

COPE Primary Endorsements 93 Percent Effective

California Labor COPE endorsements in the state primary this Tuesday were over 93 percent effective in 107 contests which appeared decided, according to early unofficial reports gathered from the various wire services.

State AFL-CIO supported candidates won their party's nomination for the November election in 23 out of 27 congressional districts where endorsements were made; 63 out of 65 assembly districts; and 14 out of 15 senatorial districts.

Two additional races were headed for resolution by absentee ballots. In these undecided contests, endorsed candidate George B. Jones (D) trailed in the 24th congressional district by 30 votes, with 22 out of 642 precincts outstanding. With all precincts reported in the 39th senatorial district, labor-supported candidate John W. Beard (D) lagged by only eleven votes.

Under California's new primary law prohibiting crossfiling, all successful party nominees will face run-offs in November, except where one of the parties did not run an opposition candidate or where candidates successfully crossfiled by a write-in campaign.

Seven incumbents conducted successful write-in campaigns for the

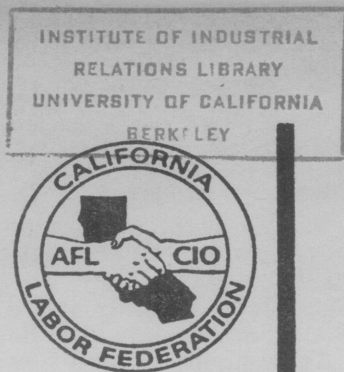
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AWOC Scores Farm Victory In Cherry Harvest

The Stockton-Linden cherry harvest area this week marked the scene of an overwhelming victory scored by the AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee in its campaign to win decent levels of wages and working conditions for the state's farm workers.

Behind the victory was a solid accomplishment — the successful establishment of far-flung agricultural labor picket lines honored by all but a few of the 7,000 farm workers engaged in harvesting the state's bumper cherry crop.

AWOC Director Norman Smith hailed the stunning victory in cherries (which has sent anti-union farm



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Executive
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State AFL-CIO Convention Call

The official call to the 1960 convention of the California Labor Federation was sent out to all affiliated organizations this Wednesday by Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the state AFL-CIO.

The convention will meet in Memorial Auditorium, Sacramento, starting Monday, August 15, and continue through the week until the business of the convention has been completed.

More than 2,000 delegates representing state AFL-CIO organizations throughout the state are expected to travel to the capital city to attend the third convention of the merged state AFL-CIO organization.

In a convention call message, Pitts noted that the selection of Sacramento as the site for this third convention, "brings focus on convention policy actions which will chart the course of the Federation at the 1961 general session of the state legislature."

The state AFL-CIO leader pointed out that the legislative successes achieved by the Federation in the past reflect the great strength that

lies in programs that have their origin in the membership of the labor movement. As the representative body of the workingmen and women of this state, he said, "our programs must continue to represent their hopes and aspirations, not only as producers of wealth, but also as citizens who constitute the largest organized sector of the consuming public."

Pitts' message warned that the enemies of labor "know well where the base of our strength lies," adding:

"Some of the nation's most powerful corporate giants are working diligently to fragment our activities through the process of legal encirclement, and thus isolate us as fragmented groups of workers, one from another. At the same time, they are spending millions of dollars on public relations to manipulate the consumer and turn him against even the narrowing area of economic action to which they would confine our activities."

STRENGTHEN ORGANIZATION

Under these circumstances of anti-labor attacks, Pitts said that California labor must perfect its organizational strength from within, and "continue to assume the leadership of all legitimate liberal groups behind positive programs that will make it possible for the labor movement to continue as a potent force whose basic concern is the general welfare of the state and the nation."

The interests of the workingman were noted as lying in a progressive America "free and strong, and an

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active force for world peace based on the integrity and welfare of the individual."

As part of the AFL-CIO and the free trade union movement of the world, the obligations of California labor were depicted as "extending beyond the borders of California and embracing a world beset with poverty and ignorance, and totalitarian movements which would use poverty and ignorance to reduce free workers to slaves of a state."

