

Labor Political Endorsements In the Making

With the pre-primary convention of California Labor COPE less than a month away, local labor political action bodies throughout the state are making preparations for the interview of district candidates for the purpose of making recommendations to the state COPE convention in San Francisco, April 21.

Although the closing date for the filing of candidates for office is April 1, in most districts filing actions have been completed by serious candidates. The local interviewing process is therefore moving rapidly in a number of areas in the state.

In this connection, California Labor COPE has forwarded all local action bodies detailed election guides on state and federal issues which should be related to candidates in interviewing sessions. The issues guides reflect the policies adopted by the conventions of the state AFL-CIO, as well as the national office in Washington.

Under the California Labor COPE endorsement procedure, local political action bodies established by central labor councils are given the exclusive right to make recommendations for endorsement to the executive council of California Labor COPE in the case of dis-

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Haggerty Testimonial Dinner Set

Plans for a double-header, \$100 per plate testimonial dinner, to be divided north and south, were announced this week in honor of C. J. "Neil" Haggerty, former secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, who was recently elected to the high post of president of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department in Washington, D. C.

Thos. L. Pitts, new secretary-treasurer of the state AFL-CIO and chairman of the Haggerty Testimonial Dinner Committee, said the proceeds of the two-pronged event will go for the benefit of the Earl Warren Legal Center, the West's first workshop of its kind to be established on the Berkeley campus of



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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FEDERATION PROTESTS EXTENSION OF MEXICAN FARM LABOR PROGRAM: DEMANDS PUBLIC HEARINGS IN STATE

The California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO charged this week that current efforts in Congress to emasculate present inadequate domestic farm worker protections and ram through an extension of the Mexican National importation program without full hearings "would constitute the most blatant farce ever perpetrated upon the American public."

Thos. L. Pitts, Federation secretary-treasurer, issued the protest in a blistering wire to Representative E. C. Gathings, (D. Ark), chairman of the Subcommittee on Equipment, Supplies and Manpower of the House Committee on Agriculture, which is holding limited hearings on short notice concerning three bills to extend Public Law 78, due to expire next year.

Public Law 78 is the authority under which the U.S. Government has negotiated agreements with Mexico for the mass importation of Mexican farm workers, without

adequate protections for guaranteeing the "prior employment" rights of domestics, and at depressed farm wages.

The three bills before the large farmer-dominated Gathings Subcommittee on Agriculture would extend the law with amendments designed to accomplish the major objectives of the American Farm Bureau Federation. These would:

- (1) Remove the present established authority of the Secretary of Labor to regulate conditions of employment for domestic farm workers.
- (2) Require use of Department of Agriculture rather than Department of Labor reports as criteria for wage adjustments involving domestic versus Mexican workers.
- (3) Require determination by both the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Labor as to whether the Mexican program has adverse effects on domestic farm labor.

Passage of these bills would represent a complete victory for the large farm owners, and a defeat for those who seek to establish and protect the rights of farm workers.

In his protest wire to the Gathings subcommittee, Pitts said that the "profound implications of this law for California demand that full hearings be scheduled in this state

the University of California.

The north section of the dinner will be held on May 19 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco. In the southland, the date is May 23 at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

In announcing the dinners, Pitts said:

"It is fitting that the lifelong work of C. J. "Neil" Haggerty and the immense contribution he has made toward advancing the material well-being, security and dignity of California workers should be honored and recognized in connection with fund-raising events for the Earl Warren Legal Center.

"The indelible mark which Haggerty leaves behind on the Califor-

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Haggerty Testimonial Dinner Set

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nia scene was made over a time span of some three decades in a period of tremendous state growth and socio-economic changes in our modern industrial society.

"His contributions are measured in today's benefits of the collective bargaining processes built on an organizational basis out of economic depression and internecine labor-management strife that characterized many of the years of the 30's, but equally in the socio-economic reform legislation won for the benefit of labor and the public at large.

"Haggerty's accomplishments as a potent leader of free workers in the field of state labor, social reform, insurance and welfare legislation have made a record unparalleled in any other state in the nation.

