

Marathon 9-Year Strike at Kohler Ends With Pact

A nearly nine-year-old strike ended this week at the Kohler Company in Kohler, Wisconsin, when that firm reached an agreement with the United Auto Workers on a one-year contract covering some 3,000 production workers.

The pact in the marathon dispute was reached only after the U. S. Supreme Court refused last June to review a decision holding the firm guilty of unfair practices and ordering reinstatement with back pay for most of the strikers.

The Kohler Company, a manufacturer of plumbing and bathroom fixtures, is a name that has become synonymous with union breaking in the years intervening since April 5, 1954 when the strike began.

The roots of the Kohler dispute, however, went back to the early 1930's, when Kohler set up a company dominated union and met with tear gas and the use of the state militia in organizing drive by a former AFL directly chartered federal labor union.

A national Labor Relations Board ruling which was upheld by the court found

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Nixon Plan To Junk Consumer Counsel's Office as 'a Waste of Money' Draws Fire

Thos. L. Pitts, state AFL-CIO leader, said he was "utterly astonished and shocked" by Richard M. Nixon's declaration on a Fresno telethon session last Friday night that he would abolish the Office of Consumer Counsel if elected Governor.

A Fresno paper reported Oct. 6 that in the course of Nixon's telethon

Get Orders In Now For Pamphlets

All AFL-CIO affiliated unions in the state are urged to send their orders in immediately for the Brown-Nixon Record pamphlets and the general election endorsement pamphlets of the California Labor Council on Political Education.

As noted in last week's News Letter, these pamphlets are available free in whatever quantity necessary, but they should be shipped out of the Federation Office by the end of next week at the latest to assure ample time for distribution.

The pamphlets are designed for use as self-mailers, for stuffing in No. 10 envelopes or for door-to-door distribution. The order form for the pamphlet is reprinted on Page 3.



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Unholy Alliance Aims To Cripple Unions Pitts Urges Aid For COPE Candidates

Warning of "an insidious nationwide attack to cripple the labor movement," Thos. L. Pitts, State AFL-CIO leader, today urged union members throughout the state "to wake up to the fact that this is no ordinary off-year election but rather the opening salvo of a frontal assault on the very existence of labor unions."

"Such pillars of the business community as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers," Pitts charged, "are mounting an intensive drive to get Congress to enact legislation that would reduce all union bargaining to the lowest common denominator, restricting it to one local union with one company."

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U.S. Jobless Rate Still at 5.8% But Drop Seen in State

Unemployment nationally persisted at the high level of 5.8% of the labor force in September, unchanged from a month earlier, according to the U. S. Labor Department.

In California, however, unemployment was at the lowest level in almost three years and total civilian employment set a record of 6,541,000 last month.

On the national level, unemployment declined seasonally from August to September by 400,000 bringing the total jobless to 3.5 million but the drop was not sufficient to reduce the seasonally adjusted jobless rate of 5.8%.

Seymour Wolfbein, the Labor Department's manpower expert, said that if the rate of unemployment remained at 5.8% in January, 1963 the number of unemployed is expected to reach 4.7 million.

During 1962 the U. S. jobless rate has averaged about 5.5 percent of the labor force. It moved from 5.3 to 5.8 percent last month, the sharpest rise in 20 months.

The number of persons unemployed 15 weeks or longer was relatively unchanged at 906,000, but those seeking jobs for 27 weeks or longer dropped from 593,000 in August to 477,000 in September.

This was the first time in two years that the ranks of the long term jobless have fallen below 500,000.

The national jobless rate for adult

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Pitts Urges Aid for COPE Candidates

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Their goal is to take over Congress in this election. It's time for all who believe in the labor movement to mount the barricades," Pitts declared.

Pitts pointed out that Ladd Plumley, U. S. Chamber of Commerce president, stated in recent speeches in California that the Chamber's principal goal is to work for legislation introduced by Rep. Dave Martin, (R., Neb.) (HR 9271) to ban industry-wide and multi-employer collective bargaining and to apply business anti-trust laws to labor unions.

"This comes on the heels of the disclosure last month that the National Association of Manufacturers has secretly launched a four-year drive dubbed a 'Program to Curb Union Monopoly Power' which aims for the same legislative goals," Pitts said.

