

PRICES RISE; REAL EARNINGS DOWN

Two recent reports issued by the U.S. Department of Labor show prices continuing to rise, accompanied by a substantial drop in real earnings and buying power of workers.

Consumer prices rose four-tenths of one percent in April, the largest advance since June. The rise brought the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index to 126.2 percent of its 1947-49 level, marking a 1.9 percent increase above April a year ago.

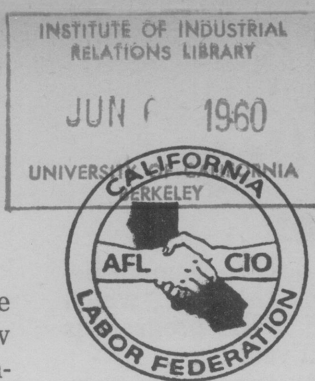
At the same time, factory workers' spendable earnings and buying power declined between March and April.

Spendable earnings fell by about 85 cents or one percent over the month to \$80.20 a week for a worker with three dependents, and \$72.66 for a worker without dependents. The decline, according to the Labor Department, resulted from a drop in hours of work, reflecting cutbacks in the auto, metals and machinery industries, and to some extent the occurrence of religious holidays in the survey week.

The drop in spendable earnings, together with a rise in consumer prices, cut factory workers' buying power by 1.5 percent over the month.

Buying power of "real" spendable

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THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Civil Liberties Union Supports Labor Political Action

Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, this week hailed a policy statement issued by the American Civil Liberties Union which defends labor political action against attacks from reactionary employer groups and labor-haters in Congress.

The ACLU, dedicated to the preservation of civil liberties, released a policy statement last Friday declaring that the use of members' dues by labor organizations for political purposes is "an exercise of the right of free expression protected by the First Amendment."

The Civil Liberties organization said that although some union members may dissent from the choice expressed by the union majority in political campaigns, as long as these members are free to participate in the decisions within the union they are not deprived of their civil liberties.

The ACLU policy action was released by the organization's executive director in commenting on a case now before the Supreme Court which reactionary elements are watching hopefully to curb the un-

ion shop and deny labor an effective base for political action. The case (Street v. IAM) is an appeal by the International Association of Machinists from a decision of the Georgia Supreme Court striking down as unconstitutional the National Railway Labor Act which permits employers and unions to enter into union shop agreements.

The basis for the Georgia high court's decision was its claim that the union shop interfered with the freedom of opinion of workers who disagreed with the union's political stand. In its decision the state's supreme court held that, "one who is compelled to contribute the fruits of his labor to support or promote political or economic programs or support candidates for public office is just as much deprived of his freedom of speech as if he were compelled to give his local support to doctrines he opposes."

The ACLU's policy statement said that while the opinion of the minority within the union should be recognized, it cannot block the decision of the majority to have a portion of their dues used for political purposes. In addition, the ACLU asserted, dissenting union members are free to express their contrary opinion outside the union in public debate.

The remedy for minority dissenters, ACLU pointed out, "lies not in stifling the expression of group opinion, but in democratic participation in the political life of their union..."

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STATE STUDY PINPOINTS UNEMPLOYED

Spurred by a persistent high level of unemployment, the State Department of Unemployment has conducted a study of California unemployment insurance claimants to determine the composition of jobless workers. The Department's findings were released this week by Director Irving Perluss.

Men outnumbered women 2-to-1 among the unemployed and about 40 percent of all jobless persons were over age of 45.

More than twice as many men as women filed for unemployment insurance benefits in California during the week on March 11-17, when the study was made, and 42 percent of the claimants were over age 45, compared with 35 percent of the labor force in the same age group.

The greatest number of the jobless—40 percent—listed manufac-

turing as the industry in which they had last worked, with the largest number coming from the food processing and transportation equipment industries.

One claimant in five had worked in the construction field, and about the same proportion listed wholesale and retail trade as their last employment. One in ten had last worked in the service industries.

Unskilled workers formed the largest occupational claimant group

U.S.-Mexican Unions Urge Bracero Standards

A six-point statement of policy on the Mexican farm labor import program was unanimously adopted at the sixth conference of the Joint U.S.-Mexico Trade Union Committee held in Brownsville, Texas, and in the nearby Mexican city of Matamoros.

