

COPE Preparing Directory of Radical Right-Wing Groups

The national AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education announced this week that it is preparing a directory of radical right-wing organizations and their leaders for distribution to labor organizations in the near future.

In a memorandum letter to presidents, secretary-treasurers, education and COPE directors of international unions, state and local central bodies, national COPE Director James L. McDevitt said that "the increased activity of right-wing extremists poses a serious threat to the ideals and purposes of organized labor—indeed, to the welfare of our entire nation."

The "lunatic fringe" is growing, McDevitt declared, getting "stronger, more influential and better financed than ever before. Accordingly, it is more dangerous than ever to the welfare of the nation."

Pointing out that approximately 1,000 extreme right-wing groups are active today, many of them boasting large memberships, McDevitt said:

"To combat them effectively, union leaders and members, and the general public must be fully informed."

In addition to the directory of radical right-wing organizations

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February Figures

Only Slight Improvement in Jobs Picture

"Further improvements" in the employment picture during February produced only a slight decline in the nation's seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment.

The U. S. Department of Labor's summary report for the month showed that unemployment dropped by 120,000 over the month to 4.5 million. Seasonally adjusted, however, the decline was only .2 of 1 percent—from 5.8 per cent in January to 5.6 per cent in February.

Simultaneously, the long-term unemployed (those jobless 15 weeks or longer) increased by some 200,000 to 1.4 million. This includes 700,000 persons seeking jobs but "out of work for more than half a year."

According to the Department, the long-term jobless total of 1.4 million equals the total hit in February, 1959; it has been exceeded for the month only by the 1.6 million of 1961. Low for the month was the total of 246,000 back in 1953.



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

Weekly News Letter

Vol. 4—No. 8
March 16, 1962

Published by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO



12th Annual Labor Press Conference Scheduled to Follow State COPE Convention

State AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts announced this week that the 12th annual Labor Press Conference sponsored by the California Labor Federation will be held this year in San Francisco, Thursday, April 12, 1962 at the Del Webb TowneHouse.

The one-day session, Pitts said, has been scheduled to take place on the day following the Pre-Primary Endorsement Convention of the California Labor COPE, which is set for the Del Webb TowneHouse on April 11.

Underscoring the challenge to effective political action by labor, the state AFL-CIO executive officer stated that the press meet will be devoted to the "labor press and the 1962 election campaigns, with emphasis on the development and utilization of the labor press as an effective instrument for stimulating broad participation of the member-

ship in campaign activities, educating union members and their families on campaign issues of vital importance to the working people, and electing labor-endorsed candidates."

Pitts pointed out, however, that although the focus will be on the 1962 campaigns, "the orientation will be toward the development of more permanent relationships and techniques which will contribute to labor political unity on a year-round basis."

Editors of labor press publications and officials from unions and

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Reminder

State COPE Convention Credentials

Each affiliate of the California Labor COPE has been sent credentials for the pre-primary endorsement convention to be held in San Francisco, April 11, together with notice of authorized delegates and per capita voting strength.

In accordance with detailed instructions contained in a covering letter, affiliates are reminded to return completed forms to the San Francisco office of State COPE at the earliest possible date to facilitate the necessary processing of credentials and avoid any delay in the opening of the convention.

The credentials committee will be set up to receive delegates at the Del Webb TowneHouse on April 10, the day before the convention, between the hours of 10 A.M. and 10 P.M. Plan ahead to check in early to avoid a log jam on the morning of the convention.

Also, the deadline for receipt of resolutions for consideration of the convention is Tuesday, March 27.

AFL-CIO Warning

These developments underscored the AFL-CIO Executive Council's recent statement pointing out that the pickup in employment and reduction in unemployment has been the poorest among all recoveries from postwar recession. The Council coupled its analysis of the situation with a charge that the Kennedy Administration has been "overly timid" in attacking the problem of continuing high unemployment.

In the same vein, Building Trades President C. J. Haggerty has criticized the Kennedy Admin-

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Only Slight Improvement in Jobs Picture

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istration's request for a stand-by public works program to combat "future" recessions as "too cautious an approach." He told delegates to a building trades legislative conference in Washington D.C. that the nation must attack the problem "boldly and courageously, not wait to counterpunch."

