

POLITICAL NOTES

HOME STRETCH

Let's face it. Labor has the balance of resources necessary for victory in getting out the vote. With California's heavy Democratic registration, the only real threat to Kennedy carrying the state lies in anything less than a strong worker vote.

The last days of the campaign are upon us. We need to do everything possible.

In a letter to all affiliates this week, Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts reminded local organizations that "there will be no substitute for manpower." Every local is urged to sign up all available personnel with central labor council or local COPE "get out the vote" drives.

A coordinated approach is absolutely necessary.

MATERIALS

Several million pieces of literature have been placed in distribution channels through California Labor COPE. Orders for many pieces have been filled by direct distributions to local unions. Other campaign pieces have been sent to local councils and COPEs in quantity.

Local coordinating bodies are well

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RECESSION THREAT LOOMS

A third Eisenhower-Nixon recession is looming larger and larger as election day approaches.

Economists across the country (except the "public relations" economists of the Nixon campaign) are openly predicting a major economic setback in 1961. State statisticians are no longer predicting; they are urging advanced planning now to cope with vast unemployment in the year ahead.

Already, San Diego and Los Angeles have been declared depressed areas. Steel unemployment, which presages economic trends generally by seven or eight months, is reportedly approaching the 50 per cent level in some areas.

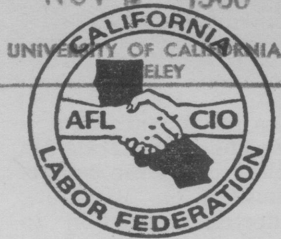
This week, the State Department of Employment reported September unemployment at 4.5 per cent of the civilian labor force—the second highest jobless rate for any September in the past decade.

John F. Henning, Director of Industrial Relations, notes that a small year-to-year gain of 2.4 per cent in employment is "illusory," because employment last September was depressed by more than 30,000 as the result of direct or indirect effects of the steel dispute and the work stoppage in shipbuilding.

The jobless count, according to

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THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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COUNTIES URGED TO PLAN FOR BIG VOTER TURNOUT

Thos. L. Pitts, state AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer and chairman of the statewide Labor Committee for Kennedy-Johnson, this Wednesday called upon all county election officials to plan for a large voter turnout on November 8, with adequate provisions for handling voters during "rush" polling hours.

"It is incumbent upon responsible election officials," Pitts said, "to provide voting facilities so that no voter will have to wait in line for a lengthy period in order to vote."

The AFL-CIO leader pointed out that in many metropolitan areas the workingman's opportunity to vote

is effectively limited to after his workday is completed. This causes crowded polling conditions whereby it is sometimes necessary to stand in line for a couple of hours.

"Every effort must be made to encourage voting, not discourage it," Pitts said.

As necessary, Pitts called upon the county election officials to provide both extra personnel and extra voting booths for the rush hours. "I am convinced," Pitts added, "that the turnout this year in California is going to set a new record."

Pitts said that all voting officials had also better recheck their printing of ballots so that there will not be any shortages in the state.

All labor organizations in Califor-

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Director of Employment Irving H. Perluss, was 293,000 for September—a 54 per cent jump over a year ago.

Nationally, the rate of unemployment—adjusted for seasonal influences—stands at 5.7 per cent for the month of September.

The 5.7 per cent rate has been exceeded in postwar Septembers only in recession years. In 1949, it was 6.5 per cent; in 1954 it was 6.2 per cent, in 1958, 7.2 per cent.

Doctor Seymour Wolfbein, Labor Department manpower expert, points out that the "most important" part of the jobless picture is the fact that the long-term unemployment—those out of work 15 weeks or longer—"has hung on at about 800,000" for some months.

At last count there are 42 major depressed areas in the United

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Water Experts Expose Water Hoax

Prop. No. 1—the state's water development program and multi-million dollar special interest plum—can neither be financed by the proposed \$1.75 billion bond issue nor carried out without vast taxpayer subsidies to the giant landholders for whom the project was primarily designed.

These indisputable facts glared through all the guarded verbiage of the final reports made public this week by Charles T. Main, Inc., engineering consultants of Boston, and Dillon, Reed & Co., Inc., financial consultants of New York, hired by

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Citizens Conference Acts On Distressed Area Farm Labor Conditions

The shocking health and sanitation conditions imposed upon California's farm workers were exposed in a report issued by state director of public health Malcolm H. Merrill before 280 delegates to the Conference on Families Who Follow the Crops held in San Jose this week.

