

One Vote Places Bay Rapid Transit Bonds on Ballot

Another chapter in the history of the importance of one man's vote was written this week when the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors voted 3 to 2 to submit a \$792 million bond issue to build a Bay Area rapid transit system to the voters in November.

The supervisors of Alameda and San Francisco Counties had already given their approval but a favorable vote by Contra Costa was required before the bonds could be placed on the ballot.

Two members of the five-man Contra Costa Board of Supervisors opposed the bond issue on the grounds that their areas would be taxed but would derive no immediate benefits from the transit system. Two others backed the bond issue. The key vote was held by Supervisor Joseph Silva of Brentwood whose district will not receive rapid transit service.

Governor Edmund G. Brown, in the interest of public progress, called Silva personally twice shortly before the final vote was taken to urge him to back the bond issue.

The Governor emphasized that some alternative must be offered to continued freeway congestion.

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AFL-CIO Unions Triumph in Postal Workers' Election -- NLRB's Biggest Vote

The AFL-CIO unions were the big winners this week in the largest election ever held by the National Relations Board to determine the bargaining rights of postal employees.

Unofficial results indicated that the National Association of Letter Carriers won exclusive recognition for carriers at the national level and in each of the 15 regions. The association also polled the highest vote — 121,552 — of the 10 employee organizations on the ballot.

The United Federation of Postal Clerks won exclusive national recognition for clerks and exclusive regional recognition in 14 regions.

Nearly 77 per cent of the 495,460 eligible employees exercised their right to vote in the election. The Post Office Department's unique



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Pitts Pushes for Unity in Political Sphere In Keynote Address to Building Trades

In a strong plea for the political as well as economic unity of organized labor in California, Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation urged the 500 delegates to the California Building Trades Convention in San Francisco "to keep the house of labor in good repair."

Pitts warned the delegates, who represent some 360,000 building trade-

The Day 'Old Duck And Dodge' Forgot

Old duck and dodge Dick Nixon apparently forgot to duck again last week while answering questions on a taped TV show in Los Angeles.

The would-be champion of an Alliance to Stamp Out Carpetbagging who has repeatedly assured the voters of this state that he did not plan to use the Governor's mansion as a stepping stone to the White House, was taping an appearance on the television show,

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men in California, that the mushrooming activities of "the radical right as epitomized by the John Birch Society represent a threat to the functioning of American democracy almost as insidious as the worldwide Communist conspiracy itself because it results in a situation in which two extremists groups are working against the middle — and thereby abetting each other.

"It is no mere coincidence," he asserted, "that the emergence of the ranting, radical rights has been

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DEADLINE FOR CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS—AUGUST 6

In accordance with the Federation's constitution, all resolutions submitted by local unions and councils to the August 20-24 convention of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, must reach the office of Secretary-Treasurer Thomas L. Pitts by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 6, 1962.

The only exception to this deadline will be resolutions submitted by regularly constituted and affiliated statewide organizations at conferences held between August 5-19, which must be filed with the secretary-treasurer not later than 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 19, 1962.

Resolutions delivered to the secretary-treasurer subsequently will be reported by him on the first day of the convention as late resolutions, and will not be referred to a committee for consideration unless the convention so orders by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates present and voting.

All resolutions must bear the signature of an executive officer or the seal of the affiliated organization.

Here Are Details of Propositions To Be On General Election Ballot

California's voters will be asked to rule on 25 ballot propositions at the general election on November 6.

Although this makes for a lengthy ballot, it sets no new records according to Walter Stutler, deputy secretary of the state. Stutler pointed out that there were 25 propositions on the ballot in 1938, 26 in 1930, 28 in 1926 and 30 in 1922.

The mere number of propositions is irrelevant, however, if the voters are adequately informed as to their purpose. The 25 propositions, which are numbered 1-A and then 1 through 24, are just enumerated in this issue of the News Letter. Their pros and cons will be discussed in subsequent issues.

Voting recommendations on the various propositions will be determined by the delegates to the Fourth Convention of the California Labor Federation in Long Beach, August 20-24, 1962.

