

MOUNTING SUPPORT FOR FORAND BILL

A ground swell of grassroots support for the enactment of the "Forand Bill" by Congress this year was reported this week by C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

"Within the period of one week since the mailing of the AFL-CIO leaflet, 'Can You Afford To Be 65?' to all locals in the state," Haggerty said, "orders for more than 200,000 copies of the leaflet have been received at the Federation's office in San Francisco."

"Can You Afford To Be 65?" is designed to explain the issue of the Forand Bill before Congress and to encourage trade union members to write their congressmen expressing their wholehearted support of the measure and demanding its passage this session.

Although the original printed supply of the leaflets has been exhausted, additional rush printings have been ordered.

Back orders for the pamphlets are being held, Haggerty said, for immediate mailing as soon as the additional leaflets become available.

The Forand Bill (H.R. 4700) would provide minimum health care for the aged under the federal social security system.

It faces an uphill battle against the slick opposition of the American Medical Association and its allies.

The only hope for securing enactment of the measure at this session of Congress rests in a mass letter-writing campaign which will indicate the depths of grassroots support for the legislation.

Building Trades Urge San Luis Bill Cleanup

The Executive Board of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California last Thursday urged the passage of the San Luis Project Authorization Bill now before Congress on the condition that the measure is first cleaned up to remove an exemption from the monopoly and speculation protections of reclamation law.

Following a special meeting of its water committee, the Executive Board adopted the following statement:

"Consistent with the historical

position of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California in advocating the full development of our limited water resources, and securing to the people the widest possible distribution of the benefits of such development, we urge immediate passage of the San Luis Project Authorization Bill, H.R. 7155, provided that Section 7 of the bill is eliminated."

Section 7 is the major escapement provision which would permit state delivery of waters utilizing feder-

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C. J. HAGGERTY
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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CALIFORNIA LABOR COPE ISSUES PRE-PRIMARY CONVENTION CALL

The official call to the pre-primary convention of the California Labor Council on Political Education was sent out last week to all affiliated organizations in the state by C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the state AFL-CIO political action body.

The business of the convention, scheduled for Thursday, April 21, at California Hall in San Francisco, will be the endorsement of candidates for the House of Representatives and the state legislature in the statewide primary election to be held on Tuesday, June 7, 1960.

Involved are thirty congressional seats, eighty seats in the state Assembly, and twenty of the forty seats in the state Senate.

The June 7 primary will be the first to be conducted since the abolition of cross-filing by the state legislature last year. Under cross-file repeal, it is anticipated that a number of incumbent officeholders in both parties will be facing opposition for their party's nomination.

The official convention call carried a strong message from Haggerty, warning that legislative de-

velopments since the 1958 general election "have brought home to every trade unionist in California the real meaning of the time-tested concept that labor political action and economic action are but two sides of the same coin."

In a direct reference to the passage of the Landrum-Griffin bill on top of the abuses of the Taft-Hartley Act, Haggerty said:

"No trade unionist today can honestly stand up in an assembly of organized labor and maintain the position that we can work for the accomplishment of our economic objectives and at the same time give only lip service to political action."

Warning against partisan action, the state AFL-CIO leader said that labor must "search again into the record to make certain that our endorsements avoid every sem-

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Notice of Correction

The last issue of Weekly News Letter, dated February 19, carried a digest of bills of interest to labor that are now before the budget session of the California legislature.

It was incorrectly stated that the legislature, now in recess, would reconvene on **March 29**. The legislature will convene on **February 29**.

CALIFORNIA LABOR COPE ISSUES PRE-PRIMARY CONVENTION CALL

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blance of partisanship other than our partisanship toward the improvement of the conditions of life and labor of free workers." The objectives of the labor movement politically, he added, "are those of a liberal progressive America, dedicated to a peaceful world and a free, secure life for all people."

