

Installment Buying Pamphlet Sent Out

Affiliates of the California Labor Federation this week were sent sample copies of a new pamphlet prepared by the state Attorney General's office, which explains the rights of consumers under a new state law regulating installment contracts and revolving charge accounts.

Entitled "Know Your Rights . . . When You Buy On Time", the pamphlet has a two-fold purpose:

(1) Help the consumer decide whether he wants to spend the extra money it costs to buy on time, and if so

(2) Help the consumer determine that the seller is complying with the Unruh Act regulating purchases under installment contracts and revolving charge accounts.

In a covering letter, Sam B. Eubanks, Chairman of the Federation's standing Committee on Community Services, explained that the pamphlet was being sent out as part of the Federation's effort to encourage consumer counseling among affiliates.

Although the new law in question was described as falling short of giving consumers needed protection against prevailing high service charges and interest rates in time purchases, Eubanks said that it does spell out certain legal rights of consumers "designed to give them a measure of protection against many abuses in the field of consumer credit."

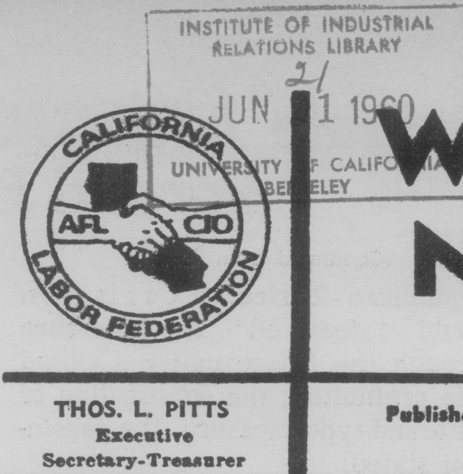
The law's enforcement, it was

(Continued on Page 3)

Fed Presses Farm Workers Legal and Organizational Rights Before Senate Committee 'Emergency' Hearing

The California Labor Federation this Wednesday, at an "emergency" hearing called by the Senate Fact Finding Committee on Labor and Welfare, lashed out against the efforts of corporate farm-dominated grower associations to contain the ground swell of organizational activities of farm workers by repressive measures advanced under the guise of saving "perishable crops."

The "emergency" hearing of the Senate committee was called in the face of unprecedented successes achieved by the AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee in the harvesting of the state's bumper crop of cherries for the declared purpose of receiving testimony on the operation and adequacy of federal and state laws relative to the current harvesting situa-



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151

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State AFL-CIO Mobilizes for Forand Bill Action

The executive council of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, meeting in Hollywood last week, June 9-10, concluded a two-day session with a strong appeal for mobilization of California labor in a stepped-up campaign to secure congressional enactment of Forand-type health care for the aged.

Responding to new congressional developments on the Forand bill front, the 36-member council blasted the "pauper's oath" medical care program which the House Ways and Means Committee is trying to push through Congress in a "package bill" containing modest social security liberalization provisions.

As part of the AFL-CIO drive to rally the 13½ million-member trade union movement for the "final push" necessary for victory in the drive for health care for the aged, the council urged local AFL-CIO organizations to join in a "new and vigorous letter writing campaign that would bring focus on the U.S. Senate where chances for Forand bill action are deemed best . . ."

Current Legislative Situation

The House Ways and Means Committee on June 3 unanimously approved a social security bill after rejecting by vote of 16-9 a modified version of the Forand bill.

Included in the measure is an inconsequential program of medical assistance for those older workers who in effect must take a rigid "means" test.

The committee social security bill, with the inadequate medical care provisions, will be pushed through the House of Representatives under closed rules prohibiting amendments.

In the face of these developments, the fight for Forand-type legislation has now shifted to the Senate, where an effort to add a social insurance health benefits provision will be made by labor-liberal forces.

Federation Blast

In its Hollywood action, the state AFL-CIO executive council blasted the medical care features of the House Ways and Means Committee-approved social security bill as compounding the "evils of the Eisenhower federal-state program of public assistance with a 'pauper's oath' approach in a new program designed to assist states in providing limited medical benefits for the aged who may be determined by the states, as they may choose, to fall in a new category of 'medical indigents'."

