

Haggerty to Assume New Post April 1

The AFL-CIO movement in the state of California was rocked this week when it was announced that Secretary-Treasurer C. J. Haggerty had been elected to the office of president of the AFL-CIO Building Trades Department in Washington.

When Haggerty assumes his new post on April 1, he will leave behind

FLASH! As we go to press, the Executive Council has just unanimously elected Thomas L. Pitts, President of the Federation since 1950, to succeed C. J. Haggerty as Secretary-Treasurer. To fill the vacancy thus created in the presidency, the Council unanimously elected Albin J. Gruhn, who has served the Federation as Vice President for twenty years. Haggerty was retained as consultant for the transition until he leaves for Washington.

him a state labor organization which, under his leadership in the past seventeen years, has come to be recognized as one of the most outstanding state federations of labor in the nation.

In the field of legislation, the benefits and laws won for the working man during this period stand as a record to be emulated by all other state labor organizations.

Haggerty's successor will be elected on an interim basis by the Executive Council of the California Labor Federation in regular quarterly session this week on Thursday and Friday, March 3 and 4.

Well-wishers to Haggerty in his new assignment have been pouring wires into the Federation's San

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LEGISLATURE RECONVENES IN BUDGET AND SPECIAL SESSIONS

The California legislature, stirred to the peak of controversy by Governor Brown's decision to place the capital punishment issue before them in special session, reconvened in Sacramento this Monday after a three and a half week recess.

The bills before them in the budget session promise another battle on the issue of tax reductions (see digest of bills of interest to labor in February 19 issue of News Letter).

Bills are in the hopper to give back to the taxpayers some \$73 million in anticipated surplus in the next fiscal year which Governor Brown wants to use for basic state capital outlay. Included, is a bill to repeal the 3c per pack cigarette tax enacted last year by the 1959

general session as part of the Governor's overall tax program.

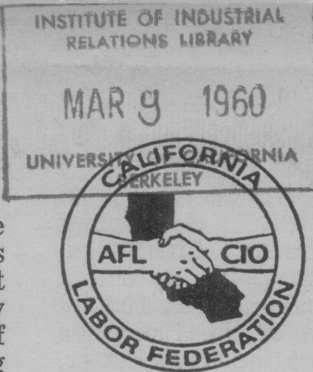
A tax measure given the best chance of passage, if any, is a proposal to remove the sales tax on prescription drugs.

Special Session

Although the Governor has turned thumbs down on the Federation's request for a special session on basic policy protections for taxpayers in the \$1.75 billion water program, a special session has been called to run concurrently with the budget session for a large number of items, many of them not too controversial.

The capital punishment issue, however, is sure to result in factional battles which may very well

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C. J. HAGGERTY
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Registration Conference Pinpoints Job Ahead

Hard work! Organization! Recognition that registration is the key to successful political action!

These were the conclusions reached last Friday at a California Labor COPE registration conference in San Francisco which brought central labor council, craft council and state representatives of international unions together in a workshop session on how to get local registration drives off the ground and accomplish the registration obligation that rests at the doorstep of every labor leader.

State COPE and AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer C. J. Haggerty, perhaps in one of his last official conference appearances before assuming the position of President of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department in Washington, put the registration problem squarely before the conference participants:

"Either we organize ourselves for the gruelling work that must be done at the state and local level on registration, or we might as well give up the idea of operating successfully in the political arena for

the welfare of working men and women."

Thomas L. Pitts, president of California Labor COPE and the state AFL-CIO, held the conferences to reporting on and discussing a nine-point check list of essential activities in local registration drives. Each official representative of local bodies was asked to report progress and problems in their registration drives on the following points:

1. Do you have a crew of trade union people deputized as voter registrars in your area? How many? Do you have any problem with the county in getting your people deputized?

2. Do you have a procedure for checking the membership rolls of the local unions against the registration rolls to see which union members are not registered? Did you do this in 1958?

3. Will every unregistered union member get at least one letter calling on him to register, and telling him when and where the registrar will be?

4. Do you have any program for getting to the unregistered union members who do not come in to register in response to your mailings?

5. Do you have a person in charge of the voter registration drive? Is this his only responsibility between now and April 14, or is it in addition to his usual duties? Are business agents deputized as registrars?

