these Local 3 members are well versed in their respective topics and will give apprentices and journey upgrades an informational session.

The Northern California Surveyors Joint Apprenticeship Committee instructors will be on hand at each of the first four sessions to aid with the special topics. Then they will teach the last four sessions.

Classes will be held in San Jose for San Jose class students, in Santa Rosa for Santa Rosa class students, in Oakland for Oakland and Martinez class students and at the Sacramento Job Corps for the Sacramento class students. Correspondence students will attend the class session nearest to their residence. All classes will meet for four hours on the second Saturday of each month September 1992 through May 1993. Students are reminded that these classes are mandatory as they replace an evening class the week prior to the hands-on class.

Any Local 3 member interested in attending any one or all of the first four hands-on sessions should contact the NCSABC administrative office at (510) 635-3255 for more information.

SAFETY

By Brian Bishop, Safety Director

Which materials are dangerous?

We have all observed signs similar to the National Fire Protection Association's diamond-shaped hazard identification symbol shown in the upper right-hand corner, but few actually know how to read them. Most of us figure these signs are useful only to firefighters. This sign, with its accompanying numbers and symbols, can be easily read and understood with little instruction.

This system has been developed by the NFPA. It has been designed for quick identification of the hazardous properties of chemicals. For uniformity, the diamond-shaped symbol and numbers indicate the degree of hazard.

Three categories of hazards are identified for each chemical. They are health, flammability and reactivity (stability). The severity under fire conditions for each category is indicated numerically by five divisions, from zero to four. The more severe the hazard the higher the number. Background colors identify each hazard category.

The blue field, left corner, depicts the level of danger to health. The red field, top, denotes flammability. The yellow field, right, denotes reactivity. The hazard level for these three sections is represented numerically and described in chart above.

The final and bottom section of the NFPA diamond, which is usually color-coded white, denotes additional information about the chemical. Some of the symbols used in this section are: OX (oxidizer), ACID (acid), ALK (alkali), OR (corrosive), radiation hazard, a "W" with a horizontal line through it (water reactive). Now let's go back to our example and see what it is telling us about this chemical:

1. In the blue section (health), the "2" means materials that upon intense or continued exposure could cause temporary incapacitation or possible injury unless prompt medical treatment is given.
2. In the red section (flammability), the "4" means materials that can rapidly or completely vaporize at atmospheric pressure and normal ambient temperature, and the materials can burn.
3. In the yellow section (reactivity), the "3" means that materials are capable of detonation or explosion but require a strong initiating source, or must be heated under confinement before initiation, or must react explosively with water.

In the white section, the "W" with a line through it indicates an unusual reactivity with water and alerts firefighters not to try to distinguish it with water.

One section of the Federal OSHA Standard, applicable in every state, is 29 CFR 1910.1200, "Hazard Communication," which states that "the purpose of the section is to ensure that the hazards of all chemicals produced or imported are evaluated, and that information concerning their hazards is transmitted to the employers and employees. This transmittal of information is to be accomplished by means of comprehensive hazard communication programs, which are to include container labeling and other forms of warning, material safety data sheets and employee training."

The proper use of the NFPA fire diamond will fit nicely into a company's hazard communication program. While it does not offer as much information as the MSDS, it does offer quick information. The information put out on these NFPA diamonds should be also put out to employees, such as at tailgate safety meetings. I hope the above will aid you in recognizing and using the NFPA diamond to your benefit.
Tell Kennecott to ‘hire union’

SALT LAKE CITY – The first construction phase of the new Kennecott smelter and refinery will start in the near future. This is the beginning of what could amount to over $2 billion worth of construction work. As one of Utah’s largest employers, Kennecott makes a big payroll to its own employees. At one time, the only employer with more employees was the State of Utah.

Each of the unions involved in this type of proposed construction work is doing everything possible to see that the project is built union. To assist Local 3 and other building and construction trade locals in the effort, I’m asking members and their families and friends to write to Kennecott’s president and urge him to use union workers.

