

## Goldberg Sets \$1.00 Minimum for Bracero Importation

Secretary of Labor Arthur J. Goldberg has ruled that no "braceros" may be brought into California at less than \$1.00 per hour, or its equivalent under piece rates.

The newly announced minimum for the employment of Mexican farm workers in California is part of an order setting minimum wage levels for "bracero" importations in 22 states. The \$1.00 rate applies to California and 15 other states, including Oregon, Utah, and Nevada. For Arizona the minimum rate was set at .95 cents per hour. Lower rates were set in Arkansas at 60 cents an hour, Texas at 70 cents an hour, and New Mexico at 75 cents an hour.

Goldberg said the new order is issued under the authority granted the Department by Public Law 78 and the International Labor Agreement with Mexico to prevent the employment of Mexican contract workers from "adversely affecting the wages and working conditions of American farm workers similarly employed."

Department of Labor hearings on the \$1.00 minimum were held in California during the month of February. Although bitterly protested by corporate growers who are heavy users of braceros, the new minimum falls far short of recommendations advanced by the state AFL-CIO at the February hearings.

The Federation proposed a wage

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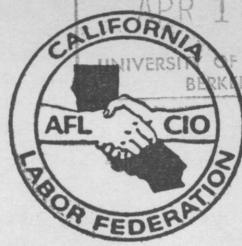
## Assembly Breaks Deadlock on Bonds

On Wednesday, this week, the Assembly ended its "June or November" battle over bonds. By a vote of 74 to 1, the Assembly approved AB 66 to place all of the bond issues on the June ballot. The Senate concurred in the June date by a vote of 38 to 0.

Placing the bonds on the June ballot represented a compromise climaxing several weeks of struggle at the state legislature.

The Republicans in the Assembly wanted to place all five bond issues, which totaled \$970 million, on the November ballot. Reliable sources believed that the purpose behind this move was either to embarrass the Governor or to bring about the defeat of some of the bond issues.

Governor Brown, supported by the Democratic majority in the Assembly, took the position that the



THOS. L. PITTS  
Executive  
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## COPE Pre-Primary Endorsement Convention To Be Largest Even

Delegates from affiliated AFL-CIO organizations throughout the state will descend on San Francisco in record numbers for the California Labor COPE Pre-Primary Endorsement Convention at the Del Webb Towne-House Wednesday, April 11, 1962.

The anticipated record turnout, according to Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts, "is evidence that the labor movement is girding itself for seven months of vigorous political action in the period ahead between now and the November general election."

Pitts said that "the 1962 elections in California are a challenge to labor's political maturity in a crucial election year," adding:

"Organized labor's political strength is in unity of action through the official COPE structure. Only candidates endorsed by the convention will carry the official support of the AFL-CIO movement into the June 5 primary election."

The focus of attention is centered on the state's important gubernatorial election, but the issues at stake extend to each of the

state's constitutional offices, and the contest for the U.S. Senate.

Pitts pointed out that the challenge in the Congressional races is augmented by the addition of eight new Representatives to be elected from California this year, increasing the state's delegation in the House of Representatives from 30 to 38. In the state legislature, over 30 of the Assembly's 80 reapportioned districts will be decided between candidates running for vacated seats. Additionally, in the 20 State Senatorial districts up this year, five will be open races without incumbents seeking re-election.

"Under these circumstances," Pitts said, "the June 5 primary election commands early and effective mobilization of labor's political resources. There can be no temporizing with apathy or indifference that would weaken the position of organized labor in the general election campaigns which will follow the primary election."

Delegates will start pouring into San Francisco on Tuesday, April 10, 1962, as the Credentials Committee opens for business at 10:00 a.m. at the Del Webb Towne-House. The Credentials Committee will receive delegates through 10:00 p.m. Tuesday, and will open up again prior to the convention on the 11th for late arrivals. In order to avoid any delay in the opening of the convention, delegates are urged to register on Tuesday, April 10.

On Tuesday, April 10, also, the Executive Council of California La-

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## Fed Sponsors State "Handicapped" Contest Winner

High school student winners of a statewide essay contest on the theme, "The Role of the Community in the Employment of the Handicapped," have been announced by Governor Brown's Committee for Employment of the Handicapped.