6. Do you have any program for

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Francisco office ever since the announcement was made. The substance of these wires is best captured by one that contained a full page of the word "congratulations".

Upon retiring from the California scene, Haggerty told the Executive Council:

"As your executive officer, I have been intimately concerned with all the functions of the Federation, and have a feeling not unlike a person watching his family grow and move on to ever greater accomplishments. Accordingly, I feel sincerely a great reluctance to be leaving my post as secretary-treasurer, but I submit my request for retirement, effective immediately, hoping you will accept it with my sincere thanks for all you and all of the affiliates and their officers and members have done in always co-operating with and assisting me in the past.

"As you know, after my retirement from office as secretary-treasurer, I plan on assuming duties with the Building Trades Department in Washington, D. C., but I assure all of you that I shall always have the interests of this Federation in mind, and will hold myself available at all times to assist whenever necessary."

Highlights of Haggerty's many years of leadership in the labor movement follow:

- 1915** Joined Lathers Local 72, Boston.
- 1921** Came to California, transferred to Lathers Local 42, Los Angeles.
- 1928** Elected Business Manager of Lathers Local 42, Los Angeles.
- 1929** Elected Second Vice President of International Union of Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers.
- 1933** Elected Secretary of Los Angeles Building and Construction Trades Council.
- 1936** Elected Vice President of California State Federation of Labor, AFL.
- 1937** Elected President of California State Federation of Labor.
- 1943** Elected Secretary-Treasurer of California State Federation of Labor.
- 1958** Elected First Vice President of International Union of

COPE Endorsement Policy Clarified

A clarification has been received from national COPE Director James L. McDevitt on an AFL-CIO Executive Council, four-point statement regarding political action in 1960.

The substance of the Executive Council statement (see News Letter, February 19 issue) amounted to a directive to state AFL-CIO organizations that they refrain from making endorsements for either presidential or vice presidential candidates in primary elections.

The first of the four points, however, was worded generally, and appeared to instruct state and local central bodies that they should not participate in any primary elections, except in one-party states.

Secretary-Treasurer C. J. Hag-

gerty of California Labor COPE wired McDevitt seeking clarification, pointing out that a state COPE pre-primary endorsement convention has been scheduled for April 21, at which time endorsement of candidates would be made based on the recommendations of local political action bodies.

McDevitt has wired back that the entire four-point statement on political action adopted by the Executive Council is to be considered as applying "to presidential and vice presidential candidates only."

McDevitt added:

"The statement does not involve primary contests where in your organization's judgment a position should be taken."

Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers.

1958 Became Secretary-Treasurer of merged state organization—California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

1960 Elected President of AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department.

Present Activities:

- Member, Federal Advisory Council on Employment Security, Department of Labor.
- Member Farm Placement Committee, Bureau of Employment Security, Department of Labor.
- Member, Regional Labor-Management Committee of Defense Manpower Administration.
- Member, Board of Directors, National Housing Conference.
- Member, National Council of National Planning Association.
- Vice President, International Labor Press Association, AFL-CIO.
- Member, Joint United States-Mexican Trade Union Committee.
- AFL member, Latin American unit of International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.
- Member, Board of Regents, University of California; (appointed 1950—first labor man in history of University of California to be named to Board of Regents).
- Member, Governor's Advisory Council on California Department of Employment.
- Member, Board of Trustees, San Francisco Maritime Museum.
- Sponsor (yearly) United Negro College Fund, Inc.
- Member, Archdiocesan Committee

for Catholic Charities.

Member, Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation of Industrially Injured, State Department of Education.

Past Activities:

- National Civilian Defense Council, World War II.
- Member, Selective Service Area Appeals Board for Los Angeles.
- Member, California State Personnel Board.
- Member, Board of Directors of California Safety Council.
- Member, Governor's Conference on Education.
- Member, National AFL-CIO Committee on Veterans Affairs.
- Member, Los Angeles City School District Personnel Board.
- Member, California State Board of Education.
- Member, Executive Committee, Youth Conservation Committee.
- AFL delegate to 1946 International Labor Organization, Brussels, Belgium.
- Represented American Federation of Labor and International Confederation of Free Trade Unions at United Nations Commemorative Session, San Francisco, June 20, 1955.
- American Federation of Labor fraternal delegate to British Trade Union Congress, Southport, Lancaster, England, September 5-9, 1955.
- Served as Advisor to ILO Labor Delegate, Geneva, Switzerland, June, 1956.
- AFL-CIO delegate to Sixth World Congress (1959), ICFTU.