Recognizing that the controlling

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued on Page 2)

Gruhn Cites Many Benefits of Vocational Rehabilitation

Hammering home the theme that everyone profits when disabled workers are restored to gainful employment, California Labor Federation President Albin J. Gruhn told a Los Angeles vocational rehabilitation conference of the need for realistic investment of federal and state funds to overcome the severe shortage of rehabilitation facilities.

Co-sponsored by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and UCLA's Institute of Industrial Relations, the June 10-11 conference was advised that over 80% of rehabilitated workers return to jobs at least equal to their former employment, compiling production and safety records at least on a par with other workers.

Although two-fifths of our six million disabled adults of working age could be restored to employment, ninety percent of those capable of rehabilitation are denied such opportunity due to budget limitations, means tests, residency requirements and lack of effective referral services. This in itself aggravates the problem as any delay in starting the rehabilitation process makes its success more difficult.

Rehabilitation of two million handicapped workers under federal-state programs at a cost of about \$1.5 billion would have staggering results, according to the Federation official.

Gruhn observed that the \$3 billion increase in these workers' earnings would reimburse the federal government's expenditures within three years by boosting its income tax revenues \$300 million annually. Other benefits would include a major cut in public assistance program costs, increased state and local revenues, reduction of the burden upon limited medical personnel and facilities, and the building of sound and self-respecting families.

Observing that chronic disease conditions are the cause of 88% of all disability, Gruhn urged federal aid for a wholesale onslaught into the development of preventive measures and rehabilitation techniques.

Comprehensive diagnostic treat-

(Continued on Page 3)

State AFL-CIO Mobilizes for Forand Bill Action

(Continued from Page 1)

Republican-Dixiecrat coalition would "steamroll" the measure through the House under a closed rule prohibiting the substitution of a Forand-type measure, the resolution stated:

"In the short time remaining at this session of Congress, it is crucial that organized labor intensify its campaign for passage of a sound health insurance measure for the aged by focusing its efforts on the U.S. Senate in a massive drive utilizing letters, wires, petitions, rallies and every other method of communication to impress upon senators the necessity of adding a Forand-type provision to the social insurance bill coming over to them from the House."

The state AFL-CIO executive council urged local AFL-CIO organizations in the state to impress upon their elected representatives in Congress the depth of labor's support for Forand legislation by taking immediate action as follows:

1. By joining wholeheartedly in a new and vigorous letter-writing campaign that brings focus in the U.S. Senate where chances for Forand bill action are deemed best,

utilizing for this purpose the distribution of a new leaflet that has been printed by the Federation in cooperation with the AFL-CIO Legislative Department in Washington;

2. By bringing together all AFL-CIO organizations at the appropriate local level in staging "Forand Bill" rallies which will force our liberal legislators in Congress to recognize the public demand for action; and

3. By inviting to such rallies the participation of elected representatives in Congress and other local political office holders and candidates for office.

Early this week, the resolution embodying the executive council's action was forwarded to all central labor councils in the state urging their full cooperation.

A new leaflet has been developed in cooperation with the national AFL-CIO, outlining the situation in Congress and the steps necessary to win the fight for an effective health care bill for the aged.

As of Thursday, Federation Secretary Treasurer Pitts announced that more than 300,000 copies of the new leaflet have been sent to local organizations for membership distribution.

Sidell, Hansen Fed V.P.'s

The executive council of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, at its Hollywood meeting last week, elected two new district vice presidents to fill vacancies on the council.

In District No. 14 (Humboldt, Del Norte, Mendocino, and Lake Counties) Harry W. Hansen was elected to fill the vacancy left by the elevation of Albin J. Gruhn to the office of president. Hansen, a machinist, is president of the Central Labor Council of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

Replacing C. T. Lehmann, who submitted his resignation at the Hollywood meeting, the council named William Sidell, secretary-treasurer

of the Los Angeles County District Council of Carpenters, to the office of vice president in District No. 3-(A).

Lehmann's resignation was occasioned by his retirement from the labor movement after many years of devoted service, both in Los Angeles and statewide as an executive council member of the former California State Federation of Labor and the merged California Labor Federation for 23 years.