Letters should be addressed to Frank Joklich, President, Kennecott Corporation, Post Office Box 11248, Salt Lake City, UT 84117. Please use your own wording and include one or more of the following ideas:
1. When you hire cheap, unskilled labor, you get a cheaply made product. If you want Kennecott’s smelter and refinery to be top quality, you want union workers to produce it.
2. I’ve worked this trade for _ years and I work hard for my pay. I’m well-skilled and capable and I want to use my hard-earned skills to produce a lasting product and earn a decent living for myself and my family.
3. I’m from Utah and want to be considered first for a good local job. Letting workers from out-of-state build this smelter is unfair to Utah’s workers. Please, Kennecott, support the communities that have always supported you.
4. If this smelter and refinery are state-of-the-art, you can’t get the quality workers you must want by hiring randomly off the street. Please hire union and hire Utah.

And have your wife or partner mention this in his or her letter:
1. I’ve been married to a Utah operating engineer for _ years.
2. My husband is a hard worker and I’m proud of his hard-earned skills. He wouldn’t have those skills if it weren’t for his union. As a union family in Utah, we also have health care and access to a pension plan that non-union workers don’t have. These are benefits I don’t think could be replaced by a non-union contractor.
3. Each month my husband and I are finding it difficult to make ends meet. During this recession, I’m asking you to give these jobs to Utah workers for the benefit of all of us who comprise Salt Lake and the surrounding communities. Money Utah people earn will be spent in Utah.

Primary endorsements
This September’s primary election will determine which candidates will represent the Democratic Party. In this year’s runoff, the Political Action Committee in Utah is recommending and requesting your vote for the following people who have earned the PAC’s support.

U.S. Senate - Wayne Owens
Governor - Pat Shea
Salt Lake Co. Commissioner - Janet Reece

Please use your vote and encourage people you know to get out and vote this year. Our system is workable. It just needs to be used. Please vote!

Kay Leishman, District Rep.

Richmond Bypass project delayed

OAKLAND – I’d like to share one of the nicer duties of my job. When Local 3 members aren’t able to receive their 50-year watches at the semi-annual meetings, the watches are sent to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to the member’s district office and given to

Are you one in 90 million?

In 1988, George Bush got 26.8 percent of the vote. Michael Dukakis got 24.3 percent and “I Don’t Care” got 49.8 percent (90 million Americans).

In 1992, you can make a difference.

Register and Vote!
NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS

J.F. Shea casts annual fishing party

REDDING – J.F. Shea Company had its 16th annual fishing party May 21 for the Monte Vista School for handicapped children. Some 122 children were greeted by fishing "partners" as the children got off the bus. Cane poles, complete with bobber, hook, line and most certainly lots of worms, were provided. The "partners" were volunteers from J.F. Shea's staff, Caltrans, California Highway Patrol, as well as personnel from other construction firms, sheriff's departments and other organizations and groups.

A big pond full of blue gill and bass created the scene for a festive fishing party. The Shasta High School band provided music, and there was tubs full of ice-cold sodas, hot dogs and chips to eat, and some great clowns who entertained the crowd.

J.F. Shea's annual fishing party was first organized in 1976 by Shea's General Manager Dick Rowan and Bill Marvel, a 30-plus-year employee who died in May 1991. Bill Glidden, Shea's safety officer and purchasing agent of 20-plus years has always been involved in the fishing party. Bill retired this year but said he will be back next year with more hats. Bill purchased 360 fishing party hats and was still about two-dozen hats short this year.

Thank you J.F. Shea for your kindness to our community. The company came to this area in 1956 to do a tunnel for Trinity Dam. The company employs about 175 people around the area in various enterprises.

Wendell King,
Business Rep.

When the fish weren't biting, clowns entertained.

More picketing at Topside, Cal Sierra

SACRAMENTO – Local union contractors are as busy as they will probably be this season. Despite a long out-of-work list, there's some jobs going on in the area.

From Bus. Rep. Gary Wagnon...

Construction work in El Dorado County is slow. Joe Vicini has small crews working on several school sites and the KOA campground in Shingle Springs. Vicini is about finished with work at the McClellan AFB.

Henningsen Concrete, Placerville, has a new plant manager, and business is improving. There are three members working between the plant and the shop. Ford Construction is about one month from completion of the realignment of Hwy. 50 near Meyers. Kiewit has about 10 operators working on the water line from Cambridge Road to El Dorado Hills. Kiewit will be bidding the two newly proposed golf courses in El Dorado Hills.