MORE LOCAL CONFERENCES SET

News Letter is endeavoring to keep organized labor in the state informed of local educational activities as various conferences are scheduled.

This week, attention is called to conferences which have been scheduled by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and the San Francisco Labor Council, respectively.

W. J. Bassett, executive secretary-treasurer of the L.A. Federation, has announced that top officials from labor, government and politics will keynote discussions during a conference on the new labor reform law scheduled for March 11-13 at the Statler Hotel in Los Angeles.

George W. Johns, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Council has announced that a "What-Can-We-Do?" conference is set for March 19 at the Plumber's Union Auditorium in San Francisco, as a follow-up on a highly successful issues conference staged by the San Francisco Labor movement earlier in January.

The "What-Can-We-Do?" conference will feature "action" answers to the priority issues developed at the January conference: a free world peace, the needs of the elderly, tax reform, full employment, minimum wage, and water legislation, among others.

Another important item added to the one-day meet is "What can we do about the coming fight in the California Assembly on the important subject of reapportionment?" The answer is to be provided by Hal Dunleavy, political pollster and research analyst who worked with the California Labor Federation in the "right to work" campaign.

In Los Angeles, the three-day meet is the first countywide conference to be scheduled on the so-called Landrum-Griffin Act passed by Congress last year.

In addition to the new federal law, conference delegates will focus attention on recent state labor activities, including the State Supreme Court's decision on organizational and recognitional picketing.

During the three-day session, the

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doing house to house registration?

7. Have you made any analysis of the precincts to determine which ones will yield the best results for labor in either house to house registration or in general campaigning?

8. Do you have a working relationship now with the NAACP, the CSO and other groups who do a voter registration job with the special community groups?

9. Do you have a program for getting out labor's absentee ballot votes? Did you have a program on this in 1958?

Conferees were also asked to leave their answers to the nine points on a prepared form for the information of California Labor COPE in developing better means of assisting local registration drives.

Pitts said that those councils not represented at the San Francisco conference will receive the check list by mail for completion and return to the state COPE registration drive.

Preceding the workshop session on the local activity check-list, Wil-

liam Becker reviewed California Labor COPE's registration program, with special emphasis on activities in priority areas of the state and cooperative arrangements for coordinated registration developed with minority group organizations, such as the Community Service Organization for Mexican-Americans and the NAACP.

Becker is directing the state COPE primary registration drive, designed to lay the base for an all-out effort in the general election.

Political researcher and pollster Hal Dunleavy also brought home to conferees the vast problem which will be faced in the reapportionment of state Assembly and Congressional districts in 1961.

Dunleavy made it clear that the legislative reapportionment in 1961 will determine for the next ten years whether or not labor and liberal forces will be given representation in the Assembly and Congress proportionate to their numbers.

The people who will be doing the reapportioning, he added, will be the assemblymen elected this November.

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have an influence on the disposition of other important matters before the legislature.

Among those on the special session call are the following items:

1. Air pollution and smog control.

2. Master plan for higher education, which would include development, expansion and integration of facilities, curriculum and standards in junior colleges, state colleges and the University of California to meet the needs of the state during the next ten years and after.

3. Extension of the state's so-called Rees-Doyle health and wel-

program is scheduled to review three basic questions:

1. How did we get where we are?
2. Effects and restrictions of the law with respect to unions and members?

3. What can we do about it in developing a future program?

fare program supervision law which automatically expires this June.

4. Authorization for local hospital districts to expend capital outlay funds for the acquisition or construction of additional patient bed facilities.

All told, as of this date, there are 16 items on the special call, not including the capital punishment issue.

The Governor has announced that he will be amending the special session call at a later date to include a school construction bond issue to be on the ballot this November, and also a bond issue for the State Veterans Home and Farm Loan Act.