Timothy H. Ingram of Western High School in Anaheim, Orange County, as first place winner, will receive from the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, an expense-

paid trip to Washington, D.C., May 10-11, 1962, to participate in a handicapped program with the President's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped.

In his winning essay, Ingram, age 16, pointed out that "With the increasing complexity of such industries as electronics and aviation, handicapped people can actually perform many skilled and delicate jobs better than their able-bodied neighbors. What they lose in flexibility because of their disability, they make up by concentrating on a single job, or a few jobs, learning to do them better."

The essay contest is an annual event to call attention to the problem of jobs for handicapped and to promote "Hire the Handicapped Week" the first week of October. The California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, regularly has paid the expenses to Washington, D.C. for the first-place winner.

President Albin J. Gruhn was one of three judges which selected the statewide winner in the handicapped contest. Four runners-up in the state contest were: Dick Peterson of Abraham Lincoln High of San Jose, Santa Clara County; Ted Radke of Richmond Union High, Richmond, Contra Costa County; Robin Huff of Helix High, San Diego County, and Kathleen Morrissey of St. Bernard High, Playa Del Rey, Los Angeles.

## Goldberg Sets

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formula to end the ten-year accumulation of adverse affect of "braceros" based on the 91 percent increase that has occurred in wages and fringe benefits in the related "food and kindred products" industry since the inception of the "bracero" program.

If a shortage of labor actually existed in agriculture, the Federation argued, that shortage should have boosted wages in the absence of "braceros" by at least the amount of increase that occurred in "food and kindred products" employment.

Under the 91 percent formula proposed by the state AFL-CIO, no "bracero" importations would be allowed for crop activities showing a wage increase of less than this amount since 1950.

It was pointed out at the time that the \$1.00 minimum wage promulgated would have validity for the elimination of adverse effect only in a crop activity where 1950 wages were as little as 53 cents an hour.

The actual effect of the new \$1.00 rate promulgated for California will be determined in its implementation. In areas of the state where the "bracero" importation rate is already above \$1.00 per hour, it is presumed that the Department will continue to set higher rates as a condition for importation.

## COPE Pre-Primary

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bor COPE will be meeting in a day-long session to interview statewide candidates and make their recommendations to the convention. A 15-man committee has been appointed by the President and Secretary-Treasurer to assist the council in the interview of candidates. Recommendations by local COPEs for district endorsements will also be reviewed by the Executive Council, which in turn, will submit recommendations to the convention for these offices.

The convention will go into session at 10:00 a.m. on April 11. The actual endorsement of candidates rests exclusively with the convention delegates.

James A. Suffridge, President of the Retail Clerks International Association will address the convention as the representative of AFL-CIO President George Meany.

On Thursday, April 12, the day following the COPE convention, labor press editors and union officials responsible for labor publications will convene in the Del Webb TowneHouse for the Twelfth Annual Labor Press Conference sponsored by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

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 membership in campaign activities, educating union members and their families on campaign issues, and electing labor-endorsed candidates.

The focus of the press meet will be on establishing effective liaison between the labor press and the endorsed campaigns.

## Kennedy Foced to Drop U.I. Overhaul Bill; Presses Temporary Aid

An adamant Congress has forced President John F. Kennedy to reluctantly abandon all hope for overhauling the badly lagging federal-state unemployment compensation system in this session of Congress.

Kennedy this week conceded defeat of the McCarthy-King bill backed by the AFL-CIO (See *Newsletter*, March 16 issue), and urged Congress to quickly renew the temporary extended benefits bill passed by Congress last year to give Congress time to work out permanent changes proposed in the overhaul bill.

Federal extended benefits to jobless persons who have exhausted their regular benefits under state programs will stop altogether after

June 30th. As of April 1st, new claims by exhaustees are no longer being accepted under the federal program.

In pressing for retroactive renewal of the temporary extended benefits program to April 1st Kennedy told Congress that "about 1.5 million long-term unemployed workers throughout the country" would be aided.

It is estimated that 150,000 workers will exhaust their normal state benefits this month, and that 100,000 more will do so in every month but one for the rest of the year.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment nationally totaled 4,530,000 in February. Some 1.4 million jobless workers had been out of work 15 or more weeks.

