

AWOC SCORES NLRB ELECTION TRIUMPH

A landmark victory was recorded this week by AFL-CIO's Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee when it overwhelmingly won a representation election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board for production, maintenance and truck-driving employees of the V. C. Britton Company in Firebaugh, California.

Britton is one of the largest processors of alfalfa feeds in the nation and the largest such processor in California.

With 56 workers eligible to vote, 47 cast their ballots in favor of the AFL-CIO affiliate while only seven expressed a desire for no union.

The assertion of jurisdiction by the NLRB in directing an election for these employees, and the overwhelming majority won by the union, was seen as a significant step forward in the organization of farm labor and workers in related fields.

This is the first time AWOC has been able to participate in an election of this type because of the general denial of NLRB machinery to farm workers. California itself fails to provide such machinery for any workers.

Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, responded to news of the election with the following statement:

"The victory demonstrates clearly that if machinery were uniformly

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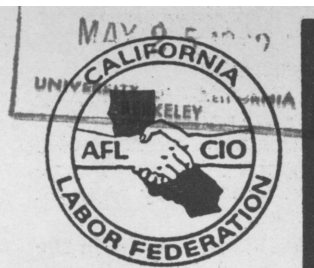
Pitts Asks State Supreme Court To Stop Carrier Raiding of UCD Fund

Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts, on May 11, filed a petition for hearing by the California Supreme Court to secure the enforcement of regulations prohibiting private insurance carriers from selecting risks adverse to the state unemployment disability insurance fund.

The Federation is fighting a preliminary injunction which was issued against the Department of Employment at the request of Cal-Western Life Insurance Company on April 27. The injunction prohibits the Department of Employment from carrying out the instructions of the 1961 legislature.

A Federation-backed bill, AB 234 (Rees), which was passed in June of 1961, directed the Department of Employment to put into effect regulations which prohibit the skimming of "cream risks" by private carriers.

The insurance companies have



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Statewide Labor Committee Formed To Re-elect Governor Brown

The formation of a statewide labor committee for the re-election of Governor Edmund G. Brown was announced this Wednesday in San Francisco.

Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts will head up the labor group, which Pitts said will reflect the enthusiastic support Governor Brown enjoys from every segment of organized labor in California. (The state AFL-CIO executive officer released to the press a list of labor leaders forming the nucleus of the statewide committee, which is in the process of being expanded.)

Announcement of the committee's formation was accompanied by the following statement by Pitts praising Governor Brown and the accomplishments of his administration:

"Four years of Governor Brown's Administration in Sacramento has brought government closer to the people. The men and women of organized labor have achieved new levels of participation in the decision-making processes of state government.

"When Governor Brown assumed office, the negative and time-consuming burden of fighting anti-labor legislation was removed. The constructive force of labor was unleashed behind liberal forward-looking programs for California. The men and women of labor were presented with new challenges, new opportunities, and heavier and heavier responsibilities as citizens.

"Under the Brown Administration, these challenges and responsibilities have blossomed into a record of outstanding achievement.

"Legislatively and administratively, the accomplishments of the Brown Administration rank it with the greatest we have known in progressive eras of California history.

"Unprecedented gains in social insurance and social welfare legislation have been won.

"New programs have been launched to extend equal rights, protect consumers, improve our schools and advance opportunities for economic growth.

"All of these and more are written in a record which has focused the attention of government on social and institutional needs of California's exploding population.

"The purpose and function of the California Labor Committee to Re-elect Governor Brown is to carry this outstanding record of achievement to the working men and women of California. In this manner organized labor will be able to assume its major responsibility for the preservation of progressive government in California."

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State Job Improvement Brighter Than U.S. Performance

Changes in the job market recorded during April indicated substantially more optimistic developments in California than for the nation as a whole.

U.S. unemployment in April remained at the 5.5 percent seasonally adjusted rate experienced in March, despite a "mainly seasonal" reduction of 430,000 in the number of jobless.

Unemployment in California dropped by 91,000 over the month.

The March-April decline in California unemployment was from 464,000 to 373,000 workers—a drop in the jobless rate from 7.1 to 5.7 percent of the labor force.

This was the best monthly improvement recorded during the entire postwar period.

