

Federation Presents Civil Rights Recommendations

The United States Commission on Civil Rights heard testimony in San Francisco on January 27 from the California Labor Federation as well as from numerous civil rights groups and government officials. Speaking for the Federation, Vice President Albin Gruhn, chairman of the Federation's standing committee on civil rights, outlined the policies and program of the labor movement aimed at combating discrimination both on the job and in the community.

Gruhn called for a federal fair employment practices law, for federal aid to education, for a large-scale housing program to make housing available to all people, and for government support of private housing only where the builders, lenders and real estate people were free from discriminatory practices.

He labelled a national disgrace the fact that "only 1% of the new private dwellings constructed between 1935 and 1950 were available to non-white families who constitute 10% of our population."

Basing his recommendations on the policy statement and resolutions of the California Labor Federation 1959 convention, Gruhn quoted President Eisenhower's statement of good intentions made in 1954 and asked, "Why then are government agencies still guaranteeing loans to banks and other institutions which have refused money to Negro home buyers?" He called for an executive order to ensure that money which

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Organizational Picketing Declared Legal

In a 4 to 3 decision handed down on January 26, the State Supreme Court declared that a union seeking to organize a plant may picket it whether or not it represents a majority of the employees. This ruling, which has overturned three previous decisions on the same issue, apparently restores to the unions the right of organizational picketing.

In the same decision, the Supreme Court held that a company union is not a union within the meaning of the state Jurisdictional



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Weekly News Letter

Vol. 2—No. 1
Jan. 29, 1960

Published by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO



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Federation Announces 10th Annual Scholarship Program:

Six \$500 Awards for High School Students

Announcement of the 10th annual scholarship program of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO was made this week in San Francisco by Secretary-Treasurer C. J. Haggerty. The number of \$500 scholarship awards is being increased this year from three to six.

Announcement brochures are presently being mailed statewide to all high schools and superintendents of schools, the state AFL-CIO leader said.

The announcement brochure, sent out with student application forms, contains the rules of the contest, sample test questions, and a bibliography of suggested reading.

The six awards are being offered to senior high school students in California who will be attending college or university during the coming academic year. The contest is open to all high school seniors or 12th grade pupils, and the winners will be free to choose any four-year college or junior college for future study.

The awards are being presented by the Federation to assist outstanding students to obtain a high-

er education and to promote better understanding of the American labor movement.

Haggerty said that the three additional scholarships this year are being made available in cooperation with the following affiliates of the Federation: one offered by the Los Angeles Building and Construction Trades Council; one by the California Legislative Board of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen; and one by Painters District Council No. 36 of Los Angeles, to be known as the "Roderick Mackenzie Memorial Scholarship Fund."

Local organizations are indispensable, Haggerty said, in encouraging the widest possible participation in the contest.

For example, as in past years, Retail Clerks Local 373 in Solano and Napa Counties are offering a \$100 award to the top student in Solano County and a \$50 to the top person in Napa County who score highest in the Federation's scholarship competition.

The basis for the awards as outlined in the announcement brochure mailed out this week, is as follows:

1. Senior high school students in public, private and parochial schools in California who are planning to attend a college or university anywhere in the United States, are eligible to compete in the examination. The award may be used

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is collected from all Americans will be used to assist housing for all, and not denied to some because of race, religion or national origin.

Also testifying was William Becker, secretary of the California Committee for Fair Practices and area representative of the Jewish Labor Committee, who discussed the politics of civil rights and pointed out that in California, no candidate for the state legislature had ever been defeated for support of civil rights legislation, and that several opponents of FEPC had been defeated, notably in the elections of 1958. He called for community leaders in all parts of the country, including the South, to give leadership to American ideals so that the people of conscience in their communities could rally behind the banner of democracy.

Terea Pittman, speaking for the NAACP, called attention to the grave problem for minority families who are displaced by urban renewal but have no decent housing available into which they can be relocated. Both Gruhn and Becker joined with her in calling for safeguards in the urban redevelopment programs to prevent this.