## Mosk Ruling on State U.I. Retraining Benefits

A liberal opinion issued by Attorney General Stanley Mosk, this week, has broadened the potential scope of unemployment benefits payable to jobless persons who enter retraining under 1961 state legislation signed into law by Governor Brown.

So long as the basic requirements of the law are met, eligibility is not necessarily confined to retraining in entirely new skills or trades, Mosk declared.

The Attorney General's opinion was requested by State Senator John W. Holmdahl of Alameda County, who asked if the 1961 legislation applied only to unemployed persons enrolling in a retraining course relating to new skills or trades, or whether those seeking retraining in their present skills or trades could be included.

The Mosk opinion noted that Section 1266 declares it the State's policy "to assist such individuals by providing unemployment compensation or extended duration benefits during a period of retraining to fit them for new jobs and thus avoid their being forced to remain in a job classification where work opportunities no longer exist or are diminishing."

The crucial questions are (1) whether reasonable employment opportunities for which the individual is fitted no longer exist or have been diminished, and (2) whether the retraining course of instruction relates to "an occupation or skill" for which there is, or soon will be, a demand, Mosk pointed out, adding:

"If both of those questions are satisfactorily answered, then the individual can be declared eligible to receive benefits while being retrained either in an entirely new skill or trade or in new techniques in his present skill or trade.

"Restricting unemployed individuals to retraining courses of instruction relating only to new skills or trades would not only be wasteful of their background and experience but also would seem to be contrary to the legislative purpose which was to provide an opportunity for unemployed individuals to acquire skills which would enable them to rejoin and remain in the ranks of the employed."

If the unemployed individual is in a skill or trade where reasonable

employment opportunities exist, he would not, however, be eligible for retraining benefits, Mosk noted.

By way of example, the opinion states that an unemployed paper hanger could be eligible to enroll in a retraining course of instruction relating to new techniques and materials, provided reasonable employment opportunities no longer exist or have substantially diminished for paper hangers not qualified in the use of the new techniques and materials, and provided there is or soon will be a demand for paper hangers with such training.

## Assembly Breaks Deadlock on Bonds

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\$2.9 billion state budget was left hanging in the balance as the Budget session deadline was reached on Tuesday. Assembly Republicans had refused to support the budget for the required two-thirds vote pending solution of the bonds dispute.

Governor Brown, in turn, has called a special session of the legislature starting Monday to complete work on the budget. Now that agreement has been reached on placing all the bond issues on the June ballot, it is believed that the budget will be quickly approved.

The bond issues involved are:

1. \$100 million for housing for the elderly.
2. \$200 million for school classroom construction.
3. \$270 million for the University of California, state colleges and state institution buildings.
4. \$250 million for the Cal-Vet Home and Farm Loan Program.
5. \$150 million for the acquisition of recreation sites.

Placement of all of these proposals on the June Ballot increase the possibility that one or more of the badly needed bond issues will be jeopardized. The bond issue for school classroom construction is needed to alleviate the problem of half-day sessions in many of our public schools. The bonds for additions to our University and state college system are necessary to meet the needs of our rapidly expanding population. The Cal-Vet

## Labor Commissioner Openings

New openings as Deputy Labor Commissioner in the Division of Labor Law Enforcement of the California Department of Industrial Relations will be filled from a civil service list for which an examination will soon be held, according to State Labor Commissioner Sigmund Arywitz.

Applications must be filed with the State Personnel Board by April 13, 1962. The examination is scheduled to be held on May 5.

Deputy Labor Commissioners are the basic enforcement officers of the labor laws within the jurisdictional scope of the Division of Labor Law Enforcement, assisting the Labor Commissioner, who is Chief of the Division. Work of the Division includes enforcement of laws dealing with wage payments, child labor, public works, and the licensing and regulation of private employment, agencies, labor contractors, and artists managers. The Division maintains eighteen offices throughout the State.

To be qualified for the position an applicant must within the past ten years have had three years of experience in labor relations work or in work involving the implementation of state or federal labor laws.

