

"Right to Work" Advocate Heads "Farmers for Nixon" Group

A statewide group of "Farmers for Nixon" has been formed with the state's most active "right to work" advocate as one of its co-chairmen.

W. B. Camp, a wealthy cotton and potato grower of Bakersfield, California who heads up the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Special Committee for Voluntary Unionism recently announced formation of the group in a joint statement issued with Keith Reeve of Tracy.

The announcement was carried in the April 7 issue of the California Farmer, published in San Francisco. The same issue carried a lengthy tirade by Camp against unions entitled "Right to Work—Issue for Farmers," aimed at reviving state interest in the anti-labor legislation.

In their statement announcing formation of the "Farmers for Nixon" group, Camp and Reeve were quoted as saying "Dick Nixon can restore the kind of solid lead-

(Continued on Page 4)

State Legislature Adjourns: Automation Bill Lost

The California Legislature, in a rush to adjourn last Friday after completing work on the state budget, failed to produce sufficient votes in the Assembly to enact Governor Brown's proposal for the creation of a state automation commission.

The labor-backed automation bill, SB 36 (Richards D.), lost out because a number of assemblymen left for home early, depleting the lower house of a necessary two-thirds vote for adoption of an Assembly-Senate conference report on the bill. (A \$50,000 appropriation in the measure required two-thirds approval.)

Defeat of the automation measure was an anti-climax to a hectic session which:

—Gave Governor Brown virtually everything he asked for in a \$2.9 billion state budget.

—Authorized bond issues for \$870 million for submission to the voters at the June 5 primary election.

—Rejected legislation designed to undermine the eight-hour law for women.

—Defeated all proposals for reapportionment of the state Senate, including legislation creating a new reapportionment study commission.

As finally enacted, the 1962-63 state budget in round figures, totaled \$2,887,000,000. This was close to \$2 million more than the

INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS LIBRARY



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

Weekly News Letter

April 20, 1962
Vol. 4—No. 13

Published by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO



Membership Urged to Bypass Francis Initiative Petition on Subversives

State AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts this week sent an urgent letter to AFL-CIO organizations throughout the state, recommending that union members refrain from signing an initiative petition currently in circulation known as the Louis Francis Amendment Initiative.

Pitts said the recommendation was made after "thorough analysis and review" of the initiative, which he described as being "replete with vague, uncertain and ambiguous terms and findings," and containing provisions which would "seriously interfere with long-established rights and privileges."

The following is the full text of Pitts' letter:

TO: All Affiliated Unions
and Councils

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The Federation has received a number of inquiries from our affiliates as to the position of the Federation on the so-called Louis Francis Amendment Initiative, dealing with subversive activities, and particularly as to whether the petition now being circulated to place such measure on the November ballot should be signed. After a thorough analysis and review of the proposals, it is our recommen-

(Continued on Page 2)

COPE Endorsement Pamphlets In Preparation

Affiliates are urged to plan now for distribution of primary election pamphlets carrying official AFL-CIO endorsements made by the Pre-Primary Convention of the California Labor COPE in San Francisco, April 11, 1962.

Order forms will be sent to all affiliates in the near future. A standard statewide pamphlet is in preparation together with several separate pamphlets carrying district endorsements for major areas of the state.

The pamphlets are designed as self-mailers, for stuffing in No. 10 envelopes, or distribution in door-to-door precinct work.

The pamphlets will be free of charge. Watch for your order form, which will be sent out next week.

original budget submitted to the Legislature by Governor Brown, despite efforts of the Republican minority in the Assembly to trim it.

The main stumbling block which delayed adoption of the budget and threw it into a special session, was Republican opposition in the lower house to Governor Brown's original proposal that four bond issues totalling \$870,000,000 be divided between the June primary and November general election ballots.

The way was cleared for approval of the budget after a compromise was reached to submit all bonds to the voters at the June primaries, including a fifth proposal for \$100 million in elderly housing bonds originally approved for voter submission in November by the 1961 general session. As a result of the compromise, the following state bond issues will appear on the June ballot:

Proposition No. 1—\$200 million

(Continued on Page 3)

Membership Urged to Bypass Petition

(Continued from Page 1)

dation that such petition not be signed.