It was noted that records of legislators on fundamental issues affecting the survival of a free trade union movement are basic in labor's political endorsements. Haggerty, however, emphasized the positive approach:

"We defend the rights of workers only because we are part of a liberal movement in this nation which believes in positive programs for a more prosperous nation under which workers can realize their hopes and aspirations. Our endorsements politically, therefore, must also reflect labor's positive program for America.

"In the final analysis, this is the obligation to our members every elected delegate carries with him to the 1960 pre-primary convention of California Labor COPE. Our endorsements will be only as effective as they reflect the beliefs of our membership, who, in the voting booth, will pass final judgment.

"Those who criticize the political activities of the labor movement are hereby placed on notice that our procedures as well as our objectives are geared only to making the ballot box the real guardian of America's future."

Convention Representation

To be represented at the convention, affiliated organizations must be in good standing, with per capita tax paid in full up to January 1960.

Representation is based on the number of members in each affiliated union, as follows:

Two delegates for the first 500 members or less; one delegate for the next succeeding 250 members or major fraction thereof; one delegate for each succeeding 500 members or major fraction thereof. The

total number of delegates from any local union may not exceed ten.

Credentials for delegates are to be mailed as soon as the computation of per capita membership and voting strength of each affiliated organization has been completed by the auditors.

On all questions where a roll call vote is taken, each delegate from a local union is entitled to vote an equal percentage of the membership of the local he or she represents, all fractional votes being eliminated.

Central bodies, state and local councils and joint boards, political organizations in specific areas and other eligible bodies are entitled to two delegates, each of whom has one vote.

Recommendations

Recommendations for the endorsement of candidates for the House of Representatives and the state Senate and Assembly must be made to the Executive Council exclusively by the political organizations established in their respective areas by the various AFL-CIO central labor bodies.

Resolutions

The deadline for receipt of resolutions and proposed amendments to the constitution by the Secretary-Treasurer is Wednesday, April 6, 1960, except for those approved by regularly constituted and affiliated statewide organizations at conventions or conferences held during a fifteen-day period preceding the convention. In the latter case, such resolutions must be received by the Secretary-Treasurer not later than 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20, 1960.

Housing

Haggerty said that information concerning hotels, rates and reservations will be mailed with delegates' credentials in the near future.

Convention headquarters will be at the Clift Hotel, Geary and Taylor Streets, San Francisco, where registration will commence the day before the convention.

State Employment Jobless Figures Show Some Improvement

Despite a new high for employment in California last month, the number of jobless in the state was still 5.1 per cent of the labor force.

Irving H. Perluss, Director of Employment, reports that unemployment increased seasonally to 312,000 in January from 277,000 in December, but the current figure is 47,000 below a year ago.

The rate of employment was 5.1 per cent of the labor force in January compared with 6.1 per cent in January, 1959.

On the employment front, John F. Henning, Director of Industrial Relations, reports that civilian employment of 5,780,000 is the highest January total on record and represents a twelve-month increase of 218,000.

Largest employment gains from a year ago were registered in trade, 61,000; manufacturing, 53,000; government, 39,000; and services, 37,000. The only groups with lower employment than a year ago were agriculture and mineral extraction.

Chiefly as a result of seasonal factors, total employment fell by 123,000 between December, 1959, and January, 1960. Temporary workers were released from retail trade and post offices following the Christmas season and activity slackened in agriculture, canning, and lumber.

With the onset of bad weather in January, construction was slowed markedly and employment in that industry at mid-January was off 15,000 from December. Non-seasonal job losses of note were a drop of nearly 3,000 in aircraft and about 1,000 in missiles. The decrease in aircraft continued the trend of the previous four months. In missiles, this was the first month-to-month loss since October, 1957.

Employment in the finance, insurance, real estate group was at an all-time high of 262,000 in January.

For the first time, California entered a new year with a civilian labor force of more than 6,000,000. The January count of 6,092,000 compares with 5,921,000 in January, 1959.

Public Employees Social Security Bill Introduced

A bill to extend until 1963 the retroactive provisions of social security coverage for public employees has been introduced in Congress by Representative Keogh of New York.