The recent death of a 4-months old Mexican-American baby as the result of acute diarrhea dramatized shocking health conditions of migrant families. A 9 by 12 canvas tent with a dirt floor housing a family of ten within Mountain View's city limits constituted part of the living conditions which spawned this tragedy.

On a much larger scale, the report related investigators' discovery of a Yuba City labor camp housing 160 people without any running water or medical facilities. Equipped with ancient communal toilets, a severe diarrhea epidemic afflicted most of the camp's occupants last August. An abnormally high incidence of ten other illnesses was also present.

The state-ordered study, performed by Stanford's Dr. Bruce Jessup, noted that only four of the state's counties afford any special medical facilities to seasonal farm workers in outlying areas. Health departments of 35 counties flatly refuse to accept migrants for medical care except in the most extreme emergencies.

These are only a few instances of the widespread conditions of ill health and disease suffered by California's farm workers which precipitated the report's urgent recommendation for sweeping medical care reforms, including a system of compulsory prepaid health insurance for migrant workers.

The disgraceful farm labor income situation prompted state director of social welfare John M. Wedemeyer to urge the conference to press for the extension of social legislation to this group. He stated:

"Certainly, unemployment benefits are needed here more than in any other kind of work."

Wedemeyer noted that the annual food needs alone of a family of six could be met at current wage levels only if the farm worker labored 48 hours weekly for six months.

The state official observed that during the extensive periods of unemployment, even those farm workers eligible for county public assistance payments received only half the budget considered to be minimally adequate by the state.

Congressional Program

Forecasting definite progress for farm labor during the coming session of Congress, Senator Harrison Williams, (D., N. J.) outlined the contents of a "national program for a national task" expected to be submitted to Congress next year.

Placing great stress on the need for employment and income stabilization for farm workers, Williams told the conference his Subcommittee on Migratory Labor was considering legislation to bring about a positive domestic farm labor recruitment program.

Where local shortages of labor occur, this recruitment program would arrange for utilization of workers from other states. Round-trip subsistence and transportation would be provided workers at the growers' expense. An enforceable contract would guarantee employment during at least three-fourths of the agreement's life.

The subcommittee chairman observed that this would be no more expensive to the growers than the present bracero program. Growers would benefit through the recruitment of the most experienced, efficient and reliable workers. Its practicability on a national basis is demonstrated by a similar program which brings 3,000 Texas workers into the Northwest annually.

Senator Williams cited studies now in progress which could give rise next year to concrete legislative proposals dealing with methods whereby federal agencies could aid states in regard to interstate farm labor unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation programs.

The subcommittee's minimum wage proposals are expected to include farm workers on the basis of gradually increased annual levels until they reach those applicable to other workers. The Williams subcommittee is also drafting a bill to provide farm workers with low cost housing loans. Other proposals being drafted for farm workers deal with improved programs in the area of education, transportation, day care, health and crew leaders.

Conference Actions

The San Jose conference also grappled with the problem of the steady progress of technological innovations in agriculture. Resolution of this problem was urged through expanding employment opportunities and vocational training for alternative jobs.

Development of maximum employment opportunities was urged through coordination of the efforts of public and private agencies. Support was given to federal regulation of farm labor contractors and consideration of a national minimum wage.

Noting the increasing tendency of farm workers to "sink roots," the conference called upon the State Economic Development Commission to seek methods of stimulating sources of "off-season" employment.

One of the most significant recommendations made by the body was its approval of the full extension of the unemployment and disability insurance pro-

RECESSION THREAT LOOMS

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States. A depressed area is one where there is a "substantial labor surplus"—6 per cent or more jobless.

In addition to the 42 major depressed areas, there are some 116 "smaller areas of substantial labor surplus."

On the political side, the Wall Street Journal this week said that hopes are fading within the Ike Administration for a big drop in the last unemployment report due before the November 8 election. It is being predicted that, although there may be a small drop in October (always the lowest month for unemployment), the seasonally adjusted jobless rate will rise above the 5.7 per cent for September.

The Journal notes that supporters of Vice President Nixon's campaign were counting on an improvement in the employment situation just before the election to bolster their claim that the economy is sound.

According to the Wall Street Journal, "Administration officials, to counter recession talk, have joined in a flurry of assurances that the economy is sound and is on its way upward. The latest of these assurances came from Raymond J. Saulnier, chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors."

The Journal says that in Saulnier's speech before the Iowa Bankers Association meeting in Des Moines, he predicted that the "next decisive (economic) news will be an advance."