(Since California unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted, they cannot be compared directly with the U.S. adjusted rate.)

The state's jobless figure was 84,000 below the April 1961 level of 457,000, or 7.1 percent of the labor force.

STATE JOBS

Employment in California reached the 6,158,000 level in April, an increase of 166,000, or 2.8 per cent, over the year-earlier level. The state's total civilian labor force came to 6,531,000, compared to 6,449,000 in April, 1961.

The strongest gains in California employment were registered in the manufacturing field. The record high number of factory workers was due primarily to boosts in electronics, missiles and other hard goods employment. An over-the-year rise of 64,000 brought factory employment above the previous April record set in pre-recession 1960. Shipbuilding and aircraft again registered the only substantial losses from year-earlier levels among manufacturing industries.

Government, trade and services also made sizeable contributions to the overall employment gain. The only major groups off from their April, 1961, levels were agriculture and transportation-communications-utilities.

Manufacturing also led the way in the rise between March and April, with food processing alone accounting for about half the increase. Improvements were also noted in the lumber and electrical equipment industries.

Although over-the-month increases in agriculture and construction were seasonal in nature, the total rise by 77,000 in California's total civilian employment represented a better than seasonal improvement.

U. S. PICTURE MIXED

In announcing the mid-April employment statistics for the entire nation, Secretary of Labor Arthur J. Goldberg noted some encouraging signs despite the continued 5.5 per cent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate.

The seasonal decline by 430,000 in the number of unemployed for the month brought the jobless total to 3,946,000. Goldberg noted that this was the first time the unemployed fell below 4 million since last November.

The seasonal gain of 711,000 jobs over the month brought total national employment to 66.8 million, a figure surpassing the total for any previous April. Compared to April, 1961, the total number of unemployed had been reduced by one million workers.

Terming the 5.5 per cent jobless rate "still much too high," Goldberg also expressed dissatisfaction with the 1.5 million long-term jobless total for both March and April. Nevertheless, he pointed to the fact that the number of these workers, out of work for at least 15 weeks, was 600,000 below the year-earlier level when unemployment stood at 6.9 per cent. The long term unemployed, Goldberg indicated, included 700,000 out of a job for more than six months.

The Labor Secretary also revealed that

AFL-CIO Publications List

The latest edition of the AFL-CIO List of Publications, containing over 60 titles of books, pamphlets and leaflets, is now available from National AFL-CIO.

Pertinent data on each of the publications, including price and date of publication, is set forth under each listing.

Every local organization should utilize this listing in connection with their labor education programs.

The April 1962 List of Publications may be obtained without cost from the Pamphlet Division, AFL-CIO Department of Publications, 815 16th St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

165,000 persons had exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits during April, "bringing the total number of exhaustions for the first four months of this year to 670,000."

According to the Labor Department, the 5.5 per cent jobless rate compared to 5.1 per cent in April, 1960, and 2.7 per cent in 1953. The April low point for long-term unemployed occurred in 1953, when only 242,000 workers fell into this category.

A total of 2.2 million workers were involved in part-time employment for economic reasons in April, 1962, the Department revealed. This total was 110,000 below the March level.