In addition, the Mexican labor movement renewed its declaration that its members have no desire to displace U.S. farm workers or to undercut their wages when "braceros" enter this country to work on farms.

The policy statement:

- Urged President Eisenhower to veto pending legislation sought by growers' associations to take administrative control of the program from the Secretary of Labor.

- Called on the U.S. Labor Dept. to tighten its procedures for certifying the need for foreign workers and for determining the prevailing wage in areas where they are to work.

- Demanded establishment of a minimum wage of "no less than \$1

an hour" in the next agreement between Mexico and the U.S., which must be reached if the program is to go beyond next year.

- Asked "many times" the present number of Labor Dept. compliance inspectors and amendment of the international agreement to permit Mexican consuls to set up similar compliance staffs.

- Called for broader and increased insurance for both occupational and non-occupational sickness and injury protection.

- Condemned the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service for its continued issuance of "special" work permits under which Mexican workers cross the border to work on U.S. farms at substandard wages and without proper legal safe guards.

A resolution on cooperation urged greater exchange of information between counterpart unions in the two countries, and praised the "solidarity pacts" between U.S. and Mexican unions already existing in several industries.

Pitts Named to Advisory Council

Governor Edmund G. Brown has announced the appointment of Thomas L. Pitts, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, to the Governor's Advisory Council of the State Department of Employment.

Pitts succeeds C. J. Haggerty, who resigned after assuming the presidency of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, with headquarters in Washington, D.C.

In his letter of resignation, Haggerty said he could not continue because of his new position so far from California. The seven-member council advises and makes recommendations to the State Director of Employment on problems in the administration of the unemployment insurance code.

The council is made up of three members representing employers, three representing labor and one representing the public.

STATE STUDY PINPOINTS UNEMPLOYED

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in the study, comprising almost 30 percent in line with the nationwide trend toward fewer unskilled jobs. The semi-skilled and skilled workers were the next largest groups, each comprising slightly more than one-fifth of the sample. About one unemployed worker in eight was in the clerical and sales occupational group.

Significant differences appeared between the occupations of those who had been out of work for 15 weeks or more, and those unemployed for a shorter period. Though skilled workers comprised slightly more than 20 percent of all sample claimants, they constituted only 14 percent of those who had been out of work continuously for 15 weeks.

On the other hand, service workers who comprised 10 percent of the total unemployment insurance claimants, made up 15 percent of those who had been out of work for a long period.

Perluss said these differences probably reflected the intermittent nature of construction work which

was the last employment of a large number of the skilled workers, and the fact that many service workers have difficulty in finding jobs in other industries when their customary work is not available.

The large number of unemployed skilled workers in the claims line, was attributed to the slowing down of residential construction in 1960 compared with 1959. Factors affecting the number of semi-skilled and unskilled workers filing claims were:

- (1) the seasonal fluctuations of employment in industries allied with agriculture;

- (2) the rapidly changing technology of California's industries, and

- (3) declining employment in the aircraft industry.

Latest figures on unemployment in the state show the number of jobless workers at 323,000 in April—44,000 more than a year ago.

April unemployed comprised 5.2 percent of the labor force, as compared with 4.7 percent in April last year.

Truman To Speak In San Francisco

Former President Harry S. Truman will be the featured speaker on June 26 at 7:30 Sunday evening at the Masonic Temple when the San Francisco Chapter of the American Association for the United Nations celebrates the 15th Anniversary of the signing of the U.N. Charter.

Truman's address will be in commemoration of the speech he gave before the San Francisco conference in 1945.

Based on the conviction that the U.N. offers the world's best hope for peace, the California Labor Federation is urging widespread labor participation in the 15th Anniversary celebration.

Tickets to the event are available for the asking by writing to the San Francisco Chapter of the American Association for the United Nations at 2209 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco 9. Each ticket admits two persons.