The Journal comments, however, that "the next job report . . . seems unlikely to provide support for this contention . . . Statisticians note that the number of workers drawing unemployment compensation is running about 30 per cent above 1959 levels. This is not an infallible yardstick for measuring total unemployment, but the weekly reports of compensation payments do signal trends in the total figure."

grams to farm workers. It also asked abolition of residence requirements regarding the services of county hospitals.

A federal-state program of financing locally administered general assistance

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supplied to handle almost any request for materials, including endorsement pamphlets or local slate cards.

Orders for California Labor COPE's endorsement pamphlet, with 12 area versions, have approached the million mark. All have been filled.

Voting Early

The importance of this cannot be stressed too strongly because of the crowded conditions which prevail around closing time at the polls. (See lead story, Page 1).

It is especially important, in all communications to members, that wives and other non-working family members be urged to vote early so that the lines will not be so long at night when most workers go to the polls. The drop-out in long lines is very large.

Confusion on Propositions 3 and 11

The official recommendation is **NO** on 3 and **YES** on 11. Both of these veterans' measures are good, but the Attorney-General points out that because they both amend the same section of the state constitution, **the one getting the highest vote will cancel the other out.** Everything that is in Prop. 3 is also in Prop. 11, but, in addition, No. 11 carries other liberalization features which make it desirable to obtain the highest vote for this measure.

Common to both Nos. 3 and 11 is a provision which would permit a totally disabled veteran entitled to the present \$5,000 tax exemption on a home to transfer it to a subsequently acquired home.

Other provisions in No. 11 include the following:

Under present law, veterans residing in California are afforded a \$1,000 property tax exemption if they own no more than \$5,000 worth of property, or \$10,000 in the case of a married couple. Upon the death of a veteran, the \$10,000 community property ceiling reverts to \$5,000, thus effectively increasing a widow's home payments at precisely the moment when her income has undergone a substantial decline. Prop. 11 would retain the property limitation for widows at the \$10,000 level.

Prop. 11 would also update an obsolete provision of the law to extend these benefits to the spouse of a deceased female veteran on the same

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nia, Pitts pointed out, are working hard on an all-out, non-partisan "get out the vote" drive for November 8.

Time Off For Voting

In connection with the "rush" hour voting problem, Pitts noted that the "time-off-for-voting" law in California has the effect of aggravating the "rush hour" voting problem.

The time off must be at the beginning or the end of the employees' regular work shift, "whichever allows him the most time for voting, and the least time off from his reg-

basis as they are now available to the widow of a deceased male veteran.

The most misunderstood provision of Prop. 11 is one that would bar the \$1,000 property tax exemption to any veteran becoming a California resident after November 8, 1960, unless he had entered the armed forces from this state. Contrary to "rumors," this does not cut off any veteran who has established his residence prior to this date or who is now receiving the tax exemption. Such a cut-off date is well established in the existing Cal-Vet home-purchase program and does not impair any existing state veterans' rights.

On balance, the California Labor Federation has endorsed Proposition 11 and is urging its passage by a greater majority than may be given Prop. 3 because of No. 11's broader and more liberal provisions.

Kennedy and Nixon on Housing

The National Housing Conference, Inc., a bi-partisan citizens organization actively supporting effective housing and slum clearance programs for all American families since 1931, has issued a five-page analysis of the housing programs advocated by the two Presidential candidates.

In its statement of findings, the Conference says:

"Senator Kennedy proposes the kind of bold approach which is needed to solve the problems which affect millions of Americans in the areas of housing, redevelopment, transportation, recreation and community facilities."

"Vice President Nixon proposes 'nothing positive or new...'"

ular work shift, unless mutually agreed."

Pitts said that the "time off" is given on the basis of individual need, and that if the need is present, it is usually allowed at the end of the work shift.

The state Elections Code gives the individual employee the right to take off as much time as will enable him to vote, but not more than two hours of such time may be taken without loss of pay. There are two other conditions, however, attached to the exercise of this limited right as follows:

1. The employee must inform his employer on or by the third working day prior to the day of the election, (Thursday, November 3), that he will need the time to enable him to vote on election day, in order to meet the requirements of a two-day notice in the law.

2. The employer also is required to post notice, at the place of work, ten days prior to the election, setting forth the provisions of the Elections Code governing voting time off.

