



## EDITORIAL

## AL BARKAN

The recent announcement that Al Barkan will retire as National Director of COPE at the end of the year calls for comment.

Labor across the nation will miss his great vitality and creative mind. Fortunately, the innovations he brought to the AFL-CIO political apparatus will survive.

Al Barkan assumed office as head of COPE in 1962. He came in at a fast pace and never slowed down. More importantly, he related labor political action to the changing requirements of the nation.

It has been said that one of Jimmy Carter's political problems was that he still thought of politics in terms of Georgia and the socio-economic dimension of a southern state and that the complexities of national and world problems were therefore beyond him.

The Carter criticism was unfair but there was just a shadow of truth in it. However, there was never anything like that in the broad enveloping concepts that Al Barkan brought to politics.

He understood that there is no relationship between the politics of today and the politics of the 1930's, '40's or even '50's. For example, he understood the pluralism of American life and so introduced such concepts as the "supportive service" approach to the black and brown communities through the A. Philip Randolph Institute and the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement.

He also appreciated that the computer is indispensable to political education in a movement involving millions of members. The highly sophisticated computer bank at national COPE headquarters provides the means of direct contact in an electronic age.

The national grants to state and local central bodies for non-partisan registration and get-out-the-vote activities were also Barkan priorities.

Above all, he gave a sense of enthusiasm, idealism and commitment to COPE across the nation. He has been a tireless imaginative expression of the best in modern AFL-CIO political traditions. He'll be leaving in December, but meanwhile, he'll be hard at it.

## Oil Firms Reap 40% Of All Profits in U.S.

• Oil company profits accounted for 40 percent of all profits earned by U.S. industrial firms in 1980, up from their 18 percent share just two years earlier.

• Profits of the nation's 20 largest oil companies have risen 404 percent since 1972, or 188 percent when adjusted for inflation.

• Oil companies have considerably more money available for their use than profit figures indicate. In most years, the actual cash available was twice as much as net profits.

These are just some of the highlights of the findings of a special Democratic Study Group report on oil company profits based on income information gathered by the Congressional Research Service from data supplied by the oil companies themselves. CRS is the

research arm of the Library of Congress.

The report points out that major U.S. oil companies boosted their profits 30 percent in 1980 despite the fact that the oil companies had racked up record profits in 1979 and the fact that 1980 was a recession for many other industries.

The oil companies' profits climbed despite the windfall profits tax and despite reduced consumption of both heating oil and gasoline, the study noted.

(Continued on Page 3)

## Reagan—AFL-CIO Tax Plans Compared

As an alternative to President Reagan's call for an across-the-board tax cut that gives 60 percent of its benefits to the wealthiest 20 percent of the nation's population, the AFL-CIO has proposed a refundable individual tax cut of 20 percent of social security taxes.

The AFL-CIO plan also calls for a tax cut of five percent of social security taxes to directly reduce every covered employer's payroll costs and proposes business tax reductions targeted to stimulate investments that will create jobs and help revive recession-battered industries and communities. Here's how families at three income levels would benefit under the two plans:

Family Earnings	Reagan Tax Plan	AFL-CIO Tax Plan
\$ 10,000	\$ 52	\$134
\$ 30,000	\$ 382	\$395
\$100,000	\$1840	\$395

Under the AFL-CIO proposal, 60 percent of the individual tax cut would go to 80 percent of the taxpayers.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Blue Shield To Go on Fed's Unfair List

Blue Shield of California is being placed on the unfair list of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, an action that means that the state's 1.7 million AFL-CIO union members will be encouraged to seek alternative health insurance carriers.

"The Executive Council of the California Labor Federation voted unanimously to place Blue Shield of California on the 'We Don't' (Continued on Page 2)

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## FORCE FOR PROGRESS—1980

# Calif. AFL-CIO Bills Boost Benefits by \$200 Million

"California workers — union and non-union alike — stand to benefit by upwards of \$200 million as a result of legislation backed by the California Labor Federation that was enacted during the 1980 legislative session," John F. Henning, executive officer of the California AFL-CIO, reported this week.

Despite the opposition of "well financed corporate and other special interests forces," Henning said that the state labor movement succeeded in winning enactment of major bills that increased workers' compensation benefits, authorized public employees to bargain for dental plans, set up a state fund for asbestosis victims, strengthened the protections for garment workers and assured California workers the right to know when they are exposed to toxic substances.

The report was contained in an introduction to "Force for Progress 1980," the California AFL-CIO's annual review of the past year's legislative session.

"The toxic substances bill may prove to be particularly important to California workers in view of the avowed intent of Reagan Administration officials to undo much of the progress made in worker health and safety during the past four years," Henning said.

The increases in the state's workers' compensation program, the first since 1976, raised the maximum weekly benefit for temporary total and permanent total disabilities from \$154 to \$175.

This legislation also boosts the death benefits for a surviving spouse from \$50,000 to \$70,000 and, for a spouse with one or more dependents, from \$55,000 to \$75,000.

State officials estimated that these increases alone are estimated to total more than \$70 million in additional benefits for California workers. They apply to disabilities incurred on or after January 1, 1981.

