

Sweatshop Revival Motive Behind Suit vs ILGWU

The vicious and sinister attack in the form of an "anti-trust suit" against International Ladies Garment Workers Union Local 25 and three industry associations by the Administration has been roundly condemned by the Executive Council of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Meeting after the conclusion of the Federation's convention in San Diego, the Council agreed with a resolution which had been submitted to it by the convention for investigation and action.

Although the ostensible basis for the Department of Justice suit is "restraint of trade," the Council saw it as an attack on the long-standing provisions in the jobber-contractor collective bargaining agreements in the apparel trades aimed at protecting wages and working conditions.

Citing the ILGWU's "long public record of fighting corruption and wrong-doing and its advocacy of the highest ethical practice standards," the state AFL-CIO Executive Council branded this unwarranted prosecution "a clearly political attempt to besmirch the good name of Blouse-makers' Local 25 and the ILGWU." It endorsed steps taken by AFL-CIO President George Meany and by ILGWU to fight the misuse of anti-trust laws against labor organizations.

National AFL-CIO has noted that the "irresponsible character" of the Justice Department suit is underscored by the fact that criminal proceedings were chosen instead of "the more usual method of civil suits."

Henning Urges O.L.Q. Return

Nearly 3000 California local unions have completed and returned the 1959 Organized Labor Questionnaire, according to Jack Henning, Director of the State Department of Industrial Relations.

Henning urged those union officials who have not as yet returned the questionnaire, which is used to compile facts about California union membership, to mail it at once to the Division of Labor Statistics and Research, P. O. Box 965, San Francisco 1, California.



Weekly News Letter

Vol. 1 — No. 30
Aug. 21, 1959

C. J. HAGGERTY
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

Published by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

151

State AFL-CIO Confab Considers "Labor-Reform", Farm Labor, and Water Issues

A unanimous call from 2,000 AFL-CIO delegates for "intensified efforts to change the political climate of the Republican and Democratic parties in the areas which are now sending legislators to Congress who are completely unresponsive to the welfare of their own constituents," concluded the recent week-long convention of the California Labor Federation in San Diego.

At the very moment the AFL-CIO body was democratically deciding its position on all major issues confronting the nation, the House of Representatives was enacting the viciously anti-labor Landrum-Griffin bill (H.R. 8400) by a final vote of 303-125 (see voting record on page 3).

Federation Secretary-Treasurer C. J. Haggerty told the delegates, "the facts are that the bills now proposed, with the exception of the Shelley bill, merely touch on the subject matter of gangsterism, racketeering and wrong-doing, but they go to the heart of your rights to organize, picket, refuse to handle unfair goods, or to cooperate one with the other as a trade union movement."

Speaking on behalf of AFL-CIO President George Meany, George T. Brown anticipated the outcome of the Republican-Conservative Democrat coalition's drive when he stated: "The AFL-CIO has itself provided a fishbowl organization by their own code of ethics and practices. The AFL-CIO itself has testified before Congress that it would certainly endorse legislation that would meet every test of how best to run a union in terms of honesty and fairness; but this is not enough. They don't want just a fishbowl, they are after the fish."

The union charged that the coalition, together with President Eisenhower, is not interested in real reform. It accused these forces of seeking "either to whittle down unions or preserve abuses among a few as an 'issue'" while saddling labor with many onerous and costly burdens. Noting that improper

conduct by employers is completely ignored by Landrum-Griffin, it observed, "Double standards have no place in so-called reform legislation."

After the Landrum-Griffin vote, Meany stated, "Today's vote was a victory for anti-labor forces. It was not a vote on corruption. It was a vote to punish honest labor. Twelve years of anti-labor propaganda and politicking have paid off for the anti-union forces determined to make Taft-Hartley even worse."

Meany added, "The Senate-House conferees still can achieve a real anti-corruption measure. We expect they will not kowtow to the NAM threats and blandishments."

STATE WATER PROGRAM

Despite the attractive lure of the extensive construction work involved, the convention delegates firmly announced their refusal to support ratification of Governor Brown's \$1.75 billion state water bond issue in its present form.

AFL-CIO's support was made contingent upon the convening of a special session of the legislature before the bond issue faces the test of a popular vote in November 1960. Such a session must enact iron-clad protections for taxpayers against unjust enrichment, which by conservative estimate would amount to a minimum of \$700 an acre, and basic state policies to govern the expenditure of the peoples' money.

State policies which organized labor considers essential would set standards governing:

(1) distribution of hydroelectric

(Continued on Page 2)

UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE TEACHER PROBE BLASTED

Declaring the House Un-American Activities Committee to be "one of the greatest violators of civil liberties" through its repeated use of the subversive issue "as a vehicle for obtaining newspaper headlines without regard for our cherished American institutions of free speech, assembly, and the constitutional rights of individuals," the second convention of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, called for extensive reforms in the damaging methods used by that committee.