In accepting Lehmann's resignation with deep regret, officers who have served with him these many years spoke glowingly of his contribution to the growth of the trade union movement in the state.

Hearings Notice

The State Director of Employment will conduct public hearings in Sacramento commencing at 10 a.m., June 23 and 24, on the revision of a number of rules and regulations for the administration of unemployment insurance.

Included are regulations affecting agriculture, commercial fishing, domestics and others.

Hearings will be held at 800 Capitol Avenue in the Employment Building.

Gruhn Cites Many Benefits of Vocational Rehabilitation

(Continued from Page 2)

ment, together with whatever medical, retraining, psychological and social services the individual may require, were all seen as vital to a successful program.

"If any one of these needs is present but not met, the entire process may collapse," Gruhn declared in reiterating labor's advocacy of integrating rehabilitation into all programs for the disabled.

Noting the serious lack of diagnostic and special education facilities for some 200,000 physically or mentally retarded children in California's public schools, the AFL-CIO official asserted:

"Surely we owe it to these children and to society to see to it that these youngsters are not defeated even before they have had a chance to get started."

Installment Buying

(Continued from Page 1)

noted, depended upon consumers being aware of its existence and their legal rights when they buy on time.

Local organizations finding the descriptive pamphlet suitable for distribution to their membership were asked to send their orders to the Federation office so that they may be forwarded to the Attorney General for shipment. There is no charge for the pamphlet.

Fed Presses Farm Workers Legal and Organizational Rights Before Senate Committee 'Emergency' Hearing

(Continued from Page 1)

In the recent cherry harvest, the Department of Employment held to the enforcement of the Wagner-Peyser Act, which prohibits farm placement service referral of farm workers where a labor dispute is in progress.

Where domestic referrals could not be made, the Department refused to recognize a shortage of labor for the importation of Mexican Nationals.

Federation Testimony

Implementing action taken by the Federation's executive council last week in Hollywood (see page 4), Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts warned the Senate committee that growers were "caught in a situation of their own making," and that repressive action "would only intensify the rebellion that is taking place and help to ensure the loss of perishable crops."

Aided by the Federation's General Counsel Charles P. Scully on legal points in question, Pitts told the committee:

"Let us face the facts that what is happening today in agriculture is a mass revolt against the intolerable conditions which have been imposed upon farm workers by the availability of a vast supply of cheap imported labor and by the application of agricultural laissez-faire policies in the field of labor and socio-economic legislation."

"To date, in the field of agricultural labor," Pitts said, "the public welfare has been virtually ignored in the successful advocacy by growers of their exemption from the great body of labor and social economic legislation enacted in recent decades."

Pitts recited laws enacted for the protection of the public in the field of labor-management relations, fair labor standards, unemployment insurance.

While the public has generally demanded such legislation for their own protection, he added, in the field of agricultural labor, growers have subverted this public interest in their own industry by securing almost complete exemption from laws which are "almost universally regarded as essential to the public

welfare throughout the rest of the economy."

In key points of his testimony, Pitts added:

"In a very real sense, the organizational activity involved is only a small factor trailing behind this rebellion.

"Repressive legislation to block organizing will not put down the revolt and save the crops. . . .

"Organized labor has no more desire to see unsettled conditions in agriculture than the growers do. But those who believe that repressive legislation is going to bring about harmony and stability are sadly mistaken.

"History has demonstrated over and over again that such a relationship between an employer and his work force is rarely achieved through unilateral determination of wages and working conditions.

"The best that employers can hope to gain from such an arrangement is a seething cauldron of resentment and discontent."

At this point in the harvest season, Pitts warned, the "only thing that can safeguard perishable crops is to permit the revolt of farm workers to find its organizational form, so that mutually satisfactory conditions can be obtained to harvest the crops now maturing."

The growers were described as having no other course to follow, if their real interest was "to save the crops."

But for the future, Pitts told the committee that "the public welfare must take precedence over the short-sighted positions advocated by grower groups." The committee, he said, should bend its efforts in impressing upon fellow legislators the absolute necessity of extending to agriculture the protections demanded by the public in the field of labor and socio-economic legislation."

