

JFK Address on May 20

President John F. Kennedy will present his medical care for the aged program, the King-Anderson bill, to the American people in a nationally televised program on Sunday afternoon, May 20, 1962, from Madison Square Garden.

The President's address will highlight a rally sponsored by the National Council of Senior Citizens for health care through social security. This meeting will spearhead simultaneous meetings and rallies across the country to demonstrate the tremendous public support for the President's proposal.

The President's speech will be carried over ABC, CBS and NBC national television networks. It will also be on ABC, CBS, Mutual Broadcasting and NBC radio. (Consult your local newspapers or call your local stations for broadcast times in your area.)

All AFL-CIO organizations in the state are urged to immediately notify their members of the Kennedy kickoff address. Urge them to hear the President speak on this vital matter and to invite their friends and neighbors to join them.

After hearing the President, they should be encouraged to immediately write their congressman and Senators Thos. H. Kuchel and Clair Engle, urging quick action on long overdue enactment of medical care for aged through Social Security.

Contact the California Labor Federation office immediately if communication materials are needed to reach the membership.

Fed. Asks Ruling for \$1.53 Minimum Lettuce Harvest Wage

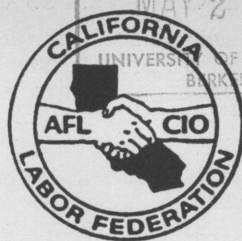
Minimum hourly rates of \$1.53, or their piece work equivalent, were demanded yesterday under the "adverse effect" provisions of Public Law 78 for California lettuce harvest workers.

In prepared testimony submitted by Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, Department of Labor officials were urged to realistically upgrade their January 1962 wage determinations granting workers a choice between a \$1.00 hourly minimum and a 24c per carton piece-work rate.

The earlier Labor Department ruling applied to parts of Arizona as well as to Imperial County and Riverside East. The present proceeding concerns a proposal to extend that ruling to the remaining lettuce producing areas of Arizona and California.

Department officials have indicated that California areas already covered by its piece work order are averaging \$1.35 an hour.

Arguing that piece work is incom-



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

Weekly News Letter

May 11, 1962
Vol. 4—No. 16

Published by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

151

Distribution of COPE Endorsement Pamphlets Approaching One Million Mark

Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts announced this week that close to one million state COPE endorsement pamphlets will be distributed for the June 5 primary election through AFL-CIO organizations in the state.

As of this date, Pitts said, orders for over 900,000 pamphlets have been received in the San Francisco office of the California Labor Council on Political Education.

Designed as a self-mailer, for stuffing in No. 10 envelopes or door-to-door distribution in precinct work, the pamphlet carries pictures of all AFL-CIO official endorsements of statewide candidates in the primary election.

In addition to Governor Edmund G. Brown's candidacy for re-election and Richard Richards for U.S. Senator, the statewide endorsements include Glenn M. Anderson for Lieutenant Governor, Stanley Mosk for Attorney General, Alan Cranston for State Controller, Bert A. Betts for State Treasurer, Don Rose for Secretary of State, and

Ralph Richardson for Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Endorsements in district offices for Congress, State Senate, the Assembly and State Board of Equalization are listed in seven variations of the basic pamphlet for given areas of the state: San Francisco Bay Area; Los Angeles County; Sacramento Valley; San Joaquin Valley; San Bernardino-Riverside-Imperial Counties; San Diego County; and Orange County.

Each of the area pamphlets, in addition to the statewide endorsements, contain only district office endorsements for the particular area.

All variations of the COPE pamphlets also carry the state AFL-CIO's "Vote YES" recommendation on the six state propositions which will appear on the primary ballot. These include: **Proposition No. 1**—School Construction Bonds, \$200 million; **Proposition No. 2**—Veterans Home Loans Bonds, \$250 million; **Proposition No. 3**—State Construction Bonds, \$2570 million; **Proposition No. 4**—Aged Low Rent Housing Bonds, \$100 million; **Proposition No. 5**—Recreation Bonds, \$150 million; and **Proposition No. 6**—Extend Daylight Saving Time an extra month.

Pitts said that the wide distribution which the pamphlet is receiving in the primary election indicates that the labor movement fully comprehends the vital issues at stake this election year.

"We must be prepared to pre-

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued on Page 4)

Lettuce Harvest Wage

(Continued from Page 1)

In criticizing Labor Department officials for failing to develop a method of measuring the damage inflicted upon domestic farm workers, the state AFL-CIO leader suggested utilizing the approach submitted to the Department by the Federation last February.