The propositions are:

1-A. A \$270 million bond issue, 80 per cent of which would be used largely to build higher education facilities. This issue, defeated as Proposition 3 on the June 5 primary ballot, has the support of both major parties and is being re-submitted to the voters following a special session of the legislature called by Governor Brown expressly for this purpose. Voter misunderstanding of purposes of this bond issue was widely blamed for its initial defeat. The bond issue would be spent as follows:

University of California, \$102,057,000; state colleges, \$100,545,000; junior colleges, \$20 million; narcotic control-corrections, \$29,353,000; mental hygiene, \$14,018,000; conservation-forestry-fire fighting, \$4,027,000.

1. A proposal that would eliminate a provision currently fixing the salaries of members of the legislature at \$500 for each month of term for which elected and stipulate that legislators' salaries shall not exceed an annual amount equal to one-half of the annual salary of Members of Congress in effect on Jan. 1, 1962. The proposal would become effective on Jan. 1, 1963.

2. A proposal to extend the veterans' property tax exemption to condominium housing.

3. A proposal to extend the veterans property tax exemption to all veterans of armed forces but to restrict the exemption to veterans who were California residents when entering the armed forces. This measure also increases the maximum property ownership allowed by a surviving spouse or parent of a deceased veteran from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

4. A proposal to assess agricul-

tural property on the basis of its use for agricultural purposes under certain specified conditions.

5. A proposal to give the legislature power to provide for payment of an award to the state on the accidental death of an employee without dependents so that the award may be used as extra compensation to employees for subsequent injuries.

6. A proposal to require that bond issues be submitted to electors as statutes rather than as constitutional amendments. This would eliminate the need to amend the constitution every time the state passed a bond issue but it would require a two-thirds vote by the Legislature, instead of the present simple majority to place a bond issue on the ballot.

7. A proposal to permit the legislature to revise the constitution by a two-thirds vote of both houses of legislature with ratification by majority vote of people.

8. A proposal to permit a bill to be heard by a committee of the legislature after 20 instead of 30 calendar days following its introduction at a general session. Bills could not be acted upon by either house until 30 calendar days after introduction. This proposal also authorizes the legislature to take a recess of not to exceed 10 calendar days during a general session but this 10 days would not be counted in the 120-day limitation on general session meetings of the legislature.

9. A proposal to authorize the legislature to create a General Obligation Bond Proceeds Fund to provide for payment into or transfer to such fund of proceeds from the issuance of General Obligation Bonds authorized by any or all existing or

Old 'Duck & Dodge'

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Your First Impression, in which a mystery guest comes before the show's panel and is identified by the one word retorts he gives to certain phrases.

When Nixon was asked to respond to the phrase "if I could be a moment in history . . ." Nixon's immediate, unguarded reply was . . . "President."

future bond acts.

10. A proposal to authorize the extension of the welfare property tax exemption to leased property.

11. A proposal to provide restrictions on the assessment of property taxes on historical landmark areas when local ordinances containing specified conditions are adopted.

12. A proposal to stipulate that nothing in the constitution shall prohibit the use of state money or credit to help the widows of war time veterans acquire or pay for farms or homes.

13. A proposal to exempt college property from taxation.

14. A proposal to permit tidelands that are within two miles of the city and which are presently reserved to the state solely for street purposes to be sold to private persons, partnerships or corporations if the legislature finds they are not used and necessary for navigation. Such sale, however, would be subject to such conditions as the legislature may determine.

15. A proposal to authorize local creation of county tax appeals boards to perform the functions of equalization now performed by boards of supervisors. The legislature would provide for the selection, qualifications, terms and removal of members of such boards.

16. A proposal to repeal various obsolete or superseded provisions of the state constitution.

17. A proposal to change the salaries of members of the legislature from \$500 per month to an unspecified sum to be fixed by law and not to exceed \$834 per month.

18. A proposal to revamp present state provisions regarding a review of decisions of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control by the Alcoholic Beverage Appeals Board. This proposal also calls for Board members to serve staggered 6-year terms instead of at the pleasure of the Governor.

19. A proposal to prohibit any in-

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Pitts Pushes for Unity in Political Sphere In Keynote Address to Building Trades

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concomitant with a braking of the wheels of progress which had just begun to accelerate.

