

## US Pipe Profits & We Do More Work

The new iron ductile pipes we have to use from U.S. Pipe are a huge moneymaker. Not only do we have to use the new piping, but everything we need to maintain the pipes is now going to be made by one company, probably for decades. What a huge money grab for U.S. Pipe.

And it makes our work more difficult. All of the spare parts that we have stockpiled can't be used for the new pipes because all new materials now have to come from U.S. Pipe. And if there is ever a shortage or a delay on their proprietary parts, there's no backups we can use. While this deal with U.S. Pipe may be great for their bottom line, it's not so great for those of us who actually do the work.

## A Different Set of Rules for The Rich

Millionaire Paul Pelosi, husband of the millionaire Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, was recently charged with drunk driving after crashing into another vehicle and totally destroying both cars. Pelosi was driving a \$170,000 Porsche 911.

In California, drunk driving can be charged as a felony if the drunk driver causes an accident and injury to the other driver. This is exactly what Pelosi did: both cars were totaled, and the other driver needed medical attention for some injuries. But the millionaire Pelosi got off with a slap on the wrist, a small fine and some hours of community service. Clearly, there's one justice system for the rich, and another one for the rest of us.

## Lots of Work But Not Enough Staff

High workloads and short staffing seem to be an ongoing problem at the District. For example, due to staffing shortages in employee services, some of us still haven't received our Covid sick leave after submitting our forms months ago.

And it's not unusual for employees to get pulled into other work groups to keep up with the workload. Seems like the District expects us to constantly wear multiple hats at work to fill all the gaps. Here's a better idea: why not hire more people to get the job done faster, and let us do our work at a reasonable pace?

## Neither Party Has Our Back

Coal miners in Alabama have been on strike for more than 500 days against the company, Warrior Met Coal, which has cut their wages and health care benefits, and disappeared their pensions. Before and during the strike, workers have heard all sorts of promises from Democrats and Republicans, including from Trump and Biden, about how they will help these workers. But workers have since learned that neither party supports working class people.

Here's how one striking coal miner recently put it: "Each election year, each party stands up and says, we're going to do this, and we're going to do that. And then at the end of the four years, it's very rare that we've seen anything happen that they promised ... I mean, just me as an average working-class American, I can't see to where either side has done anything to help the working class." That's only because they never do!

## PG&E Gets Rich While We Suffer

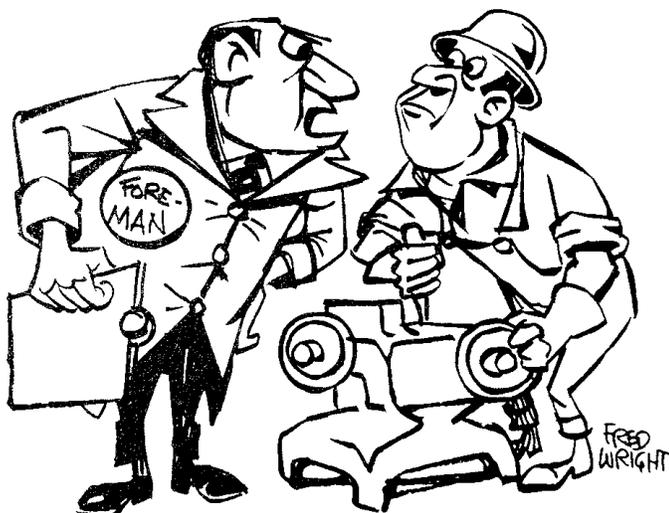
In 2021, while millions of working families in California struggled to survive during the pandemic, massive wildfires, devastating drought and more, the CEO of PG&E, Patricia Poppe, made over \$50 million. That's only normal in a system ran for the rich.

*Working people are the majority in society. But the super rich – the bosses of the big corporations and banks – are the ones who call all the shots. This needs to change. Working people do all the work to make society run, and we can organize to overcome our divisions and unite. And when we do, we have enormous power to change things and make a better world.*

**Get in touch with us!** [www.speakoutsocialists.org](http://www.speakoutsocialists.org)

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