Caltrans in El Dorado County is working with crews in Placerville, Kyburz and Tahoe City. Negotiations are in progress with the department of transportation in El Dorado County. This involves the Trades and Crafts Bargaining Unit, road repair crews, transit drivers, mechanics, group counselors and the corrections unit.

The Placer County private sector is busy, with Granite Construction working on Hwy. 49, Forest Hill Road and the Colfax Highway. Industrial Asphalt, Grass Valley, is working steadily, but not like it normally would during the summer. Teichert in Martis Valley is working steadily but slowly. The plant is usually working long hours.

Caltrans units in Auburn and Nevada City are all busy with grinding out bad spots and patch paving. Mowat Construction is plugging along with the new bridge it's constructing on Hwy. 49. C.C. Myers is starting some small structures on Hwy. 49 between Auburn and Grass Valley. Benco is doing a bridge widening job on Hwy. 267 at Truckee.

We have just ratified a contract with R.J. Miles, a concrete plant shop, and the Bear River rock, sand and gravel plant.

From Bus. Rep. Troy Ruff...

We still have about 450 on the out-of-work list. Some brothers and sisters have had little or no work yet, so please don't ride the out-of-work list if you are working.

As reported before, agents and members are continuing to picket non-union contractors Topside and Cal Sierra Pipe. We appreciate all of the members of various trade unions stopping by with words of encouragement, a honk and a wave. It helps.

This, as you know, is an election year and it is time to take a good look at the candidates and prepare to vote. If you are not registered, do so, or ask your business representative for a voter registration form. He will be happy to assist you. It is your responsibility.
Coalinga prison job cranks up

FRESNO - We've got a few good jobs going that have some of our operators working.

From Monty Montgomery... The Coalinga prison is getting underway. Jagur Equipment is going to move the dirt and R.P. Richards will be doing the underground work. This will keep some operators busy for a few months. Steimle-Weibelhaus is moving right along with its job in Kings Canyon National Park. Unfortunately, the park service has cut the job in half. Kiewit Pacific picked up a 96,000-ton overlay on I-5 in Fresno County. At this time, the company plans to set up a portable plant. Contract negotiations with Artesia Ready Mix have finally come to a close. As those involved know this has been a lengthy process and everyone is glad to see an agreement reached.

From Harold Smith... Western Stone has started its job on Hwy. 152 near Los Banos. The company has just finished the job in Chowchilla, so this will give the members a chance to continue working for a few months. Granite Construction was the low bidder on the Hwy. 99 job in Madera, a $2.4 million overlay and reconstruction. Teichert was the low bidder, at about $625,000, on the Hwy. 99 and Hwy. 152 reconstruction.

Contract pre-negotiation meetings have begun with Modine Western and Friction Inc. Both contracts expire in October.

From Bob Sheffield... American Paving has started the widening of a one-lane addition on Herndon Avenue between Palm and Maple. This will give the ambulances in route to Saint Agnes Medical Center easier access down Herndon.

Another job that recently kicked off is the Hwy. 180 project awarded to Ford-Benco (JV). This will be about a three-year job and has already called several operating engineers out of the hall.

C.A. Rasmussen, Inc. has started the BFI disposal site in southwest Fresno. It will be doing a 3-foot clay liner that should give a few engineers about three to four months work. C.A. Rasmussen is now a Northern California company; the company recently purchased interest in Piombo Construction out of the Bay Area and is considering purchasing two to three other small Northern California companies.

Donate blood District 50 would like to remind our brothers and their families to give the gift of life by donating blood. Please take the time to donate at the Central California Blood Bank. A few moments of your time could mean a lifetime to a fellow brother or family member in need. You can donate under operating engineers account or under your own. Either way it would be available to you and your family. For more information call the blood bank at 224-3900.

Picnic reminder Get your tickets today! The date is getting closer for the annual picnic. You can purchase tickets from your business representative or at the union hall. The date is Saturday, Aug. 22, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Police Officers Pistol Range. Food will include steaks, hot dogs, beans, salad, bread and all the drinks you can get down! Tickets are $10 active, $5 retirees, under 12 free (hot dog dinner). See you out there! You don't want to miss our horseshoe tournament and raffle.

