

# TECHNICIAN ENGINEER

SEPTEMBER, 1963

*Published for the Employees of the Broadcasting, Recording and Related Industries*

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS — AFL-CIO



# THE DAVIS-BACON ACT

## MARCH 3, 1931

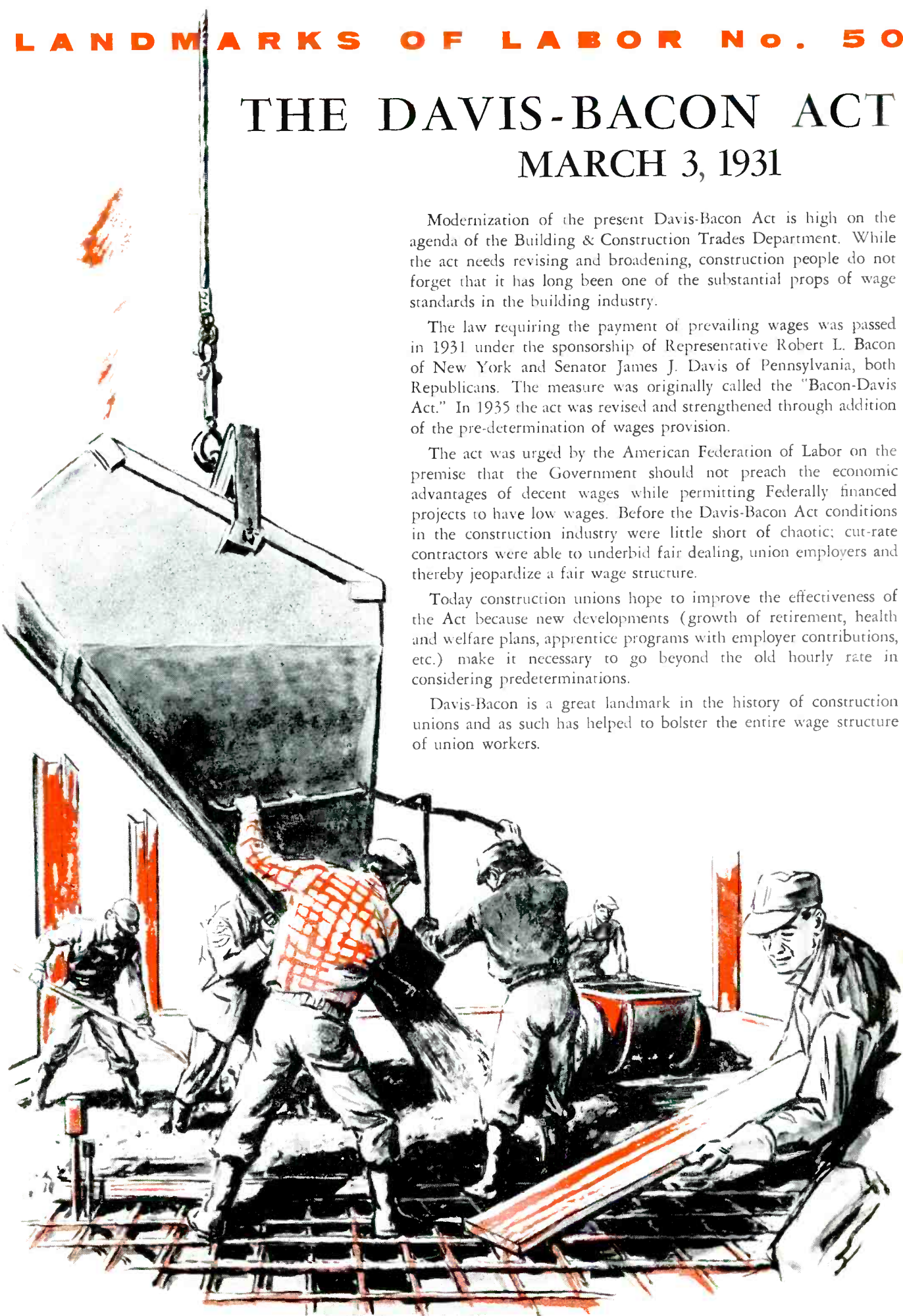
Modernization of the present Davis-Bacon Act is high on the agenda of the Building & Construction Trades Department. While the act needs revising and broadening, construction people do not forget that it has long been one of the substantial props of wage standards in the building industry.

The law requiring the payment of prevailing wages was passed in 1931 under the sponsorship of Representative Robert L. Bacon of New York and Senator James J. Davis of Pennsylvania, both Republicans. The measure was originally called the "Bacon-Davis Act." In 1935 the act was revised and strengthened through addition of the pre-determination of wages provision.

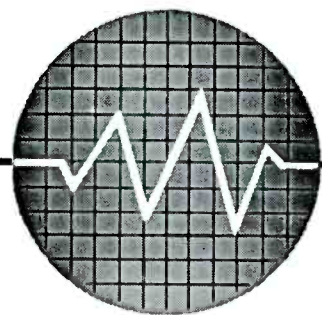
The act was urged by the American Federation of Labor on the premise that the Government should not preach the economic advantages of decent wages while permitting Federally financed projects to have low wages. Before the Davis-Bacon Act conditions in the construction industry were little short of chaotic; cut-rate contractors were able to underbid fair dealing, union employers and thereby jeopardize a fair wage structure.

Today construction unions hope to improve the effectiveness of the Act because new developments (growth of retirement, health and welfare plans, apprentice programs with employer contributions, etc.) make it necessary to go beyond the old hourly rate in considering predeterminations.

Davis-Bacon is a great landmark in the history of construction unions and as such has helped to bolster the entire wage structure of union workers.



The INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS  
 GORDON M. FREEMAN International President  
 JOSEPH D. KEENAN International Secretary  
 JEREMIAH P. SULLIVAN International Treasurer



# TECHNICIAN ENGINEER



VOL. 12, NO. 9  
 ALBERT O. HARDY, Editor

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## *the cover*

Early this year construction work was moving ahead swiftly at 6400 York Road in Baltimore, Maryland, as the new "Television Park" for WMAR-TV moved closer to reality. Jack Miller of Local Union 1200, shown on our September cover, was one of several technicians busily setting up racks and equipment to prepare the CBS-affiliated station for its new quarters. Here Miller connects cable heads back of master control. (For a story on the completed Television Park, turn to Page 4.)

## *index*

For the benefit of local unions needing such information in negotiations and planning, here are the latest figures for the cost-of-living index, compared with 1961 figures: July, 1963—107.1; July, 1962—105.6.

## *commentary*

We have time and again pointed out that more than 5 percent of the American labor force cannot find jobs. Year in and year out, we find ourselves pointing to a danger which others want to ignore or try to brush aside.