In testimony from real estate brokers and builders, it was clear that although practices vary from one area to another, there is a great need for a program aimed at ending conscious and long-term discrimination by realtors.

Testifying for the State Attorney General's office, Franklin H. Williams read into the record correspondence which indicated the degree to which the real estate industry has resisted a policy of open occupancy.

Economist Luigi Lurenti described at length his studies on home prices in areas into which Negroes move for the first time. From these very exhaustive field studies, the economist said, "there is no decline in prices because a minority family moves in if the old families will resist the first wave of 'scare selling'. In fact, prices are likely to go up."

The hearings in San Francisco

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to assist the student in any field of knowledge and is not limited to those interested in labor alone.

2. An award will be made to each of six candidates on the basis of the candidate's score in the special examination and his four-year high school academic record. A check for \$500 will be deposited in the student's name at the college he has chosen.

3. A two-hour examination will be held on Friday, May 20, 1960 in each high school where applicants have filed. The Federation must receive from the principal of the high school, not later than April 18, 1960, the applications of students who will be participating, together with the transcripts of their high school records. The Federation will then mail out the specified number of examination questions. Following the examination, the papers will be returned to the Federation office for grading by competent personnel selected by the Committee of Judges.

The school records and examination papers of the fifty highest students will be examined personally by the Committee of Judges which will make the final selection.

4. The aim of the examination is to evaluate the student's knowledge and understanding of labor and industrial problems and his ability to present his information. The student should show his factual knowledge and comprehension of past and present social and economic conditions affecting labor and management.

The scholarship Committee of Judges consists of Frederick A. Breier, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Economics, University of San Francisco; Leon F. Lee, Ph.D., Director, Institute of Industrial Relations, San Jose State College; and Arthur M. Ross, Ph.D., Director, Institute of Industrial Relations,

followed those in Los Angeles where similar testimony was presented by various groups, including a powerful and documented statement by the Los Angeles Labor Federation.

University of California, Berkeley.

The six winners will also receive an expense-free trip to Sacramento as guests of the 1960 convention of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. Awards will be presented at that time.

'Washington Reports To The People'

The just-released schedule for radio broadcasts throughout California of the 1960 series of "Washington Reports to the People" has been sent to the Federation's central and craft councils by Secretary-Treasurer C. J. Haggerty, with the request that they give it the greatest publicity possible in their respective areas.

Washington Reports each week interviews members of Congress of both parties on major issues before Congress. The series began this year with an interview of Senator Mike Mansfield, the Democratic whip, and Senator Tom Kuchel, the Republican whip, asking them what we can expect from the second session of the 86th Congress. Other members of Congress will take up federal aid for education, housing, civil rights, minimum wage, social security and other legislation of interest to labor and all liberal groups.

The schedule is as follows:

KDWC - W. Covina - Sundays
KAVR - Apple Valley - No day given
KPAY - Chico - No day given
KSPC - Claremont - Mon. 7:15 p.m.
KIEE - Carmel - No day given
KICO - El Centro - Fri., 6:15 p.m.
KOWN - Escondido - Sat., 7:30 p.m.
KXLU - Los Angeles - Wed., 5 p.m.
KDAC - Fort Bragg - Sun., 5:15 p.m.
KFUC - Mt. View - Mon., 6:00 p.m.
KSFE - Needles - No day given
KOXR - Oxnard - Sun., 12 noon
KUTY - Palmdale - Sun., 11:00 a.m.
KXRQ - Sacramento - No day given
KFXM - San Bernardino - Sun., 8:00 p.m.
KSDS - San Diego - No day given
KCVN - Stockton - No day given
KSUE - Susanville - Wed., 7:00 p.m.