The legislation to protect asbestosis victims establishes a \$2.6 million state fund to provide prompt payment of workers' compensation benefits and medical expenses for workers suffering asbestosis before the employer or insurance carrier liable for their injury is determined. It requires the state fund to be reim-

bursed by the responsible employer or insurance carrier once the liability is determined.

The toxic substances legislation requires manufacturers of hazardous substances to prepare and provide material safety data sheets (MSDS) to all persons or firms who have purchased a hazardous product directly from the manufacturer within the past year.

It also requires employers to make such information available to employees and declares that "employers and employees have a right and a need to know the properties and potential hazards of substances to which they might be exposed."

The measure to protect garment workers requires all employers en-

(Continued on Page 4)

## POISONING PERIL

## State Fed Raps Donovan's Action on Right to Know Rule

The U.S. Labor Secretary Ray Donovan's withdrawal of OSHA's proposed "Right to Know" Standard on Hazards Identification was sharply protested by the California AFL-CIO this week.

The proposed standard, developed over the past five years to protect workers from unseen hazards on the job, would have required employers to identify hazardous chemicals and warn their workers of the effects.

"Your action cancelling the

hearings scheduled on this important regulation with no review of the standard and no notice to the unions whose workers are vitally affected and may suffer sterilization or crippling disabilities or death as a result of the lack of such standard is incomprehensible and directly contrary to the purpose for which the department you head was established," John F. Henning, the California AFL-CIO's executive officer, said in a letter to Donovan this week.

Henning pointed out that the 1913 law creating the Department of Labor directed the department "to foster, promote and develop the welfare of wage earners of the United States."

He urged Donovan to reissue the proposed standard immediately and hold hearings around the

(Continued on Page 2)

## Big Coalition Set Up to Fight Reagan's Unfair Budget Cuts

Formation of an unusually broad coalition of trade unions, religious organizations, civil rights groups and social welfare agencies to protect middle and low income U.S. citizens from the massive budget cuts proposed by President Reagan has been announced by AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland.

Kirkland said that the coalition,

which includes 157 organizations, "will carry out a fight against the unnecessary and unwise destruction of social and economic advances won over the past 50 years."

The coalition warned that the Reagan Administration reductions "could wreak great damage to the fabric of this nation."

Although about a handful of largely single issue coalitions have been announced in recent weeks, the "budget coalition" announced at a news conference at the AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington, D.C., February 27 encompasses nearly all of the op-

(Continued on Page 2)

## Item Pricing Bill Up for Committee Vote on March 24

California AFL-CIO-backed legislation to reinstate the requirement that all supermarkets place readable prices on all consumer commodities offered for sale has been scheduled for a vote by the Assembly Consumer Protection and Toxic Materials Committee on Tuesday, March 24.

The legislation, AB 65, introduced by Assemblyman Herschel Rosenthal (D-L.A.), would permanently revive a California AFL-CIO-sponsored law that was

(Continued on Page 4)

## New York Air Is on AFL-CIO's Unfair List

New York Air, the new cut-rate Washington, D.C. to New York air service, has been placed on the AFL-CIO Unfair List by the federation's Executive Council. Union members and union pension fund trustees will be altered to the action, the council pledged.

The council acted at the request of the Air Line Pilots who have branded the non-union airline a "runaway shop," set up by Texas International Airlines as a way of avoiding its obligations under its union contracts.

New York Air, which began service between the two cities in late December, is offering for sale some 1.5 million shares of common stock, the council pointed out. It warned pension fund trustees that the operation fits the definition of a company "inimical to workers' interests" and "unworthy" of union support through pension fund investments.

(Continued on Page 4)



# Big Coalition Set Up to Fight Reagan's Unfair Budget Cuts

(Continued from Page 1)

position groups, including trade unions, environmentalists, the elderly, women's organizations, farmers and civil rights proponents.

Kirkland said that overturning or modifying the Reagan Administration's enrich the rich budget cut and tax proposals would be difficult, particularly in view of the Administration's massive pub-

lic relations campaign to sell the program during the first few months of his administration to a public clamoring for change but not yet aware of the drastic impact Reagan's big business oriented proposals would effect.

The coalition, which includes a number of major national organizations, is expected to call on its membership throughout the country to launch letter-writing

campaigns to Congress to protest the Administration's plans to slash social programs such as unemployment insurance, medicaid, aid to education and job programs like the Comprehensive Employment & Training Act.

Organizations serving with the AFL-CIO on the Coalition's steering committee include:

The National Council of Senior Citizens; the United Auto Workers; the League of Women Voters; the National Women's Political Caucus; the U.S. Conference of Mayors; the U.S. Catholic Conference; the American Agricultural Movement; the Consumer Federation of America; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; the National Urban Coalition; and Americans for Democratic Action.

Althea T. H. Simmons, Director of the NAACP's Washington bureau, denounced the Reagan proposals as an unfair burden on the poor.

"We oppose the placing of unfair economic burdens on the poor, the elderly, while tobacco subsidies and water projects remain untouched," she said.

"We disagree with the economic premise that taking from the poor will increase productivity and giving to the rich will stimulate the economy."

