

Consumers Assn. Maps Program To Curb Abuses

More than 100 delegates to the 3rd Annual Convention of the Association of California Consumers mapped action last weekend on a host of consumer abuses that fleece this state's citizens out of millions of dollars annually.

Meeting at the Del Webb TownHouse in San Francisco on December 1 and 2, the delegates passed a series of resolutions that, among other things, urged President Kennedy to appoint a National Consumer Counsel with cabinet status, called on the legislature to provide a larger budget for the Office of Consumer Counsel and pledged vigorous support for the enactment of state and federal truth-in-lending bills.

A truth-in-lending bill introduced in the second session of the 87th Congress by Senator Paul Douglas was killed by a 5 to 4 vote of a senate subcommittee. The principal provisions of the truth-in-lending bill would require that whenever credit is extended, the interest charges would have to be shown as a simple annual rate and the total finance charge would be required to be shown in dollars and cents.

Principal speakers at the convention were Colston E. Warne, president of the Consumers Union of the United States and a member of President Kennedy's 11-man Consumer Advisory Council, and Helen Nelson, California's Consumer Counsel, who is also a member of the President's Council.

Mrs. Nelson observed that the consumer, like organized labor half a century ago, "as an individual is unequal to

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Wirtz Blames Lockheed for Machinists Strike; Pitts Raps Company's Policy

Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz placed the blame for precipitating a two-day strike by 20,000 machinists at Lockheed Aircraft Corporation plants nearly two weeks ago squarely on the shoulders of the corporation.

In a press conference in San Francisco last Friday, Wirtz accused the corporation of "complete intransigence" for its refusal to permit a vote by

its hourly employees on the union shop, the key issue in the dispute.

"It seems to me," Wirtz said, "that leaving the decision to a majority satisfies every principle of democracy with which I am familiar."

The Presidential emergency board's recommendation for an employee vote on the union shop issue was "reasonable and equitable" and "there is no question that the company's position precipitated the strike," the Secretary asserted.

The striking machinists, members of the International Association of Machin-

INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL
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THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Executive Council Adopts Legislative Program To Submit To Lawmakers

The Executive Council of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, wound up a three-day meeting in Hollywood Saturday, December 1, 1962, by approving more than 100 legislative proposals to be presented to the state's lawmakers in January to improve the living and working conditions of virtually all Californians.

Ranging in subject matter from minimum wages to medicare and consumer protection proposals, the Federation's legislative program was cited as a "comprehensive forward-looking blueprint to enhance the life and labor of more than six million workers in the state" by Thos. L. Pitts, the Federation's secretary-treasurer.

"The community of interests that unites the general voter and organized labor was amply evident in the November general election when labor-endorsed candidates

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Parley on Civil Rights Legislation To Open in Fresno

Representatives of 80 organizations, including all major California human relations groups, will take part in a conference in Fresno tomorrow called by the California Committee for Fair Practices (CCFP) to reach agreement on civil rights bills to be submitted to the legislature when it convenes on January 7, 1963.

In announcing the conference, the CCFP, the coordinating committee for organizations supporting civil rights legislation, explained that the purpose of the conference is to achieve a common approach among civil rights groups on strategy, priority, subject matter, and grassroots campaigning with regard to state civil rights legislation.

The aim of the conference is to

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Union Label Gifts' Double Duty

Union members, their families and friends can put a double-barreled impact into their Christmas shopping by looking for and demanding the union label, the shop card and the service button, Joseph Lewis, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO, pointed out this week.

"By doing this, we can assure ourselves that the gifts we give are the finest available and, at the same time, we can help make more secure the jobs of union people who produced these products and made possible the services we patronize," Lewis explained.

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won the support of the general voter in nearly three out of every four races. The aims of this legislative program also reflect that community of interests," Pitts declared.

In the course of the three-day session, the 36-member Executive Council carved out the final form of a series of measures dealing principally with social insurance and labor legislation, based on the mandates of the Federation's Long Beach convention, held last August.

Included among the goals sought in labor's legislative proposals are:

- Enactment of a state fair labor standards act to set the minimum hourly wage rate at \$1.50. (At present the state minimum wage is \$1.00 per hour, set by order of the state's Industrial Welfare Commission for women and minors only.) The bill provides for a 40-hour work week — eight-hour day, and contains provisions for reducing working hours, industry by industry, consistent with labor's goal of a 35-hour work week.

- A complementary measure calls for a seven-hour day and a 35-hour work week for state employees.

- Enactment of a state health care program for the general population.

- Establishment of a standby medical care program for the aged to become operative if Congress fails to act on such a program during the next session. This measure would be financed by a one percent tax on employer payrolls, and would provide benefits for persons entitled to receive federal social security benefits in California. The act would become inoperative if a federal program is established.

The broader, general state health care measure would create a social insurance program for workers and their families covered by the unemployment insurance program and for public employees. Designed to provide a prepaid health service system for all residents of the state, it would also be open to residents not otherwise eligible, on payment of a premium to be established under the program.

Among the labor measures included in the Federation's program is a proposal to establish democratic machinery for the determination of collective bargaining rights in intrastate commerce.

Two other proposed amendments to the Labor Code would (1) prohibit the granting of an injunction in a labor dispute without the showing of irreparable damage, and (2) outlaw the use of professional strike-breakers.

A series of measures to be advanced by the state AFL-CIO will be designed to up-date existing social insurance programs in unemployment compensation, disability insurance and workmen's compensation.

Major improvements are needed in the unemployment and workmen's compensation programs where benefits have fallen far behind the level of earnings among covered employees.

"Based on the principle of 'wage-loss' compensation, these programs are in serious danger of being undermined unless substantial improvements are made," Pitts said.