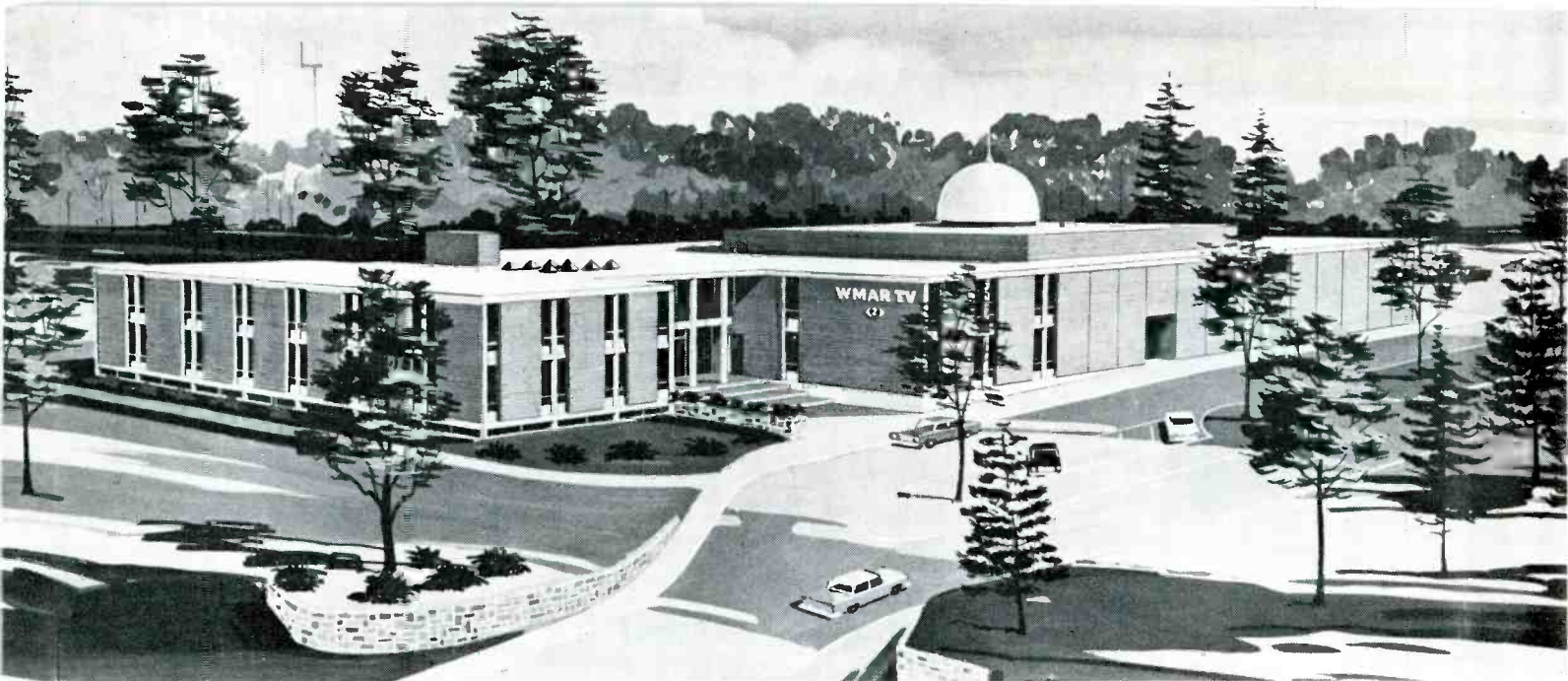
As we have so often noted, the labor force is growing at least 50 percent faster in this decade than it has in the past. And at the same time, the elimination of jobs through automation and other technological changes proceeds at an ever-faster pace.

The facts are no less shocking because they are familiar. But what is even more shocking is the lack of any meaningful action or any visible sense of urgency outside the ranks of labor itself. After nearly six years, there is an attitude in some quarters that we are "learning to live with" a jobless rate of 5 percent—or even 6 percent.

This is intolerable. We in the AFL-CIO have pointed out, time after time, that behind the statistics, behind the percentages—are people. Fellow Americans, heads of families, forced through no fault of their own to suffer the misery and despair which inevitably follow in the wake of unemployment. It is a national disgrace to imply that this country can or has to "live with" these circumstances.

—AFL-CIO President George Meany in his Labor Day Message





**TELEVISION PARK** is what the station calls its new studio-office building and grounds at 6400 York Road, Baltimore. Within the building's 65,000 square feet of floor space are increased facilities for live audiences, a garage for mobile units, shops, offices, and much new electronic equipment. A distinctive feature is the rooftop radome, constructed of fiber glass and plastic, which contains the station's auxiliary microwave studio-transmitter link. At left, background, beyond the trees, you'll see Baltimore's candelabra antenna, which MAR shares with two other local stations.

## Baltimore's 'Sun Station' Moves to New Quarters

*Members of Local Union 1200 help this pioneer station to attain many milestones in its 16 years of local and network television broadcasting.*

**S**TATION WMAR-TV, Baltimore, got into the television business early, and it has been a forerunner in the industry ever since.

A few weeks ago it moved to new and modern quarters at "Television Park," 6400 York Road, directly opposite a shopping center, and members of IBEW Local Union 1200 employed by the station began beaming the Channel 2 programs from there.

Since it first went on the air, October, 1947, this first commercial television station in Maryland had been originating its programs from a building downtown which once housed the Baltimore Sun Newspapers.

WMAR-TV was the second station in the nation to join the CBS Television Network. Since its beginning, the station has been a community leader in public service, audience, and TV "firsts."

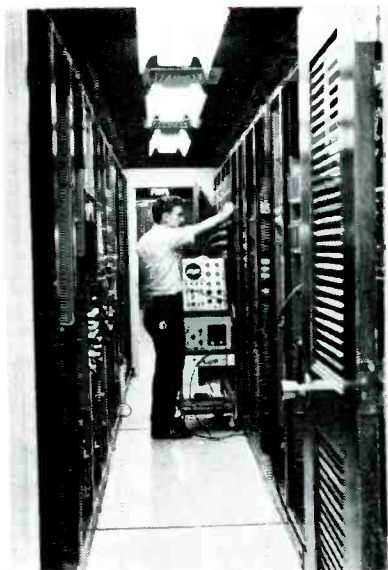
- It was the first television station to deliver a larger evening audience than radio in its "market area." (This was in December, 1949.)

- First television station with complete film production facilities and two fully equipped mobile units.

- First station to purchase a Zoomar lens. It was soon using four of the big units on a remote pickup.

Production centers around twin 44 by 65-foot studios and a smaller (18 x 25-foot) studio adjacent to Studio B. Complete property handling facilities are incorporated in the production area. An SCR dimming arrangement, with a three-scene-preset and a full patching array increase the versatility of the new studios.

The twin studios have separate control, announcing, and viewing booths. Studio equipment includes four TK-60 image orthicon cameras. Each studio has drive-in entrances, easily accessible from the outside.

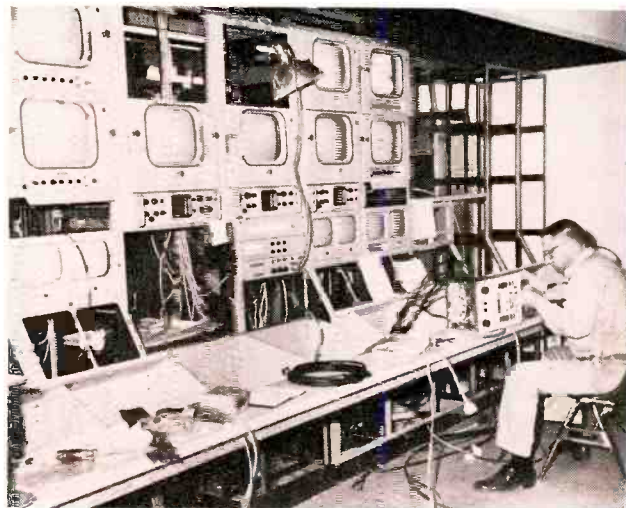


**ON THE FRONT COVER,** Jack Miller was connecting cable heads along a bank of equipment in the new control room of WMAR-TV. In the picture above, taken at the same spot a few weeks later, Engineer Miller was checking out installed units.