Other groups represented in the "budget coalition" include:

The National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice; the National Education Assn.; the National Organization for Women; the National Wildlife Federation; Planned Parenthood Federation; the United Steel Workers of America; the Air Line Pilots Assn.; the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; and the Child Welfare League of America.

Asserting that U.S. citizens must "stop this rape of the American middle class and poor people," Leon Shull, National Director of the ADA, declared:

"Americans must tell the President and they must tell Congress that they will not sit still for this reactionary program."

## IT'S AB 206

### Labor Backs State Workers' Dental Care Measure

California AFL-CIO-sponsored legislation, AB 206 introduced recently by Assemblyman Curtis R. Tucker (D-Inglewood), is designed to provide employees in state civil service, the California state universities and colleges and the University of California with employer-paid comprehensive dental coverage.

Legislation enacted last year, AB 1484, put the program on the books. But this year funding must be provided so that state employees can negotiate for dental care benefits.

Also introduced in the Senate is a self-serving bill sponsored by the California State Employees Assn. which would allow only CSEA plans to be funded during its first year of operation.

Only in 1982 would the CSEA bill, SB 75, allow non-CSEA members to have dental care coverage.

Unlike the California AFL-CIO measure, SB 75 would put the administration of dental plans in the hands of the CSEA-dominated Public Employees Retirement System.

The Tucker bill, on the other hand, puts the Administration of the plan in the Governor's office, the trustees and the Regents.

## POISONING PERIL

### State Fed Raps Donovan's Action on Right to Know Rule

(Continued from Page 1)

nation as scheduled to permit workers and unions to have a voice in setting forth the need for this "essential federal right-to-know regulation."

Henning described the issue as "truly a matter of life and death."

Prior to Donovan's February 10 action withdrawing the proposed standard, George H. R. Taylor, director of Occupational Safety and Health for the AFL-CIO, wrote Donovan to urge him to go ahead with the standard, describing it as "a necessary and wise step for protecting the health of American working people."

But Robert A. Roland, president of the Chemical Manufacturers' Assn., had also written to Donovan asking for withdrawal of the proposed standard, claiming that it would not improve workers' safety and health but would "saddle the chemical industry and most other major American industries with an enormously expensive and unnecessarily burdensome regulation."

Faced with a clear choice between worker safety and business profits, the Reagan Administration's protector of the welfare of workers decided the issue in favor of business.

# Reagan—AFL-CIO Tax Plans Compared

(Continued from Page 1)

**BUSINESS TAX CUTS** — Under Reagan's unrestricted depreciation tax proposals, highly profitable businesses would benefit the most while struggling companies and newly developed industries would benefit little.

In contrast the AFL-CIO's proposed business tax cut is designed to stimulate investments in industries and communities where it is needed the most.

**INTEREST RATES** — Even though President Reagan himself has termed interest rates of 20 percent "absurd," Reagan has said that he nonetheless supports the same tight-money policy that has led to the repeated economic downturns of recent years and ballooned the annual interest payments on the federal debt.

In contrast, the AFL-CIO plan calls for the reimposition of selective credit regulations to enable capital to be directed to productive investments while curbing speculation.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland pointed out that "other advanced western industrial countries have used selective credit regulation effectively. The brief U.S. experience with limited credit controls in the spring of 1980 helped bring the prime rate down from 20 to 11 percent in four months while mortgage interest rates came down from 16 to 11 percent."

**SOCIAL PROGRAMS** — The Reagan program calls for \$17.5 billion in budget cuts and social programs that would slash the meager incomes of the jobless and the poor and for an additional \$24 billion in cuts in social investments necessary to expand the economy.

In contrast, the AFL-CIO points out that the Reagan cuts would not only "cost more than one million jobs but would endanger the nation's long-range needs for energy security, transportation improvements, environmental safeguards and urban development."

Pointing out that Reagan's plan relies entirely on the unproved hypothesis that the tax cuts he proposes will result in private financing for these necessary investments, the AFL-CIO said "there is little basis for this hope" and warned that "public employees will bear an additional unfair burden."

The AFL-CIO would attack the budget deficit by reducing unemployment and cutting interest rates. A reduction in unemployment of one percent would cut \$30 billion from the budget deficit.

The AFL-CIO also took sharp issue with Reagan's contention that laws protecting health, safety, the environment and consumers had caused "higher prices, higher unemployment and lower productivity growth."

Asserting that Reagan's plan ignores the contributions these laws have made to a higher quality of life, the AFL-CIO Executive Council said that Reagan's proposals would, in the name of business efficiency, "let the market place determine if, when and how workers, buyers and national resources are to be protected. Past experience demonstrates that the market undervalues the need for these protections," the Council said.

# Guild Protests Reagan's Big Slash in Aid to the Arts

Strong opposition to President Reagan's proposed "devastating budget cuts" in funds for the national endowment for the arts (NEA), the national endowment for the humanities (NEH), the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and arts-related CETA programs have been voiced by the Board of Directors of the AFL-CIO's Screen Actors Guild.