With unemployment hovering well above the 5% mark, Haggerty said, "the question is, are we going to put America back to work and how—by a wait-and-see standby policy, or by positive action now?"

Addressing the same building trades conference, AFL-CIO President George Meany labeled the shorter workweek a "must" if the nation is to provide jobs for millions of workers now unemployed.

Meany described as "a lot of nonsense" the arguments that a shorter workweek "would stand in the way of progress" and that "these things will take care of themselves in the long run."

"It is not a question now of progress," Meany said. "It is a question of maintaining a stable economy."

The recent growth of automation, he asserted, poses a much more difficult problem than did technological improvements in the past.

Automation in American industry has advanced further in the past five years than it did in the previous 100 years, he observed, citing the example of the basic steel industry where 10 per cent fewer workers turn out 10 per cent more steel than was the case five years ago.

"We are not opposed to machinery lifting the burden of human labor, making life a little better," Meany declared, "... but we are opposed to machinery when it imposes misery on thousands and hundreds of thousands of people by casting them permanently on the industrial scrap heap.

"So, when we start to find the answer, I am sure that we must find it in a shorter workweek. . . .

"I would like to see the workweek in America short enough so that it will provide full employment for all Americans who are

able and willing to work. If this means 35, 34, 33, 30 hours or less, so be it."

State Figures

Unemployment in California last month was 505,000, or 7.7 percent of the labor force.

The jobless rate, however, was substantially lower than February a year ago, when unemployment was 563,000 or 8.6 percent of the labor force. In January this year, unemployment was 458,000 or 7.0 per cent of the labor force.

According to the State Department of Employment, the January-February rise was about normal as the entry of mid-year graduating classes into the labor market and bad weather usually push February unemployment up from the January level.

(California jobless rates, it should be noted, are not seasonally adjusted and, therefore, are not to be compared with the U.S. seasonally adjusted rates.

Employment in the state during February was up about 2.5 percent from February a year ago.

In California, as for the nation as a whole, the existence of a hard core of long term unemployment continues as the challenge to action.

Labor Press Conference To Follow COPE Convention

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councils responsible for such publications have been urged to make plans now to participate in the labor press conference.

A preliminary outline of the conference program was sent out this week with the conference announcement. Advance registration forms were also enclosed for completion and early return to the office of the state AFL-CIO in San Francisco.

The day-long session will culminate with a group dinner meeting and adjournment by about 9:30 or 10:00 p.m.

The conference is scheduled to convene at 9:30 a.m. in the Alameda Room of the Del Webb Towne-House, with delegates checking in between 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

U.I. Overhaul Bill Lagging In Congress

AFL-CIO-supported legislation in Congress to achieve a long needed overhaul of the state-federal unemployment insurance program appears to be in for rough sledding this session. Reliable sources in Washington, D.C. see little likelihood of extensive amendments this year.

The McCarthy-King Bill (H.R. 7640-S. 2084), proposed by the Kennedy Administration, has lain in committee for almost nine months.

If no action occurs within the next few weeks, hundreds of thousands of unemployed persons will be severely affected.

The temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act will terminate completely on July 1, 1962 unless action is taken. It is estimated that over half of a million persons will exhaust their normal 26 (or less) weeks of state benefits within four months after the termination of the program. In addition to this disaster, a large number of people will be affected by the April 1, 1962 cutoff on new exhaustee claims.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council has issued a statement stressing the urgent need for extensive amendments to the UI system.

Passage of McCarthy-King would not only alleviate the hardship due to fall on those exhausting their state benefits, but would remedy other shortcomings in the present system, such as coverage, weekly benefit amounts, length of the benefit period, and the inadequate financing structure.

Two patchwork bills were passed, in 1958 and 1961, but have long since proven inadequate.

The McCarthy-King Bill, in addition to giving extended duration benefits, would accomplish the following through the establishment of minimum federal standards for state programs:

(1) Extend coverage to an estimated additional 3 million workers by extending the Act to cover all firms employing one or more persons, to include employees of "non-profit" organizations, and to bring in persons working in agricultural processing operations.