Triggering the convention's vigorous resolution were the announced hearings in California's public schools. Originally set for June, they have been twice postponed and are now scheduled for October 14. The names of many of the 110 teachers subpoenaed for the San Francisco and Los Angeles hearings were leaked to the press months ago, but none of the teachers have been afforded the opportunity to defend themselves against such character assassination.

The state AFL-CIO body demanded that, as a condition of such hearings, the committee shall be required to "take every possible precaution to avoid the implication that any person called before the committee is a subversive." The House of Representatives was also called upon to guarantee that the rights of individuals be respected in such

BULLETIN

The House Un-American Activities Committee has quashed its teacher probe in California. Although hearings were cancelled, it announced plans to turn the names of the 110 teachers over to the local school boards involved.

hearings, and that accused persons be given the right to face their accusers with full opportunity to clear themselves of any charges.

California labor expressed its primary concern that the "civil liberties of individuals be protected from infringement by those who would ape the methods of subversive and totalitarian groups to uproot the subversives in our nation." The AFL-CIO body firmly reiterated its "devotion to the preservation of our civil liberties in spirit and practice against the subversives of both the left and right."

State AFL-CIO Confab

(Continued from Page 1)

power generated by units of the state system;

(2) allocation of the projects costs amongst its beneficiaries;

(3) pricing of irrigation, domestic and industrial waters;

(4) development of recreational facilities at reservoir sites; and

(5) economic and financial feasibility determinations.

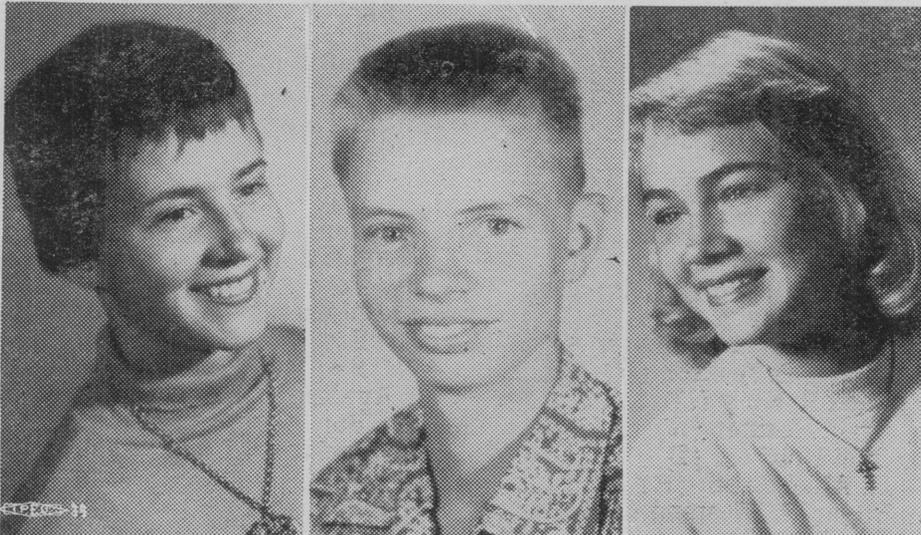
The AFL-CIO's state body resolved that without protections against speculation, monopoly, and unjust enrichment patterned after federal reclamation law, it will be impossible for the public to vote intelligently on the proposed program. It warned that failure to observe these safeguards could lead to corporate farm interests "gaining complete control of our state government, agricultural pursuits and economic life for generations to come."

The policy statement adopted by the convention pointed out that historically labor has been "motivated by our firm belief that, without water and power in the quantity and places necessary at the times of need, and at prices which will permit and encourage individual and collective enterprise to both agriculture and industry, it is a foregone conclusion that California will neither be able to keep its growing population and labor force fully employed nor develop toward the ideal envisaged by her people. We do not, however, and never will, sanction the concept that water resources development must proceed at any price."

Referred to the \$1.75 billion water proposal, the policy statement proclaimed: "Never before in the history of California water resources development has the threat of monopoly domination been more pressing, nor the danger that this threat will become a reality, more imminent."

In view of the fact that 63 per cent of California's land is in holdings of over 1,000 acres per owner, including 348,000 held by Kern County Land Company, it went on to say: "The people of this state have a right to know the amount of enrichment that is involved in the proposed state program before it goes to a vote."