"The arts have never been well funded in this country and disproportionate cuts of more than 50 percent would dissipate any of the gains the arts have made in recent years under the sponsorship of NEA, NEH and CPB," Chester L. Migden, national executive secretary of SAG, said.

The proposed cuts would "greatly exacerbate the extensive unemployment situation which has always plagued the arts," Migden, who is also a vice president of

the California AFL-CIO, pointed out.

In a letter sent to Reagan late last month, Migden and SAG president William Schallert urged the President to "reconsider your budget initiatives and divide a greater level of funding for NEA, NEH, CPB and related CETA programs."

The letter pointed out that funding for the arts "has always been meager" in this country, with cultural programs comprising only a minuscule percentage of the national budget . . . to so dramatically and drastically withdraw support from the arts not only impoverishes the artist but also the society in which he or she lives," it pointed out.

The Guild's executive board said it is sponsoring a postcard campaign to urge Reagan to reconsider his budget initiative.

## Parley in L. A. to Focus on White Collar Organizing

"Fitting the White Collar to the Bargaining Table" will be the focus of an all day conference on the special problems involved in organizing professional, technical and other white collar workers to be held at the Sheraton Town House at 2961 Wilshire Blvd. in Los Angeles, Friday, March 13.

Featured speakers at the conference, which is sponsored by the Center for Labor Research and Education of the Institute of Industrial Relations at UCLA, will include:

Jack Golodner, Director of the AFL-CIO Department of Professional Employees, who will deliver a keynote address on "Professionals, the Workforce and the Unions—an Overview";

John Geagan, General Organizer of the Service Employees Int'l Union, who will speak on "Fitting Union Structure to Professional/White Collar Dimensions";

Dina Beaumont, Executive Assistant to the President of the Communications Workers of America, who will speak on "Labor-Management Committees in a Collective Bargaining Framework"; and,

Ellen Wernick, Coordinator of the Women's Project of the AFL-CIO Department for Professional Employees, who will speak on "The Salaried Woman Worker—her Status and her Potential."

Other speakers will include:

Joe Hancock, Executive Director of the Interns and Residents Guild; Neil Manning, an international representative of the United Auto Workers; Joyce Spencer, coordinator of the Occupational Safety and Health Project at the Center for Labor Research and Education at UCLA; George Rand, Associate Professor of the School of Architecture and Planning at UCLA; and Joel Faden, of the Center for Quality of Working Life at the Institute of Industrial Relations at UCLA.

In addition, Gloria Busman, conference coordinator for the UCLA Labor Center, will present a case study on "White Collar Apathy and Alienation — Some Union Options."

Registration fee for the conference, which covers registration, materials, refreshment breaks and lunch, is \$45 per participant. Checks should be made payable to the Regents of the University

of California and sent to Rita Stearn, Program Representative, Center for Labor Research and Education, Institute of Industrial Relations, UCLA, 9244 Bunche Hall, Los Angeles, Ca. 90024.

For further information contact Gloria Busman at (213) 825-9602.

## Blue Shield To Go on Fed's Unfair List

(Continued from Page 1)

Patronize" list and directed me to proceed with the proper processing of the official listing," John F. Henning, the Federation's executive officer said at the conclusion of an Executive Council meeting held at the Sailors Union of the Pacific headquarters in San Francisco yesterday.

The action was taken after Blue Shield rejected a compromise offer by Local 3 of the AFL-CIO Office and Professional Employees Union to settle a three-month-long labor dispute and announced plans to move 435 of the jobs in its San Francisco headquarters to non-union offices out of the city.

George Davis, Local 3's executive officer, denounced the action as "simply a move by the company to become a runaway shop."

"Blue Shield is a runaway shop that's trying to whittle away at its own employees wages in an attempt to justify exorbitant subcontracting fees paid to Electronic Data Systems, a Texas-based firm headed by H. Ross Perot, a notorious anti-unionist," Davis said.

"The union is prepared to dig in for a long confrontation and to take the steps necessary to extend the Blue Shield boycott nationwide," he declared.

On Wednesday, more than 500 of the striking workers voted by a three to one margin to reject the company's January 15 proposal and to continue the fight for a reasonable contract and the maintenance of jobs in San Francisco, Davis noted.

Pointing out that Blue Shield had rejected a later compromise offer made by the union to give up its cost-of-living clause in exchange for a 14.4 percent raise now with cost-of-living increases in the second and third year ranging between eight and 12.5 percent, Davis said:

"Blue Shield has made no real effort to settle this dispute but instead has insisted on no retroactivity, the imposition of written tests for promotion regardless of seniority, denial of pay increases to a majority of workers who are already above the pay scale in the second and third years of the contract and a number of other 'takeaway' provisions."

## Publisher's Notice

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# Oil Firms Reap 40% Of All Profits in U.S.

(Continued from Page 1)

Profits of the 20 top firms last year exceeded \$29 billion, or \$7 billion more than in 1979, the study disclosed.

The increase is especially impressive in light of the fact that 1979 was itself a spectacularly profitable year for oil companies and that the crude oil windfall profits tax was in effect for 10 months of the year, the DSG report said.

