

Pitts Lambasts Nixon Charge As 'Deceitful'

Thos. L. Pitts, state AFL-CIO leader, lashed back at Richard M. Nixon's "ridiculous charge" Tuesday that "the political bosses have dropped an iron curtain" around their members, saying:

"This just confirms again that Nixon views union members with eyes jaundiced by his own utter commitment to, and dependency on, the selfish special interests that have underwritten his entire career.

"He's so blinded by his own personal ambitions to get into the White House that he refuses to recognize the completely democratic processes of American labor, and insists instead on baring himself for what he is by parroting the phraseology of every anti-union employer in history.

"His ridiculous charge is typical of the line taken by all ignorant employers who always try to discredit the union's leadership in an effort to breed dissension and distrust," Pitts declared.

Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, which is holding its biennial convention this week in the Municipal Auditorium in Long Beach, was responding to an attack leveled by the GOP gubernatorial candidate at Governor Edmund G. Brown who addressed the opening session of the convention yesterday.

Governor Brown had charged Nixon with attempting to use economic intimidation through a recently revealed Nixon campaign technique which Nixon forces themselves dubbed as a "back-door approach" to union members.

The "back-door approach" consists of a cadre of Nixon backers organized by

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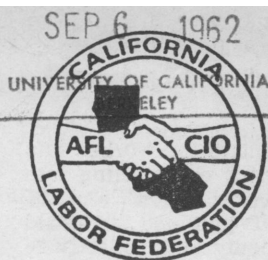
Delegates Adopt Policy Statement On Full Employment and the Economy

Organized labor in California today called for a broadscale attack on the problems of unemployment and lagging economic growth in adopting a policy statement on Full Employment and the Economy at the statewide convention of the California Federation in Long Beach.

In sum, the key to these problems so far as the state AFL-CIO is concerned is to plan ahead.

Referring to California's problems, the statement said that "the orientation of California government must be toward planning for growth and assumption of social responsibility for stimulating private enterprise and unlocking human initiative."

The delegates, meeting in their fourth



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Executive
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Governor Brown Raps Nixon in Speech At Convention; Reapportion Opposed

Long Beach, Wednesday—Governor Edmund G. Brown opened the California Labor Federation's biennial convention in Long Beach on Monday with a stinging attack on Richard M. Nixon, the GOP gubernatorial candidate, and a review of the Brown Administration's record during the past three and one-half years.

To the nearly 2,000 delegates from labor organizations throughout the state assembled in the Municipal Auditorium, Governor Brown said:

"Labor has always taken the position in Sacramento that legislation was unworthy of its support unless it was both pro-labor and pro-California. If you fought for better conditions in our factories, you also fought for better conditions in our schools. If you fought for a higher level of unemployment insurance, you also fought for a higher standard of living for our older citizens. If you fought intimidation of workers in a picket line, you also fought intimidation of the Negro or the Mexican-American in the polling place.

"In brief, you have fought not only for improvements in the condition of labor, but for improvements in the condition of all Californians. And I thank you for it."

The Governor attacked Nixon for "sending company executives into the

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NOTICE

This issue as well as the next three issues of the Newsletter will be devoted to coverage of action taken and stateemnts of policy made by the delegates to the biennial convention of the California Labor Federation which concluded its week-long parley at the Municipal Auditorium in Long Beach today.

Federation Hits NAM Position On Anti-Labor Laws

An attempt to return to the "dark ages of labor-management relations" by placing labor under "anti-trust" laws designed to control business monopolies, as proposed by the National Association of Manufacturers and its "spiritual brethren of the ultra-right," was roundly condemned today by the 2,000 delegates to the biennial convention of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO in Long Beach.

Noting the severe obstacles to organization and free collective bargaining erected by the Taft-Hartley and Landrum-Griffin Acts, the Federation vigorously attacked the "double standard" inherent in such legislation. The proposed anti-trust legislation is designed to force strictly local bargaining upon workers even though they are employed by national corporations.