"The Earl Warren Legal Center, an urgently needed institution for education in depth, has its roots in the concept of 'living law' which keeps pace with socio-economic and technological changes that confront society and shape the lives of every worker and the public generally. As a man enmeshed in the shaping of major economic and social events for the past thirty years, it is most appropriate that the people who have known Haggerty's work and who now turn to honor him should channel their appreciation and gratitude to the future—to give society an institution which holds promise and hope for rational, studied approaches to problems Neil Haggerty had to face in a society and economy beset with fear, emotion, and frequently an empty stomach.

"A progressive state in a nation on the threshold of automation, with new sources of power at its command, faces profound adjustments in relationships not only as between work and the factors of production that hold promise for a better life, but also in relationships between men in a society governed by laws rather than men.

"The Earl Warren Legal Center on the Berkeley campus will be a 'living laboratory of law' where legal practitioners, leaders of both labor and business and others can intensively study and discuss special aspects of our laws in relation to the far-reaching changes that are

taking place in our economy and nation.

"Through the medium of conferences, institutes and special meetings, the laws, local, state, federal and international, that affect the western states will be illuminated and clarified.

"Among the aims of the Legal Center will be to improve the understanding, application and administration of our increasingly complex laws. One logical result of these discussions will be the revising and reforming of existing legislation to relieve the present multiplicity, overlapping and ambiguity of our laws.

"The Legal Center will also provide the facilities for research and will establish a central clearing house for authoritative information about the theory and the practice of our legislation."

Pitts noted that leaders of labor and public throughout the state have been pressing the Federation office on plans for a testimonial dinner honoring Neil Haggerty. Combining the dinner with the Earl Warren Legal Center drive, he added, "is a natural."

The Earl Warren Legal Center was unanimously endorsed for labor support by the Executive Council of the state AFL-CIO, meeting in San Francisco earlier this month. The Center has the full backing of many past and present officers of the American Bar Association and the State Bar Association, as well as responsible leaders in business and many of the professions.

Haggerty, as a Regent of the University of California, himself, was appointed to that post by Chief Justice Earl Warren when he was Governor of the State of California. The U. C. Regents have demonstrated their support of the program by earmarking land and \$350,000 for the construction of the Center. An additional million dollars is needed before it can become a reality.

Pitts announced that tickets for the C. J. "Neil" Haggerty testimonial dinner will be available from labor leaders in the north and south, and may also be obtained directly by writing to "Committee for C. J. 'Neil' Haggerty Testimonial Dinner," Thos. L. Pitts, chairman, 995

Mixed Neighborhood Values Rise

A five-year study of the effect on real estate values of non-whites entering previously all-white neighborhoods reveals that values are "more likely to rise or to remain constant" than to fall.

The study, entitled "Property Values and Race," was prepared by Luigi Laurenti, professor of economics at the University of California.

According to the report, which examined 10,000 real estate transactions in northern communities, the odds are four to one that prices in mixed neighborhoods will keep up or exceed prices in comparable all-white areas.

"Non-whites maintain their properties at least as well as white homeowners," observed the report. An important factor influencing price is the strength of the whites' desire to move out of a neighborhood when non-whites move in.

The new study was hailed by all civil rights and labor groups which are working to lay the groundwork for a massive onslaught against discrimination in housing. The state AFL-CIO Standing Committee on Civil Rights, headed by President Albin J. Gruhn, has made effective anti-housing discrimination laws a top priority in the field of future civil rights legislative activity.

The problem is complicated, however, by the failure of existing housing programs and urban renewal and redevelopment projects to make housing available for low and middle income families at prices which they can afford. According to Gruhn, discrimination in housing must be attacked simultaneously on two fronts, by (1) securing equal rights protections and (2) launching low and middle income housing programs which give meaning to otherwise worthless equal rights legislation.

Market Street, San Francisco 3, California.

Any organization that buys ten or more tickets will have its name engraved on a metal plaque which will be permanently located in the Hall of Founders of the Legal Center.

Rees-Doyle Extension Heading for Defeat

AB 23, a bill before the current special session of the California legislature to extend the life of the state Rees-Doyle Health and Welfare Program Supervision Act, in watered-down form, drew another blank this Monday before the Assembly committee on Finance and Insurance.