According to the state AFL-CIO's proposed yardstick, Pitts recalled that prevention of adverse effect required a wage for both domestics and braceros at least 91 percent above that paid lettuce workers in 1950. This figure was based on the fact that wages and fringe benefits for the closely related "food and kindred products" workers had improved by that amount since 1950.

Labor's spokesman noted that this 91 percent formula was actually quite modest since agriculture was the only major industry professing a serious shortage of labor during this period.

The Federation testimony cited California Department of Employment documents establishing the fact that lettuce harvest workers throughout California in April 1950 were averaging 80c an hour. Adjustment under the 91% formula would yield an hourly rate of \$1.53.

In observing that organized labor normally opposes the piece-work principle as a speed-up and wage-cutting device, Pitts added:

"We recognize, however, that agriculture does not represent a normal situation. The miserable hourly rates that have been applicable in agriculture have made piece-rates the only hope for realizing earnings even approaching a minimum adequacy level. This situation must be reversed by requiring at least a \$1.53 hourly rate. . . .

"It is clear that employers are attacking the piece-rate principle at this particular juncture because of the wide discrepancy between the amount of earnings that the 24c a carton piece-rate has produced in the affected areas as compared to the \$1.00 hourly rate. They insist upon the option of determining whether workers shall be hired at the piece-rate or the hourly rate because they want to beat down earnings to the sub-standard \$1.00 hourly level.

"We submit that the privilege of exercising options belongs to those who are willing to compete for labor under standards of human

AFL-CIO Presses Fight for Civil Rights

The AFL-CIO has called on all affiliates to support a union-government program to help eliminate racial discrimination in employment.

At the spring meeting of the AFL-CIO Executive Council in Washington, D.C., President Meany stated that, on the basis of the Council's action, he will send a letter to all affiliates urging them to work out agreements with the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity that will help implement the Federation's civil rights program.

Each affiliate will be urged to work with the committee in terms of the different problems involved in its activities. The basic objective, Meany said, is to accelerate cooperation between unions and the government committee with the greatest possible flexibility, so that the objective of stamping out discrimination in employment can be moved forward.

The committee established by President Kennedy is committed to providing equal employment opportunities in all areas where government contracts are involved.

On another civil rights front, the labor-backed voting rights bill advanced by the Kennedy Administration is heading for a showdown in the U. S. Senate.

The proposed legislation would require state officials to accept a sixth grade education as proof of "literacy" for purposes of registering for federal elections.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D., Mont.) filed a clo-

decency, rather than in a labor market of contrived shortages stemming from a history of administered wages based upon the standards of the Mexican economy.

"For this reason, we believe that the Department should not, under any circumstances, even consider giving these employers any kind of effective option unless it is prepared to promulgate the recommended \$1.53 hourly rate and minimum guarantee."

Although fair harvest rates would attract many more domestic workers, Pitts commented, "... nothing could be more remote from the average lettuce grower's heart than a labor force dominated by domestic workers with freedom of movement and the standard rights of citizenship."

(See AWOC on Page 4)

ture petition this week to bring to an end two weeks of Southern filibuster against the legislation.

This Wednesday, however, the Senate rejected the cloture petition by a vote of 53 to 43. Mansfield's subsequent attempt to table the bill, a device intended to make each Senator go on record as opposed, or in favor of the bill, failed by a vote of 64 to 33.

This action was viewed as a severe blow by supporters of the bill, which has given the civil rights measure its fullest support.

Mansfield has filed a second cloture petition, which will be voted on early next week. However, supporters of the bill are pessimistic concerning the success of this move. The Senate has not voted for cloture since 1927.

Control of 'Administered' Pricing Urged

Commending Pres. Kennedy for his "quick and successful mobilization of public opinion" against basic steel's \$6-a-ton price boost, the AFL-CIO Executive Council declared last week that the situation in steel points up the need for "formal, statutory procedures" to focus public attention on the pricing practices of key industries.

The absence of such procedures, and of effective price competition in steel, left the President "extremely limited" alternatives in securing withdrawal of the price hike, a statement by the council observed.

Citing steel as one of the key industries where prices are set "by the top executives of the dominant corporation . . . and in puppet fashion the other companies follow the leader," the council declared:

"The President had to act as he did or passively observe the entire steel industry follow the price boost. By acting quickly and boldly, Pres. Kennedy challenged U.S. Steel's domination over a key and non-competitive sector of the American economy. For the first time in decades, the corporation's vast economic and financial power was vigorously and successfully challenged."