The Federation's policy statement de-

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Anti-Labor Laws

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clared that "unless the workers in all or many of the corporations' plants can take concerted action when an impasse is reached at the bargaining table, they may as well forget about it. To strike one plant out of a chain of 40 is tantamount to returning to a system whereby the individual worker, in a plant employing thousands of other employees, had no option other than confronting management with his individual demands . . .

"In seeking to ultimately weld the anti-trust proposal into law, the NAM and Chamber of Commerce spokesmen are today joined by their spiritual brethren of the ultra-right. In economic matters, there is very little that separates these business groups from the John Birch Society and the host of 'patriots for a profit' currently sowing their anti-labor and anti-liberal toxins under the guise of anti-communism."

The encouragement of free collective bargaining was urged through a restoration of the Wagner Act by removal of its Taft-Hartley and Landrum-Griffin amendments.

The convention also unanimously called for enactment of the NLRB reorganization plan "to ensure more orderly and stable labor relationships as well as to expedite justice to all parties."

As proposed by President Kennedy last year, this plan is designed to "avoid excessive delays in processing" the Board's case load.

At the federal level also, the Federation termed the battle for converting the Fair Labor Standards Act into a truly meaningful piece of legislation "far from won." It urged bringing the wage-hour law in line with reality by adoption of a \$1.50 minimum wage, elimination of partial exemptions, and extending benefits to 16 million presently uncovered workers, including those in agriculture. Similarly, legislation was recommended at the state level in order to bring badly needed coverage to workers engaged in intrastate commerce.

Asserting that "there is nothing sacrosanct or immutable about the 40-hour standard," the convention warned that automation and technological change would result in greater unemployment unless FLSA's maximum hours provisions were liberalized.

"In addition to expanding consumer purchasing power, this would serve the vitally important need for converting some of our increasing productivity into constructive leisure-time pursuits."

The policy statement embraced the action taken by the national AFL-CIO in calling for a 35-hour work week.

Organized labor's demands upon the 1963 legislature place heavy priority upon the "removal of major inequities

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back shop to intimidate the worker into signing a pledge card or reaching into his pocket for a contribution" and declared that the GOP nominee "is afraid to come to you openly and honestly to ask for your support . . . because of 'his record of antagonism to the labor movement.'"

This drew a charge from Nixon that "political bosses have dropped an iron curtain" around their members which, in turn, provoked a sharp denial and a denunciation of Nixon's tactics from Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the Federation. (See story in column 1.)

Among the accomplishments of the Brown Administration, the Governor said, were:

- Historic improvements in unemployment and disability insurance and workmen's compensation.
- The first FEPC in the history of this state.
- The first Economic Development Agency to bring new industries and payrolls to California.
- The first Office of Consumer Counsel to protect your families from fraud.
- A more secure life for the blind, the lame and the elderly.

The Governor announced that he would appoint a 24-member Governor's Committee on Automation and Technological Development within a week to attack automation, one of the principal causes of hard core unemployment.

Noting that hundreds of thousands of students now in school will earn their living in occupations that do not even exist today, Governor Brown observed:

"We must explore the industrial trends of the future. We must anticipate the skills our work force must have five, ten or even twenty years from today" and, he added, "this will be a prime responsibility of the automation commission."

Lt. Gov. Glenn Anderson, speaking at the afternoon session on Monday, declared that "Government, labor and management must plan and work together if California is to continue to provide a high standard of living for our booming population" and he said "the people themselves must solve" the problems of automation and an exploding technology "by giving elected officials a clear mandate as to the kind of state they wish

in the state's labor-management relations statutes through the enactment of legislation to curb the issuance of anti-labor injunctions, establishment of machinery for the implementation of organizational and collective bargaining rights, repeal of the misnamed Jurisdictional Strike Act, and prohibitions against employment of professional strikebreakers."

California to become."