He is also being urged to include legislation for the repeal of "relatives' responsibility" in the aid to the aged program. Another item being advanced, with California Labor Federation backing, is legislation to enable state employees who want integration of their retirement system with federal social security to have an opportunity to divide within their system for this purpose.

FORM 3547 REQUESTED

AFL-CIO Announces Coordinated Post for State and Central Labor Bodies

AFL-CIO President George Meany informed state and local central labor councils this week that Stanton Smith, president of the Tennessee State Labor Council, has been named to the new post of Coordinator of State and Local Central Bodies.

The creation of the new office within the AFL-CIO is an outgrowth of the first national conference of state and central labor bodies called in Washington, D. C., by the AFL-CIO, last January 7-9.

The January conference adopted the following proposals as a consensus of opinion on the part of those present, for the purpose of "improving the work of the state and local central bodies and providing for closer coordination between the AFL-CIO and those organizations."

1. AFL-CIO should establish in its Washington headquarters the office of Coordinator of State and Local Central Bodies with the responsibility, under the general supervision of the President, for coordinating state and local central body activities and assisting them in the handling of major problems they encounter. The Coordinator should be assigned exclusively to this major responsibility and preferably should be an assistant to the President.

2. This office should formulate programs and procedures that will assist state and local central bodies to obtain maximum affiliation.

3. A reporting system should be adopted which provides that all state and local central bodies shall report annually to the AFL-CIO national headquarters on income, expenditure, affiliates, unaffiliated locals and the principal activities for the period covered in the report. Printed forms should be supplied by the AFL-CIO for such reports.

4. The AFL-CIO should establish,

and the President appoint, an Advisory Committee, composed of principal officers of an adequate number of state and local central bodies, the President of the AFL-CIO, the State and Local Central Bodies' Coordinator, the Director of COPE, the Legislative Director and the Director of Organization.

5. An administrative letter should be sent by the President of the AFL-CIO to all state and local central bodies outlining the administrative programs and procedures adopted as a result of this meeting.

6. Such meetings as this should be held annually under the chairmanship of the President of the AFL-CIO.

In addition to Stanton, Meany named, along with himself, the following members of the recommended advisory committee:

Stanton Smith, Coordinator of State and Local Central Bodies.

C. J. Haggerty, Secretary-Treasurer, California Labor Federation.
August Scholle, President, Michigan State AFL-CIO.

Mitchell Sviridoff, Pres., Connecticut State Labor Council.

John Rollings, Pres., Missouri State Labor Council.

Harry Van Arsdale, Pres., N. Y. City Central Labor Council.

Fred A. Erchul, Secy., Milwaukee Central Labor Council.

A. J. Biemiller, Legislative Director.

John W. Livingston, Director, Department of Organization.

James McDevitt, Director, COPE.

Meany advised state and central labor bodies that, after a meeting of the advisory committee has been held, they will be hearing from Smith from time to time concerning the policies and plans which he will be administering as coordinator of the new office established by the AFL-CIO.

Consumers Cabinet Post Urged

Expressing organized labor's growing demand for action to protect consumers against "exorbitant pricing, harmful products and deceitful advertising," the AFL-CIO Executive Council recently called for the establishment of a cabinet-level Department of Consumers.

Cited as examples of the need for such a department were recent disclosures of profiteering by the prescription drug industry and "payola" in broadcasting.

A statement on the subject adopted by the Executive Council denounced a number of government regulatory bodies as "timid and apathetic."

The Federal Communications Commission, the AFL-CIO said, should stop considering itself as the special protector of the industry it is supposed to regulate, and instead start considering the public interests.

On the drug front, the AFL-CIO leaders called on the nation's physicians to help break the "price-gouging policies" of the drug manufacturers. These policies, coupled with unnecessary promotional gimmicks, "are adding untold millions to the already high cost of medical care," they stated.

Urging both state and federal regulation of credit charges and deception in installment selling, the Council also endorsed a bill sponsored by Senator Paul H. Douglas (D., Ill.) to require that installment purchase contracts include a full statement of financing charges expressed in terms of simple annual interest.

California was praised for having already "established an office of Consumer Counsel as a means of initiating consumer programs in legislation and stimulating recognition of consumer viewpoint in regulatory activities."