Small public jobs prevail

SANTA ROSA - I would like to start with a big thank you for all the operating engineers and office staff who made District 10's annual picnic a success, especially to our volunteers who helped by setting up, working on the food line, cooking and serving beverages. We very much appreciated your help.

I guess I don't have to tell you about the work picture; it hasn't changed much from last month. There is still a lot of publicly funded jobs showing up on the bid sheets. Most of them are small jobs that bid real cheap.

Most of the union contractors in my area are able to keep their core group of operators busy, which accounts for the decrease in dispatches this year. Donna has a few off-list dispatches from our out-of-area contractors who need someone to fill in.

Who is working where? Argonaut's crews are working on a subdivision on Ely Road in Petaluma, a commercial parking lot in Rohnert Park and a project in Pountaisgrove. Cheli and Young's crews are working on a small condominium development in Santa Rosa and a subdivision in Windsor. They are listed as subcontractors on the Kaiser Hospital parking garage project and the Hwy. 12 interchange in Santa Rosa.

Don Dowd has crews working on the Albion overlay, the Schellville Hwy., 116 project and a subdivision in Windsor. Ghilotti Brothers crews are finishing up on the Hwy. 101 projects in Rohnert Park and Healdsburg. They are also working on a subdivision in Windsor and a project at the Sonoma County airport.

Davast and FR&P are working on a commercial parking lot next to Walmart in Rohnert Park. Davast also has a crew finishing up the Larkfield sewer project and a crew working at the Sonoma County airport.

Hogue Construction is working on the surface work for the Kaiser Hospital parking garage in Santa Rosa. North Bay Construction has crews working in Petaluma on the North McDowell extension, Sonoma Mountain Expressway and the Santa Rosa Junior College campus extension. In Rohnert Park, they are working on a subdivision located by Sonoma State University. They are working on a subdivision in Santa Rosa and in Windsor. Piombo's crews are working on Arnold Drive in Sonoma and a subdivision by Mark West Springs Road.

When times get hard and members are out of work because the company they normally work for just doesn't have the work to keep them employed, they need to move to a different company to work to put food on the table. It is times like these that we need to remember that we are brothers and sisters belonging to the same organization. We need to work together so our contractors can make money to stay in business, so they can provide us with more work. Remember, work is going cheap, and if we can outproduce the competition, we can keep our contractors competitive.

I would like to invite you to our district meeting in Santa Rosa on Thursday, Sept. 17, at 8 p.m. at the Luther Burbank Center.

New Federalism or New Feudalism?
How Reagan and Bush have dismantled public employment to enhance privatization

By Steve Moler
Assistant Editor

In a survey of Local 3 members conducted a few months prior to the 1984 general election, 54 percent of the union's approximately 5,000 public employees said they planned to vote for the Ronald Reagan-George Bush presidential ticket. Another 51 percent felt that Reagan's reelection would help them financially.

What most public employees probably didn't realize at the time was that by voting for Reagan and Bush they were shooting themselves in the pocketbook. Beneath Reagan and Bush's campaign promise of getting government off people's backs was their long-standing contempt for public-sector encroachment. Government isn't the solution, Reagan insisted during the 1984 campaign, government is the problem. The expansion of the public sector during the 1970s, he charged, had burdened innovation and stifled creativity.

Beginning in Reagan's first term and continuing through the second, Reagan and Bush quietly set out to systematically dismantle the public sector by implementing their now infamous "New Federalism," a program that has shifted much of the financial burden of providing vital public services from the federal government to states and local governments.

The subsequent erosion of federal aid over the past 11 years has now left state and local governments with few choices but to drastically trim budgets and cut services. And now, as the country struggles through the economic malaise of the 1990s, public employees are bearing the brunt of Reagan and Bush's pass-the-buck approach to presidential leadership.

Vanishing federal aid

The situation has become so critical that 61 percent of cities nationwide faced budget deficits in 1991, up from 46 percent the year before, and a quarter of all U.S. cities are nearly bankrupt. Federal funds for such programs as low-income housing, community development, public transit and job training have been slashed from a high of $48.4 billion in 1981 to just $19.5 billion in 1990. Overall, revenue provided by the federal government has dropped from 17.7 percent of city budgets in 1980 to 6.4 percent in 1990.