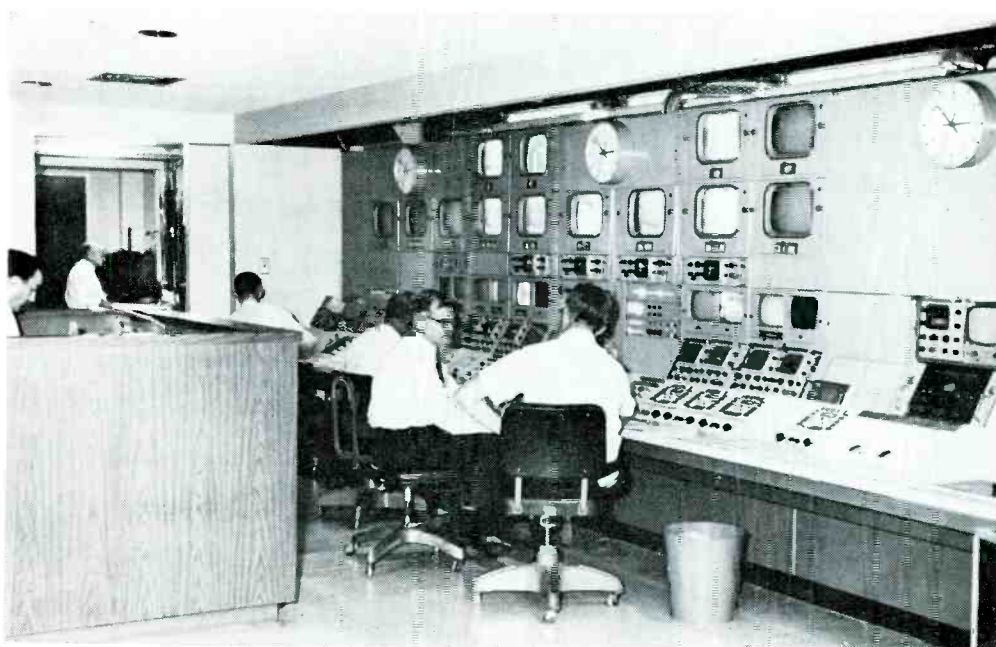
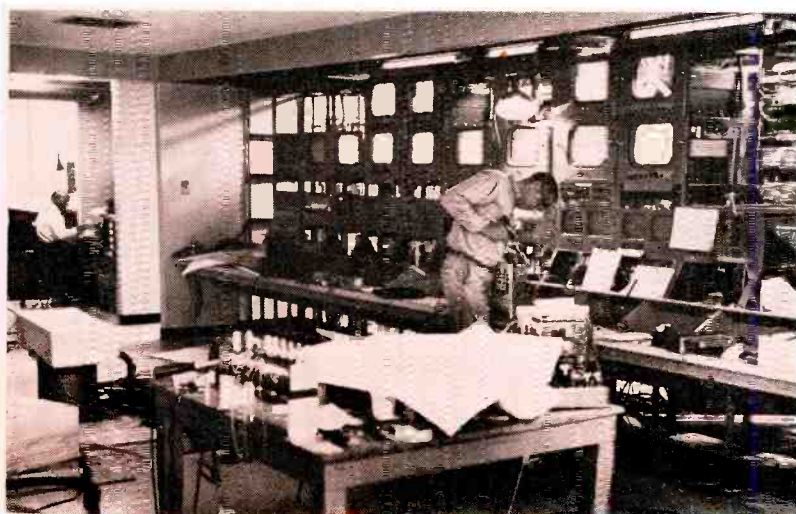


**MASTER CONTROL**—The nerve center of on-the-air production at Television Park is centrally located on the second floor, overlooking the studios. Master Control houses three video tape machines, camera chains, projectors, and all other equipment to keep Channel 2 on the air and peaking. The Engineering Department is under the supervision of Chief Engineer Carlton Nopper. He is assisted by Charles Lau and Gordon Wooden. All technicians are members of Washington-Baltimore Local Union 1200, and one of its technicians—Lawrence H. Taylor—is president of the local union.

**ON YOUR MARK!** Local Union 1200 Member Jere Bodholdt was connecting up units and racks in master control when installation work got underway at Television Park in early summer.

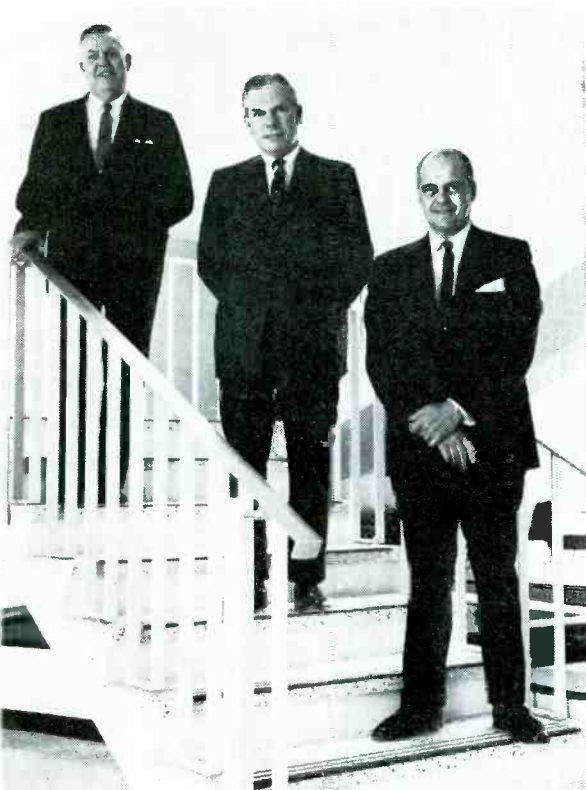


**GET SET!** Still at it, a few days later, Bodholdt was working with soldering gun and diagrams to get the control panels ready. In the background, left, Building Superintendent W. C. Fowler worked at his desk.



**GO!** Master Control ready to go, with Director Joe Thomas in the booth at left, and at the board: Carl Patschke, Walden Hopper, Charles Law, and Charles Cooper. In the rear, left, W. C. Fowler, building superintendent, still on duty.