"It is vital that union men and women throughout the state recognize that the lunatic fringe is growing, getting stronger and more influential and is better financed than ever before," Pitts asserted.

He noted for example that W. B. Camp, a multi-million dollar cotton and alfalfa grower in Kern County who was an active promoter of right to work legislation in 1958, is now one of the leaders of the committee of growers pressing for the election of the Republican gubernatorial candidate Richard Nixon.

In the course of his speech Pitts referred repeatedly to the urgent need for both political and economic unity of action by organized labor in California.

"The economic strength of organized labor rests on the foundations of our collective bargaining system. It is a system that recognizes the exclusive jurisdiction of the majority union in the collective bargaining unit. It rejects multiple representation and dual unionism that would utterly destroy the base of our strength which lies in organization and the union shop."

"There are still many employers, of course, who believe they can break our organizations by battle on the economic front. But the leadership among the anti-labor forces, such as NAM, have shifted concentration of their efforts to the legislative-political front where their past successes in the Taft-Hartley and Landrum-Griffin Acts have encouraged them to seek further restrictions on our economic activities through the enactment of hostile legislation.

"Both economic action and political action are but two sides of the same coin. We cannot survive and do the job we are elected to do by deluding ourselves into believing that the coin of success does not have two sides, or, still more self-deceiving, that one side is more important than the other side."

Although Pitts said he has witnessed a growing recognition within the labor movement of the importance of effective political action,

he said, "we have not grown to the point where we are willing to apply in the political arena the standards we have developed for effective action at the economic level.

"In a collective bargaining unit there is only one union and one negotiating committee that does the bargaining. In the political action arena, the COPE structure is the collective bargaining unit. Dual unionism is not to be tolerated in the political arena any more than it is in the economic arena unless as trade unionists we are willing to abandon the fundamental principle of trade union behavior that more than anything else has contributed to our strength . . ."

"I submit that political action is not and cannot be a fringe activity if our movement is to survive and prosper."

Asserting that the measure of effectiveness in political action that organized labor achieves this election year may well determine the fate of liberalism in California during the 60's, Pitts urged the Building Trades delegates "at this particular juncture in our political development to point the way to political maturity."

Without referring to any particular political contest, Pitts declared:

"We can't have our cake and eat it too. If there is a legislative job to be done by the movement as a whole then there must be political unity to get the job done. There are no ifs and buts about it.

"Frankly, applying trade union principles, I am unable to see the difference between crossing an officially established picket line and running out on the officially endorsed political candidate of the labor movement. When we take a strike vote there may be differences of opinion on the advisability of striking but once the strike action is taken, no trade unionist would think of crossing the picket line. It is this kind of thinking that must be extended into the political arena if we are going to do anything more than play at politics."

Turning to economic problems Pitts pointed out that following each of the past three recessions the level of unemployment remained

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Propositions

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crease in the compensation of any county, township or municipal officer after their election or during their term of office. This proposal, however, would not apply to members of Boards of Supervisors.

20. A proposal to permit the legislature to amend, revise or supplement any part of the November 4, 1925 initiative act which dealt with wrestling and boxing. This proposal would not give the legislature the power to prohibit wrestling and 12-round boxing contests.

21. A proposal, to apply to any county with a population of 5 million or more (Los Angeles), to permit incumbent superior court judges who file nomination papers for re-election and who are the only ones to file nomination papers for that office to be declared elected unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Supervisors or unless a petition signed by 100 voters requesting an election for write-in purposes is received.

22. A proposal to merge the Board of Examiners for Osteopathic Surgeons with the State Medical Board.

23. A proposal to increase the membership of the State Senate from 40 to 50. The 10 additional senators would come from six heavily populated urban counties as follows: one each from Alameda, San Francisco and Santa Clara counties in northern California; one each from Orange and San Diego counties and five from Los Angeles County in southern California. These additional seats in the State Senate would be allocated on the basis of population units of 600,000 and 1 million. If the legislature should fail to act a provision of this proposal calls for the creation of a reapportionment commission composed of government administrative officers to reapportion the senatorial districts. It retains the present provision that no senatorial districts shall be composed of more than three counties and limits each county to no more than six senators.