It is to be noted that Section 19 of Article XX of the State Constitution now provides as follows:

Subversive Persons and Groups:

"Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, no person or organization which advocates the overthrow of the Government of the United States or the State by force or violence or other unlawful means or who advocates the support of a foreign government against the United States in the event of hostilities shall:

(a) Hold any office or employment under this State, including but not limited to the University of California, or with any county, city or county, city, district, political subdivision, authority, board, bureau, commission or other public agency of this State; or

(b) Receive any exemption from any tax imposed by this State or any county, city or county, city, district, political subdivision, authority, board, bureau, commission or other public agency of this State.

The Legislature shall enact such laws as may be necessary to enforce the provisions of this section. (New section adopted November 4, 1952)."

The proposed initiative would repeal this Article and in its stead would insert a completely new Article which, in our opinion, is not only replete with vague, uncertain and ambiguous terms and findings, but also contains various provisions which we believe seriously interfere with long-established rights and privileges. For example:

Example No. 1:

Section 3 provides that an organization may be found to be a communist-action organization, or a communist-front organization by an appellate or superior court, or the grand jury of any county, or by the Attorney General of the state, or by any court, officer, board, commission, agency, or other body of the United States Government. It is to be noted there are no procedures or safeguards as to how the investigation, or hearing, is to be conducted and the manner or means of making the determination, or what review, if

any, with respect to such determination may be provided.

Example No. 2:

Section 7 specifically picks out school teachers as distinct from all other public employees, and requires that, if subpoenaed before any committee of the federal or state legislature, they answer under oath any question with respect to present or past membership, or support of a subversive organization, and provides for loss of certificate and dismissal in the event of refusal.

Example No. 3:

Section 8 prohibits the use of public property for meetings, conferences or discussions by any group in the absence of a signed statement by the applicant that it will not be used for the commission of any act prohibited by law.

Example No. 4:

Section 10 permits mere affidavits to establish proof by an assessor in denying exemptions.

We believe the long standing record and policy of this Federation has demonstrated our firm conviction that subversive activities must be eradicated. We believe, how-

California Congressmen Urged to Act on UI Bill

Secretary-Treasurer Pitts this Wednesday wrote to all California Congressmen and Senators expressing deep distress over the news that the McCarthy-King Bill, providing a permanent extension of unemployment insurance benefits, will not be acted upon this session.

Pitts pointed out that the expiration of the current temporary extended unemployment compensation program on June 30 will place thousands of California families on the brink of disaster. Pitts also indicated that the labor movement is disturbed over the fact that no new exhautees are permitted to sign up for extended benefits as of April 1.

Pointing out that unemployment in California was 507,000 persons or 7.7 percent of the labor force during February, Pitts urged immediate renewal of the 13-week extension of benefits and asked that they be made retroactive to April 1, 1962.

ever, that the specific provisions of Section 19 of Article XX are far superior to the vague and uncertain proposals contained in this suggested initiative, and accordingly suggest that our affiliates and their members refrain from signing the petition.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Thos. L. Pitts
Secretary-Treasurer

Brown Tops Nixon In Latest Poll

The latest survey of California voters, published by the California Poll, shows that Governor Edmund G. Brown has taken a popularity lead over Richard Nixon for the first time in five polls conducted during the past year.

The independent polling organization serving client newspapers throughout the state reports that Governor Brown now holds a significant 45 to 42 percent advantage over Nixon. A poll conducted by the same organization in February gave Nixon a 47 to 45 percent lead.

The results were hailed by Democratic party leadership as "dramatic proof that Brown's record is prevailing, and that people are becoming disenchanted with Nixon."

Democratic State Central Committee Chairman Roger Kent described the results as "a major breakthrough" indicating that "the tide is now running against Nixon even among Republican voters."

Kent attributed Brown's leadership to a variety of basic factors. He listed them as: Increasing public awareness of Brown's accomplishments as Governor; stiffening of Brown's support among Democratic voters; weakening of Nixon's support among Republican voters; Nixon's lack of knowledge of state problems; his johnny-come-lately stand on the Birchers; his personal attacks on President Kennedy; and widespread belief that he is still seeking the Presidency.

When the first California poll was taken a year ago, Nixon led Brown by eleven percentage points.

Nixon is also reported losing ground in his race for the Republican gubernatorial nomination against Assemblyman Joe Shell. The latest Nixon-Shell poll, also taken by the Field organization, reveals that Nixon has lost ten percentage points of his previous lead over Shell.

State Legislature

(Continued from Page 1)

to continue state loans for local school construction.

Proposition No. 2—\$250 million to continue home loans to veterans.

Proposition No. 3—\$270 million for state construction, mostly of state colleges and University of California.