"Further confirmation of the reality of this clandestine effort to immobilize the labor movement's collective bargaining tools can be found in the complexion of the groups backing Richard M. Nixon for governor.

"For example last Spring a statewide 'Farmers for Nixon' group was formed headed by W. B. Camp, a wealthy cotton and potato grower who is Chairman of the U. S. Chamber's Special Committee for Voluntary Unionism. That's the fancy title they give to their aim of reviving interest in 'right-to-work' legislation in California," Pitts declared.

"And another organization in this unholy alliance is an outfit that calls itself 'The Committee for Equal Anti-Trust Law Protection.' It also aims to bring unions under the anti-trust laws and is headed by Clarence Manion, an assortment of John Birch Society members and former officials of the National Association of Manufacturers. The Manion Forum network of 245 radio outlets throughout the nation is expected to be used extensively in the campaign to besmirch unions and to sway public opinion in favor of harsher anti-labor laws," Pitts said.

"The ultimate focal point of these organizations as well as a host of other ultra-conservative front groups is the passage of anti-labor legislation such as that introduced by Rep. Martin.

"This proposed legislation," Pitts explained, "would revise the Sherman Anti-trust Act to ban industry-wide bargaining and prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from certifying unions to bargain for more than one employer's workers."

Pitts said the bill "would compel a different union for each automobile manufacturer or each steel company instead of one union for the entire industry . . . and would prohibit cooperation between

these different unions on wages and working conditions. It would totally destroy multi-employer bargaining in California, as for example in the building trades, hotel and restaurant industry and other areas of employment."

"Whether this anti-labor offensive is permitted to succeed will be determined largely by the results of this election, with particular reference to the kind of Congress that is returned to Washington, D.C.

"I am asking every local organization in the State to make sure that its members and other eligible family voters get to the polls on election day and that they be provided with available literature on our COPE candidates. I appeal to each of you to help distribute it. This is critical. If we don't aid our endorsed candidates when the chips are down we're hurting only ourselves," Pitts declared.

"A number of other features in the Martin Bill are equally incompatible with any honest and equitable system of labor-management relations," Pitts asserted and he cited the following features of it to substantiate his view:

- Local unions would not be allowed to receive strike benefits or any kind of financial support from their international in connection with economic or bargaining activity.
- Locals of the same union would not be permitted to cooperate with each other in bargaining matters.
- The existence of standard wages and conditions within an industry would be the occasion for a finding of a criminal activity by the union wherever more than a local area was involved.
- Even such traditional activities as peaceful picketing or informational campaigns to explain labor's side of a dispute to the public would be unlawful.
- Contract clauses designed to protect jobs against arbitrary elimination at the whim of the employer would be outlawed.
- And criminal penalties would be provided to enforce the bill's provisions.

"Passage of legislation as patently unfair and, indeed, as outrageous as this is entirely possible unless we slap it down at the ballot box right now on November 6," Pitts cautioned.

"Don't forget that Nixon is already on record as in favor of outlawing industry-wide bargaining. On April 17, 1947 he voted for the Hartley Bill which would have prohibited industry-wide bargaining, forbade employer contributions to welfare funds where employees shared in their administration, and enabled private employers to obtain court injunctions against unions alleged to be violating anti-trust laws.

"Moreover," Pitts added, "Nixon's warped thinking was amply demonstrated when he was called upon to wrap up

Kohler Strike

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that the strike had been converted from an economic strike to an unfair practices strike in June, 1954, when the company granted a wage increase to strike breakers superior to the "take it or leave it" proposal it had made to the union.

Back pay for some 77 strikers that the NLRB had ruled had engaged in "misconduct" is still pending since the Appellate Court that upheld the basic NLRB decision ordered the Board to reconsider its findings on the 77 denied reinstatement in view of the company's long past history of anti-union provocations.

arguments for the Hartley Bill. In doing so Nixon said:

"In 1935, the New Deal Congress enacted the National Labor Relations Act (the Wagner Act) which granted unrestrained sovereign power over the workers of America to the barons of union labor. Now, I submit it is the responsibility and the opportunity of this Congress to grant to American workers their Bill of Rights." — Congressional Record April 16, 1947.

"Nixon's addiction to the robber baron philosophy of government and his blind anti-labor bias is further demonstrated," Pitts declared, "by the fact that scarcely a year later Nixon voted in favor of legislation to exempt railroads from anti-trust laws and to kill attempts to remove freight-rate discrimination against the south and west."