Following committee inaction the week before, the bill this Monday failed to draw even a quorum of the committee present for consideration.

Although hearings have been set again for Monday, March 28, as we go to press the bill is given little chance of gaining committee approval. Flat predictions are that if the bill does win lower house approval, it will fall in the state Senate under the combined opposition of insurance and employer groups.

The watered-down version of the Rees-Doyle Act extension bill makes provision for partial removal of duplication with the federal Health and Welfare Disclosure law, narrows state activity essentially to supervision, regulation, examination and investigation of employee-benefit programs by the state Insurance Commissioner, and broadens the scope of the supervision act to include programs established unilaterally by employers or unions, but exempts all programs which are placed in corporate trust.

Budget Session Deadlock

Facing a constitutional deadline for this Saturday, the budget session of the legislature is still struggling with the Governor's \$2.5 billion state budget for fiscal year 1960-61.

As we go to press, in a hot party battle, Republicans are seeking to hold up approval to force some tax cuts out of \$73 million in surplus which the Governor would apply to basic capital outlay expenditures.

Tax-cut measures being advanced include removal of sales tax on prescription drugs, as well as cuts in the state personal income, bank and corporation tax laws. Governor Brown has announced that he will veto any tax cuts which reflect "fiscal irresponsibility."

Special Session Issues

Before the special session running concurrently with the budget

session, the master plan for higher education remains the biggest issue.

Rejecting the constitutional amendment approach advanced jointly by the University of California Regents and the State Board of Education, the upper house Committee on Education this Wednesday sent to the floor an amended version of the master plan for university-state college coordination, but with legislative control over the the state colleges.

In contrast to a 16-member state college board with 16 years tenure frozen into the constitution, the Senate committee approved a bill that would provide for a 16-member board by statute with four-year tenure of office.

The effect of the Senate action was to remove all the major features of the original master plan out of a constitutional amendment, and to place them into a statute which retains legislative control. Passage of any higher education measure without such legislative control has been virtually discarded for the special session.

Anti-smog legislation, although still held up in the special session on the issue of local option, is given a good chance of passage by the legislators. A number of bills before the session would require installation of smog-preventing devices on new and used cars, as such devices are developed and approved in accordance with state standards.

Headed for passage without any anticipated trouble are two substantial bond issues for schoolhouse construction and the state Veterans' Home Loan Program, which would be placed on the June 7 primary election ballot. Governor Brown has advanced these bond issue measures for the June primary to avoid conflict with his \$1.75 billion water bond program on the general election ballot.

On the water issue, despite organized labor's continued appeal, the Governor remains steadfastly opposed to permitting special session consideration of basic policy protections on workers' rights and unjust enrichment protections demanded by the Federation as a condition for support of the bond program in November.

Labor Endorsements

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strict candidates for federal and state office.

Such recommendations rest with local COPEs, except where the candidate is seeking office in a district embracing at least in part an area covered by more than one local political organization. In such cases, the right to recommend to the executive council for endorsement by the state convention is reserved exclusively for district political organizations formed to embrace the district in question.

All local political action bodies have been informed that their recommendations for endorsement must be in the hands of the office of the secretary-treasurer of California Labor COPE by an officially designated deadline of April 13.

In connection with the COPE convention on April 21, in San Francisco, Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts this week reminded all affiliated organizations that the deadline for the submission of resolutions to the convention is Wednesday, April 6, 1960, except for those approved by regularly constituted and affiliated statewide organizations at conventions or conferences held during the fifteen days preceding the convention which must be received by the secretary-treasurer not later than 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 20, 1960.

Keep These Dates In Mind!

April 6 - Deadline for submitting resolutions to California Labor COPE Convention.

April 13 - Deadline for local COPE to submit recommendations for endorsement of candidates.

April 14 - Deadline for registering to vote in primary election.

April 20 - Registration of convention delegates begins.

April 21 - California Labor COPE Convention, San Francisco.

FORM 3547 REQUESTED

Fed. Protests Mexican Farm Labor Program

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before the subcommittee's recommendations are formulated."