Specifically in California, Pitts said:

"We must take the lead to make certain that the focus of government is on people, and not the profits of special interests. We must continue to advocate programs which concentrate the efforts of government on the needs of the people. Where these needs are not being met by private activity, we must be bold in our approach in pressing for programs and community services to maintain free institutions and promote the general welfare."

DELEGATES AND VOTING STRENGTH

Delegates and voting strength at the convention will be determined on the basis of two delegates for the first 500 members or less of an affiliated organization; one delegate for the succeeding 250 members; and one delegate for each succeeding 500 members, not to exceed ten delegates from any one local union.

Each delegate is permitted to vote only an equal percentage of the membership of the local union he represents. The Federation constitution prohibits proxies, except that in a roll call or per capita vote, one delegate, upon prior written approval of all co-delegates of the local union, may vote for the entire delegation.

Affiliated central labor bodies and similar councils are entitled to two delegates, each having only one vote.

Affiliates were notified in the convention call that credentials and lists of authorized delegates will be mailed as soon as the computation of the per capita membership and voting strength of each local has been completed.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions submitted to the con-

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opposing party's nomination, thus assuring themselves of an automatic victory in November. They were Congressmen John E. Moss and B. F. Sisk, State Senator Edwin J. Regan, and Assemblymen Lloyd Lowrey, Glenn Coolidge, William Byron Rumford and Bert DeLotto. The

only Republican amongst them was Coolidge.

Victorious COPE-endorsed candidates are listed below by congressional, state senate and assembly districts.

*(Signifies successful endorsed candidates who have no opposition in the November election.)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dist.

1. Clem Miller (D)
2. Harold T. Johnson (D)
3. John E. Moss, Jr. (D)*
5. John F. Shelley (D)
6. Douglas R. Page (D)
7. Jeffery Cohelan (D)
8. George P. Miller (D)
10. Russell B. Bryan (D)

Dist.

11. John J. McFall (D)
12. B. F. Sisk (D)*
13. L. Boyd Finch (D)
14. Harlan Hagen (D)
16. Jerry Pacht (D)
17. Cecil R. King (D)
18. D. Patrick Ahern (D)
19. Chet Holifield (D)

Dist.

21. Rudd Brown (D)
22. James C. Corman (D)
24. Undecided
25. George A. Kasem (D)
26. James Roosevelt (D)
27. Harry R. Sheppard (D)
29. D. S. (Judge) Saund (D)
30. Walter Wencke (D)

STATE SENATE

Dist.

1. Stanley Arnold (D)
3. Carl L. Christensen (D)
5. Edwin J. Regan (D)*
7. Ronald G. Cameron (D)
9. John C. Begovich (D)

Dist.

11. Samuel R. Geddes (D)
13. Charles M. Geller (D)
17. George Miller, Jr. (D)
19. Albert S. Rodda (D)
25. Fred S. Farr (D)

Dist.

29. Alan A. Erhart (R)
31. William D. McKillop (R)
33. James J. McBride (D)
37. Clifford V. Dean (D)
39. Undecided

STATE ASSEMBLY

Dist.

1. David D. Wofford (D)
2. Pauline L. Davis (D)
3. Lloyd W. Lowrey (D)*
4. Reginald M. Watt (D)
6. Paul J. Lunardi (D)
7. Everett A. Matzen (D)
8. W. A. "Jimmie" Hicks (D)
9. Edwin L. Z'berg (D)
10. Jerome R. Waldie (D)
13. Carlos Bee (D)
14. Robert W. Crown (D)
15. Nicholas C. Petris (D)
16. Wilma B. Hackett (D)
17. William Byron Rumford (D)*
18. Edward R. Fitzsimmons (D)
19. Charles W. Meyers (D)
20. Phillip Burton (D)
21. George E. Moscone (D)
22. Frank Brann (D)
23. John A. O'Connell (D)
24. Edward M. Gaffney (D)

Dist.