Packinghouse Workers Win Collective Bargaining Right

A decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco on January 22nd finding five Sunkist lemon associations in contempt of court (Santa Clara Lemon Association, Somis Lemon Association, Oxnard Citrus Lemon Association, Seaboard Lemon Association, and Carpinteria Lemon Association) for failing to bargain collectively with Local 78, United Packinghouse Workers Union (AFL-CIO) was hailed today by Joe Ollman, Packinghouse Workers' district director, as "opening the way, for the first time in twenty years, to genuine collective bargaining in the citrus industry where 12,000 shed workers have been denied the right to collective bargaining because of the contemptuous attitude of the growers toward the decisions of the National Labor Relations Board and the United States Supreme Court."

The Ninth Circuit Court contempt ruling was based on charges filed by the National Labor Relations Board that the five lemon grower associations had failed to bargain in good faith under a 1956 decision of the Ninth Circuit Court which found them guilty of unfair labor practice charges and ordered them to bargain with the union.

Ollman said that the union would proceed immediately to demand collective bargaining sessions be resumed with the five associations.

"If past performance is any guide," Ollman said, "It is highly probable that these Sunkist affiliates will attempt to delay collective bargaining by an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court. For the past twenty years, Sunkist Growers have blocked union organization of the 132 packing sheds in the industry by delaying court actions which have usually lasted for years. By the time decisions have come down in the past, unions have folded up in the sheds. We have waited seven years now for these five Sunkist affiliates to exhaust their position with the courts. That day is now close at hand."

Federation Offers Program to Meet Agricultural Labor Problems

Reflecting the indignation and concern of the membership of the California Labor Federation over the conditions of the state's agricultural labor, a statement outlining the Federation's policies and program to furnish desperately needed amelioration of these conditions was presented to the State Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Labor and Welfare, meeting in Fresno on January 29.

Implicit throughout the statement was the Federation's basic view that the long-range best interests of the nation and agriculture itself would be served, not only by the development of our farm labor forces from domestic sources, but through the stabilization of our domestic farm labor force at the highest possible level.

Central to the presentation was the policy statement on agricultural labor adopted by the Federation's 1959 convention, the two main points of which are as follows:

(a) **The scandalous condition of agricultural labor demands . . . the lifting of the agricultural exemptions which have excluded these workers from virtually all the protections of federal and state socio-economic legislation enacted during the past 25 years.**

(b) **Organized labor will intensify its opposition to the importation of foreign labor under conditions assuring growers an unlimited labor supply with which to depress wages and working conditions to such a point that domestic farm workers find it impossible to stay in the industry.**

The bulk of the Federation's statement was concerned with a close examination of growers' complaints as to the "unavailability" of domestic labor to explain the need to import foreign workers, and the widely held but erroneous belief that the economic improvement of farm labor must necessarily be at the expense of the small farmer.

"How many of the nation's steel workers would be available to that industry," the statement asked, "if it were paying 85 cents an hour or less, and if other conditions of work were comparable to those prevailing today in California agriculture?"

Full responsibility for low wages and poor conditions was laid at the door of the growers, who have manipulated "prevailing wages" so as to justify the hiring of foreign labor, and maintained intolerable working conditions.

As to the small farmer, the statement demonstrated that, assuming an equal degree of efficiency in operations performed by the hired workers of large-scale farmers and by the working farmer, "the wage rate paid to the hired worker establishes the **maximum** that can be realized by the working farmer for his own labor," **since the two types of labor are in very direct competition.**

As a graphic illustration of the influence in this situation of national processors and distributors, the statement recounted the destruction, in a few short years, of the once-extensive broiler-growing industry in California as the result of the systematic creation of an extremely cheap labor force through the device of contract farming. "Against this type of competition, the possession of the finest 'know-how' and technological plant merely enables the most efficient family farmers to prolong the agony a little longer."

Other recommendations touched upon the need for improvement in housing for farm workers, and the expansion of school, child care and medical facilities commensurate with the stabilization of farm labor families into rural community life.

The final recommendation was for the establishment, on a statutory basis and with broad representation, of a permanent California agricultural labor resources committee, such as was proposed in a bill offered at the last session of the legislature by Senator Hugo Fisher (SB-1469), to seek solutions to the problems facing agricultural labor today, and designed to elevate farm labor families to a level of first-class citizenship.