(Continued on Page 4)



LABOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS in the ninth annual contest amongst California and Hawaiian high school seniors, sponsored by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, were presented \$500 awards to advance their college education at the Federation's convention in San Diego. From left to right they are: Sandra Miller, McCloud High School, McCloud; Don Manka, Live Oak Union High School, Morgan Hill; and Allene Downey, Westmoor High School, Daly City.

Starting in 1960, the scholarship program will be expanded to five awards annually. The District Council of Painters No. 36 and the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen have decided to finance one award each, in addition to the three made available by the Federation. The District Council of Painters award will be known as the "Roderick Mackenzie Memorial Scholarship Fund."

Monopolists Hold Up San Luis Project

The San Luis Project authorization bill, already approved by the U. S. Senate with an amendment which removed a gaping monopoly loop-hole in reclamation law, will not be pushed in the House of Representatives until the next session of Congress convening in January, 1960.

The announcement of the unexpected delay was made by Congressman B. F. Sisk, author of the House version of the San Luis bill, which contains the escape provision from reclamation law opposed by the California Labor Federation and removed by the Senate.

Political observers in Washington, D.C., quickly pinned the delay on giant land holders in the lower end of the San Joaquin Valley who fear that they will not be able to get the San Luis Project past the House of Representatives with the escape provision currently in the bill. Inclusion of the monopoly loop-hole has been made a condition of their support of the measure.

Repeatedly, in the history of the Central Valley Project, the big land holders in the Valley have delayed, and in many instances blocked, sorely needed water projects in their never ending effort to escape the anti-monopoly, anti-speculation protection in federal reclamation law.

The California Labor Federation, on the other hand, stands among the few groups in California who have consistently pushed for full and integrated development of the state's water resources with protections for the taxpayers against the unjust enrichment of the few.

In the instance of the San Luis Project, California Labor has long been one of its strongest backers. Besides being an important unit in the integrated CVP, the San Luis Project is considered absolutely essential to the \$1.75 billion state water program, as all water deliveries by the state in the lower end of the Valley and in Southern California would utilize the so-called joint facilities of the San Luis unit.

Under the authorization bill in Congress, the Federal Government would finance construction of one million acre feet of capacity for the irrigation of some 450,000 water-thirsty acres on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley, with provision for state financing of additional ca-

capacity for state water delivery to lands bordering the federal service area and other lands in the lower end of the Valley, as well as to Southern California. The San Luis dam would become a joint use facility.

Although the state deliveries would utilize the federally financed facilities, supporters of the San Luis bill have insisted all along that such deliveries be exempt from federal reclamation law protections against speculation and monopoly.

When the measure was before the U. S. Senate, it was stated that the bill, with the monopoly loop-hole for state deliveries, was a compromise measure resulting from a "binding agreement" between several members of the California delegation in both the House and the Senate, and representatives of California's Governor, and San Luis, Kern County and Los Angeles water interests. Although California "unity" behind the "escape" measure was widely

proclaimed, the California Labor Federation, as one of the San Luis Project's staunchest supporters, was never consulted on the so-called compromise.

On the Senate floor, the California Labor Federation and the national AFL-CIO gave strong and active support to Senators Douglas, Morse and Neuberger in their five-day debate which removed the monopoly exemption from the compromise bill, thereby making it possible to obtain necessary eastern support for the passage of the San Luis bill through the Senate.

On the House side, the Federation and the national AFL-CIO have pressed equally hard for removal of the monopoly exemption in the House version.

Growing support for a "clean" bill apparently has caused the monopoly supporters to hold up the measure under their "binding" agreement with other backers of the compromise measure.

Box Score of California Votes on

LANDRUM-GRIFFIN UNION-BUSTING BILL

Congressman—	Preliminary Vote	Final Vote
Clement W. Miller (D)	Against	Against
Harold T. (Bizz) Johnson (D) ..	Against	Against
John E. Moss, Jr. (D)	Against	Against
William S. Mailliard (R)	For	For
John F. Shelley (D)	Against	Against
John F. Baldwin, Jr. (R)	Against	For
Jeffery Cohelan (D)	Against	Against
George P. Miller (D)	Against	Against
J. Arthur Younger (R)	For	For
Charles S. Gubser (R)	For	For
John J. McFall (D)	Against	Against
B. F. Sisk (D)	Against	Against
Charles M. Teague (R)	For	For
Harlan Hagen (D)	Against	Against
Gordon L. McDonough (R)	For	For
Donald L. Jackson (R)	For	For
Cecil R. King (D)	Against	Against
Craig Hosmer (R)	For	For
Chet Holifield (D)	Against	Against
H. Allen Smith (R)	For	For
Edgar W. Hiestand (R)	For	For
Joe Holt (R)	For	For
Clyde Doyle (D)	Against	For
Glenard P. Lipscomb (R)	For	For
George A. Kasem (D)	Against	Against
James Roosevelt (D)	Against	Against
Harry R. Sheppard (D)	Against	Against
James B. Utt (R)	For	For
D. S. (Judge) Saund (D)	Against	Against
Bob Wilson (R)	For	For

California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
995 Market St.
San Francisco 3, Calif.