27. Glenn E. Coolidge (R)*
29. Bruce F. Allen (R)
30. Ralph M. Brown (D)
31. Gordon H. Winton, Jr. (D)
32. Bert DeLotto (D)*
33. Charles B. Garrigus (D)
34. Alan G. Pattee (R)
35. Myron H. Frew (D)
37. Rex M. Cunningham (D)
38. Jack T. Casey (D)
39. John C. Williamson (D)
40. Edward E. Elliott (D)
41. Tom Carroll (D)
42. Tom Bane (D)
44. Joseph M. Kennick (D)
45. George E. Brown, Jr. (D)
46. Charles P. Sohner (D)
48. Dore Sharpe (D)
49. Paul Egly (D)
50. Ronald Brooks Cameron (D)
51. William A. Munnell (D)

Dist.

52. George A. Willson (D)
53. Fletcher R. Flynn (D)
54. Herbert E. Selwyn (D)
55. Vernon Kilpatrick (D)
56. George E. Danielson (D)
59. Thomas M. Rees (D)
61. Lester A. McMillan (D)
62. Augustus F. Hawkins (D)
63. Don A. Allen, Sr. (D)
65. Jesse M. Unruh (D)
66. Charles H. Wilson (D)
67. Clayton A. Dills (D)
68. Vincent Thomas (D)
69. Carley V. Porter (D)
70. Ora G. Knudson (D)
71. David N. Strausser (D)
72. Eugene G. Nisbet (D)
73. Phil Dreyer (D)
75. Richard T. Hanna (D)
76. Leverette D. House (D)
79. James R. Mills (D)

All COPE endorsements will be subject to review at a pre-general election convention to be held later this year.

At that time, consideration will also be given to qualifying candidates in districts where no endorsements were made in the June 7 primary and where COPE-endorsed candidates were defeated.

vention must be in the hands of the secretary-treasurer, in triplicate, not later than August 1, except for resolutions acted upon and approved by regularly constituted and affiliated statewide organizations at conferences held in the period of July 31-August 14. Such conference resolutions must be filed not later than 9 p.m. on Sunday, August 14.

Hotel lists and reservation forms will be mailed to affiliates with credentials and lists of authorized delegates.

The Hotel Senator has been designated as the 1960 convention headquarters.

Public Law 78 Extension Bill on House Floor

A possible early showdown on the extension of Public Law 78, providing for the importation of Mexican Nationals, was precipitated this week when the House Rules Committee cleared the Gathings extension bill, H.R. 12176, for floor action.

Supported by the nation's corporate farmers, the Gathings bill would extend the Mexican importation program for another two

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these piece rates, the organizing committee was also successful in substantially reducing a previously established 24-pound level for rounding-off cherry buckets.

It is estimated that the improved rates and rounding-off requirements boosted earnings for individual cherry harvest workers during the five-week season by as much as \$80. All totalled, the harvest workers won wage increases amounting to well over half a million dollars.

Notable also was AWOC's success in holding off the use of Mexican Nationals as strikebreakers. Thus the need for "shopping around" from orchard to orchard in search of better rates was greatly minimized for domestics. These factors further enhanced workers' earnings by providing the opportunity for steady work during the harvest.

Many growers themselves were quick to recognize the value of a stable and responsible labor force. Estimates are that stabilized employment conditions had the effect of increasing the labor supply by about 18 percent.

Cherry workers and their AWOC leaders agreed, however, that far and away the most impressive outcome of the unprecedented victory was the demonstration of their power and know-how to organize effectively.

The ancient question of whether farm workers can be organized has now been removed from the realm of speculation. The break in the agricultural dike is being viewed as comparable to the initial victories preceding organization of steel and the maritime industry in the 1930's.

ANTI-LABOR RESISTANCE

The cherry harvest victory was not accomplished without resistance from notoriously anti-labor farmer organizations.