June Apprenticeship Month

A stepped-up training program to increase apprenticeship opportunities was initiated by the newly formed California Conference on Apprenticeship and the California Apprenticeship Council in announcing June as Apprenticeship Month, with the theme "Hire and Train an Apprentice."

In a joint statement, Philip R. Melnick, Los Angeles, Chairman of the California Conference on Apprenticeship and William P. Kelly, San Francisco, Chairman of the California Apprenticeship Council, said, "The purpose of Apprenticeship Month is to draw the attention of employers to train more apprentices to replenish the fast dwindling supply of skilled craftsmen in the labor market."

"One of the things which occurred in connection with the Apprenticeship Month campaign last year was the placement of 600 young people as apprentices. In addition, favorable effects of the campaign continued throughout the summer with 894 apprentice registrations in July and 1,040 in August, which more than raised the previous average registrations in the past years."

During the month, Joint Apprenticeship Committees (composed of both labor and management) make special efforts to help create and develop job opportunities for apprentices. They work in cooperation with governmental agencies and school officials toward the furtherance of the principles of apprenticeship. During Apprenticeship Month representatives from these groups call upon employers to solicit apprenticeable jobs.

Underscoring the importance of apprenticeship training, Governor Edmund G. Brown has issued the following statement:

"California's apprenticeship program builds for the future:

"It provides critically needed trained craftsmen for the State's expanding industries, at the same time affording thousands of young California job seekers opportunities for careers of skill.

"This creative program which has contributed so much to the industrial growth of the State is a tribute to the 650 joint apprenticeship committees composed of labor and management representatives work-

ing harmoniously together with assistance from the State and Federal governments and the local schools.

"These voluntary committees have developed apprenticeship training standards under which they supervise the training of nearly 22,000 apprentices in more than 100 skilled occupations. Their efforts to improve and expand the program to meet the challenge presented by technological advances and the ever-increasing number of youth eager for employment-training opportunities in the skilled crafts, merit the support of all of our citizens.

"The splendid efforts and progress already made by both labor and management with the assistance of government in the apprenticeship program which is so essential to the State's future, deserve all possible encouragement and support.

"June 1960, is **Apprenticeship Month** in California, with the theme of "Hire and Train an Apprentice," to call further attention to the aims and objectives of this splendid work. I wish it every success."

REMEMBER TO VOTE! Primary Election June 7, 1960

California Labor COPE endorsements have been mailed to all local unions for distribution to members.

State AFL-CIO recommends a "YES" vote on all three statewide propositions: No. 1 — Veterans Farm and Home Bonds; No. 2 — School Bonds; No. 3 — State Indebtedness.

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earnings for the factory worker fell to \$63.55 per week in April, as compared with \$65.74 last December.

Compared with April a year ago, spendable earnings were about 50 cents or 0.6 lower, and purchasing power was 2.5 percent lower.

New Teaching Guide Available

The AFL-CIO's new 41-page, 6th-session teaching guide prepared by the Department of Education, is now available for \$1. Its purpose is to help local union officers and members participate more effectively in union meetings.

The teaching guide is based on the AFL-CIO pamphlet No. 81, "How To Run A Union Meeting," also available at the price of 20 cents per copy; 17 cents each for orders up to 100; and 15 cents each for orders over 100.

Orders should be sent directly to the AFL-CIO Department of Education, 815 - 16th St. N.W. Washington 6, D.C.

The new teaching guide includes a quiz program which can be used as basis for teaching sessions. It recommends three films, available from the AFL-CIO Film Division, which can be used in a course on building participation in local union meetings. The films, all of which are 16 mm sound are *Heart of the Union*, *Mr. Chairman*, and *Parliamentary Procedure*.

Organizations ordering the teaching guide will receive a sample copy of the pamphlet "How To Run A Union Meeting" with the teaching guide. If plans are being made to set up a class, order enough copies of the pamphlet No. 81 for the class, but only one copy of the teaching guide.

Conference Schedules

Two important statewide conferences are scheduled during the third week of June:

Governor's Conference on Housing — Statler-Hilton Hotel, Los Angeles, June 13-14-15.

First Convention of California Consumers Association — Hotel Californian, Fresno, June 18-19.