The decrease in funding, combined with the sluggish economy, has prompted 34 of 50 major U.S. cities to reduce staff over the past decade. Cities have resorted to firing workers, freezing wages, borrowing from pension funds, cutting programs and levying taxes that have hurt middle-class families.

California, once one of the most prosperous states in the country, now faces its worst budget crisis in recent memory. A tarnished Golden State

In response to California's $11 billion budget deficit, many agencies could be forced to reduce spending by 15 to 30 percent. In late May, the names of more than 12,500 California civil service employees were submitted to personnel officers in preparation for what could be massive layoffs in state government this year. Even agencies that provide important services such as firefighting and law enforcement aren't expected to be spared.

Almost every city and county in Northern California, regardless of what happens to this year's state budget, is considering drastic cuts. The City of Hayward, for instance, is considering wage freezes for more than 860 city workers, a decrease in the number of new employees to be added to the city's payroll, and revisions in proposed new taxes and service charges as options for eliminating a projected $7.2 million deficit in the city's $72.8 million spending plan.

Alameda County is facing its third straight year of severe budget cuts and drastic program reductions. Hardest hit will be the county's public protection services, particularly the Sheriff's Department, the district attorney and public defender's office and other criminal justice departments. The city plans to layoff 46 deputy sheriffs, 15 district attorney staffers and 10 public defenders. Overall, nearly 300 positions are on the line. The city also wants to close two floors in the North County Jail in Oakland and two inmate housing units at the Santa Rita jail in Dublin. Local 3, which represents the Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs, had to file a lawsuit against the county in early July for firing 22 deputies and then immediately rehiring them as lower-paid sheriff's technicians.

Bad federal policies

The current fiscal problems of state and local governments are being caused more by irresponsible federal economic policies during the 1980s than the current recession, according to a major study conducted last year by the Economic Policy Institute. The study found that a significant portion of state and local services are paid for by federal grants-in-aid, but in the past decade these grants have been cut by 36 percent. Between the 1978-79 and 1986-89 fiscal years, federal grants declined from 21 percent to 16 percent of state and...
local government budgets.

While the study acknowledges that the recession has clearly aggravated the financial problems facing cities and states by slowing economic activities and reducing tax revenues, Reagan and Bush have exacerbated the crisis by diverting aid from local governments in a desperate attempt to reduce their own enormous federal budget deficit. Unfortunately, during the "borrow and squander" decade of the 1980s the federal debt actually increased from 10.7 percent to 17.7 percent of gross domestic product.

EPI Economist Max Sawicky, author of the study, titled Roots of the Public-Sector Fiscal Crisis, said that these shifts in aid and payments on the federal debt have meant that taxpayers are getting fewer tangible benefits, or actual public services, from the money that is being spent, saying nothing of the impact on public employees themselves.

"State and local governments are being whip-sawed between decreased federal aid and the increased budgetary demands of a stagnant economy," Sawicky said. "The federal government has created an economic deadlock. Too much money was diverted from the states and cities, and now the deficit is limiting any redirection of spending."

The privatization craze

Another underlying goal of Reagan and Bush's "New Federalism" has been to reduce funding to state and local governments so drastically that they'd eventually have no choice but to privatize services. In the past 11 years, financially strapped local governments have been forced to lay off highly skilled and well-paid unionized public employees and contract out services to private firms that pay workers far less and provide few, if any, fringe benefits.

Reducing government's role has been part of Republican politics since the party was formed in 1854. During every major conservative era over the past 100 years - the Gilded Age from the 1880s to mid-1890s, the Roaring '20s, and now the Reagan-Bush period - Republican presidents have sought to dismantle public-sector employment in order to encourage and enhance privatization. In each of these three periods, the federal government's enforcement and regulatory roles were drastically reduced while private businesses and corporations were bolstered through tax cuts and deregulation.

At the end of the Carter administration, the federal government was providing $16.4 billion directly to county, municipal and other local governments. By the end of Reagan's second term in 1989, federal aid had dropped almost 40 percent, to $10.1 billion. Bush's 1990 budget alone eliminated 238 domestic programs and reduced spending for 109 others affecting states and cities.

In 1975, the relative level of civilian public employment peaked at 18 percent of the work force but fell to 15.5 percent by 1989. Total state and local government employment has followed a similar trend, peaking at 14 percent of the work force in 1975 and falling to 12.5 percent in 1989. When compared with other industrialized countries, the United States now has the smallest domestic public sector and among the lowest rates of public-sector spending growth.