While administered pricing may be inevitable in giant industries with vast investments in productive capacity and raw material re-

(Continued on Page 3)

T-H Act Revisions Recommended

President Kennedy's Advisory Committee on Labor-Management Policy has recommended major changes in the Taft-Hartley Act's emergency disputes section to give the Chief Executive more power and flexibility in dealing with industrial disputes deemed to "threaten the national health or safety."

With but one dissent, the 20-member committee representing labor, management and the public proposed amendment of the law to:

- Give the President direct authority to halt or delay such work stoppages for 80 days without going to court for an injunction.
- Authorize him to empower emergency boards to make recommendations for settlement of a dispute, a function which fact-finding panels do not now have.
- Eliminate, "in view of its demonstrated ineffectiveness," the "last offer" ballot procedure now required by the law.

While the committee was virtually unanimous on these and other recommendations, a basic conflict developed over the charge of union "monopoly power" injected by several management representatives.

The clash grew out of charges by management members that "a concentration of power in certain unions" impairs collective bargaining. A statement by Board Chairman Joseph L. Block of Inland Steel Co. urged legal curbs on the "monopoly power" of large unions, and Board Chairman Henry Ford of Ford Motor Co. argued that "market-wide collective action can be permitted only in special circumstances."

Six of the committee members drawn from labor bluntly responded that "whatever danger" exists in power concentration comes from the corporate side.

Labeled 'Name-Calling'

The statement filed by AFL-CIO President George Meany and Vice Presidents David Dubinsky, George M. Harrison, Joseph D. Keenan, David J. McDonald and Walter P. Reuther, labeled the accusations "mere name-calling, unbuttressed by facts" and an example of "attributing to others characteristics which are in fact one's own."

The labor members declared that experience in the maritime and longshore industries, where Taft-Hartley's emergency procedures have often been applied, "demolish

the notion that the cause of such disputes is the existence of a single union instead of several."

The statement also asserted that fragmentation of unions would lead not to "sounder" settlements, but simply to contracts more in keeping with management's desires. To thus equate management's views with the public interest, it continued, "is a blind assumption."

"There is no evidence that union bargaining power is today equal to, let alone in excess of, that of management, or that the use of what bargaining power unions do possess has resulted in settlements contrary to the public interest," the statement declared.

Recent events suggested that it is "the power of certain companies which is excessive" and that they have "sought to divert public attention from their abuse of power by falsely ascribing similar power to the unions which represent their employees."

The AFL-CIO leaders noted that business firms, contrary to a management suggestion, have the clear right to combine with each other in bargaining with unions. They further observed that unions already are subject to anti-trust laws should they attempt to control commodity markets.

If the management phrase "union market power" is meant as power over the market for labor, they continued, "it is based on the discredited concept that the labor of human beings should be treated as a commodity, to be traded in the market and purchased at the lowest possible price. Such a suggestion implies the destruction of all unions and a return to a low-wage economy and the other evils of 19th Century capitalism."

In other recommendations, the committee proposed:

- Strengthening of the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service, as now planned, and broader use of government mediation at various stages of significant bargaining disputes "while continuing to remain an entirely voluntary process."

- Giving emergency disputes boards new authority to advise the President at his discretion on whether a work stoppage affects national health or safety.

- Permit the President specifically to order resumption of operations in part of a struck industry if he deems that sufficient to safeguard the public interest.

'Administered' Pricing

(Continued from Page 2)

sources, the statement said, the manner in which these prices are set to produce large profits at relatively low levels of operations "poses a problem for society."

And the problem still remains, it added, despite Kennedy's "courageous action."

"The series of events that started with U.S. Steel's price boost announcement," the council said, "points up the need for statutory and formal procedures involving price increases in basic, strategic industries, in which prices are administered by the top executives of the dominant corporations."

Such procedures, the statement suggested, would give the federal government adequate machinery, including full public investigation and disclosure, to focus public attention on the pricing policies of such industries.

"The recent steel situation will have served the American people well, if its lessons are used to develop adequate government statutory tools, with proper safeguards, for future eventualities," the statement concluded.

AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany said at a news conference that the council discussed no specific legislation in connection with the steel price statement.

Meany added, in response to a question, that the statement should not be construed as support of price controls.

"We are not looking for a control of prices," he said. "We think there should be some public knowledge of what goes into the price policies of, certainly, major corporations like the steel companies."