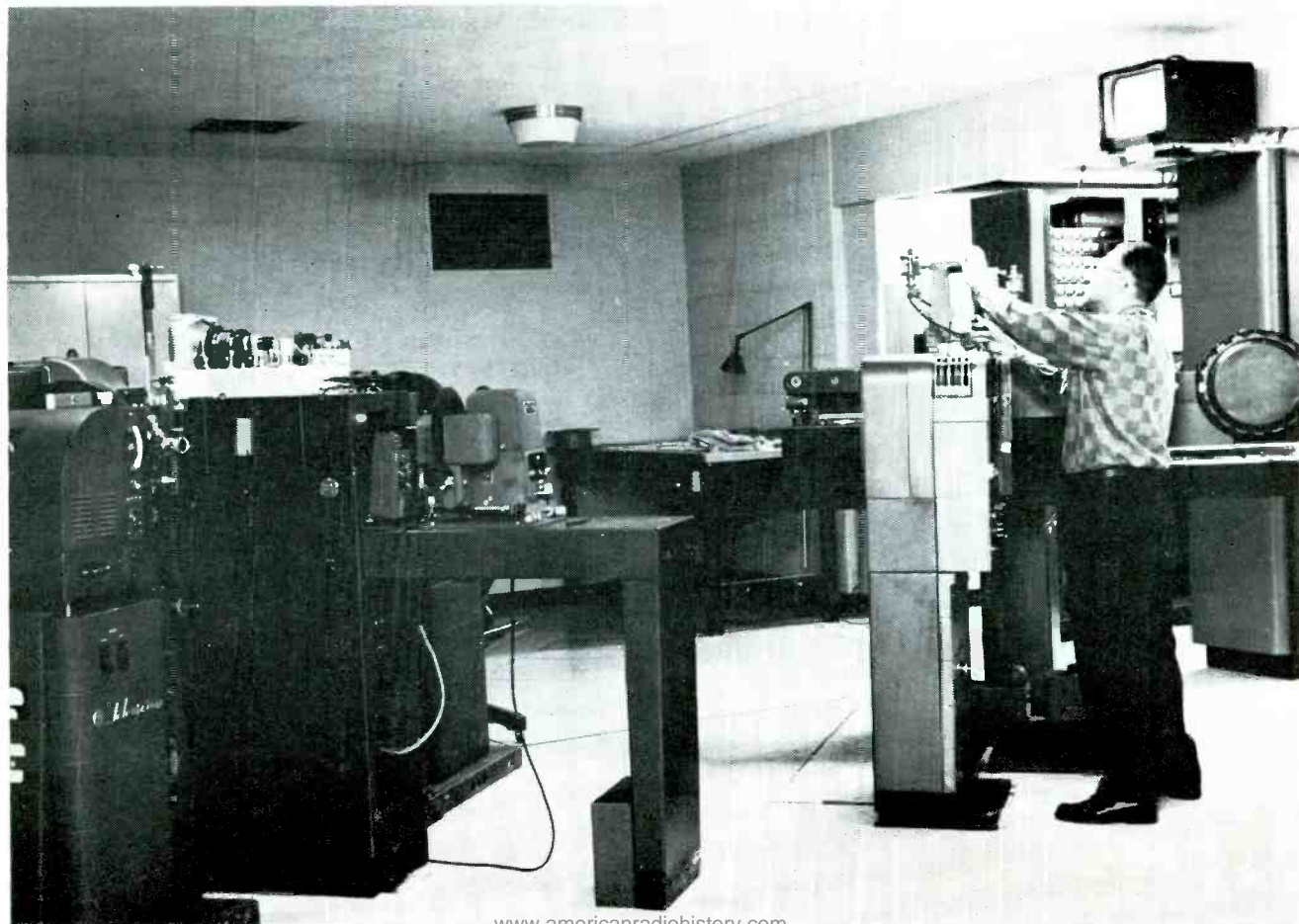


**MANAGEMENT.** Among the top men at WMAR-TV, reading from left, are Vice President and Director of Television E. K. Jett, Chief Engineer Carlton Nopper, and Administrative Assistant to the VP, Donald P. Campbell.

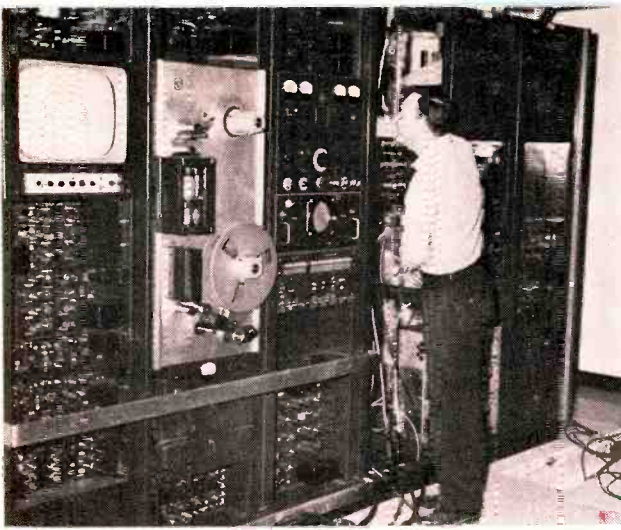
**ON THE AIR.** Below, a WMAR-TV crew works "The Family Doctor," show—a local program featuring Jack Redfern, an actor portraying the doctor, shown here interviewing Dr. Byron Brogdon, assistant professor of radiology at Johns Hopkins. Behind the cameras are Cameramen Edgar Kremer and Theodore Rattie and Floor Manager Thomas Diehlmann. The new studio in which they work has a console for SCR-controlled lighting.



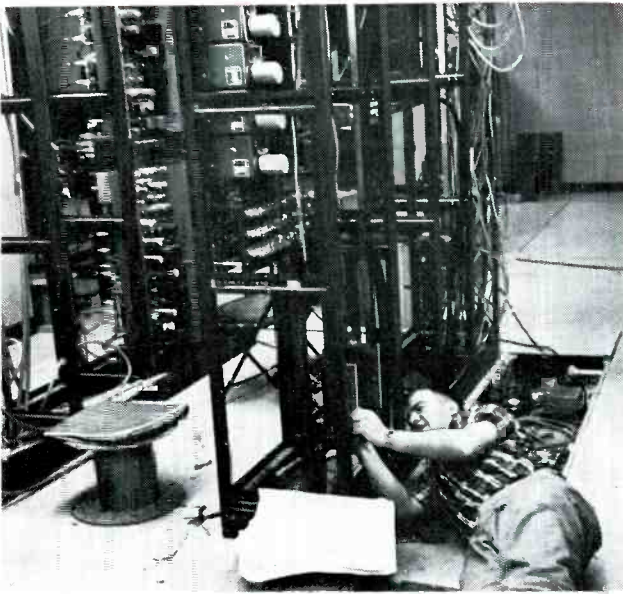
**PROJECTION ROOM.** Edgar Haller, another member of Local Union 1200, sets up a filmed commercial in the spacious new projection room. The station has six 16mm projectors with magnetic sound units, three slide projectors, three film camera chains, three color film chains and lateral reproduction units for all transcription speeds.