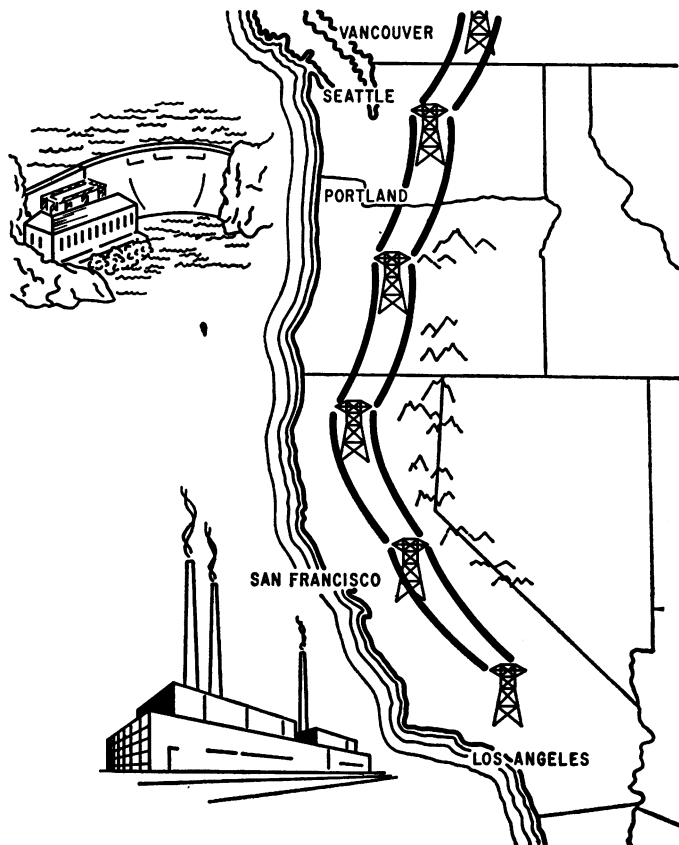
LOW COST POWER FOR CALIFORNIA

A revolutionary method of transporting large quantities of electric power by direct-current transmission is the basis of the proposed Intertie between the Pacific Northwest and the Pacific Southwest now being urged by the Kennedy Administration and Governor Edmund G. Brown.

As the map here depicts, the double conductor line operating as a common carrier with service available to both public and private agencies, would connect California steam generation with Northwest hydroelectric generation. Surplus power would be transported in either direction between Grand Coulee Dam in the State of Washington and Los Angeles and intermediate points.

Representatives of the principal publicly owned electric systems in California, Washington and Oregon, including the California Municipal Utilities

Assn., are urging Congressional approval of President Kennedy's request for funds to design and engineer a Federal power Intertie linking the Pacific Northwest and California.



DI Farm Labor Payments Get Underway

Claims for farm labor disability insurance were filed by 102 agricultural workers in California during the first week of the program's operation, according to California Director of Employment Irving H. Perluss.

Perluss indicated more experience will be necessary before a realistic report can be made as to the anticipated volume of claims in the future.

As a result of a 1961 amendment to the State Unemployment Insurance Code, California on May 1 became the first state to extend such benefits to its agricultural workers.

Weekly benefits ranging from \$10 to \$70 became available this month to otherwise eligible workers receiving at least \$300 in wages during the three-month period ending December 31, 1961. Benefits are geared to the amount of earnings received by the individual during those three months.

In addition to the basic disability benefit, hospitalized claimants are entitled to benefits of \$12 daily for a maximum of 20 days. The basic disability benefit is available after the eighth day of disability or the first day of hospital confinement, whichever comes first.

Prompt filing of claims is recommended because late filing may result in loss of benefits. Claim forms and informational literature in English and Spanish may be obtained from offices of the Department of Employment; from doctors and hospitals; or by writing to the Department at 800 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento 14.

COPE-Endorsed Richardson Says Labor, School Aims Identical

Dr. Ralph Richardson—California Labor COPE's endorsement for State Superintendent of Public Instruction—believes that the objectives of organized labor and a good school system in California are identical. Richardson made the statement recently in an address before the 42nd Annual Convention of the California Pipe Trades Council in Sacramento.

"Those objectives," Richardson said in describing the identical goals, "are well-trained people able to contribute to the economic vitality of our society and to earn the basis of a good and happy life."

Richardson says that he places the highest value on the official AFL-CIO endorsement which he won at the California Labor COPE Pre-Primary Convention in San Francisco on April 11, 1962.

Size of Political Job To Be Done

The following breakdown, released by the AFL-CIO COPE, shows the size of the job that must be done if labor's registration and vote campaign is to be successful in the 1962 general elections.

The figures show that while working people made up 37 percent of voting age population, they comprised only 26 percent of those who voted in 1960.

The column headed "voting performance" indicates the difference between a group's percentage of voting age population and the percentage of the actual total vote.

AFL-CIO organizations throughout the state are being urged to co-operate fully in local COPE get-out-the-vote drives for the primary election, and to prepare now for an all-out registration campaign for the general election.