24. A proposal to outlaw the Communist party and to give "any court, officer, board, commission, agency, or other body of the United States Government" the power to label an organization a Communist action, Communist front or subversive organization.

Pitts Asks for Unity

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successively higher than the level of unemployment that had obtained following the previous recession.

"This growing unemployment problem reflects at once both the magnitude of the problems of adjustment to an automated age and the economic challenge the nation faces to employ its productive ability and capacity to better the conditions of life and labor."

In documentation of this Pitts noted that "the nation plunged into the recession of 1953-54 with a jobless rate of 3 per cent and emerged with a better than 4 per cent rate of unemployment. Following the 1957-58 recession the unemployment rate climbed to 5 per cent and in the 1960-61 downturn seasonally adjusted unemployment in the nation rose steadily to a level of over 7 per cent by the spring of 1961. During this period the state's jobless rate (unadjusted for seasonal variations and therefore not directly comparable to national figures) soared to a high of 8.7 per cent in February 1961.

"Despite the expansion of economic activities that followed the bottoming-out of the 60-61 recession a commensurate . . . decline in the ranks of the unemployed failed to materialize," Pitts stated.

The State AFL-CIO COPE leader said California's experience in this regard has been similar to that of the nation at large. The root of the problem, he explained, is nourished by the impact of automation and the state's exploding population.

But Pitts lauded Governor Edmund G. Brown for taking two major steps in the right direction during the past few months when he announced he would create the Governor's Committee on Automation "to make projections of the state's labor needs to guide our educational and vocational programs to be sure we are producing the right kind of workers for the new technology and when he directed the

Bay Rapid Transit

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After his four colleagues had voted Silva said:

"Now it is up to the little boy from the country."

Then he announced that he had decided to cast his vote for the entire county and not just for his district. Following the vote he said that the arguments advanced by Governor Brown had impressed him with the need for the rapid transit facilities.

The bond issue will finance a 75-mile, 37-station system running from San Francisco across the bay and extending along three routes to Fremont, Richmond and Concord.

State Office of Planning to study and coordinate a sound, statewide long range master plan for economic growth."

Pitts was one of the principal speakers during the second day of the four-day parley at the Towne-House in San Francisco.

On Tuesday, the opening day of the Building and Construction Trades forty-first Convention, the delegates were addressed by C. J. "Neil" Haggerty, former State AFL-CIO Secretary, who is now president of the Building Trades Department, AFL-CIO, in Washington; John F. Henning, State Director of Industrial Relations; and Daniel V. Flanagan, Regional AFL-CIO Director.

The delegates in addition to electing 24 Executive Board members, were expected to pass resolutions in support of the recently defeated King-Anderson Medicare bill, to take a stand against efforts of some federal agencies to withdraw the right of the Labor Department to decide whether work is construction or installation and urge that the 1931 Davis-Bacon Construction Act concerning fringe benefits be updated.

Bryan Deavers, State Building Trades Council President, presided at the Convention.

Keynotes on Labor

• Governor Edmund G. Brown still maintains a slight lead over Richard M. Nixon in his campaign for re-election but the margin separating the two candidates is narrow and at this time the outcome in November is very much in doubt, according to the California Poll. The Poll, a private statewide non-partisan survey of public opinion conducted by the Field Research Co., reported this week that if the election were being held today Governor Brown might expect to poll 47% of the vote and Nixon 44%. Nine percent were undecided. The survey disclosed that neither has a majority of the voters behind him and indicated that the degree to which voters of each party turn out on election day will be decisive in determining the winner.

* * *

• On Thursday of this week the California Poll further reported that State Senator Richards is gaining ground and is now neck and neck in his race with his incumbent Republican opponent for the only seat in the U. S. Senate to be decided by the voters in November.

* * *

• "Over-confidence is our greatest enemy," Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, warned union officers, stewards and delegates attending a special registration drive meeting at the Alameda County Labor Council Monday night. Pitts asserted that labor and liberal groups will face "tremendous losses" if they fail to sign up every available voter between now and the Sept. 13 deadline. Pitts pointed out that Governor Brown's administration has acted boldly and courageously to meet the dual challenges of the state's enormous population growth and a recession and yet has not resorted to deficit spending.

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