Industrial Relations Librarian
Institute of Industrial Relations
214 California Hall
University of California
Berkeley 4, Calif.

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 7085
San Francisco, Cal.

FORM 3547 REQUESTED

State AFL-CIO Confab Considers "Labor-Reform", Farm Labor, and Water Issues

(Continued from Page 2)

FARM LABOR

Norman Smith, director of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, stressed labor's moral duty to see to it that our two million farm workers are given the opportunity to lift up their standards. He pointed out that just as a defeat for steelworkers would be felt by all workers, failure to organize our largest group of depressed workers has similar effects.

He stated, "When you shove the fellow who is already working for the lowest wage out of a job by bringing in a foreign army, he goes out and becomes a taxi-cab driver, independent truck operator, or a cement finisher. They know nothing of a union or the aspirations of union labor and we can't very well blame them for undermining our conditions."

He cited the recent loss by urban areas of many planing mills and textile plants to small valley towns. Smith indicated Kern County Land Company was contemplating an auto parts plant employing part-time agricultural labor. If they can continue bringing in Nationals to further develop surplus labor, others may soon utilize this method also.

Farm Placement Probe

John E. Carr, state Director of Finance, reported the current probe of Farm Placement Service found it to be "a one-man show headed by Mr. Ed Hayes." He promised elimination of its past loose operation by "disinfecting the outfit so that those who remain can do their job without any fear."

The Federation noted that one result of the various abuses has been the reduction of hourly farm wages "from 54% of those paid to factory workers in 1948 to 46% recently. The irony of this can perhaps be best understood when it is borne in mind that this deterioration took place at a time when severe shortages of labor

were claimed to have existed. This is perhaps the only instance in the world's history when a shortage of labor has defied all economic laws by precipitating drastic cuts in wages and working conditions."

It made clear that AFL-CIO has no objection to importation programs if adequate protections for all workers exist. It does oppose "methods which have given growers a blank check as to what wages they will pay and the number of workers they will import." It noted that the open mockery of our solemn pledge to Mexico to enforce labor contracts "has hardly enhanced the prestige of the American people with Latin America."

The elimination of exemption of corporation farms, some of them listed on the New York Stock Exchange, from virtually all socio-economic legislation of recent decades was seen as the logical first step toward a solution. Equal importance was attached to imposing rigid curbs on imported labor programs "under conditions which have enabled the growers to drive domestic workers out of the industry by depressing wages to impossible levels."

From the Department of Labor, the convention demanded organized labor's participation in creation of rigid standards dealing with recruitment of all workers, in determination of "prevailing wages," and in a thorough investigation of the adverse effects of importation programs. It called for a halt to use of Nationals in mechanized field operations for as much as \$1.00 an hour less than previously paid unionized domestic workers and barring the use of imported labor in a strike.

Organizing Drive Backed

The convention urged affiliates to render moral and material aid to the farm workers' organizing drive against California's agri-business holdings which were one of the prime backers of "right to work" last year. The Brown Administration was called upon to give farm workers the

kind of support needed for farm workers to attain first class citizenship.

The Federation noted, "In spite of the admission of the urgency of these problems by just about everyone other than those who directly profit from this human misery, the state legislature saw fit to approve only a few limited measures which had the blessings of the corporate farmer interests. At that, the legislature's puny contribution to progress appears almost impressive compared to anything that has as yet been enacted by the current session of Congress."

Delegates pledged full support for the California Citizens Committee for Agricultural Labor and the Imperial Valley Labor Coordinating Committee which aim at documenting Public Law 78 violations, focusing public attention on these degrading conditions, and pressing for comprehensive action. Legislation deemed necessary included extension to farm workers of the right to organize, provision of adequate housing, education and community facilities, and coverage by minimum wage, unemployment compensation, and similar laws.

The convention urged that all contract guarantees now granted Mexican Nationals be applied also to domestics. It sought an end to importation under the McCarran-Walter Act which denies even the meagre protection afforded under Public Law 78. The need to win adequate enforcement machinery and hiring rights for crews of resident farm workers on ranches using imported labor won the delegates' recognition.

The Industrial Welfare Commission was called upon to extend to agriculture its standards regarding wages, hours and working conditions for women and minors as they apply to most other occupations.

Winding up our convention summary, next weeks News Letter will cover additional areas such as education, civil rights, international affairs and the economy.