"Over half of the top 20 oil companies reported net profits of more than \$1 billion in 1980," it said.

"Oil profits have risen so high that oil companies are on the verge of overwhelming the American industrial economy," it said.

Leading the pack in terms of the highest percentage increase in profits last year was Mobil, which posted a gain of 63 percent

on earnings of \$3.2 billion.

**Standard Oil of Ohio** racked up a 53 percent rise on profits of \$1.8 billion.

**Exxon**, the world's largest firm, pulled in \$5.6 billion in profits, a 32 percent increase over 1979.

**Texaco** posted a 27 percent rise in profits over 1979.

**Standard Oil of California's** profits rose 35 percent.

**Shell's** profits climbed 36 percent.

**Standard Oil of Indiana's** profits climbed 27 percent.

**Phillips Petroleum's** profits rose 20 percent.

Moreover, the 30 percent increase in the profits of these 20 top firms in 1980 compared with a 70 percent increase in 1979 over 1978.

Last year's lesser rate of increase was due to a slower rate of world oil price rises, an increase in worldwide oil stocks compared to 1979's low levels and lower consumption, the report said.

The 1979-80 growth in profits was surpassed only by the dramatic gains in 1979 and during the 1973 Arab oil embargo.

The windfall profits tax was enacted by Congress specifically to recapture some of the profits oil companies could expect after President Carter ordered decontrol to begin in June 1979.

**President Reagan's January 28 order to remove all remaining price controls from domestic oil will add still more billions to oil profits during 1981, the DSG study said. It predicted that gross revenues of the 20 top firms will increase \$12 billion.**



**SCORES OF TRADE UNIONISTS** turn out to demonstrate their support of Hotel, Restaurant and Bartenders employees at the anti-union New Otani Hotel at 120 South Los Angeles Street in Los Angeles. The pickets were protesting the refusal of the Greater Los Angeles Visitors and Convention Bureau to move its meeting from the hotel. William Robertson, executive officer of Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and a vice president of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, who served on the Bureau's Board of Directors, resigned in protest of the Bureau's action.

## Building Trades' James Lee Named To ABC Board

James S. Lee, president of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, has just been appointed to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Appeals Board by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

Lee, who served previously on the ABCAB, has also served on the State Building Standards Commission, the State Advisory Council for the Department of Employment, and on the Western Regional Manpower Development Commission.

March 6, 1981

## Watts to Head Committee on Public Relations

The AFL-CIO Executive Council has reactivated its Standing Committee on Public Relations, and a number of ad hoc committees that have been established in recent years will become its subcommittees.

Its chairman will be Vice President Glenn E. Watts, who is president of the Communications Workers.

The ad hoc groups that have been incorporated in the reac-

tivated committee include the Satellite and Cable Television Committee, the Telecommunications Policy Committee and a panel that has been exploring means of improving the public relations aspects of union organizing campaigns.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland said at a news conference at the Council's recent meeting in Bal Harbour, Fla., that he will also ask the new committee to incorporate the media monitoring

project initiated by the Machinists.

Executive Council members appointed to the committee are AFL-CIO Sec.-Treas. Thomas R. Donahue and Vice Presidents S. Frank Raftery, Albert Shanker, William W. Winpisinger, Frederick O'Neal, Charles H. Pillard, John DeConcini, Lloyd McBride, Jerry Wurf, Sol C. Chaikin, William Konyha, John J. Sweeney, William H. Wynn and J. C. Turner.



# Calif. AFL-CIO Bills Boost Benefits by \$200 Million

(Continued from Page 1)

gaged in the garment manufacturing industry to register with the state Labor Commissioner. It is aimed at curbing the flagrant shortchanging of garment workers by unscrupulous employers.

To accomplish this, it will require all garment manufacturers to keep adequate records for three years showing the names and addresses of all employees, hours worked, daily production sheets, wage rates and wages paid for each payroll period as well as other pertinent data.

Another measure provides for the retroactive payment of the one-week waiting period after 21 days of disability instead of the present 49 days under the state's employee-financed unemployment disability insurance program which covers workers suffering off-the-job injuries or other disabilities.

The same legislation also eliminates the requirement that total unemployment disability benefits be reduced by the amount of temporary disability benefits paid or payable under workers' compensation.

These two changes alone are estimated to provide about \$47 million a year more in benefits for California workers, Henning said.

Another Federation-backed bill eliminates the disability insurance waiver currently required from handicapped workers when they work in state agencies. This measure brings state law into conformity with federal law by

ending the practice of requiring employees who do not meet the physical requirements for a job but are nonetheless able to perform it from signing away their disability retirement rights.

Henning pointed out that the California AFL-CIO also succeeded defeating a number of anti-worker measures, including:

- Legislation authorizing use of roll over, variable-interest-rate home mortgages in California;

- A 50 percent sub-minimum wage for California teenagers;

- The exemption of thousands of firms from Cal/OSHA's protective supervision; and,

- Elimination of the "lifeline" utility rates for many consumers.

The 28-page report includes the 1980 voting records of California's state senators and assemblymen on committee votes as well as votes on the floor and a brief description of the major labor-backed measures enacted as well as anti-worker measures defeated.