If the applicant is not a college graduate, additional experience may be substituted on the basis of one year's experience for three years of education.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from the California State Personnel Board at Sacramento, San Francisco, or Los Angeles, or at a District Office of the Division of Labor Law Enforcement.

bonds, which are self liquidating, have already proven to be extremely beneficial to the working people of this state. The bonds for housing for the elderly would relieve some of the squalor in which many of our older citizens live, and the recreational bonds would enable the state to acquire some of the rapidly disappearing seashore and other park sites.

## OTHER STATE LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

SB 36 (Richards), the Governor's proposal to establish a Commission on Automation and Technological Development has been passed by the Senate and is presently before the Assembly Ways and Means Committee where it seems to be assured of approval. It faces a race with the clock as the special session of the legislature is rapidly drawing to a close.

AB 55 and 56, which would reinstitute the so-called defense pro-

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RETURN REQUESTED

## Campaign Against Non-Union Suits and Coats

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, AFL-CIO, are mounting an intensive consumer education campaign in California against the non-union suits and coats made by the Henry I. Sigel Co. (HIS) of Tennessee and sold in some of the state's major department stores.

The ACWA began distributing leaflets to shoppers last month at the following stores: The Emporium in San Francisco; Capwell's in Oakland; the Broadway Department Store chain in the Los Angeles area; the Marston Co. in San Diego. The circulars urge shoppers:

### Assembly Breaks

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duction act, and weaken the 8-hour law for women, are currently in the Senate. The two bills were initially assigned to the Senate Labor Committee, but on Wednesday, they were re-referred to the Government Efficiency Committee. On Thursday that Committee rejected the two bills, but proponents of the legislation are still working hard to revive them as we go to press.

It still appears that no reapportionment bill will pass the Legislature during this session.

A resolution calling upon Congress to set a minimum wage for agricultural workers has now passed both houses.

SJR 4 (Richards) a resolution endorsing the purchase of \$100 million in United Nations Bonds by the U. S. was passed by the Legislature over the objections of the Republican minority.

A House Resolution, by Assemblyman Charles Wilson, putting the Assembly on record in favor of the King-Anderson approach to medical care for the aged was approved on Wednesday by a vote of 42-31.

"Please Don't Buy non-union HIS suits and coats."

According to the Amalgamated's west coast Union Label Director, local central bodies in the boycott areas have pledged their full support to the drive, with the adoption of resolutions stating that: "these non-union products, manufactured under low wage, substandard conditions, constitute a threat to all organized labor and undermine the union standards we have achieved. Retail establishments which sell non-union Sigel suits and coats help subsidize the substandard working conditions in these plants and thereby adversely affect the hard-won gains and benefits of organized labor."

The Amalgamated points out that while two of the Sigel plants making only single pants are under contract with the ACWA, the firm has bitterly fought the unionization of its new plants making suits, coats and sportswear.

The union charges further that the Henry I. Sigel firm "has viciously fought the Amalgamated's efforts to organize its non-union plants in Tennessee. In the case of the large suit and coat plant in Bruceton, company intimidation is buttressed by community pressure, since the firm's president is also the town mayor. The National Labor Relations Board recently upheld the union's charges of unfair labor practices against the company."

The Amalgamated is appealing to shoppers and union members in California and across the county: "Look for the Union Label in men's and boys' apparel." With Easter shopping just ahead, shoppers are being alerted to use their shopping dollars to protect their own standard of living and working conditions.

## Study Reveals Political Apathy

Too few American citizens really understand the great issues that we face today!

The alarming conclusion is reached in a study conducted by the Fund for the Republic's Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions. It is based on interviews with two of the nation's leading public opinion analysts — Dr. George Gallup and Elmo Roper.

The study makes clear the importance of political education programs conducted through COPE organizations.

Roper, for example, said that only ten per cent of the American people are "politically active", and he blames the situation on widespread apathy and vast "areas of ignorance."

We show in our polls," Roper declared, "that 70 percent of the American people do not know the length of the term of United States Senators; that 56 percent cannot name either of the two Senators from their home states, that they haven't the vaguest notion of what a tariff is; that Americans are all in favor of selling American goods abroad but not of buying imported goods (as though this were possible).

"So we expose areas of ignorance in American life. And once you know where the areas of ignorance are among the American people you can do a better job of educating them."

This points up the tremendous job that faces our entire educational system, labor's political education arms and other groups.