(2) Weekly benefit amounts

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Pitts To Keynote Apprenticeship Meet

State AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts will be the keynote labor speaker at the California Apprenticeship Conference next month.

"Apprenticeship Prepares for Tomorrow" has been selected as the theme for the Conference to be held April 25, 26, 27, 1962, Statler Hilton Hotel, Los Angeles.

Program speakers representing labor, management and government, will describe new developments, trends and techniques in developing the skills of the work force through apprenticeship and training.

Latest advances illustrating methods, techniques and materials used in operating apprenticeship and training programs also will be exhibited.

The Conference which was organized in 1960 has, as its general purpose, bringing into closer relationship labor, management and governmental agencies, and others interested in the development of the skills of the work force.

During the past two years the Conference, through its Executive Board and permanent committees, has successfully carried out several of the 1960 recommendations. Important amongst these are: state legislation regarding on-the-job training and retraining has been enacted; a statewide committee has been established to foster equal opportunities in apprenticeship for members of minority groups; steps have been taken to broaden apprenticeship opportunities in both federal and state public works.

Eleven Workshops devoted to techniques, methods and procedures are scheduled. Each Workshop will include well qualified panelists and discussion leaders.

One of the highlights of the Conference will be the banquet. It will be held Thursday evening, April 26. The program will include light entertainment, as well as a presentation of program and activities relating to apprenticeship.

Of particular interest, are the scheduled twenty-two Industry Conferences, which will devote their discussions to apprenticeship problems affecting their own industries.

The Conference will conclude with a General Session of the par-

Pitts Outlines Labor's Goals in Community Fund Activities

The AFL-CIO view of Community Service Fund-raising activities as a meaningful response to social problems was described by secretary-treasurer Thos. L. Pitts at the biennial conference of the United Community Funds and Councils of America at a San Francisco meeting last Wednesday.

Delivering a speech prepared in behalf of President George Meany, who was unable to leave Washington to address the San Francisco conference, Pitts noted that voluntary agencies are a necessary group effort through which individuals discharge their desire to help the unfortunate.

He noted that union people have been participating in such coordinated efforts for many years and that labor's Community Service

Departments are in the process of determining how to achieve a maximum effectiveness.

The state AFL-CIO leader expressed the view that merely raising funds for additional facilities and staffing would not resolve the social causes making such efforts necessary.

He cited the need for year-round planning of fund-raising activities and the potential effectiveness of year-round coordinated programs directed against the causes of social disturbance.

In behalf of Meany, Pitts urged the reinforcement of volunteers in the field with new recruits. As an answer to public apathy, he recommended convincing people that the cost of not caring is high, and that "the only meaningful response to human suffering is human compassion in service that seeks to eliminate the sources of human distress, not merely relieve it."

To achieve this, he recommended "strengthening, supporting and developing community welfare councils and the service agencies for which the funds are raised."

He felt that the verdict will be expressed "not with ballots but with contributions."

Welfare Fact and Fiction

Much heat and little light has been generated by recent attacks on public welfare programs. One might be led to believe from the controversy arising over the Newburgh incident and the rise in anti-welfare activity that we are devoting a huge proportion of our national income to the support of the needy. The impression arises that we are delivering "the dole" in wheelbarrow loads.

Yet such is not the case. Looking at the statistics for the last three years, we find that government welfare spending amounted to roughly 1% of our national income.

Reactionary critics of social welfare programs frequently make contrasts between present levels of spending on welfare and the amounts distributed during the depression. This is completely misleading, because comparisons with past spending generally do not take proper account of the increase in price levels and of the dramatic increase in national income.

U.I. Overhaul Bill Lagging In Congress

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would be raised in 3 steps over a period of years to a maximum of 66.6% of the statewide average weekly wage after 1967.

(3) States would be barred from refusing UI benefits to claimants undergoing approved re-training.

(4) Persons who worked 78 weeks during the last 156 weeks (half the time during the last three years) would be eligible for extended benefits after their benefits under state law were exhausted.

Those persons meeting state qualifying requirements for normal duration benefits would be "triggered" into eligibility for extended benefits when nationwide insured unemployment reached 5% or more for three consecutive months. This recession "trigger" would lapse when total exhaustees are less than 1% of covered employment in any 3-month period.