Privatization: a major force

Today, as state and local government agencies struggle to survive, privatization has become a major force in urban America. With surprising frequency, desperate states and counties are turning over control of services to private companies, everything from state prisons and garbage collection to state parks and airports.

Once a few services are privatized, why not everything else? Why not the entire city? When the small industrial city of Ecorse, Mich., near Detroit went into receivership in 1986, after being blessed in the 1960s with the nation's wealthiest per capita tax base, it sold its building, contracted out all services to private firms and kept one city employee to supervise the operations.

San Francisco now contracts out social services, private garbage hauling and convention center management. It also contracts out much of its data processing and engineering design work. This year, Republican Mayor Frank Jordan proposed a long-term plan to shift management of the zoo from the city to the Zoological Society, which wants to restore facilities with private support.

Mayor Jordan's top economic advisor, Kent Sims, said in a July 22 San Francisco Chronicle article that given the city's current budget deficit, San Francisco may have no choice but to consider greater use of competitive contracting in the future. "We have to be prepared to be much more creative than in the past to maintain services," he said. "Privatization is going on across the country, not philosophically driven but of necessity. We have to make dollars go farther, and that can be done with privatization."

Results of privatization

Organized labor vigorously disagrees that privatization saves money. Al Bilik, president of the AFL-CIO's Public Employee Department, calls privatization "an attempt by a handful of ideologues to undermine America's system of public services by persuading frustrated, gullible and even greedy politicians to turn the operation of vital government services to a few powerful, profligate corporations. "No question about it, contracting is cheaper," Bilik said.

"But the savings are only illusory. Private firms hire cheap labor, ensuring high rates of turnover and low quality work. They may low-ball bids, hoping to raise prices once the public becomes dependent on their services."

Many local union leaders agree with Bilik. In June, J.B. Martin, area director of Automotive Machinists Lodge 1305, wrote Mayor Jordan to warn that contracting is an extremely risky and in most cases very expensive strategy liable to reduce the quality of services and attract corruption. City officials are also concerned about the politics of contracting out jobs now held by many minorities and women.

In Chicago, Mayor Richard M. Daley has introduced a policy of "prudent privatization" by contracting out services as diverse as library management, custodial services, alcohol treatment and tree-stump removal. Newark, N.J., one of the leading privatizers since the 1970s, has some 20 city functions managed by private firms.

Support for privatization in these cities and others is far from enthusiastic. Larry Bloom, a Chicago alderman, told the Chronicle that he's concerned that in the long run, it may cost more than the short-term savings if city departments close down and private contractors jack up their bids. Other observers are also concerned about the dangers of letting contracts go to politically favored firms rather than the most qualified low bidder.

Whether it's a right-wing union-busting strategy or laissez-faire capitalism, Reagan and Bush's "New Federalism" has placed an unfair economic and emotional burden on the country's public employees. In an election year, one way to reverse the privatization trend is to vote for candidates who have the public-sector's best interest in mind.
**Retirees Association Meetings**

**August**

4th Ceres 10AM
Tuolumne River Lodge
2429 River Rd.
Modesto, Ca.

4th Stockton Eta Chapter 2PM
Operating Engineers Bldg.
1516 N. Broadway
Stockton, Ca.

6th Fresno Theta Chapter 2PM
Laborers Hall
5431 E. Hedges
Fresno, Ca.

18th Oakland Nu Chapter 10AM
Oakland Zoo, Snow Bldg.
9777 Golf Links Rd.
Oakland, Ca.

19th Concord Mu Chapter 10AM
Elks Lodge #1924
3994 Willow Pass Rd.
Concord, Ca.

20th San Francisco/San Mateo Kmachi Chapter 10PM
Kapaa Nu Chi Chapter
IAM Air Transport Employees
1511 Rollins Rd.
Burlingame, Ca.

20th Ignacio Chi Beta Chapter 2PM
Alvarado Inn
250 Central Dr.
Novato, Ca.

27th Sacramento Zeta Chapter 2PM
Machinists Hall
27 Sunrise Blvd.
San Jose, Ca.

**September**

9th Auburn Espilon Chapter 10AM
Auburn Recreation Center
123 Recreation Dr.
Auburn, Ca.