Proposition No. 4—\$100 million to launch a program of low-rent housing for the elderly.

Proposition No. 5—\$150 million for beaches, parks, small boat harbors, and other recreational facilities. Governor Brown originally recommended \$100 million, but this was increased by \$50 million in the Senate.

Also on the June primary ballot will be **Proposition No. 6**, a measure extending daylight saving time for an extra month—to the last Sunday in October—beginning this year.

MANPOWER COMMISSION

The defeated automation commission bill was designed to develop basic information on the economy's skill needs for a coordinated and planned attack on the problems of job training, retraining and skill development in the state's rapidly automating economy.

As such, its enactment was considered vital to the implementation in California of the federal Manpower Development and Training Act recently signed into law by President Kennedy. At the present time the state lacks basic information on projected skill needs of the future to develop sound and workable training programs under the new federal legislation. (See News Letter dated March 30 for a detailed summary of SB36.)

In watered-down form, the automation proposal won approval of the Senate on April 2 by a vote of 28 to 4. It was restored to its original form with further improvements in the Assembly and passed by the lower house on April 12 by a vote of 54 to 11.

The Senate, however, refused concurrence in the Assembly amendments which threw the measure into free conference between the Assembly and the Senate.

In conference, all of the essential provisions of the measure were retained, but the name of the commission was changed to an independent automation committee. The conference report in turn was

immediately accepted by the Senate on a 27 to 3 vote.

In the Assembly, however, the conference report fell short by three votes of gaining the necessary two-thirds concurrence. With 53 members of the Assembly remaining in Sacramento, the vote was 51 to 2. (54 votes were necessary for passage.)

8-HOUR LAW DEFENDED

Federation-opposed legislation which would have reinstituted a permit system to allow the employment of women beyond eight hours a day in defense production without adequate safeguards, was defeated in the Senate committee on Government Efficiency. This was the same committee which in 1961 blocked renewal of the much abused state defense production act.

Defense production employers actively pushed legislation embodied in Assembly Bills 55 and 56, introduced by Assemblyman Tom Bane (D. No. Hollywood).

From the outset of the special session the Federation made its position clear. It was pointed out that if any emergency exemption from the eight-hour law was to be allowed, the legislation must be rigidly controlled, must relate to actual emergency situations in defense production, and must not be issued on a standby basis, as in the past.

The Bane bills fell short of minimum standards acceptable to the state AFL-CIO. Nonetheless, Assemblyman Bane worked closely with the leadership of the lower house to push the bills through the Assembly by a vote of 66 to 5 on AB 55 and a vote of 67 to 4 on AB 56. (The only difference between the two bills was that the latter contained an urgency clause.)

In the upper house, the Bane bills were referred to the Senate Labor Committee, and then re-referred to the Senate Governmental Efficiency Committee on request of the Federation. With the support of numerous affiliates which wired their senators in opposition to the measures, and others who appeared before the Senate committee, both measures were blocked by the Senate unit by refusing to send them to the floor.

OTHER ACTIONS

Among other actions, the Legislature:

—Approved legislation reconstituting the State Building Standards

Commission (AB 49—McMillan).

—Granted the equivalent of six percent pay increase to state employees drawing less than \$15,000 a year (AB 50—Z'berg).

—Memorialized Congress through an Assembly House Resolution to enact a federal equal employment opportunity act (HR 11—Elliott).

—Urged Congress to enact the Anderson-King bill providing health care for the aged through Social Security (AJR 2—Charles Wilson).

—Memorialized Congress to enact a minimum wage law for farm workers (SJR 5—McAteer).

—Declared intent of the legislature to give small school districts three years to comply with 1961 legislation extending teacher tenure rights to smaller school districts. (SB 17—Grunsky)

Congressional Elections Stressed

"Working people will take a shellacking in Congress in the next two years if they fail to participate vigorously in this fall's important Congressional elections," James L. McDevitt, director of the AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education, warned this week.

The national COPE director pointed out that so-called off-year elections in the past 50 years have brought an average loss of nine percent in Congressional strength by the party in power. If such a loss occurs this year, McDevitt stated, the Republicans will gain 39 seats in the House of Representatives, leaving only an 11-seat Democratic margin.

"This would give the Dixiecrat-conservative Republican coalition iron control and would doom legislation important to working people," he said.

McDevitt warned that it is up to union members to "see to it that good candidates get all-out support. History does not have to repeat itself. It will repeat itself only if our members, their families and friends, sit back and relax and fail to register and vote."