Time-off rights are contained in Section 5699 of the Elections Code as amended in 1957. The section reads as follows:

"If a registered voter does not have sufficient time outside of his working hours within which to vote at any general, direct primary or presidential primary election, he may, without loss of pay, take off so much working time as will, when added to his voting time outside his working hours, enable him to vote.

"An employee may take off so much time as will enable him to vote, but not more than two hours of which shall be without loss of pay; provided, that he shall be allowed time off for voting only at the beginning or end of his regular working shift, whichever allows him the most free time for voting and the least time off from his regular working shift, unless otherwise mutually agreed.

"If the employee, on the third working day prior to the day of the election, knows or has reason to believe, that he will need time off to enable him to vote on election day, he shall give his employer at least two working days' notice that he desires time off in accordance with the provisions of this section."

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Expose Water Hoax

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the state to make feasibility studies on the state water plan.

The final reports exploded arguments of proponents that water users would pay all the costs of delivery, that bonds will finance completion of all the facilities needed as described in the bond act, and that it would pay for itself.

The "independent" experts said that the state's program could be constructed from the bond monies and other funds available from tideland oil revenues, **only if today's** construction costs remained stable over the next 28-year construction period—a completely unwarranted assumption. Even if construction costs were to remain stable for such a long period, the bond issue would fall \$57 million short of paying construction costs.

On top of this it would be necessary for "master districts" to be formed in the major agricultural water service areas in order to force the payment of property taxes by city dwellers and others to reduce the cost of agricultural water for the speculators and monopoly interests.

Regarding construction costs, the experts said that "past experience of historical upward price trend must not be disregarded."

Under normal assumptions made in long-term construction projects with regard to cost increases, Prop. No. 1 would fall between \$600 million and \$700 million short of meeting promises in the measure.

Because of the false promises in Prop. No. 1, the consulting firms revamped the state program and came up with a construction program of their own that is widely different from that proposed by the state.

Oroville Dam, the keystone storage unit in the Feather River project, would be delayed under the program of the experts until 1975, with completion not before 1982—22 years from now.

The consulting firms said that, despite state promises, the state

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payments for non-residents was advocated to cope with the problems of residence requirements and abnormal financial burdens upon some counties.

Educational programs were deemed vital to farm workers. These included programs in the area of guidance, counselling, health education and services. Enforcement of child labor and school attendance laws, the conference decided, should be coupled with the adapting of school facilities and curriculum to migrants' needs.

The solution to the severe housing needs of agricultural workers was suggested through several methods, includ-

should not build Oroville Dam and the aqueduct system at the same time.

In a press conference held in Sacramento, Thursday, R. T. Colburn, vice president of Charles T. Main Incorporated, said it would be "unsound" to go ahead with plans to build Oroville Dam and the big north-south aqueduct from the Delta concurrently.

Even if funds to build the keystone unit were made available by the taxpayers or through additional bonds, the experts said "a completely new study would be required ..."

"... Any radical advance in the timing of this construction ... could have an adverse effect upon the marketing of the water bonds," they said.

One of the amazing aspects of the experts' reports, long awaited by the public, is that they do not pass upon the economic and financial feasibility of the proposed state program, but of the widely different program recommended by the consulting engineers, because of the unsoundness of the proposed state program.

Dillon, Reed's report on financial and economic feasibility is actually a report on the Charles T. Main program rather than the state's program.

This is the only program the Dil-

ing direct loans to farm workers. Modernization of the state housing code was endorsed.

To effectively tackle all the problems involved, the two-day session pointed to the need for the broadest participation of all elements of the community through adequately financed community councils. The importance of efforts at the local level towards promoting citizenship and participation on the part of farm workers was stressed.

The need for adequate health and medical services for migrant families, with financing on a federal-state basis, was emphasized.

lon Reed firm said would be feasible, provided means can be found to provide vast subsidies for the giant landholders in the agricultural areas.

This assumption gave the "big lie" to the argument advanced by the state that there are no subsidies involved in Proposition No. 1. Without the subsidies, the program could not possibly pay for itself.

In Thursday's press conference it was pointed out that the "master water district" device recommended by the experts to provide the subsidy would impose a tax rate of about 62 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation on city property owners in order to subsidize the cheaper water for the speculators and monopoly interests.

On top of this, the experts said that the Governor's two price system for providing some restraints on enrichment would be both illegal and unworkable. The totally inadequate two-price system proposed by the state has been previously condemned by organized labor.

The experts warned that if the state persists in going ahead with the program in Proposition No. 1, it must be prepared to assume the risk that it will not be reimbursed during the bond repayment period, which would run to the year 2040.