During the early harvest, after almost universal acceptance of the terms of informal agreements nego-

tiated with 60 percent of the growers, heavy pressure was successfully applied by the anti-union farm organizations to force the cherry growers association to announce a "sliding scale of 80 cents to a \$1.25 a bucket for the main harvest." The height of the trees was proclaimed to be no factor in the determination of piece rates.

AWOC workers, however, were determined to resist the return to unilateral actions of the past. Mass meetings and steward sessions were held in continuous rounds throughout the Stockton-Linden area. At these sessions, the rigged "sliding scale" was analyzed and exposed to mean that the bulk of the crop would be harvested at 90 cents per bucket.

As one worker put it, "We concluded that the growers were going to get the 'scale' and we were going to get the 'slide' under the Association's scheme."

Scores of strikes, ranging from a few minutes to a few days, proved completely effective in holding the industry to a minimum price of \$1.10 per bucket. More often, a few brief words to cut-rate minded growers from AWOC stewards, armed with authorization from their crews to stop work, brought immediate compliance with the terms of the informal agreement.

Generally, disputes flared over attempts by a small group of growers to ignore an escalator clause in the informal agreement providing for the adjustment of picking rates upwards from the minimum where tall trees and rough picking were involved.

AWOC crews, composed of the most skilled and experienced pickers, appraised individual orchards for harvesting conditions and recommended appropriate piece rates.

PODESTA ANTI-UNION DRIVE

The backbone of the anti-union drive was "cherry king" Fred Podesta of Linden, owner of the largest individual stand of cherries in the world.

Inadvertently, Podesta upset the

grower contention that a severe labor shortage existed. His elaborate advertising of "good picking at good rates" by television, radio and other mass media swamped the countryside with eager pickers from far and near. The ads neglected to mention the difficult harvesting conditions, such as the need for using forty-foot extension ladders to scale unusually tall trees, or the presence of a strike situation.

Upon arriving at the vast Podesta ranch over the Memorial Day weekend, hundreds of pickers immediately turned away or joined AWOC's 24-hour-a-day picket line when advised of the strike against Podesta and the circumstances causing it.

Podesta alone held out to the bitter end in his obstinate opposition to the minimal standards of decency. Despite his extravagant strikebreaker recruiting activities, he managed to harvest only 260 out of his ranch's estimated 1200 tons of cherries. Smith noted that the unharvested crop, representing a loss of about \$225,000, would not leave other growers unimpressed.

AWOC this week reported land-office activity as workers rallied from their resignation to defeats of the past to respond with renewed vigor and determination. Union officials reported many workers pouring into AWOC headquarters, insisting on paying dues for as much as a year in advance.

Equally significant is the fact that labor contractors and growers have begun contacting AWOC to find out what the piece rates are going to be for other crops coming up for harvest in the months ahead.

Underscoring the union's continuing widespread organizing campaign were three strikes put into effect on Monday in the Fresno area as the peach harvest season got under way. Effective picket lines were being maintained at each orchard.

At the same time, union activity was reported well under way in the Winters area apricot crop. Strikes involving apricot workers were settled this week at twenty Yolo and Solano County ranches by growers agreeing to increase their \$1.00 wages to \$1.25 an hour.

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FORM 3547 REQUESTED

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years and undercut the already inadequate powers of the Secretary of Labor to protect domestic farm workers.

Responding immediately to the situation, Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, wired the entire state Congressional delegation labor's firm opposition to the Gathings bill. He warned that the "well-being of two million farm workers and even more small farmers" is profoundly threatened by the measure.

In extending P.L. 78, Pitts pointed out that the Gathings bill would further weaken present "token safeguards" against proven flagrant abuses in the administration of the program by depriving the Secretary of Labor of rule-making under the Wagner-Peyser Act to guard against interstate recruitment practices that use the public employment services to undermine prevailing area standards.

"If any extension measure is to be passed," Pitts said, "I urge support of the McGovern substitute, H.R. 11211."