Copies of the report were sent out last week to all Federation affiliates.

Additional copies may be ordered from the California Labor Federation at 995 Market Street, Suite 310, San Francisco, Ca. 94103 at a cost of \$1.00 each. Checks should be made payable to the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Here is a brief description of some of the major measures cited in the report:

**Workers' Comp — AB 2750, car-**

ried by Assemblyman Alister McAlister, raises the maximum weekly benefit for temporary and permanent total disability from \$154 to \$175 a week.

**Asbestosis — AB 946, carried by Assemblyman Art Agnos, sets up the asbestosis workers compensation fund.**

**Disability Insurance — AB 3131, carried by Assemblywoman Leona Egeland, allows collective bargaining units in local public agencies to negotiate for disability insurance by legally permitting local agencies to be considered employers for disability insurance purposes.**

**Waiting Period — SB 1857, carried by Senator Bill Greene, cuts the waiting period for workers to receive unemployment disability insurance benefits for their first week of disability from 49 to 29 days.**

**Bias — AB 290, carried by Assemblywoman Maxine Waters, bars firms from requiring sterility as a condition for employment.**

**Toxic Substances — SB 1874, carried by Senator John Neiedly, requires employers to provide information to all workers on toxic substances produced or handled in their work place.**

**Dental Care — AB 1484, carried by Assemblyman Floyd Mori, authorizes the state of California to contract, through negotiations with state employee organizations, with carriers of dental plans for dental care coverage for state employees and retirees.**

**Info Charges — SB 1622, carried**

## New York Air Is on AFL-CIO's Unfair List

(Continued from Page 1)

The Air Line Pilots and its affiliate, the Flight Attendants, have charged that New York Air is "one and the same" with Texas International which transferred millions of dollars of its revenue to a holding company in order to set up New York Air as a separate entity.

The maneuver was specifically designed to create an "alter ego" airline that could skirt TXI's union contracts and allow the hiring of non-union air and ground crews to service New York Air, the council agreed.

New York Air employs non-union workers at wages and working conditions far below industry standards, the council's statement charged, pointing out that skilled and experienced union employees of Texas International have been laid off while workers with less experience have been taken on at New York Air.

by Senator Nicholas Petris, bars the assessment of any telephone directory assistance charges on the physically disabled or the visually impaired.

**Consumers — SB 1977, carried by Senator Rose Ann Vuich, requires consumer credit reporting agencies to advise consumers that access to their credit files is available and to provide a written or phoned disclosure of credit records to the consumer on demand.**

**Garment workers — SB 545, carried by Senator Joseph Montoya, requires all employers engaged in garment manufacturing to register with the state labor commissioner's office.**

## Item Pricing Bill Up for Committee Vote on March 24

(Continued from Page 1)

on the books until January 1, 1980.

Lobbyists for the state's supermarket chains succeeded in bottling up a bill to extend the law during the 1980 legislative session.

Although some 56 cities and 15 counties throughout the state have adopted local ordinances requiring item pricing to protect their consumers, supermarkets in communities without such ordinances have been rapidly shifting to unmarked electronic pricing.

The lack of such laws deny consumers the ability to easily compare prices and threatens the jobs of thousands of members of the AFL-CIO retail clerks union.

**Members of the Consumer Protection and Toxic Materials Committee are: Sally Tanner (D-El Monte), chairwoman; Don Sebastiani (R-Sonoma), vice chairman; Peter R. Chacon (D-San Diego); Dave Elder (D-Long Beach); Richard Katz (D-Sepulveda); Ernest Konnyu (R-Cupertino); Byron Sher (D-Mountain View); and Cathie Wright (R-Chatsworth).**

## Committee Set Up To Spur Mergers

Establishment of a special committee to develop procedures and mechanisms to encourage voluntary consolidation and mergers of affiliated unions was approved by the AFL-CIO Executive Council at its mid-winter meeting.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland appointed Vice President Murray H. Finley as chairman.

The other members are Vice Presidents Jerry Wurf, Kenneth T. Blaylock, William H. Wynn, John DeConcini, Fred J. Kroll and Charles H. Pillard.



# THE CALIFORNIA AFL-CIO's DIGEST OF BILLS

The measures below introduced in the 1981-82 regular session of the California Legislature are classified by the California Labor Federation as "Good," "Bad," or "Watch†". An asterisk (\*) indicates a bill sponsored by the California Labor Federation. A "Watch†" designation indicates that the Federation will defer to the wishes of affected affiliates on the ultimate classification of the bill. Such bills are printed in the digest to inform affiliates involved. No bill may be taken up until 30 days after the date of introduction indicated in the digest, except by a three-quarters vote. When the abbreviation (H.A.D.) appears in the digest following the author's name, it means that the measure has been held at the Speaker's desk in the House of origin and has not yet been assigned to a committee.

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**AB 121 — Kelley (Ed.)** . . . Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to determine, pursuant to specified formulae, the total maximum number of administrative employees which a school district should employ and the amount of average salaries attributable to state support that are paid to administrative employees of a district. Such formulae are based, in part, on the maximum ratio of administrative employees to 100 teachers.