To make matters worse, the legislation that Nixon voted for was introduced to render useless anti-trust actions that had been brought against 47 railroads in the West charging them with conspiracy to fix discriminatory freight rates against the west.

Nixon not only lined up in support of the special interests against the area he was chosen to represent on the initial vote, but also voted to override President Truman's veto of the bill which was passed June 17, 1948.

"I am not ordinarily an alarmist," Pitts said, "but the forces mounting the present all-out attack on unions represent entrenched leaders of the business community throughout the nation. Although their aims are shared by the rabble rousers of the extreme radical right, a drive such as this, initiated by the NAM and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, cannot be simply shrugged off as the ranting of a lunatic fringe.

"The conservative community across the nation apparently now feels the time is ripe to take the third and final step from Taft-Hartley to Landrum-Griffin to the total obliteration of the legislative gains achieved by labor in the 20th century.

"They must be stopped," Pitts declared, "and this election is the place to do it."

Drop Seen in State Unemployment

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men dropped from 4.9 percent to 4.6 percent in September, but the rate for

adult women climbed from 5.8 percent to 6.1 percent, and the rate for teenagers rose from 12.2 percent to 13.2 percent.

In California John F. Henning, submitting his final report as Director of Industrial Relations before leaving for Washington to take up his duties as Under-secretary of Labor, reported that employment advanced by 91,000 in September, reflecting an increase of 238,000 jobs since September, 1961.

Irving H. Perluss, Director of Employment, reported that fewer Californians were unemployed in September than at any time since December, 1959. The September unemployment figure of 323,000 represented a drop of 41,000 from a year ago, and 33,000 below August, 1962.

California's unemployment rate in September was 4.7 percent, Perluss said, which is substantially below the year earlier rate of 5.5 percent, and significantly below the August, 1962, rate of 5.2 percent. The California jobless rates, however, are not seasonally adjusted and, therefore, are not to be compared with U. S. seasonally adjusted rates, Perluss explained.

California's total civilian labor force in September was 6,864,000 compared with 6,667,000 a year ago.

'Junk Consumer Counsel' -- Nixon

(Continued from Page 1)

like Christopher who, as a candidate for public office, had the effrontery to attack the Consumer Counsel for opposing the recent half cent per quart milk price boost in 9 Bay Area counties which benefitted Christopher's private purse, he would never have made such a statement.

"The people of California don't want watered ham. They don't want to over pay the sales tax on their daily purchases. They don't want to be harassed and cheated out of millions of dollars every year by referral sales frauds or sude shoe operators, or constantly duped, gyped and endangered by deceptive, inadequate and misleading packaging and labelling practices in the food and drug industries especially, but in others as well.

"By working quietly and effectively with the district attorneys in all 58 counties in our state, Mrs. Helen Nelson has sharply curtailed such abuses and has directly helped the wage and salary earners stretch their hard earned money by saving them millions of dollars.

"President Kennedy recognized the tremendous job she has been doing by appointing her to the national 12-member Consumers Advisory Council last July," Pitts added.

Referring to Nixon's charge that the Consumer Counsel's Office is a "waste of money," the state AFL-CIO chief said:

"This is typical of Nixon's wild, desperate and irresponsible line of attack. If Nixon looks into the matter, he will find that the office cost the taxpayer less than one half cent per person in its first year of operation.

"Nixon's record clearly demonstrates that he has consistently opposed measures vital to the public welfare, which were also opposed by any of the well heeled lobbyists of the private profit buccaneers.

"In 10 out of 12 votes, for example, Nixon opposed the welfare of consumers and supported wartime commodity speculators, natural gas interests, and others antagonistic to consumer rights.

"If you want the specific instances, I will be happy to supply them. One was on March 12, 1958, when Nixon cast the tie-breaking vote that increased the interest rate on veterans' GI housing loans from 4½ to 4¾ per cent," Pitts noted.

"The people of California don't want the Office of Consumer Counsel abolished," Pitts declared, "and in less than a month they are going to demonstrate that they don't want Nixon and his pirates either."

Booklet Printed To Aid New Editors

The second in a series of handbooks designed to help unions do a better job of communication with their members has just been published by the International Labor Press Association, AFL-CIO.