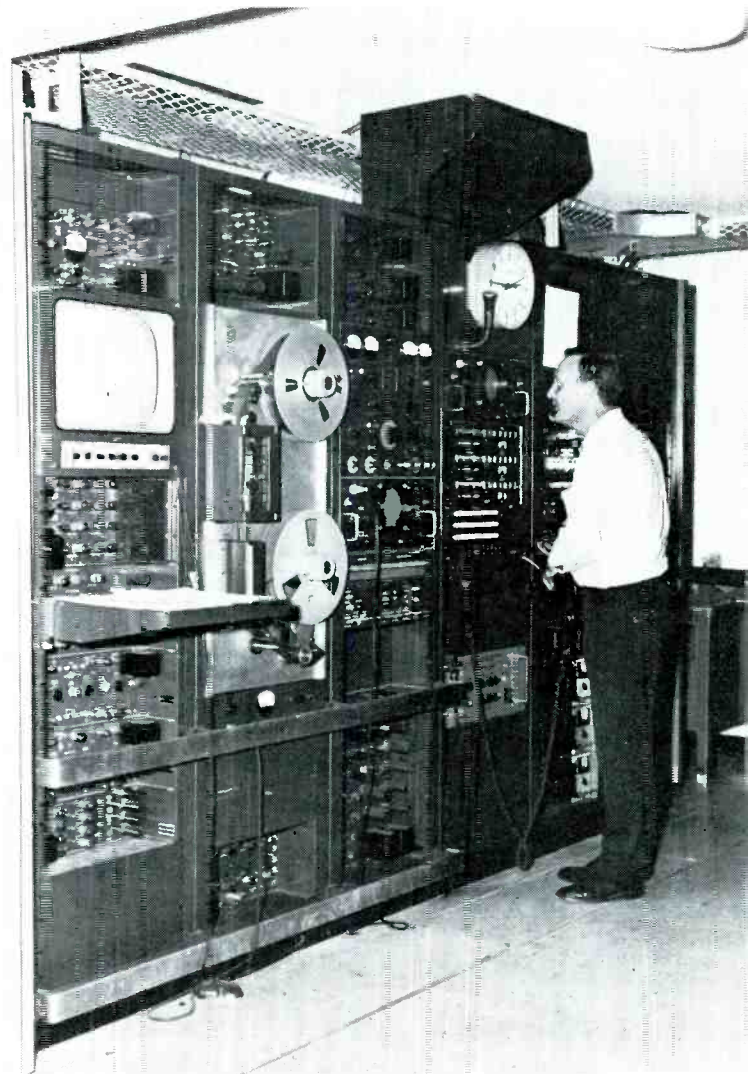




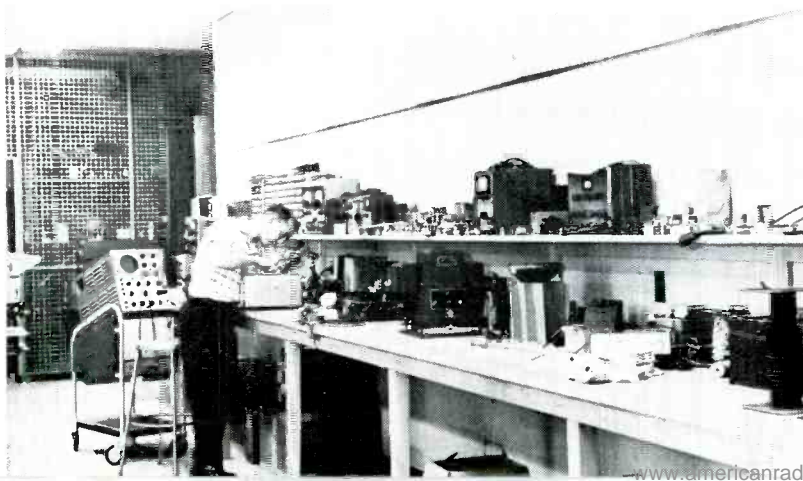
**MORE JUXTAPOSITION.** Our cameraman caught Jack Hastings working on a video tape rack (in the picture at left) when he toured Television Park during installation work in July. This month when he went back, he found Hastings still on the job (below) . . . this time with earphones, (but with the same shirt and pants?) . . . and at the same rack!



**INTERCOM.** Al Wolf was on the floor to wire the station's intercom system—a complete network which connects all major offices and supervisory posts in Television Park. The station's traffic department is fully equipped with intercom, phones, and, within a soundproof area, TWX machines for instant communications with the CBS Network and the station's representative, The Katz Agency.



**MAINTENANCE.** Chuck Duerbeck of Local Union 1200 at work in the engineering-maintenance shop. Located off the south hallway of the sprawling new building, the new engineering-maintenance shop is much more spacious than the previous shop in the downtown location.

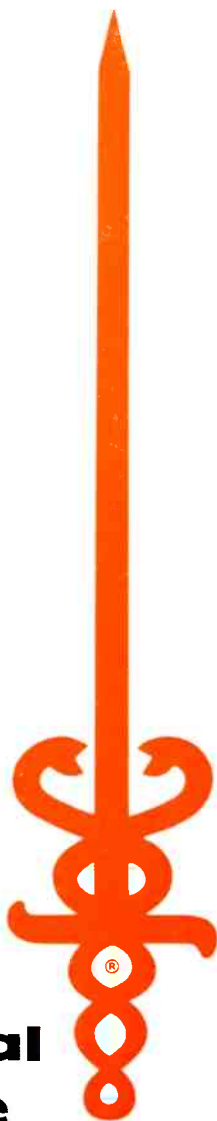




**The Late U. S. Senator  
RICHARD NEUBERGER**



**MAURINE NEUBERGER  
U. S. Senator, Oregon**



## **CANCER: A Personal Challenge**

by **MAURINE B. NEUBERGER**  
*United States Senator, Oregon*

**N**O matter how much you study French, you are not going to feel that it is your language until you use it and are dependent on it in a world where English is not spoken. No matter how much you read about swim strokes, you are not going to jump into the pool and race to the other end the first time.

No matter how sorry you are for the neighbor whose wife died from a breast cancer, you can never appreciate the grief and agony of that family until the day it comes to your house.

And there was a day when it came to mine.

My husband had always taken me into his confidence in any plans that affected us both. He had always consulted with me as he prepared some new legislation

or talked over with me the strategy he would use in his debate on the Senate floor. I knew that he was impressed by the many great scientists he had met as they came before his Senate committees and he was won over to the cause of medical research and the need for government assistance.

He often used the phrase, "People cannot go to the drug store and buy their own cancer research." We know that people must rely upon taxes paid to support government-sponsored organizations such as the National Cancer Institute or contributions to private groups such as the American Cancer Society. No other single group has been so effective as the Society in awakening the nation to the value of the cancer research program and to give that ray of hope that this is not always a fatal disease.

We both realized that we were reading more and more about the National Institute which our government supports but we didn't know where they were nor had we made any attempts to arrange a visit. I was interested in the Institutes of mental health and heart disease as well as cancer, so we made an appointment and drove out to the beautiful campus-like setting of N.I.H. in the Maryland countryside.

It was a Sunday afternoon and the devoted doctors were foregoing their leisure time at home to show a United States Senator the work they were dedicated to. Near the end of that memorable day we descended floors beneath the ground level of the long brick clinic and were ushered into the lead-encased rooms where the cobalt bomb hung suspended over a traditional-looking examining table. Little did I know, standing there listening to the technician describing the death-dealing mineral which saves lives, that in a few months my husband would be lying on just such a table under just such a ray as an attempt was made to stop the spreading cancer that had been discovered too late.