Attorney General Stanley Mosk addressed the delegates Tuesday morning and announced that members of the California Real Estate Association and 17 realty boards had agreed to drop "mutual" fee schedules which had provoked one of the biggest price-fixing suits ever filed by the state.

Mosk explained that the settlement will benefit the home seller because realty agents "can compete on an individual basis" and added that the case "will give thousands of Californians a first-hand opportunity to see tangible benefits from vigorous anti-trust enforcement."

But the convention's highlight came Tuesday afternoon when the delegates took up the question of a recommendation on Proposition 23, the measure to appear on the November 6 ballot that would give Los Angeles five more senators and San Diego, Orange, San Bernardino, Alameda and Santa Clara one more each.

After a lively floor fight and debate, during which the secretary-treasurer explained that the measure would not do the job of reapportionment that needs to be done in this state, and that its passage would result in a considerable delay in passage of an effective reapportionment measure as well as badly hamper the passage of good labor legislation in the legislature, the Committee on Resolutions' recommendation for a "NO" vote on Proposition 23 was adopted by a roll-call vote of 305,489 to 186,354.

The delegates unanimously rejected the proposed Francis Amendment, Proposition 24, which is ostensibly a proposal to outlaw the Communist Party and other subversive organizations in the state, and recommended a "NO" vote on it saying:

"The frightening dangers for American freedom and democracy must be viewed within the context of the radical right's idiotic charges against individuals such as former President Eisenhower, John Foster Dulles and Chief Justice Earl Warren.

"With this type of hysteria rampant in certain quarters, the latitude placed in the hands of a wide variety of office holders and agencies by Proposition 24 could be extremely dangerous," the delegates declared.

The delegates adopted recommendations in favor of "YES" votes on Propositions 1-A, 1, 2, 5, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21 and 22. On Propositions 3, 10 and 20 the Committee on Resolutions recommended "No Recommendation" and this was adopted. On the remaining propositions to appear on the November 6 ballot the delegates favor a "NO" vote.

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conomic freedom, to plunder our resources must be rejected. This is the philosophy that:

- Turns metropolitan areas into nightmares of congestion;
- Gobbles up some of our most productive farm lands that are needed to produce the food and fiber for our future population;
- Converts our core cities into housing ghettos for the underprivileged;
- Undermines the tax base of municipalities;
- Spawns living areas resulting in the economic and age stratification of our people without an adequate tax base to support schools and other vital facilities;
- Balkanizes industrial growth;
- Separates living areas and places of work by miles of nerve-wracking, monolithically planned freeways.

And then—in this destructive path—cries ‘big government’ when the state legislature and Congress are called upon to care for the problems that have been created out of this greed and wasteful kind of growth. Indeed, it becomes very expensive when government must step in to correct these problems, but it would be the epitome of moral and social callousness to deny citizens the service of their democratic government at a time of urgent social need. It would be equally callous, however, to fail to recognize that it is the true function of government—a far less expensive function in the long run—to help prevent social and economic problems of growth, by government assuming its proper role in the field of basic planning for maximum economic development and utilization of our resources. We submit that the assumption of this responsibility at the outset is also far less restrictive of economic and individual freedom than waiting for problems to develop and then invoking government action to care for them.”

Noting that the word “planning” carries distasteful connotations in some circles, the delegates asserted:

“In our opinion, this is unfortunate because the kind of planning organized labor supports is not government domination but the application of reason and intelligence to socio-economic problems which affect all of us with equal force. We have every reason to be concerned when planning becomes a vehicle for squelching individual initiative. Our appeal for the state’s assumption of its proper planning role, however, is aimed at doing exactly the opposite—at providing opportunities for individuals. California’s challenge in planning for growth, as we have pointed out, is basically and

fundamentally a challenge to stimulate private enterprise and unlock human initiative. This is a responsibility of state government that must be given highest priority.”