The 40-page booklet is aimed primarily at local union editors particularly those with little or no experience. It includes chapters on local union needs, printing methods, financing arrangements, how to write the news and prepare the copy for the printer, the union angle, editorial sources and methods of distribution.

It's a well conceived, well edited and useful guide for anyone about to tackle the problems of publishing for the first time. Copies of the publication, which is titled ILPA Local Publications Guide, cost 10c each regardless of quantity and may be obtained from the International Labor Press Association, 815 Sixteenth Street N. W., Washington 6, D.C.

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7 Films Added To Labor Catalog

Seven new films have been added to the Films for Labor catalog and are now available from the AFL-CIO Department of Education. The films, which vary in length from 14 to 30 minutes running time, range in subject matter from basic trade unionism to world affairs. They may be ordered from the AFL-CIO film library. The rental or service charge is \$3.

The new films include:

This Union Cause (23 min.): A History of the Major Events and Leaders of the Labor Movement based on a series of paintings with a narrator supplying continuity.

Depressed Areas (14 min.): The story of a West Virginia coal mining town when the mine closes and the miners live on unemployment compensation and surplus food while looking forward to retraining under the Area Redevelopment Act. Narrated by David Brinkley for NBC-TV.

The 4th Constitutional Convention of the AFL-CIO (22 min.): Highlights of the 1961 convention including discussions on civil rights, health care for the aged, federal aid for education and the AFL-CIO organizing drive.

The Golden Age (30 min.): The story of how 3 men face the day of retirement prepared by the National Film Board of Canada. Provides useful stimulus for discussion of retirement plans and union-industry moves to cut back work-time before retirement.

When I'm Old Enough . . . Goodbye! (28 min.): The story of an ambitious boy who drops out of school and winds up as a dishwasher because he lacks skills and the education needed to compete in today's job market.

Next Year Is Now (28 min.): A dramatization of the problems faced by an average high school graduate attempting to enter college.

Test for the West (27 min.): An historic documentary that places the Berlin crisis in perspective.

U.S. Compiles Data on 1,277 Single Employer Unions

Membership in 1,277 unaffiliated single-employer and intrastate unions totaled 452,000 in 1961, according to the first survey of such organizations by the U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

These unaffiliated organizations constitute 2.6% of total union membership in the United States and represent 494,000 workers in collective bargaining. (Membership in AFL-CIO affiliated unions is 14,103,000—over 80% of the total. National unaffiliated unions have 2,901,000 members.) Two-thirds of the workers represented by unaffiliated locals work in seven industries: machinery, transportation equipment, petroleum, chemicals, primary metals, telephone communications, and gas and electric utilities.

The Bureau said the survey provides information for the first time on the average size of these local unions and the industries where

they work. Most of these local unions signed collective bargaining agreements with just one employer and only 103 reported having more than 1,000 members.

Nearly 30% (133,000) of the members of these unions are women and one-quarter (113,000) are white collar workers.

These unions are not included in the Bureau's biennial survey of national unions that bargain with different employers in two or more states.

Advisory Unit Set Up on Manpower

A 10-member National Advisory Committee on Manpower Development and Training was named last week by Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz.

The committee, which will assist Wirtz in carrying out his duties under the Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962, is authorized to aid in the organization of committees on a community, regional or industry basis to further the purposes of the act.

The act provides for the establishment of training programs for the unemployed and under-employed and for a broad program of research in the field of manpower.

Labor representatives chosen to the committee were: Joseph A. Beirne, President, Communication Workers of America, AFL-CIO; and Peter T. Schoemann, President, United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada, AFL-CIO.

Eli Ginzberg, Director of the Conservation of Human Resources Project, Columbia University, is chairman of the committee.

Mrs. O'Grady Is Interim Industrial Relations Chief

Governor Edmund G. Brown this week appointed Mrs. Margaret Ritchie O'Grady as Interim Director of the Department of Industrial Relations.

Mrs. O'Grady succeeds John F. Henning, who has been named Under-Secretary of Labor by President Kennedy.

In announcing the appointment, Governor Brown observed:

"Margaret O'Grady is one of the most distinguished and respected women in California government. As a career state worker she has served as Assistant to the Director of Industrial Relations under three governors. I know her great ability and experience will insure the smooth operation of the Department in its extremely important mission." Mrs. O'Grady, a native of San Francisco, is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley.

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