15th Fairfield Chi Gamma Chapter 2PM
Holiday Inn Fairfield
1350 Holiday Lane
Fairfield, Ca.

17th Clearlake 10AM
VFW Post #2237
14460 Robinson Ave.
Clearlake, Ca.

17th Santa Rosa Chi Beta Chapter 2PM
Veterans Memorial Bldg.
1351 Maple St.
Santa Rosa, Ca.

24th Watsonville Iota Chapter 10AM
VFW Post #1716
1960 Freedom Blvd.
Watsonville, Ca.

24th San Jose Kappa Chapter 2PM
Holiday Inn Park Center Plaza
282 Almaden Blvd.
San Jose, Ca.

**HONORARY MEMBERS**

As approved at the Executive Board Meeting on July 11, 1992, the following retirees have 35 or more years of membership in the Local Union, as of April 1992, and have been determined to be eligible for Honorary Membership effective October 1, 1992.

Albino Bazz 0892644
James Binkley 0789435
Roland Brown 0745164
Thomas Burdine 0928125
Billy Burns * 0674807
John Byhee * 0863710
Odell Christensen 0924900
Arthur Cilli 0935375
Dik Curtis 0790657
W. A. Elm 0899327
Wesley Frey * 0871524
Bert Girace 0654165
Lester Griffith 0854615
Arthur Hale 0906689
Niels Harris 0935646
Wm. J. Harris 0603317
Orvil Johnson 0672176
Francis Kemper 0316952
James Lehman 0679266
Leonard Longley 0886853
Mike Markovich * 0677727
Ernest Merit 0726736
Clarence Prince 0935454
Franklin Ramey 0924946
Gerald Rogers 0328959
Warren Shields 0214708
Tommy Winnett 0892749
Edward Womack 0670069
Thomas Zaro 0898607

* Effective July 1, 1992 - Recently determined to have been eligible in May 1992.

**District Meetings**

District meetings convene at 2 PM with the exception of District 17 meetings, which convene at 7 PM.

**August**

18th District 2: Sunol
Sunol Valley Country Club
Hwy. 680 & Andrade Rd.
Sunol, Ca.

20th District 1: San Francisco
Seafarers International Aud.
350 Fremont Street
San Francisco, Ca.

27th District 8: Auburn
Auburn Recreation Center
123 Recreation Drive
Auburn, Ca.

**September**

9th District 12: Salt Lake City
Engines Bldg.
1958 W. N. Temple
Salt Lake City, Ut.

10th District 11: Reno
Carpenter's Hall
1150 Terminal Way
Reno, Nv.

15th District 4: Fairfield
Holiday Inn
1350 Holiday Lane
Fairfield, Ca.

17th District 10: Santa Rosa
Luther Burbank Ctr.
50 Mark West Spr. Rd.
Santa Rosa, Ca.

24th District 9: San Jose
Labor Temple
2102 Almaden Road
San Jose, Ca.

**Attention Women Operators!**

**Potluck in Santa Rosa:**
BYO hot tub, horse shoes, food, fun conversation.
When: Sunday, Sept. 20, 2-7 p.m.
Where: Hwy. 12 to Middle Rincon Rd., 1/2 mile more to 437 Speers Rd.

**Notice**

Magic Kingdom Club cards are now available at most district offices.

**DRIVE A BARGAIN**

Magic Kingdom Club members—enjoy exclusive Disney discounts on rental cars at most National Car Rental locations across the U.S.
For details, see Club Membership Guide.

---

To obtain your Disney package clip & fill out coupon and send to: Operating Engineers Local Union No.3 1620 South Loop Road Alameda, CA 94501 Attn: Public Relations Name
Address
City State Zip
Social security #
Cocaine-alcohol warning

ADDITION RECOVERY PROGRAM
1-800-562-3277

Cocaine and alcohol taken together combine in the body to form a more potent—and potentially dangerous—drug, the Journal of the American Medical Association reported.

The resulting combination, called cocaethylene, provides the same euphoric high as cocaine but more intensely and for longer periods. Cocaethylene is also more addictive than cocaine and potentially more lethal.

About 12 million people use cocaine and alcohol in combination every year, the report said, noting that it is the most common substance abuse pattern in the federal government’s Drug Abuse Warning Network, which monitors drug-related emergency room cases.