The delegates charged that the more than four million persons now unemployed are “an inevitable hangover from the Eisenhower-Nixon Administration’s eight year failure to cope realistically with the mounting problems of automation, administered pricing, depressed purchasing power, a growing labor force and the need for an accelerated rate of economic growth.”

And they called on the Kennedy Administration to adopt an expanded federal budget “to meet our immense backlog of social needs.”

The crux of the unemployment problem, the state AFL-CIO indicated, is inadequate total consumer demand. Consumer demand must be stimulated before business and industry will have a sound base from which to expand to create more job opportunities.

The delegates called on the federal government “to adopt fiscal and monetary policies which find that balance between effective consumer incomes and investment incentives that will produce stability at high levels of employment and rapid economic growth.”

The national monetary and budget management policies “are capable of making, and must make, substantial contributions to economic recovery,” the statement said. “From the standpoint of long-term growth, monetary policy since 1951 has been a drag on the economy,” it added.

In hailing steps already taken in the direction of planning for growth by Governor Edmund G. Brown, the delegates called for “a vast expansion of the functions of the State Office of Planning and the State Economic Development Agency” so that an effective state development plan may be drafted to coordinate physical and economic planning with land use and resources development to achieve balanced growth and full employment.

The representatives of 1.4 million members of organized labor in California also urged enactment of additional legislation at the state level to spur effective regional and metropolitan planning and to encourage maximum assumption of local responsibility for growth planning expansion of the functions of the Economic Development Agency to include authority to develop economic budgets for the state as a whole was also urged. Such budgets, the statement indicated, would provide a picture of a state’s economy in relation to full

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the employer to contact employees on the job during coffee breaks and lunch hours to urge them to vote for the GOP nominee.

“The so-called ‘back-door approach’ leads to the application of all sorts of phony promises or veiled threats regarding job security by the aspiring junior executives recruited by their employers to push Nixon,” Pitts pointed out.

“The union ‘bosses’ Nixon refers to are the delegates elected by union members to attend the AFL-CIO convention and develop the policies that guide our movement,” Pitts asserted.

“His suggestion that the union member-citizens who elect their delegates and the delegates themselves don’t know what they’re doing is an affront not only to union members throughout the state and nation but reveals Nixon’s lack of faith in the democratic process itself.

“Nixon was invited to present himself and state his views before the California Labor Council on Political Education, the political arm of the California labor movement, and he declined to do so,” Pitts stated.

“Now he turns around and tries to contend he was never given an opportunity to present his views. How deceitful can that man get?” Pitts asked.

employment needs and would enable the legislature to consider urgently needed public facilities and programs to maintain full employment as they fitted into the state’s master development plan.

“California labor,” the statement said, also “assigns high priority to the development of job training programs” to keep labor’s skills abreast of technological advancements and to ease the workers’ adjustment to automation. In this connection the delegates urged the development of information in each of the state’s labor market areas and for the state as a whole to determine what the state, regional and local community skill needs will be in the future. Such information is obviously vital to any effective job training or retraining programs.

Specifically, the statement suggested that California launch a program of surveys by manpower experts in each of the state’s major labor market areas to project future skill needs.

They also suggested that the state utilize every penny of federal funds available under the federal Manpower and Development Training Act to lighten the state’s financial burden.

Renewed Support Pledged For AWOC In Agricultural Labor Policy Stand

Renewed support for the successful conclusion of the Agricultural Workers' Organizing Committee's "historic mission" was pledged today by the 2,000 delegates to the Long Beach convention of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Noting that the reconstituted AWOC, carefully coordinated with the rest of the labor movement, has focused primarily upon the relatively stabilized farm labor force in the Central Valley, the convention declared:

"We are heartened by the solid evidence of steady organizational progress recorded by AWOC during 1962 towards redeeming the American promise to the near-forgotten people of agriculture."

In singling out trade union organization as the "best hope" for agricultural workers, the state AFL-CIO body also backed a sweeping program of state and federal legislative reform. The broad implications involved for organized labor as a whole were posed by the convention's policy statement:

"Beyond the obvious interests of farm workers in this development, the stakes are extremely high for all working people in terms of a more prosperous economy and more democratic representation in government."