This bill would revise the maximum administrative employee ratio. It would establish 2 sets of ratios, one for districts with an average daily attendance that exceeds 2,501 units and one for districts with an average daily attendance that is 2,501 units or less. December 9, 1980.

Education—Bad

**AB 129 — Lockyer (P. E. & Ret.)** — Existing law does not require the State Personnel Board, when establishing and adjusting salary ranges for positions in state service, to take into consideration the comparability of levels, skills, education, experience, knowledge, responsibility or accountability and effort when establishing and adjusting salaries in those classes of employees which are composed of at least 70% females.

This bill would so provide. December 10, 1980.

Public Employees—Good

**AB 143 — Hallett (G. O.)** — The Legislature has, by statute, estab-

lished various regulatory agencies. Currently, no statute contains provisions that would abolish state regulatory agencies on various specified dates unless the Legislature, not less than 90 days prior to such a date, in each instance, enacts legislation which extends such date for a period not to exceed 5 years.

This bill would adopt such a statute for state regulatory agencies created by statutes, as defined . . . in existence on January 1, 1981. . . .

In addition, this bill would provide that any state regulatory agency established by legislation which becomes effective on or after January 1, 1981, shall be abolished 5 years after it is first empowered to exercise its regulatory authority if not sooner as provided for in the legislation unless a contrary intent is specifically provided for in the legislation or unless, not less than 90 days prior to the date it is to be abolished as provided for in this bill, a statute is enacted which extends such date for a period not to exceed 5 years. . . . December 12, 1980.

State and Local Government—Bad

## SPECIAL NOTE

The rating of SB 75-Boatwright, printed in last week's Digest of Bills, was in error. It is a "Bad" bill.

## KEY TO SENATE ABBREVIATIONS

Committee Abbreviations	Committee
(Agr. & Wat. Res.)	Agriculture and Water Resources
(B. & C.)	Banking and Commerce
(B. & P.)	Business and Professions
(C.A.)	Constitutional Amendments
(Ed.)	Education
(E. & R.)	Elections and Reapportionment
(E. & P.U.)	Energy and Public Utilities
(Fin.)	Finance
(G.O.)	Governmental Organization
(H. & W.)	Health and Welfare
(I.R.)	Industrial Relations
(I. & I.)	Insurance and Indemnity
(Jud.)	Judiciary
(L. Gov.)	Local Government
(N.R. & W.)	Natural Resources and Wildlife
(P.E. & R.)	Public Employment and Retirement
(Rev. & Tax.)	Revenue and Taxation
(Rls.)	Rules
(Trans.)	Transportation

## KEY TO ASSEMBLY ABBREVIATIONS

Committee Abbreviations	Committee
(Aging)	Aging
(Agri.)	Agriculture
(B. & P.)	Business and Professions
(C.A.)	Constitutional Amendments
(C. P. & T. M.)	Consumer Protection and Toxic Materials
(Crim. J.)	Criminal Justice
(Econ. D. & P.)	Economic Development and Planning
(Ed.)	Education
(Elec. & Reap.)	Elections and Reapportionment
(E. & N. R.)	Energy and Natural Resources
(F., I., & C.)	Finance, Insurance, and Commerce
(G.O.)	Governmental Organization
(Health)	Health
(H. & C.D.)	Housing and Community Development
(Human S.)	Human Services
(Jud.)	Judiciary
(L. & E.)	Labor and Employment
(L. Gov.)	Local Government
(P.E. & Ret.)	Public Employees and Retirement
(Rev. & Tax.)	Revenue and Taxation
(Rls.)	Rules
(Trans.)	Transportation
(U. & E.)	Utilities and Energy
(W.P., & W.)	Water, Parks, and Wildlife
(W. & M.)	Ways and Means



## ASSEMBLY BILLS (Cont'd)

**AB 145 — Hallett (Rev. & Tax.)** — Existing Personal Income Tax Law requires that the Franchise Tax Board prepare and make available to the Employment Development Department wage withholding tables to be used by certain employers making payment of wages who are required to deduct and withhold a sum which is substantially equivalent to the amount of tax reasonably estimated to be due resulting from the inclusion of such wages in the gross income of the wages which were subject to withholding. Existing law excludes wages paid for agricultural labor from such withholding requirement.

This bill would subject wages paid for agricultural labor, as defined, to such withholding requirement. . . . December 12, 1980.

Taxes—Bad

**AB 153 — Rosenthal (Jud.)** — Existing law makes no provision for the investment by a landlord of security given by a tenant for a rental agreement and imposes no requirement on the landlord to pay interest on the security deposit to the tenant.

This bill would permit the investment of the security deposit by the landlord and would entitle the tenant, at the option of the landlord, to a payment or to a credit against his or her rent at least annually of 5% of the amount of the security deposit, as specified. . . . December 15, 1980.

Landlord and Tenant—Good

**AB 154 — Rosenthal (Health)** — Existing law establishes the maximum fees which may be prescribed for licensed vocational nurses.

This bill would increase the maximum amount which may be prescribed for the fees for licensed vocational nurses. . . . December 15, 1980.