The McGovern bill, backed by the AFL-CIO as a minimum protection measure, provides for gradual reduction in the importation of Mexican contract labor over a five-year period, and at the same time attempts to reduce the adverse effects upon domestic farm workers during this period.

Provisions of the McGovern bill are among the recommendations made by the committee of distinguished consultants appointed last year by the Secretary of Labor to study the widespread misuse of Mexican Nationals.

Pitts asked members of the California delegation in Congress to make their views known on this crucial issue.

(See fact sheet on American farm workers, this page.)

Fact Sheet on American Farm Workers-- Related to the Mexican Farm Labor Program (Public Law 78)

- Over two million Americans work for wages on the farms which feed the nation—at least half a million are migrants. (Many are of Mexican descent. Objection to imported, underpaid labor is **not** an objection to Mexicans. The domestic farm labor force represents different racial and cultural groups.)
- Their average annual wage for 1958 was \$961, **including** income for off-farm work of \$195.
- They are under-employed for most of the year. Their average farm employment for 1958 was 128 days. (This **excludes** sporadic workers employed less than 25 days.)
- Many live in shacks; home "on the trek" may be a truck or jalopy, sometimes tents and converted barracks.
- They are excluded from practically all state and federal social welfare laws—from the protection of most workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance, minimum wage, and laws giving the right to organize.
- Their children receive only intermittent schooling, often work long hours in the fields to supplement the family's meager earnings — are excluded from federal child labor laws covering children working outside school hours.
- Illness and accidents plague these workers more than most because of their low standard of living and nomadic existence — often local residence laws bar migrant farm workers from public welfare benefits and hospital care.

Yet—underpaid and under-employed U.S. farm workers must compete with an annual importation of nearly half a million Mexican contract farm workers.

- The Mexican importation program began as a war-time emergency during World War II, but has been continued and expanded since the Korean War when less than 200,000 were admitted.
- In 1959, 437,600 Mexican nationals were employed on about 50,000 farms—less than 2% of the national's commercial farms. They do all kinds of farm work and not merely "stoop labor."
- Most family farmers do not use imported labor, and their own income has been reduced as a result of its use by large-scale operators.
- 95% of the Mexicans are employed in the 5 states of Texas, California, Arkansas, Arizona and New Mexico.
- At their 1959 peak, they made up nearly 90% of all the nation's seasonal lettuce harvest workers and more than 30% of the seasonal workers in cucumbers, tomatoes, citrus fruits, melons and nuts. They accounted for nearly 30% of the cotton harvest employment. In New Mexico, they constituted 78% of all seasonal farm labor.
- Instead of raising wages and improving conditions to attract and hold a stable farm work force, the large growers who depend on seasonal labor are able to import low-paid labor from Mexico through governmental channels — thus perpetuating bad conditions and forcing American workers to migrate to other areas seeking farm jobs to keep their families alive. (The guaranteed minimum wage to Mexicans brought in under contract is only 50 cents an hour.)
- Large-scale agriculture is the only industry in the American economy which is permitted a continuous flow of underpaid foreign labor, undercutting standards for domestic farm workers.

THESE BILLS ARE NOW BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

(Back up the AWOC Organizing Drive. Write your Congressman to defeat H.R. 12176 and substitute H.R. 11211, if any extension bill is to be passed.)

- H.R. 12176 (Gathings Bill) — To extend Public Law 78 (the Mexican labor import law) for two years [otherwise it is due to expire in June, 1961] and amending it to prohibit the Secretary of Labor from issuing regulations to protect wages and conditions of employment for U.S. farm workers hired through the federal-state employment service.
(Supported by users of Mexican labor and spokesmen for big farm interests.)
- H.R. 11211 (McGovern Bill) — To extend Public Law 78 but with a 20% reduction in numbers admitted yearly to provide for its abolition in 5 years, amended to reform the Mexican labor program to reduce adverse effects upon U.S. farm workers, recommended by a committee of distinguished consultants appointed by the Secretary of Labor to study the Mexican labor program.
(Supported by labor, church, civic and family-farm organizations.)