For a year and a half it looked as if the combined efforts of medical science and a determined patient would win. During that period my husband, a professional writer, spoke to many groups, continued his Senate duties, but turned most of all to his brilliant pen to put on paper the way he felt and reacted to his treatment and the awareness that he too had become a victim. Writing in Harper's magazine in 1959 he said, "Hope lives by example, and I think one of my main sources of strength during a long period of anxiety was to meet other men who had suffered the same malignancy and gone on to full recoveries. I read at least a dozen times a letter from a talented Portland doctor my age, who was teaching in the medical school at Jakarta on the Indonesian Island of Java. 'Eight years ago I traveled the same path you are traveling now', he wrote. This kind of encouragement to a cancer patient can never be measured"

That doctor is living. My husband is dead. This is the way the Bell Tolls if it Tolls for Thee.



# ***Pictures to Preview the '63 Progress Meeting Round-up Story In Our Next Issue***

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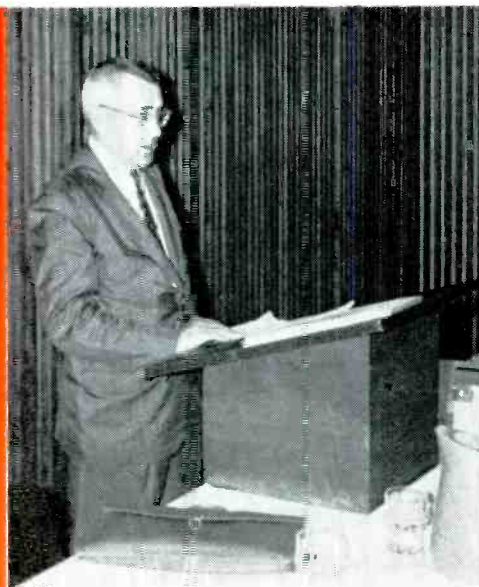
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1. Vital (and other) statistics a round-up of FCC Actions and related information was delivered by Int'l Rep. Kenneth D. Cox.

2. IBEW General Counsel Louis Sherman at the head table, while Int'l Rep. B. G. "Buck" Williamson spoke to the Progress Meeting.

3. Brother Johnson of Springfield, Mo., and Brother Spencer of Cedar Rapids are making a point with Int'l Rep. Taylor Blair, at the reception.

4. At the reception provided by L.U. 1220, Montie Johnson of L.U. 453 chats with John Spencer, L.U. 347, Cal Miller of L.U. 1295 and Dick McNutt of L.U. 1218 discuss a, nodoubt, serious problem and Mrs. McNutt Fas had her attention diverted.

5. A general view of delegates in a business session.

6. President Marvin Balovsek extends the official welcome of L.U. 1220 to the delegates.





*Left: The studios and business offices of this Grand Rapids, Mich., station are in a "woodland" setting, appropriate to the call letters.*

*Right: The home-like lobby, opposite the reception desk, impresses the visitors to WOOD-land.*



*Below: It's pure pleasure to be stopped at the front entrance by Karen Southway.*



## MEMBERS OF LOCAL UNION 1295 HELP TO KEEP THIS MICHIGAN STATION HUMMING

**I**N the days of crystal receivers, a lumber company and a laundry shared time on a small radio station in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The call letters for the facility were—appropriately enough—WOOD-WASH.

Established in October 1924, WOOD-WASH later became simply WOOD and joined the original hookups of the old NBC Blue and Red Networks. When the Blue Net became ABC, WOOD stuck with the National Broadcasting Company.

Today, on the eve of four decades of broadcasting,

WOOD-AM is no longer a small operation. It has been joined by WOOD-TV and WOOD-FM, and its cameras, booms, control panels, desks, etc., are staffed by 120 employees, many of whom are members of IBEW Local Union 1295.

The basic facilities and permit for WOOD television were purchased in 1951 from Leonard Versluis, who had gone on the air with WLAV-TV in 1949. Mr. Versluis sold WLAV-TV to Harry Bitner, who was then owner of WOOD radio, and Mr. Bitner immediately changed



the call letters to conform with his AM operation.

Since May 1957, WOOD Stations have been owned by Time-Life Broadcast, Inc., a subsidiary of Time, Inc. On December 8, 1953, at 8 p. m., engineers switched the television station from Channel 7 to Channel 8 and at the same time increased its power to the present 316,000 watts video and 258,000 watts audio. Its transmitter is located on Cherry Valley Road at Davis Street in Middleville, Michigan, 2 miles south of the Grand Rapids city limits. A 1,015 foot tower is a striking landmark in the surrounding verdant fields.

WOOD radio, meanwhile, transmits with a power of 5,000 watts, and its transmitter is located on 50th Street, Southeast, in Grand Rapids.

On February 26, 1962, FM was added to the station's programming. It is programmed in stereo four hours a day. The FM transmitter is at the WOOD-TV site near Middleville, and it has authorized power of 264,000 watts.

Studios and offices of the Time-Life stations are located at 12 College Avenue, S. E. The accompanying pictures show the AM-FM facilities there.

Members of Local Union 1295 handle all engineering chores at the three stations of the WOOD family. They have worked under an IBEW agreement for several more than 20 years.



1



2

**1. All of the tape cartridge transfers and much other recording is done in a sub-control room.**

**2. A general view of the FM control room.**

**3. Antone Mello familiarizes himself with the log for the day, while John Geminder keeps a supervisory eye on a VI.**

**4. Gerry van der Sloot takes a hard look at a tape playback on WOOD-FM.**

**5. Bill Bartlebaugh re-checks a tape recording while the producer and the artist await his verdict on a spot announcement.**



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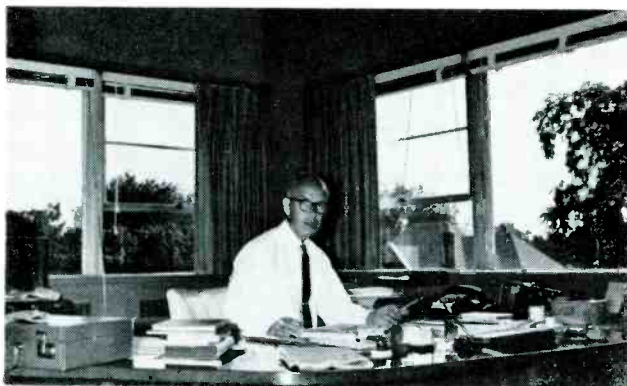


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*Willard "Bill" Schroeder, president and general manager, in his office. WOOD Administration is located at 120 College Ave., S.E., in Grand Rapids.*

## WOOD, Concluded

*John Geminder at the console, Gen. Mgr. Schroeder and Bob Van Cleave, a visiting fireman from LU 292 and absorbed in a serious discussion in the AM control room.*



### NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL QUESTIONS VALUE OF DAYTIME 'RUNNING LIGHTS'

**I**N recent years, some organizations have promoted use of headlights in the daytime during holiday weekends on the premise that such use would remind motorists to drive more safely. After due consideration, the Executive committee of the National Safety Council's Traffic Conference made the following statement on October 19, 1961:

"This committee takes a position that it will refrain from any endorsement of this idea on the grounds that the year around pressure on safety is the type of effort that needs to be exerted rather than these spasmodic types of effort."