Elaborating upon the theme, the convention stated:

"It must always be borne in mind that much of the strength of reactionary employer interests in the political arena stems from their alliance with the backward agri-business interests who have thrived on the vacuum brought about by the lack of effective organization in California's rural areas."

Warning that the "farm labor issue cannot be swept under the rug," the Federation turned a spotlight on the international implications of continued indifference to the "semi-slave mode of life foisted upon the millions of farm worker families who have played such a major role" in making American agriculture a model of economic abundance.

At their biennial meeting in Long Beach, trade union delegates asked, "Do we really believe that we can continue

to offer American agriculture to the underdeveloped nations as a prime attraction of our way of life if this moral callousness towards millions remains unaltered?"

Noting that most of our farm workers are identified racially and ethnically with the bulk of the peoples we seek to lead, the state AFL-CIO hammered home the dilemma confronting Americans in this area:

"We must reckon with this problem by asking ourselves basically whether we are attempting to persuade these nations of nothing more than the superiority of our modern agricultural implements and horticultural methods. Are these people not searching, instead, for a way of life offering more dignity as a result of equitable distribution of the abundance made possible by this technical know-how?"

"Unless our horizons are expanded toward the latter orientation, we should not be shocked if we find in the course of the years that our technology was sought after while our social and economic philosophy proved repugnant to these basically agricultural nations."

Symbolic of the generally outrageous living and working conditions for agricultural workers are hourly wages "less than one third those of non-farm workers," the Federation stated.

"The plight of the farm worker," the Federation declared, "remains as the most shameful blot on the image American democracy projects at home and abroad."

Vigorous support was pledged to legislative campaigns to grant farm workers the right to organize and bargain collectively, unemployment insurance, minimum wage coverage, and "a host of additional protections considered standard by virtually all other workers in the twentieth century."

Convention delegates attached the greatest importance to correcting the gross abuses inflicted upon domestic farm workers through "graduated cut-backs leading to the early elimination of temporary labor importation under Public Law 78. Over 300,000 farm workers imported temporarily during 1961 inflicted 'crippling competition' upon domestic workers' wages, working conditions and employment opportunities," the Federa-

tion reported. Labor Department statistics were cited to the effect that America's two million non-casual farm workers averaged gross earnings of only \$1,054 in 1961 "with which to keep body and soul intact during the year."

The Federation recommended a broad series of state and federal programs to deal with glaring farm labor problems, ranging from housing and sanitary facilities to health, education and welfare issues. The policy statement adopted by delegates declared:

"The ultimate goal of these reforms must be to rebuild our domestic labor supply and to provide dependable and skilled labor to harvest our agricultural products through raising the conditions of life and labor to a level of parity with other workers. This cannot be done without coming to grips with the bracero importation program which has decimated the supply of domestic labor through its accumulated adverse effect on domestic employment, wages and working conditions."

"The law of the land will remain a meaningless mockery," the delegates warned, "unless the Labor Department recognizes that avoidance of 'adverse effect' means restoration of the conditions that would now prevail if it were not for the bracero program's use as a wage-cutting device."

"Based on wage and fringe benefit developments in industries closely related to agriculture during the bracero program's 11 years, this means average minimums of at least \$1.50 an hour in California for agriculture, the only major industry professing serious shortages of labor."

While commending the Labor Department for its recent initiative in re-examining the statutory constraints against grower abuse of the bracero program, the Federation branded administration of the law "virtually as timid as ever in the face of the bitter opposition of the powerful agri-business interests." This timidity, it asserted, was reflected in the Department's finding of a \$1.60 hourly minimum as adequate to prevent adverse effect in California.

The Federation's long-term position along this line was fully confirmed, the convention noted, by a recent inadvertent admission by California growers that farm wages would be much higher today in the absence of the bracero program.

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