California is considered a key state in the Congressional races this year. Reapportionment of Congressional districts has given California eight new seats. A working liberal majority in Congress may well depend upon who California sends to Washington, D. C. from these new districts.

RETURN REQUESTED

DROP IN UNION MEMBERSHIP

Estimated union membership in California dropped 19,000 in July 1961, below a peak of 1,756,000 members reached in July 1960, according to the State Division of Labor Statistics and Research of the Department of Industrial Relations.

Director of Industrial Relations, John F. Henning, reports that there were 1,737,000 members in 1961 as compared with the 1,756,000 figure in July 1960.

According to the annual counts published by the state agency, California unions gained 13,000 members in non-manufacturing industries, but lost 32,000 in manufacturing in the year ending July 1961.

More than 7,000 government employees were added to membership rolls and large gains were also made in several trade and service industries. Losses occurred in railroad transportation and in metals and machinery, aircraft, auto, apparel, lumber, furniture, and most other manufacturing industries. In most instances, these membership losses reflected falling employment.

San Francisco-Oakland Metropolitan Area

Union membership totaled 461,-

200 in the six-county San Francisco-Oakland Metropolitan Area in July 1961. This figure was 2,200 below the July 1960 total, and 18,300 under the 1957 peak membership of 479,500.

Unions reported a 1960-61 drop of 5,000 in manufacturing. These losses were concentrated in canning, apparel and metals and machinery. In nonmanufacturing industries membership rose by 2,800, the greatest gains occurring in restaurants and government service.

Los Angeles-Long Beach Metropolitan Area

Labor unions in the Los Angeles-Long Beach Metropolitan Area reported a net loss of 7,000 members between July 1960 and July 1961. On the later date, membership totaled 753,000.

Declines associated with falling

employment were reported in almost all manufacturing industries, for a net loss of 17,000 members. The biggest drops were in aircraft, metals and machinery, apparel, and furniture.

Losses in manufacturing were partially offset by a gain of 10,000 members in nonmanufacturing industries. Substantial union membership increases were recorded in government, wholesale and retail trade, construction, and motion picture production.

San Diego Metropolitan Area

In July 1961, there were 83,600 union members in the San Diego Metropolitan Area, 7,100 fewer than in July 1960. The membership drop, which is accounted for in part by layoffs in the aircraft industry, was the first recorded for this area since July 1955. Several building trades local unions in San Diego also reported sizeable declines.

Unemployment Still Too High

March figures on unemployment were released this week by both the United States Department of Labor and the California Department of Employment.

Nationwide, the number of jobless persons declined 160,000 between February and March. Seasonally adjusted this amounted to only a slight decline in the nation's jobless rate from 5.6 to 5.5 percent.

In California, unemployment dropped from 507,000 persons unemployed in February to 467,000 unemployed persons in March. This seasonal decline caused the rate of unemployment in the state to drop from 7.7 percent in February to 7.1 percent in March. (State figures are not adjusted seasonally as in the case of national figures.) Again, this unemployment decline was about normal for this time of year as many workmen become employed in construction and other outdoor activities.

Dr. Walter Heller, chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, noted that over the past few months the civilian labor force has either remained at an equal level over a 12-month period or has actually dropped as in March indicating that many persons are dropped out of the labor force and are not actively seeking work. Heller sees the scarcity of jobs as being the reason for this, and regards it as "submerged unemployment."

Long-term unemployment has shown a slight increase since February, with those unemployed 15 weeks or longer and 27 weeks or longer having increased since February.

Unemployment statistics do not include those persons who are working part time but who actually desire full time work. The Department of Labor reports that 2.3 million persons were employed part time for economic reasons during the month of March, an increase of about 150,000 over February.

Right to work

(Continued from Page 1)
ership to Sacramento that we (farmers) need."

Headquarters for the pro-Nixon group has been established at 1027 "I" Street, Modesto, according to the California Farmer.

Other co-chairmen of the "Farmers for Nixon" group are reported to include: Burnel Christensen, Likely; J. L. Sullivan, Yuba City; Harvey A. Lynn, Arlington; Raymond F. Hansen, Norwalk; S. V. Christensen, Salinas; John Sparkman, Poway; Earl S. Smittcamp, Clovis; Warren Brock, El Centro.

There is no indication that Nixon has rejected, or intends to reject, the support of this farm group, led by the most prominent "right to work" advocate in the state today.