Recently the National Safety Council has received inquiries concerning a project being promoted by newspapers and others in which it is advocated that motorists install a 21-candlepower so-called "Running Light" on the fronts of their automobiles. It is claimed by the promoters that this will make automobiles more visible during daylight hours and will thus reduce accidents. The experience of Greyhound Corporation in using headlights is cited in support. After Greyhound adopted a policy of using headlights during daylight operation of its equipment, accidents were reportedly reduced during daylight hours. On the other hand, an analysis of 1962 holiday accidents in Oklahoma failed to

show any reduction over previous years, even though the "headlights on" campaign was promoted heavily in Oklahoma as an experiment in 1962.

While it is true that progress comes from experimentation and development of new ideas, any sound progress in further developing our system of traffic control must be made on the basis of sound procedures. The National Safety Council and other organizations annually evaluate thousands of sincere suggestions made for improving traffic safety. Only a few of these prove to be sound and workable. It should be pointed out that our present system for traffic control and our specifications for vehicle safety equipment have been developed over many years of experimentation and research.

The National Safety Council contends that there is insufficient proof that use of these "Running Lights" now being promoted and sold will in the long run prevent accidents. Introduction of any new types of equipment must be done only after solid research and experimentation.

The National Safety Council therefore will not at this time endorse the use of headlights during daylight hours, or the use of the "Running Light" device, except when required by law.





# Where Bonuses Go

**Monthly checks under Kaiser's bonus agreement with the union are a boon to stores, banks, and even loan firms**

by **WILLIAM M. CARLEY**

*Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal*

*Reprinted with permission from the August 9, 1963, issue of the Wall Street Journal.*

FONTANA, Calif.—On the desk calendar of many a merchant in this Southern California community, the last Thursday of each month is circled in bright red.

In Fontana that's Bonus Day, the time of the month when Kaiser Steel Corp. distributes the proceeds of its novel plan for sharing its cost savings with about 4,000 members of the United Steelworkers of America.

"When those bonus checks come out, you know you're going to have one heck of a weekend," says Doug Beck at his father's men's store on Fontana's main shopping street. "One steelworker," he says, "came in and bought two suits and four or five pairs of slacks."

Further down the street, tavern owner Joe Mlakar shares the enthusiasm. "The fellow with the bonus," he notes, "likes to buy his friends a drink more than before. And if his wife comes along, she feels she can afford a Tom Collins instead of just a beer."

## **AVERAGE WORKER RECEIVED \$351 TOTAL**

But the suits and drinks are only scant indications of the economic impact being wrought by the Kaiser plan for sharing the "fruits of progress," as it's called, with the steelworkers. Since the first payments in April, Kaiser has distributed about \$1.5 million to 4,000 Fontana mill hands, more than half the plant's total force. The average payments to each benefiting worker add up to \$351 for the first four months.

These bonuses represent about one-third the difference between the cost of producing finished steel in 1961, the current base year, and the cost during the month the payments are made. The company gets the rest. By automatically distributing these "profits of progress," both company and union are hoping to eliminate one of the principal causes of strikes.

The workers, most of whom live in the Fontana area, laud the plan as a success. "It's like finding money," says P. J. Poles, an inspector at the Fontana plant. "We get our regular salary; this is just gravy," agrees Arthur Scamara, another mill hand.

## **BONUS APPLIED TOWARD SPEEDBOAT**

Many workers are using their "gravy" to meet some pet wants. Roger Quarles, a machine shop operator, says he is putting his money toward a \$600 speedboat. Another machine shop worker bought a car radio and clothing for his wife and two youngsters.

John Baptiste, a metal cutter, says he bought a side of beef with one of his bonus checks.

Some steelworkers had their bonuses spent even before they got them. Andy Ramore, an electrician, says he bought a 1962 Oldsmobile before the first bonus in March because "we figured we'd be getting the money." Part of the bonus each month is going toward payments on the car.



Local merchants are timing their sales events to take advantage of the extra bonus money in town. One shopping center stayed open until 11 p.m. on July bonus day for a "Moonlight Madness Sale."

Robert Graykowski, assistant manager of a Thrifty Drug Co. store in the center, says sales "pick up 20 per cent or 22 per cent above normal" on bonus days and a few days after. "It's the steelworkers and their families," he says. "They're buying things they wouldn't otherwise get, like a hair dryer for the wife or camping equipment or toys for the kids."

At a Fontana furniture and appliance store, Mike Sikora says the steelworkers aren't buying any more furniture but are buying goods of better quality. "The average bedroom set purchase used to run around \$224, but now they're getting sets for maybe \$350," he says.

Mr. Sikora adds that the workers are also increasingly paying cash or taking care of payments within 90 days, thus avoiding carrying charges.

#### **BONUSES MAY BE SMALLER**

For some employees, however, particularly the older ones, memories of the 1959 strike linger, and the workers recall other days when they were idled because the nation's need for steel had declined.

Even now Kaiser is trimming some operations and laying off some workers, as are most other steelmakers in the industry. And the company also has announced bonus payments in coming months may be smaller because of the shrinking steel demand.

Many workers, as a result, are salting their money away or paying off debts that may prove burdensome at a later date. "I'm a family man and I'm putting the bonus in the bank for a rainy day," says Malcolm Ferguson, a plant guard.

Howard Warner says he is prepaying his home mortgage with the extra monthly money. "If this level of bonuses keeps up," he explains, "we'll pay off the mortgage in four years instead of seven or eight."

#### **DEBT DELINQUENCIES DECLINE**

Bankers are noting the difference. One says the delinquency rate on loans at his bank is down to 2.08 per cent from an average of 2.5, and he cites the bonuses as a principal reason.

Not all the mill hands, of course, are equally conservative. One personal loan company says it made 30 more loans in July than usual, and many of them were vacation loans to Fontana steelworkers.

"A lot of these guys keep themselves to here in debt," says the manager, swinging his hand to his neck. "When they have a little more money, they just feel they can go a little deeper into debt."—The Wall Street Journal, Friday, August 9, 1963.

#### **NEW INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Brother Peter Ippolito, a member of Local Union 3, New York, since 1922, has joined the Radio, TV and Recording Division field staff as of the end of June 1963. He will work directly from the International Office in Washington.



**PETER IPPOLITO**

Brother Ippolito is a law graduate of St. John's University, having received his Bachelor degree in 1939 and LL.M. in 1940. A long-time member of the New York County Lawyers' Association, he has practiced before the Workmen's Compensation Board of New York state, the First Judicial District of New York but, more importantly in Pete's judgment, was his long experience as an electrician. He was particularly well-known in his latter occupation as he spent a great deal of time at the Grand Central and the 485 CBS studios in New York City.