Labor Unions—Watch†

**AB 158 — Levine (Human Res.)** — Existing law provides that commencing January 1, 1981 payment levels for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program (AFDC), and the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) program for the Aged, Blind and Disabled shall, be decreased from the payment levels in effect for the 6-month period commencing July 1, 1980.

This bill would provide that effective January 1, 1981 payment levels for the AFDC and SSI/SSP programs would be equal to levels in effect July 1, 1980. . . .

This bill would take effect immediately as an urgency statute. December 16, 1980.

Welfare—Good

**AB 161 — Deddeh (P. E. & Ret.)** . . . . This bill would appropriate from the General Fund and appropriate special funds to the Department of Finance for allocation and disbursement to employees who are eligible to receive payments under the terms of SB 91, of their successors in interest, \$\_\_\_\_\_ to pay a specified interest rate on the lump-sum payments if SB 91 is successfully resolved by the California courts as being constitutional.

This bill would take effect immediately as an urgency statute. December 18, 1980.

Public Employees—Good

**AB 163 — Bergeson (W., P., & W.)** — Under existing law the commercial taking of abalone in the mainland coastal waters from Palos Verdes Point in Los Angeles County to Dana Point in Orange County is unlawful until March 1, 1982.

This bill would extend the prohibition to March 1, 1987. . . . December 18, 1980.

Labor Unions—Watch†

**AB 164 — Bergeson (H. & C. D.)** — The California Coastal Act of 1976, generally, provides for the planning of, and the regulation of development, under a coastal development permit process, within, the coastal zone, as defined, which shall be based on various coastal resources planning and management policies set forth in the act.

The policies, among other things, provide that housing opportunities for persons and families of low or moderate income shall be protected, encouraged, and, where feasible, provided. It is, further, provided that new housing in the coastal zone shall be developed in conformity with the standards, policies, and goals of local housing elements adopted in accordance with designated provisions.

This bill would exempt any proposed housing development which complies with the local housing element, adopted in accordance with a designated provision, from the above provisions. December 18, 1980.

Housing—Bad

**AB 165 — McCarthy (H. & C. D.)** — Existing law authorizes the California Housing Finance Agency to issue revenue bonds in an amount not exceeding \$1,500,000,000 outstanding at any time, exclusive of indebtedness incurred to refund or renew previously issued bonds at the agency.

This bill would increase such limitation on outstanding bonded indebtedness by \$350,000,000 to a total of \$1,850,000,000, exclusive of indebtedness incurred to refund or renew previously issued bonds of the agency. . . .

This bill would take effect immediately as an urgency statute. December 18, 1980.

Housing—Good

**AB 174 — Young (Fin., Ins., & Com.)** — Existing law with respect to policies of disability insurance, self-insured employee welfare benefit plans and hospital service contracts specifically permits the insured to select a licensed marriage, family, and child counselor to perform certain services covered under the terms of the policy or plan.

This bill would additionally prohibit health care service plans from excluding the services of licensed marriage, family, and child counselors, upon referral of a physician or surgeon, when applicable. . . .

This bill would take effect immediately as an urgency statute. December 19, 1980.

Miscellaneous—Watch†

**AB 176 — Hannigan (G. O.)** — Existing provisions of the Veterans' Farm and Home Purchase Act of 1974 provide preferences for certain categories of veterans in the application for Cal Vet benefits and provide that on and after January 1, 1981, all applications therefor shall be filed with the Department of Veterans Affairs within 25 years of discharge or release from active duty.

This bill would specify that, notwithstanding these preferences, all applications filed with the department on or before December 31, 1980, shall be entitled to commitments for funding prior to applications received on and after January 1, 1981. . . .

The bill would become effective as an urgency statute. December 22, 1980.

Veterans—Good

**AB 178 — Lockyer (L. E., & C. A.)** — Under existing law, there is a Contractors' State License Board which licenses, regulates, and disciplines individuals and firms engaged in the business of contracting.

This bill would abolish the board on June 30, 1982, unless the Legislature, prior to that date, enacts a bill continuing the board in existence. . . . December 22, 1980.

State and Local Government—Bad

**AB 179 — Torres (G. O.)** — Existing law which required state and local agency public works contracts to use only materials manufactured in the United States has been declared unconstitutional by the courts.

This bill would enact the California Steel Industry Recovery Act of 1981. The bill would require the contracting officer of every state and other public agency to give reasonable preference to steel products made in the United States in all public works contracts over \$100,000 unless a written finding is made by the contracting officer and approved by the State Public Works Board that the purchase of steel products made in the United States is unreasonable. . . . December 22, 1980.

Labor Unions—Good

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

**SJR 1 — Boatwright (Rls.)** — This measure would request the Congress of the United States, either acting by consent of two-thirds of both houses or, upon the application of the legislatures of two-third of the several states, to call a constitutional convention to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to require, with certain exceptions, that the total of all federal appropriations may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues in any fiscal year.

This measure would also provide that if the constitutional convention is not limited to the topic of a balanced federal budget, this measure would have no effect and be considered a nullity. December 1, 1980.

Miscellaneous—Bad