"In the long run," the statement concluded, "it is only if we bring all community resources to bear on the agricultural labor problem that lasting solutions will be found."

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FORM 3547 REQUESTED

Demand Consumer Protection On Lamb Grading

Actively pursuing the interests of consumers in the state, the California Labor Federation this week sent a blistering letter to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, challenging the basis for considering the suspension of federal grading of lamb and mutton.

Under pressure of the sheep industry and processors, the Department of Agriculture last December took action to suspend lamb and mutton grading for one year.

Strong protests from consumer interest groups, including the California Labor Federation, Meat Cutters and the state's new Consumer Counsel, however, forced the Department to stay the January 4, 1960 effective date of the suspension for a month, pending further study.

The occasion for the Federation's sharp letter to the Department of Agriculture this week was precipitated by a response from the Department to an earlier request to retain lamb and mutton grading.

Russell O. Hitz, Acting Chief of the Department's Meat Grading Branch, Livestock Division, noted that the suspension was being made because revised lamb grade standards developed last year, "met with a lack of agreement in the industry."

In his letter to Hitz, Haggerty reminded the Department that "lamb grading is not for the benefit of the producers and processors, but to protect consumers."

The following is the full text of Haggerty's letter:

Dear Mr. Hitz:

This will acknowledge receipt of your circular communication in reply to our recent letter urging that the Department, in the interest of consumers, not suspend federal grading of lamb and mutton for the contemplated one year period.

We are aware that your Department has postponed the January 4, 1960 effective date of the suspension for a month. It appears, however, from your press release dated December 30, 1959, enclosed with your circular letter, that the Department of Agriculture is interested in retaining lamb grading only if lamb grade standards satisfactory to the industry can be developed. Surely the Department of Agriculture does not hold the interest of consumers with such contempt. May we take this opportunity to remind you and your Department that lamb grading is not for the benefit of the producers and processors, but to protect consumers.

We of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, representing more than one million and a half organized workers and their families in the state, are frankly shocked that the U. S. Department of Agriculture would even consider the suspension of lamb grading. Further, please be assured that we are not confusing the question of lamb grading with the mandatory meat inspection program of the Department, which provides inspection for sanitation and wholesomeness. Trade union consumer families in California want to know that the lamb they buy has been inspected for sanitation and wholesomeness, but they are also interested in knowing whether the wholesome cut is "prime," "choice" or "good" in grade.

Your uppermost consideration of consumer rights in this matter is a moral obligation which clearly rests with your Department.

Sincerely yours,
/s/ C. J. Haggerty
Secretary-Treasurer

Squawk on Squaw Valley Olympics

A strong squawk is being sounded by the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union, AFL-CIO, in unison with the National Cap and Cloth Hat Institute (set up jointly by the union and the industry) protesting the ski caps bearing the official insignia of the Winter Olympic games in Squaw Valley.

The only ski cap offered to skiers, snow bunnies, or just spectators who want to sport an official Olympic ski cap, does not carry the Union Label of the Hatters Union and is manufactured under substandard conditions in a non-union shop.

Despite a choice of some 250 cap firms entitled to the use of the Union Label, the jobber distributing these ski caps all over the country is having them made in a non-union firm. This jobber, Goorin Brothers of San Francisco, was granted the exclusive franchise to use the official insignia for all ski caps to be sold in the United States. **This is the only exclusive franchise granted to any firm selling any product in connection with the games. Hence the discrimination against the Union Label becomes doubly deplorable.**

Athletes and spectators coming from every part of the globe will be in Squaw Valley for the games, February 18-28. Our international visitors have listened to proud boasts abroad about our free labor movement; yet they will be unable to purchase an official Olympic cap bearing the symbol of the American trade union product, the Union Label. Nor may any union cap shop use this insignia on a Union Label ski cap.

Perhaps the head-shaking that should result from this strange situation will prompt the question: Can you cap this story? Preferably with a Union Label!