The measure, sponsored by the State, County and Municipal Employees Union in cooperation with the national AFL-CIO, would make it possible for some 32,000 state employees of California, who have been denied the right to participate in the benefits of OASDI, to gain another opportunity for coverage with retroactive application.

An organization known as the California State Employees for Social Security is strongly backing the measure.

The federal amendment is necessary in order to obtain appropriate state legislation to allow a division among state employees for coordinated coverage with the State Employees Retirement System.

The 32,000 employees in question were denied coverage last year when the California State Employees Association prevailed upon the 1959 legislature to force a statewide referendum on the question of whether or not those state employees desiring OASDI coverage should be allowed to exercise the privilege of dividing granted them by Congress. Since then, the retroactive provisions of the Social Security Act have run out.

The California State Employees for Social Security, with the support of the California Labor Federation, is also urging Governor Brown to call a special session of the legislature for the enactment of enabling legislation which would permit state employees who want social security coverage, to "divide" for this purpose without a prior vote on whether the federally authorized "division" should be permitted in California.

Under the Keogh bill and proper enabling legislation in the state, retroactive coverage for five years back would become available to state employees desiring such coverage.

Labor Calls for Boycott of South African Goods

The AFL-CIO Executive Council has voiced "deep concern" over the South African government's "continued brutal and inhuman racial policies," and has called for a U. S. consumer boycott of all imports from that country.

In a resolution adopted at the council's recent session in Florida, the AFL-CIO leaders noted that the sixth world congress of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions called on all affiliates to organize such boycotts.

The ICFTU session in Brussels last December said the move would be "tangible support" of labor solidarity with the oppressed South Africans of Negro or mixed parentage and would "exert maximum economic pressure" to bring about a change in their government's racial policies.

The council instructed the AFL-CIO Department of International Affairs to:

- Assist in the organization of the boycott by the American labor movement and provide educational materials "to make the boycott effective."
- Work closely with citizen committees comprising church, civic and consumer groups, "thus creating a broad base for a consumers' boycott."
- Explore the "practicability of

reinforcing the consumers' boycott by a government boycott of South African gold and other materials."

• Advise the South African government of labor's "determination to carry out the boycott" unless that government "is prepared to change its inhuman racial policies."

The Executive Council said South Africa's "apartheid" policies, which deny virtually all rights to that country's millions of Negroes, "do violence to all concepts of decency and morality." The United Nations General Assembly, the resolution said, has "repeatedly condemned" the South African policies.

The worldwide boycott of South Africa's raw materials and manufactured goods, the council said, is being "strongly supported" in Jamaica, many parts of Africa, Western Europe, Scandinavia and throughout the British Isles.

Construction Trades Council Urges San Luis Cleanup

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ally-subsidized dam facilities to giant landholdings in the lower end of the San Joaquin Valley.

The latest information received from Washington indicates that H. R. 7155, authored by Congressman Bernie Sisk, is on deck momentarily to receive a "rule" for floor debate.

C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, has wired the entire California delegation, urging "full cooperation and a floor alert to remove the exemption from reclamation law so that with California unity, the bill may be passed this session."

It is reported that Congressman Sisk will accept an amendment on the House floor to delete Section 7 from the measure. Giant landholders in the Valley, however, are working furiously to block the deletion.

Congressmen are reported in need of local support, especially in the Southern California area, to obtain their backing for the necessary cleanup action.

New AFL-CIO Publication

A new AFL-CIO pamphlet, "Unemployment Compensation—Too Little, Too Late, For Too Few," is now available.

Write for Publication No. 102, AFL-CIO Department of Publications, 815 - 16th Street N. W., Washington 6, D.C. Single copies are free; up to 100, 3c per copy; \$2 for 100; \$15 for 1,000. Make checks payable to William F. Schnitzler, Secretary-Treasurer, AFL-CIO.