The report said the discovery of cocaethylene’s effects may make hair testing for drugs more useful. Anyone who tests positive for cocaethylene must have ingested cocaine and not been exposed passively, the report said. However, anyone who used cocaine without alcohol would not be positive for cocaethylene.

JAMA also reported in the same issue that infants and young children treated at the emergency department of Children’s Hospital in Detroit have tested positive for cocaine due to passive exposure. Doctors found traces of cocaine in the urine of about 5 percent of the toddlers and children treated for routine pediatric complaints, the report said. Doctors hypothesized that the children most likely were exposed to the drug through passive smoke by adult caretakers who used freebase or crack cocaine.

The report noted that other research has found cocaine metabolites in the urine of adults exposed to cocaine smoke. While the levels in both studies were generally below the 300 nanogram/milliliter cutoff for cocaine in federal drug tests, the report warned that “some workplace drug testing programs... could easily interpret a low-positive urine test caused by exposure to secondhand smoke as a positive cocaine test.”

Alumni picnic

This year’s fun event, the ARP/Azure Acres Annual Alumni Picnic, will be held at Azure Acres on September 12. All ARP and Azure Acres alumni are invited to attend. This year’s theme is a western hoedown. Contact Sue at Azure Acres 1-800-322-7292 or the ARP office 1-800-562-3277 for details.

NEW SHARK EXPERIENCE at Marine World Africa USA

ORDER NOW!!!

Terms are valid any opening day through December 31, 1992.

Shipping charges: $9.00 for orders under $50 and $1.00 for each additional $50.

Operating Engineers Local A

1510 East 30th Street
Monrovia, CA 91016
ATTN: Neil Sparks

Please include your name, address and social security number and contact number of Local A member.

Union Briefs

No Davis-Bacon suspension

The Senate voted 63-36 to reject Sen. Don Nickles', R-Okla., proposed amendment to waive the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements on federally funded or assisted projects to rebuild sections of Los Angeles affected by the May riots.

Under the proposed amendment, laborers and mechanics on federally funded construction projects would have been paid less than the prevailing wage to rebuild the riot-ravaged area. Robert Georgine, president of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department, said he was amazed by those who claim to want to help those on the bottom of the economic ladder and yet “pull the wage floor out from under the intended beneficiaries. This administration seems incapable of addressing any labor and employment problem other than by proposing to relegate inner-city youth to a second-class status in the construction industry.”

California budget crisis

In an attempt to implement budget-cutting measures for the fiscal 1992-93 state budget, California Gov. Pete Wilson has asked legislators to weaken worker protection laws, Labor Commissioner Victoria Bradshaw presented an 80-page document listing Wilson administration proposals for budget reductions in the Department of Industrial Relations. She said weakenings and rollbacks were needed to give the department more “flexibility.”

Organized labor accused the Wilson administration of trying to use the state’s budget crisis as a smokescreen for an unwarranted attack on labor. The administration wants to 1) eliminate deadlines for processing workers’ wage complaints, 2) relieve the labor commissioner of the obligation to make “reasonable efforts” to collect judgments for unpaid wages, 3) eliminate controls and inspections in the Division of Apprenticeship standards, 4) eliminate a series of Cal-OSHA regulations covering inspections, time requirements for actions by the agency, and other provisions.

Federal highway construction

Rep. Dave Nagle, D-Iowa, has offered a proposal that would speed funding for congressionally approved federal highway construction projects in an effort to bolster the sagging construction industry and stimulate the nation's recessionary economy.

Nagle’s proposal would expedite funding by one year for federal highway projects included in the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, the $1.61 billion measure for national highway, bridge and mass transit construction over a six-year period.

While it’s estimated that ISTEA will create over one million jobs and preserve another million—many of which will relate to the construction industry—the measure is heavily back-loaded and most of the economic stimulus will not occur until after fiscal year 1992. Nagle’s proposal would accelerate the funding process, yet it would not require the expenditure of any additional funds beyond those already approved by Congress and the President in the ISTEA bill.

Nagle’s plan would also waive for two years the requirements that state and local governments provide an up-front local match of 20 percent of the total cost of a highway project before they are qualified to receive any federal funding.