Legal Point at Issue

The legal issue at point before the committee centered on what constituted a "labor dispute" in connection with the referral of domestic and imported workers by the employment service.

Anti-union farm organizations which have consistently opposed legislation to protect and implement

(Continued on Page 4)

FORM 3547 REQUESTED

Fed Presses Farm Workers Legal and Organizational Rights Before Senate Committee 'Emergency' Hearing

(Continued from Page 3)

the organizational rights of farm workers are mobilizing to force a narrow interpretation of "labor disputes" which would permit them to receive the referral of domestics and Mexican Nationals in the face of a union strike for improved conditions.

Under the Wagner-Peyser Act and California law, as upheld by the State Supreme Court in the Petri and Messner cases, the state Department of Employment has refused referrals where a dispute exists between the union and the employer.

Anti-union farm organizations are concentrating their efforts on securing a reversal of the Department of Employment's interpretation through Secretary of Labor Mitchell, who, under the Wagner-Peyser Act, has the authority to issue rulings and interpretations.

As long as the Department of Employment holds firm on its present interpretation, it will be up to Secretary of Labor Mitchell to determine whether the employment service will be available to the growers as a recruiting agency for strike-breakers.

Executive Council Statement on California Farm Workers

In recent weeks, several important advancements have been made in the field of agricultural labor which have warmed the hearts of organized workers in the state.

Through the efforts of the AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, the state's bumper crop of cherries in the Stockton-Linden area has been 99 per cent harvested at piece rates and under conditions negotiated by AWOC.

This virtually unprecedented victory was accomplished in the face of massive attacks directed against a solid union front by the anti-union, corporate farm-dominated grower associations which have

heretofore dominated the agricultural scene and unilaterally determined the miserable conditions of farm workers. The largest cherry grower in the world, located in the harvest area, stubbornly saw the great bulk of his crop rot on the trees as he fought to break the union of harvest workers through unsuccessful efforts, first, to flood the countryside with strike breakers, and then in a last ditch effort to import Mexican Nationals to rescue his crop from destruction imposed by his own actions.

AWOC strike actions to enforce negotiated wage standards and working conditions were successful almost without exception throughout the cherry harvest season. Most significantly, union picket lines were observed by the crop's 7,000 harvest workers, and all efforts to import Mexican Nationals as strike breakers were effectively repulsed.

In this victory, we extend congratulations to AWOC, and pledge to them again our continued full support in their historic struggle to raise the conditions of life and labor of agricultural workers to a level of "parity" with their brothers and sisters in the organized sectors of our economy.

We particularly take pleasure in noting that the successes of AWOC in the cherry harvest are already being extended to other crops where the harvest is in progress.

A pattern of organizational success has been established which promises the achievement of labor's historic goals of extending the benefits of organization and unity of action to the long neglected farm workers.

The anti-union farm organizations and perennial supporters of "open shop" legislation have reacted to these successes of AWOC in

a typical pattern of agitation for restrictive laws presently being advanced under the guise of saving so-called "perishable crops." As in the past, they are demonstrating once again that they will stop at nothing to retain their stranglehold and virtual dictatorial control over the lives and working conditions of the men and women who make up the labor force in agriculture.

In their agitation they have obtained a vehicle to advance their anti-labor purpose. The Senate Fact Finding Committee on Labor and Welfare has announced that it will hold "emergency" hearings next Wednesday, June 15, in Sacramento, on the subject of whether "federal and state laws are adequate to deal with the current situation in California in perishable crop harvesting."

The Executive Council of the California Labor Federation serves notice that it is fully alert to the developing situation and the agitation to use restrictive anti-labor legislation to deny farm workers their prior rights to employment over imported Mexican Nationals, and to place a legal noose on their expressed desires for self-organization to improve their miserable lot.

We therefore publicly announce at this time that the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, will continue to press with renewed vigor and determination to advance the legal and organizational rights of the most exploited sector of our labor force.

Toward this end, in united support of the AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, appropriate representation will be made before the forthcoming Senate Fact Finding Committee on Labor and Welfare hearing in Sacramento to unmask the anti-public selfish ends of the corporate farm-dominated organizations who are agitating for oppressive legislation.