	% voting age population	% of those who voted	Voting Performance
Professional, Executive	18	26	plus 8
White Collar	26	26	even
Labor	37	26	minus 11
Skilled	13	10	minus 3
Unskilled	24	16	minus 8
Retired	6	8	plus 2
Farmer	9	11	plus 2
Other	4	3	minus 1

Ten Million For Right Wing

"A cautious estimate... would show that the business community contributed about \$10 million to the Radical Right last year."

This statement was made by Professor Allen F. Westin, writing in the April issue of Harper's Magazine.

Almost without exception, the Radical Right wing movements are anti-labor in their goals and leadership.

Quality of Medical Care Criticized

Columbia University's School of Public Health and Administrative Medicine recently released a dramatic analysis of the hospital experiences of 254 union members and their families who were covered by a negotiated Blue Cross hospitalization plan in New York State. A team of eminent medical specialists examined the medical records of the union families hospitalized between January 1, 1957 and March 1, 1961.

The medical specialists found that about 60 percent of the union families studied received "optimum medical care." The study revealed that in 20 percent of the cases it was unnecessary to place the patient in a hospital.

An interesting aspect of the study revealed that only about 34 percent of those persons placed in unaccredited hospitals received "good or excellent care," whereas 65 percent of those in unaccredited hospitals received "poor or fair" care. The experience of those placed in credited hospitals was much better. Of this group, 64.5 percent got "good or excellent" care and 35.5 percent got "poor or fair" attention.

State Supreme Court Asked To Stop Carrier Raiding

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and received a hearing during the week of December 4-8, 1961. Finally, the Board upheld the Department of Employment on April 6, 1962.

The regulations would have gone into effect shortly thereafter, but on April 18, the carriers sought an injunction in Superior Court. On April 27, the injunction was granted, and the Director of Employment was forbidden to place the regulations into effect pending a determination of the action before the Superior Court.

The Federation took immediate action at that time, when Pitts filed a petition with the Supreme Court on May 1, 1962, in an attempt to lift the injunction. The Supreme Court transferred the petition to the Third District Court of Appeals on May 2. The Court of Appeals denied the petition, without opinion. Pitts then, again, filed the petition in the Supreme Court on May 11.

To date the Supreme Court has not yet acted on this second petition to grant a hearing. It is hoped that they will reach a decision on this matter early next week.

Meanwhile, the Director of Employment has been holding hearings concerning the promulgation of an emergency regulation on the subject. Although this regulation is currently under the injunction, the law requires that the hearings be held in order to ultimately place it in effect.

Federation representatives have

Consumer Price Index Improvements Studied

A better basis for compiling the Consumer Price Index is the aim of a current Bureau of Labor Statistics survey of consumer expenditures, announced by the U. S. Department of Labor.

The revised index will incorporate a new weight structure and updated city, commodity and outlet samples. It will be linked to the unrevised series in December, 1963, so that levels of the revised and unrevised indexes will be identical in that month. The reference base for the revised index will continue to be 1957-59.

The revised index will first be published in February, 1964 and will relate to January, 1964 data. The bureau will also publish through June, 1964 the index based on the unrevised sample and weight structure for convenience purposes as well as to make it easier to interpret the significance of the revision.

In January, 1962, the Consumer Price Index reference base was changed from 1947-49 to 1957-59. BLS at that time published factors to be used in converting the published index to the reference base previously used. The same factors will continue to be applicable to the revised index.

been in attendance at this hearing and have urged the Director to adopt the regulation now, in order to facilitate the carrying out of the mandate of the legislature.

On request, BLS will furnish advice to anyone wishing to convert the index to another reference base.

Unions interested in the index will want to take the above schedule into account in order to avoid future problems with collective bargaining agreements referring to the index.

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available for resolution of farm labor representation questions, California's hard-pressed farm workers would be well on the road to winning the full benefits of organization. Such machinery would offer all of us the best possible way of settling farm labor disputes in an orderly and democratic manner.

"The results of this impartial election where representation machinery was available exposes the hypocrisy of growers' refusal to bargain with AWOC in the past on the pretext that their workers were not interested in representation by the union.

"Organized labor is deeply gratified by this election result. The election dramatically reflects AWOC's appeal to agricultural workers and we are confident that this development heralds a major turning point in the organizing effort."

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