Based on an address by AFL-CIO Vice President Al J. Hayes, it analyzes the problems in unemployment compensation programs, and is a useful weapon in the fight to obtain new federal standards and stronger state legislation.

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Cruikshank, Haggerty on Health Insurance Conference Program

A one-day conference on "Health Insurance for the Older Worker," sponsored by the Institute of Industrial Relations at the University of California in cooperation with the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, will be held in San Francisco on March 24 at the Fairmont Hotel.

The timely conference will discuss many of the problems of older workers which have stirred the labor movement in its demand for passage of the "Forand" medical care bill for recipients of social security.

Nelson Cruikshank, national director of the AFL-CIO Department of Social Security, will be one of the major conference speakers along with Federation Secretary-Treasurer C. J. Haggerty.

Conference registration fee is \$6.00 and includes lunch. Advance registration checks, payable to the Regents of the University of California, should be mailed to the Department of Conferences, University Extension, University of California, Berkeley 4, California.

The following is the conference program:

9:00—Registration.

9:30—Terrace Room. "The Older Worker in America." Arthur M. Ross, Director, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California, Berkeley, and Chairman, Governor's Commission on Retirement and Employment Problems of Older Workers.

10:00—"The Health of the Older Worker." Dr. Lester Breslow, Director, Bureau of Chronic Diseases, California State Department of Public Health.

10:45—Break.

11:00—Panel: Dr. Allan Voigt, Chairman, California Joint Council to Improve the Health Care of the Aged; Mrs. Jan W. McKaskle, Area Deputy, San Francisco, State Department of Social Welfare; Dr. Sedgwick Mead, Medical Director, California Rehabilitation Cen-

ter; John Despol, General Vice President, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

12:00—Lunch (Tonga Room).

1:30—"Health Insurance for the Older Worker." Nelson Cruikshank, Director, Social Security Department, AFL-CIO.

2:30—Break.

2:45—Panel: Dr. John Morrison, President, Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Society; Chester Root, Regional Manager, Pacific National Life Assurance Company; Avram Yedidia, Consultant, Kaiser Health Foundation; Donald Vial, Director of Research, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

4:00—"The Responsibility of the Community for the Older Worker." C. J. Haggerty, Secretary-Treasurer, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

4:30—Adjourn.

D. I. Refund Notice

The state Department of Employment has announced that forms are available at all local offices for workers to apply for a refund of any excess contributions for disability insurance in 1959.

Under state law, employers withhold from the pay of covered workers 1 per cent of the first \$3,600 paid each employee in the calendar year.

Persons who worked for two or more employers during the year may pay more than \$36 for disability insurance because each employer in turn withholds the statutory 1 per cent, as he is required to do by law. Any amount in excess of \$36 will be refunded, but only if the worker applies for it.

The deadline for applying for 1959 excess contributions is June 30, 1960.

New AMA Proposal To Stall Aged Medical Care

The American Medical Association's campaign against the "Forand" medical care bill for senior citizens appears to be suffering from a bad case of schizophrenia.

Whenever the AMA speaks out against the Forand bill, the public has a right to ask: "Which AMA is speaking now?"

Recently (see News Letter, January 22, 1960), the Association editorialized in its AMA News that 90 per cent of persons over 65 years of age have available means to meet a major medical bill. The editorial was based on a fantastic distortion of a survey study on medical care financing by the National Research Center of the University of Chicago.

This week, the Wall Street Journal reports that the AMA is now pushing for heftier tax deductions for taxpayers who are 65 or older. (Under present law, such individuals are allowed an additional exemption of \$600 beyond the regular \$600 per individual.)

The reason for the push for increased deductions, according to the Wall Street Journal, is that the AMA believes that further concessions, such as a larger exemption, would help older citizens finance more of their medical needs, and so stave off any "federalized system of hospitalization and medical care."

This is what the American Medical Association now tells the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

What was it that the AMA said about 90 per cent of the senior citizens being able to meet a major medical bill?