All AFL-CIO organizations in the state have received invitations to participate in these conferences.

Further information may be obtained from the Federation office, 995 Market Street, San Francisco, Sutter 1-2838.

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AFL-CIO Asks for Housing To Meet American Needs

The AFL-CIO has called again for congressional passage of comprehensive housing legislation based on bills sponsored by Rep. Albert D. Rains (D-Ala.) in order to "bring good housing within the financial reach of the average American family."

At the same time, a federation spokesman told Rains' House Banking subcommittee, enactment of the bills would help stem the current downturn in the home building industry.

Boris Shishkin, secretary of the AFL-CIO Housing Committee, declared that if the sharp housing dip is left unchecked it could lead to another recession just as declines in housing activity "helped to precipitate" the 1953-54 and 1957-58 recessions.

'Indifference' Charged

With housing starts running at a rate of only 1.1 million annually, compared with estimated needs of 2.3 million new units a year for the next 10 years, Shishkin accused the Administration of "indifference" to the nation's need.

The Administration's sole contribution to revive housing construction, he said, has been to reduce down payments on houses ranging from \$15,000 to \$26,000 in price by sums of from \$50 to \$500. Shishkin charged the move would breed "false complacency" which could delay effective congressional action.

"What is needed more than anything else," he declared, "is the exercise of responsible leadership by the executive branch of the federal government."

He praised recent House approval of Rains' \$1 billion emergency housing measure designed to pump new life into the sagging home building industry by freeing extra funds for FHA and VA mortgages.

Omnibus Bill Approved

Shishkin said, however, that

"more than emergency legislation is needed to meet the rapidly expanding housing needs of the nation." He called for prompt approval of Rains' omnibus bill "geared to the long-term housing requirements of all American families."

He urged appropriation of \$600 million a year for a 10-year period for urban renewal, as requested by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, to permit cities to undertake a "full-scale, long-range attack against the blight and slums that are threatening to engulf them."

Shishkin also endorsed a provision to make available 60-year loans at 2 percent interest—the same rate used by the Rural Electrification Administration for the past 25 years—to finance middle-income housing for families displaced by urban renewal programs. At least \$1 billion should be authorized at the outset, he said, to permit construction of 75,000 to 80,000 units.

The AFL-CIO spokesman also called for:

- Authorization of at least \$50 million in additional funds to finance FHA - insured cooperative housing projects.

- Restoration of the public housing authorization in the Housing Act of 1949 to permit construction of an additional 100,000 units "as quickly as possible."

- Appropriation of at least \$50 million in added funds for the program of direct loans for housing for the elderly launched last year.

- An increase of \$4 billion in the FHA insurance authorization.

- Reduction in the FHA insurance premium from the present one-half of 1 percent to one-quarter of 1 percent.

- Protection of homeowners against foreclosure in the event of

Civil Liberties Union Supports Labor Action

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Commenting on the policy statement of the Civil Liberties organization, Pitts said:

"The policy action unmasks the Barry Goldwaters and others of the extreme right wing who would use the civil liberties issue as a vehicle for the accomplishment of their anti-labor purposes.

"The issuance of the ACLU's policy statement virtually on the eve of California's primary elections pinpoints the rights of labor to support candidates endorsed through democratically established political action bodies."

The California Labor Council on Political Education, official political arm of the state AFL-CIO, has made endorsements in 65 of the state's 80 assembly districts; 16 of the state's 20 senatorial seats up this year; and 28 of the 30 state's congressional seats in the House of Representatives.

All endorsements were made at a pre-primary convention of California Labor COPE held in San Francisco April 21, composed of representatives from voluntarily affiliated AFL-CIO local organizations in the state.

A pamphlet carrying these primary endorsements has been circulated statewide through affiliated organizations of California Labor COPE.

temporary unemployment, illness or other emergency.

- Federal action to bar discrimination in housing because of race, color, creed or national origin.

- Authorization of \$500 million for college housing.

- Adoption of an "effective farm housing program to make good homes available to rural families."

- Requirement of payment of prevailing wages in any housing construction involving federal grants, loans, guarantees or insurance.