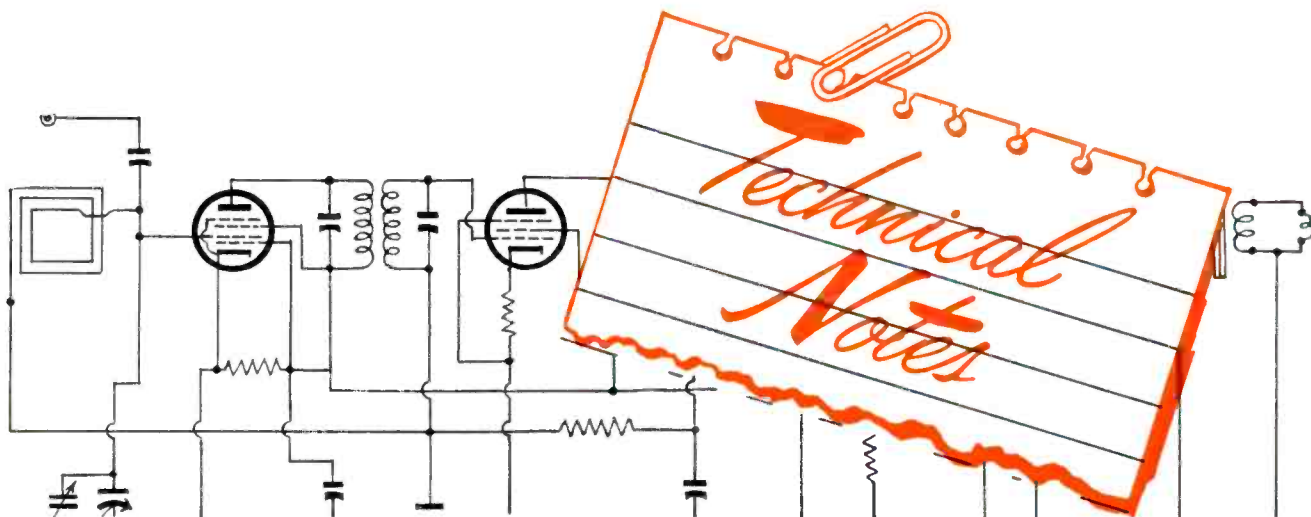
Immediately prior to joining the International staff, Brother Ippolito had been a business representative of Local Union 1212, New York, for approximately two years.

#### **NEW FEDERAL FACILITIES**

New facilities, providing greatly increased power and range, were dedicated for standard broadcast stations WWVB and WWVL on August 13, 1963. Operated by the National Bureau of Standards (U. S. Department of Commerce) Boulder Laboratories at a site near Ft. Collins, Colo., these stations transmit standard frequencies which are received at greater accuracy than those of NBS high-frequency stations WWV and WWVH. This higher accuracy is required in many satellite and missile programs and for basic research on atmospheric and ionospheric phenomena.

Until recently stations WWVB and WWVL have been used only for experimental low-frequency transmissions—WWVB broadcasting at 60 kc/s from Boulder, Colo., and WWVL at 20 kc/s from Sunset, Colo. The success of the experimental broadcasts provided technical justification for the construction of new facilities at Ft. Collins and establishment of the two stations on a permanent basis. The new stations complement but do not replace WWV and WWVH, which are sufficiently accurate for such applications as time signals, standard radio frequencies, standard audio frequencies, and standard musical pitch.





## CAMERA SIDEMOUNT



As a method of recording "the casual, natural expressions" of the driver and passenger of a Chevy II for a television commercial, a New York City agency, Filmex, Inc., is using the camera rig shown above. Using wires, strings, and suction cups, the camera records the actors' moves with the car in motion.

## NATIONAL ANTHEM BILL

Radio and television stations would be required to play "The Star Spangled Banner" at the opening and close of each broadcast day under terms of a bill introduced in Congress last month by Rep. John Wyder of New York.

The Bill, HR 8010, provides that stations which broadcast 24 hours a day would carry the national anthem at least once each day. Many stations, of course, already open and close with the anthem.

Another Congressman, Frank T. Bow of Ohio, noted on the floor of the House of Representatives that he had been told that some stations were signing off and on the air with Lester Kanin's recording of "Hail to the Chief," a Presidential salute.

## LINING UP BRITISH TV

Postmaster General Reginald Bevins of Great Britain has decided that his country will not adopt simultaneously both the American FCC line standard of 525 lines and 60 pictures a second and the European system of 625 lines and 50 pictures a second. He has accepted the recommendation of his television advisory committee to this effect.

Television in Great Britain is now broadcast on 405 lines, but there are plans for a gradual changeover to 625 lines.

## PONTIFICAL SOUNDS

"IT & T Sets Religion Back Three-Tenths of a Second," says *Engineering News-Record* in a recent headline, reporting acoustical improvements in a British church. Here's the story:

"Can you hear me back there? . . . back there? . . . back there?"

To overcome heroic defects in the acoustics of St. Paul's Cathedral in London (it has a reverberation time of 10 seconds and a time delay of 0.3 seconds from front to back), the British affiliate of International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. designed a public address system that delays the output of loud-speakers remote from the pulpit until the direct sound wave can catch up.

Everything spoken at the pulpit is recorded on a magnetic tape wrapped around a rotating drum. Five playback heads spaced around the drum provide five lengths of delay—the longest one equal to the time required for a sound wave to travel the 330 feet from pulpit to last row. By feeding each loudspeaker with an appropriately delayed signal, the direct sound and the amplified sound reach members of the congregation simultaneously.

Attend your local union meetings regularly.  
Be an active member of IBEW.





# STATION BREAKS

## IBEW LEADER TO COPE

Joseph M. Rourke, a veteran Connecticut leader of the International Brotherhood, has been named deputy director of the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education.

He fills the vacancy left when the former deputy director, Al Barkan, was appointed director to replace the late James L. McDevitt.

Rourke, 58, has been a member of Local Union 90 since 1928 and until two months ago was secretary-treasurer of the Connecticut State Labor Council.

He is concluding his third successive term in the Connecticut House of Representatives. He previously had served three terms in the state senate, ending in 1945, and was a New Haven alderman, also for three two-year terms, beginning in 1933. He was a business agent of Local 90 from 1935 to 1943.

## RULE POSTPONEMENT

The Federal Communications Commission has postponed until October 19 the enforcement of a rule which will permit certain AM and FM stations to employ first-class radiotelephone operators on a part-time contract basis. (See the July, 1963, issue of *TECHNICIAN-ENGINEER* for the text of the rule.) The stay will allow the commission time to make a decision on a petition for reconsideration.

## BILL WOULD CUT NLRB ROLE

Near the end of August, Rep. Philip M. Landrum (D-Ga.) introduced a bill in the U. S. House of Representatives which would remove the authority of the NLRB from determination of unfair labor practices. The bill would vest the federal courts with the power to decide what is and what is not an unfair labor practice and Mr. Landrum suggested that the courts should be expanded to handle more cases, if necessary.

As a senior member of the House Education and Labor Committee (and well-known as the co-author of the Landrum-Griffin bill), Rep. Landrum has been an outspoken critic of the NLRB for some time. He was especially critical of the Board's finding in the WOCA,

Chattanooga case, where the Board held that publicity picketing by the IBEW was not unlawful. He says that unfair labor practices are matters involving private rights and, as such, appropriately belong in the courts.

Since he feels that the NLRB would still be necessary even if his bill is adopted, he does not agree with some businessmen who feel the Board should be legislated out of existence. However, he thinks the Board has exceeded its authority and has ignored the will of the Congress of the U. S.

## RUSSIANS STOP JAMMING

An American diplomat in Moscow has reported that the Soviet Union has notified the International Telecommunications Union that Russian jamming of the Voice of America has stopped. This would be the first time the VOA jamming has been lifted since Premier Nikita Khrushchev's visit to the United States in 1959. However, Soviet satellite countries are still jamming.

## LAST LAUGH