(5) Federal reinsurance grants would be extended to states with an abnormally high rate of unemployment. These equalization grants would insure the solvency of the various state funds.

The bill would be a modest but necessary improvement on the federal-state UI system.

Participants on Friday afternoon. The agenda of the final session will include action on recommendations and election of officers.

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Minnie's Budget Now Available

The Industrial Welfare Commission's "Budget for a Self-Supporting Working Woman in California," revised and priced for June 1961, has been published by the Division of Labor Statistics and Research of the California Department of Industrial Relations.

The contents of the budget were formulated by the Industrial Welfare Commission to measure the cost of maintaining a minimum decency standard of living for purposes of establishing minimum wages under the Commission's authority to promulgate minimum wage orders. At the present time, the Commission is in the process of updating twelve of its orders, having appointed wage boards in each of the occupations and categories to be reviewed. (See News Letter issues dated December 19, 1961, January 19 and March 9, 1962.)

Priced for June 1961 by the Division of Labor Statistics and Research in five areas of the state, the cost of the budget was found to be \$2,854.98 per year. This breaks down to \$237.92 per month, or \$54.90 per week, before taxes.

Based on a 40-hour work week in year-round employment, the budget would justify a minimum hourly rate of at least \$1.37 per hour. The present hourly minimum in the various orders issued by the Commission is \$1.00 per hour.

In designing the budget, the Commission considered the needs of a woman 35 years of age or older, working in a store or an office, completely self-supporting and having no dependents, and sharing an apartment with another woman.

Copies of the budget report may be obtained from the California Division of Labor Statistics and Research, P. O. Box 965, San Francisco 1, California.

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currently in preparation, McDevitt said that carefully documented reports on the nature, background and activities of these organizations will be sent to labor organizations throughout the country by national COPE.

The first series of reports was sent out this week by national COPE with McDevitt's memorandum. They cover the following organizations.

- **National Christian Citizens Committee**—"A well-financed new Protestant group devoted to political action on a national and local basis, purportedly non-partisan but with important overtones of opposition to government welfare programs and including several right-wing extremists."

- **Life Line Foundation, Inc.**—"A propaganda outlet for H. L. Hunt, the Dallas, Texas oil billionaire," which sponsors a daily radio

program, **Life Line**, on 197 radio stations featuring Reverend Wayne Poucher. The Foundation, it is pointed out, was created in 1958 "by the simple process of amending the corporate charter of Hunt's old propaganda front, **Facts Forum, Inc.**," which was "a package operation of radio and TV programs, a monthly **Facts Forum News**, pamphlets and a free circulating library studded with extremist right-wing gems like Clarence Manion's **The Key to Peace**; Joseph Kamp's **We Must Abolish the United States**; John O. Beaty's **Iron Curtain**."

- **National Indignation Convention**—A group headed by Frank McGehee which is pushing former General Edwin Walker for President. Addressing an NIC rally of 4,000 persons in Odessa, Texas on January 20, the COPE report points out that Walker called the United Nations "a violent and ruthless dictatorship" that is "not a hope for peace but a guarantee of tyranny."

McDevitt said that by reading the reports, union leaders will "learn who the men are who finance the lunatic fringe, what big corporations are behind it, how they operate to create trouble and discord in communities throughout America."

The COPE reports are prepared by Group Research Inc. of Washington, D.C.

"The labor movement must act with maximum effectiveness to expose the frauds and phony patriots who lead the right wing," McDevitt said in urging cooperation of labor leaders to circulate information in the factual reports to union members.

"We urge you to speak out against the radical right at every opportunity. Only exposure can defeat it," McDevitt said.

Stamp to Honor Apprenticeship

A new postage stamp will honor apprenticeship. The stamp is expected to be issued August 16 to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the National Apprenticeship Act.

Edward E. Goshen, Director of the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, which was created by the act, said requests for such a stamp were submitted to Postmaster General Edward Day last May.

Signed by representatives of management, labor, public officials, and joint apprenticeship committees throughout the Nation, the petitions and resolutions were presented to the Postmaster by Senator Frank Church and Representatives Gracie Pfof and Ralph Hardin, of Idaho.