- Authorize emergency dispute boards to recommend at any time changes in terms or conditions of employment they feel should be put into effect during the 80-day injunction period "on a concurrent or retroactive basis."

This recommendation, the AFL-CIO officials said in a footnote to the report, "seems ineffective and illogical." They added:

"If the President has authority to order the employees to continue or resume work for 80 days, he should have authority to order whatever terms and conditions of employment he finds to be equitable."

California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
995 Market Street
San Francisco 3, Calif.

Institute of Industrial Relations
214 California Hall
University of California
Berkeley 4, Calif.

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
San Francisco, Cal.
Permit No. 7085

RETURN REQUESTED

AWOC

On another farm labor front, the strike of Agricultural Workers' Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO against California Packing Corporation's Union Island asparagus fields has entered its fourth week.

The giant firm is attempting to work its Stockton area operations despite a State Department of Employment ruling determining that a labor dispute exists, thus prohibiting the certification of braceros to Calpak.

AWOC director Al Green commented yesterday:

"The company is operating nowhere near full force. They are losing the people they recruit just about as fast as they can find them."

In a separate action, the Depart-

ment has also found that a labor dispute exists between AWOC and Loduca and Perry, a farm labor contractor. This is one of the first such determinations involving this type of farm labor employer. This ruling similarly affects the use of braceros by this firm.

Green indicated that the Loduca and Perry organization is one of the largest farm labor contractors in the area. At peak season, the firm operates some 40 buses and handles as many as 1200 people daily.

Compared to a normal operation involving 15 or 20 full busloads of domestic workers at this time of year, this contractor is reportedly reduced to about three partial busloads each day.

COPE Endorsement Pamphlets

(Continued from Page 1)

serve progressive government in California from many reactionary candidates who are seeking high office to do the bidding of special interests," Pitts added.

At the top of the state AFL-CIO's slate of endorsed candidates the COPE pamphlet describes Governor Edmund G. Brown as "the symbol of progressive government for our rapidly growing state."

"His record of achievement truly reflects the dynamic character of our state economy," the pamphlet points out, adding:

"In the fields of socio-economic legislation, health, education and welfare, civil rights, and many others reflecting the public and social needs of our complex society, the Brown Administration ranks with the greatest we have known in the progressive years of California history."

Governor Brown's re-election is declared "imperative for the future growth of California."

Richard Richards, endorsed for the U.S. Senate, is also described as a "distinguished legislator, dedicated to the hopes and aspirations of working people."

During his eight years of service in the State Senate, it is pointed out, "he has combined a near perfect voting record with proven ability in securing the enactment of legislation vital to the prosperity of California."

As U.S. Senator, the pamphlet adds, "he will give California the kind of representation needed in Washington, D.C. He will be aligned with a national Administration under President John F. Kennedy, whose general aims parallel those of the AFL-CIO."

(For the convenience of affiliates who have not yet ordered their pamphlets, News Letter is again reprinting an order form on page 4.)

CALIFORNIA LABOR COPE PRIMARY ENDORSEMENT PAMPHLET

ORDER FORM (Mail to California Labor COPE, 995 Market St. Room 810,
San Francisco 3, California)

QUANTITY
DESIRED

1. **Statewide Pamphlet**
(Includes endorsements for statewide offices and all district endorsements in the state) _____
2. **San Francisco - Bay Area Pamphlet**
(Includes endorsements for statewide offices and district endorsements for the following counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano & Sonoma) _____
3. **Los Angeles County Pamphlet**
(Includes endorsements for statewide offices and district endorsements for Los Angeles County) _____
4. **Sacramento Valley Pamphlet**
(Includes endorsements for statewide offices and district endorsements for Sacramento County and central valley counties north of Sacramento) _____
5. **San Joaquin Valley Pamphlet**
(Includes endorsements for statewide offices and district endorsements for San Joaquin County and central valley counties south of San Joaquin) _____
6. **San Bernardino and Desert Area Pamphlet**
(Includes endorsements for statewide offices and district endorsements for San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial counties) _____
7. **San Diego County Pamphlet**
(Includes endorsements for statewide offices and district endorsements for San Diego County) _____
8. **Orange County Pamphlet**
(Includes endorsements for statewide offices and district endorsements for Orange County) _____

For prompt accurate shipment, please PRINT or TYPE the following mailing label for above order.

ORGANIZATION
ADDRESS
CITY