Because of short notice of the current limited hearings, the state AFL-CIO leader asked that thirty additional days be granted the Federation for the purpose of developing a full statement of position on the issue. Copies of the Federation wire were rushed to each member of the California delegation, urging their active assistance to obtain the scheduling of "full scale hearings" in California.

Pitts' wire summarized the Federation's position as follows:

"The California Labor Federation is categorically opposed to this law's extension unless effective guarantees as to domestic workers' employment, earnings and working conditions are incorporated.

"Minimally, such safeguards should embrace the recommendations advanced last year by the four distinguished consultants to the Secretary of Labor.

"The existence of the most severe adverse effects has been thoroughly documented most recently in our state by testimony at hearings before the Division of Industrial Welfare and the State Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Farm Labor.

"It should be borne in mind that the limited Mexican contract labor program was undertaken only as an extraordinary wartime measure.

"Governmental laxity combined with large grower manipulation have distorted the original intent of Congress so that almost six times as many Mexican Nationals are now imported as under the wartime program.

"In enacting Public Law 78, Congressional awareness of such a program's potentially grave threat to hundreds of thousands of domestic farm workers' standards resulted in inclusion of language designed to provide adequate safeguards.

"The most pervasive proof that

profound adverse effect has nonetheless resulted is implicit in the severe lag in farm wage rates in the face of grower contentions that their industry suffers from the nation's most acute labor shortage.

"To ignore these irrefutable facts, and to seriously consider the proposals in H.R. 9875 and its companion bills aimed at completely emasculating the grossly inadequate protections afforded domestic workers in present law, would constitute the most blatant farce ever perpetrated upon the American public."

The minimum safeguards referred to in Pitts' wire as embracing the recommendations of a special committee of consultants to the Secretary of Labor on Public Law 78 are as follows:

1. The law should clearly confine the use of Mexicans to necessary crops in temporary labor shortage situations and to unskilled nonmachine jobs.

2. The Secretary of Labor should be authorized to establish wage rates for Mexicans at prevailing levels in the area or in the closest similar area for like work, and at no less than a rate necessary to avoid adverse effect on domestic wage rates.

3. The Secretary should be authorized to insure active competition among employers for the available supply of U. S. workers by being empowered to refuse to certify employment of Mexicans unless (1) employers have first made "positive and direct recruitment efforts" to obtain U. S. workers, (2) employment conditions offered are equal to those provided by other employers in the area who successfully recruit and retain U. S. workers, (3) U. S. workers are provided benefits equivalent to those given Mexican nationals, and (4) employers of Mexicans offer and pay U. S. workers wages which are not less than those paid to Mexicans.

4. The Secretary should be empowered to set up standards for judging adverse effects resulting from employing Mexicans based on wages, earnings, and employment trends and levels.

5. A tripartite advisory group com-

Minimum Wage Push Opens In Congress

The much delayed drive for enactment of the AFL-CIO-backed minimum wage bill by Congress got off the ground last week with the opening of hearings before a House Labor subcommittee.

As one of the lead-off witnesses for a \$1.25 minimum and extension of coverage to 7.5 million workers as a "start toward relieving the plight of the most neglected group of our society," AFL-CIO President George Meany made the following challenge:

"How can we live with our conscience when we know that millions of our fellow citizens cannot earn enough, working full time and overtime, to provide themselves with food, clothing and shelter?"

AFL-CIO recommendations for improvement in the minimum wage law would affect not merely one region of the country, but significant numbers of low-paid citizens in virtually every state.

In California, an increase in the minimum wage to \$1.25 and extension of coverage to unprotected workers, as provided by key bills under consideration, would require raises for an estimated 190,000 low-paid workers.

It is estimated that the required increase in total wage and salary payrolls in California would be less than one-half of one per cent.

Although small as a proportion of the total payroll, the increase would be a considerable addition to the purchasing power of the state's lower income families. In dollar terms, the increase in purchasing power of California's low income workers would be an estimated \$28 million a year.

posed of members from management, labor, and the public should be established to advise the Secretary on the Mexican farm labor program.