One of the major goals in workmen's compensation will be to provide rehabilitation training for persons suffering permanent work injuries. A proposal will also be advanced to provide for the administration of workmen's compensation benefits supplementing the present system of "adversary proceedings" before the Industrial Accident Commission involving only contested cases.

The Federation will also advocate state housing programs, supplemental to federal programs, designed to use the state's credit to alleviate the pressing housing needs of California families in the low and middle income brackets. Legislative proposals along these lines are expected to be recommended by the Governor's Committee on Housing Problems.

In the civil rights field, the Federation will work with the California Committee for Fair Practices to develop legislation to make the state's administrative machinery for the enforcement of anti-discrimination laws more effective. This program is expected to call for amendment of the Hawkins Fair Housing Act to provide administrative enforcement procedures against discrimination in the sale, lease or rental of all housing.

Other legislative proposals will come to grips with the "de facto" school segregation problem, and require suspension or revocation of state licenses in any field where the holder is guilty of discriminatory practices.

Pitts indicated that the Federation's legislative program also embraces proposals to protect consumers against fraudulent practices. As strong supporters of the state's Consumer Counsel, the Federation will sponsor legislation to prohibit "short weights" in packaged items, and to protect consumers against "deficiency charges" in the repossession of goods bought on credit.

'Calif. First' Celebration

Hundreds of distinguished Californians have been invited by Governor Edmund G. Brown to help plan the state's year-long "California First" observance.

The Governor pointed out that by becoming the most populous state in the nation, "we have the opportunity to bring national and international attention to the many other important areas in which California is first." Among those invited to serve on the committee

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bargain for his necessary rights" because his need is frequently greater than that of the seller. The consumer's plight has led to considerable abuse in the credit selling field, she noted, and she suggested that usury should be redefined because today's borrower is a much better risk than he was in the 1930s when present laws were enacted.

"The extending of credit should not be so lucrative that the purpose of selling is bastardized and becomes less a matter of serving the customer's needs than of snaring a debtor," she declared.

As one step to curb some of these abuses, she suggested that 80 per cent of wages be exempted from garnishment instead of the present 50 per cent. Convention delegates subsequently passed a resolution to support state legislation either to ban wage garnishment entirely or to make the process substantially more difficult.

Colston, a professor at Amherst, pointed out that consumer movements, both private and government sponsored, are springing up everywhere to steer the consumer toward a wiser use of his money. He said the president's Consumer Advisory Council is currently probing five principal consumer problems with an eye toward corrective legislative action. These were: grading and packaging, information, consumer representation in government, consumer credit, and federal-state relationships.

The Association delegates also called for better state laws to deal with the installment buying of automobiles and other goods to prevent dishonest dealers from cutting off the buyers' rights by selling or assigning sales contracts to third parties. This practice, especially prevalent among some car dealers, results in a gross abuse of the deficiency judgment provisions of the law as well as the usurpation of the rights of the buyer, the delegates' resolution stated. The resolution also urged removal of the present exemption of purchases under \$50 from the legal interest rate ceiling and for the protection of buyers' rights by enforcement of existing laws through a state agency.

The consumers association also:

- Called for the repeal of fair trade legislation by the 1963 session of the legislature because it results in price-fixing and reduces price competition. An initiative measure to repeal the state's so-called fair trade law is currently in circulation.

- Urged that auto and television re-

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was Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

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pair shops be placed under the regulation of a public agency to protect the public from victimization by incompetence and fraud.

- Authorized the Association to seek state legislation to curb a host of deceptive packaging practices, including the use of visually deceptive containers, the employment of misleading quantity terminology such as "jumbo quart," and the false designation of a sale price through the month after month use of a printed "cents off" sales legend as a part of the package. In urging a crackdown on such deceptive practices, the Association called for legislation to strengthen the authority and enforcement staffs of appropriate state and local agencies, to require standardized container sizes and to curb false advertising by requiring ads of guarantees to state their scope clearly and by giving victims of false advertising an effective remedy.
- Called for legislation and action by the Public Utilities Commission to place household goods carriers under the same regulations as other common carriers, to prohibit them from selling insurance, to require them to keep on file a copy of estimates they give for two years, and to require the PUC to check periodically—at least once a year—the estimates that household carriers give against bills they submit and to revoke the license of any carrier who consistently underestimates the actual charge of moving jobs.
- Commended Senator Estes Kefauver and those persons in the Congress and in the Food and Drug Administration who were responsible for the successful passage of the drugs amendments act of 1952 for providing increased protection of the consumer, and pledged to support state and federal legislation in 1963 calling for reforms in other food, drug and cosmetic areas such as unsafe hair dyes and rinses.
- Advocated legislation to require that all health insurance policies set forth a summary of the provisions of the policy on the face page and to direct the Department of Public Health to regulate maximum hospital fees so that they are fair to the public, to the hospital employees and to the hospital.
- Reaffirmed its support of measures to extend the restrictions and prohibitions against engaging in or having an interest in other businesses, which now apply to banks, to savings and loan associations, small loan companies, industrial loan companies, personal property brokers and to their officers and directors. The Association also urged the Consumer Counsel, the governor's Commission on Housing Problems and

Aid Asked to Meet Resolution's Aims

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week by Thos. L. Pitts, the Federation's Secretary-Treasurer.

In a covering letter, Pitts noted that the pamphlet titled "Therefore Be It Resolved . . ." incorporates the text of eleven resolutions dealing with organizing activities, boycotts, political activity and education, and endorsement of such groups as the Coro Foundation, Histadrut, and the Community Chest and other federated fund

raising groups such as the United Crusade.

The second pamphlet, "Labor and Civil Rights," encompasses 15 resolutions ranging from a demand for a drastic overhaul in the McCarran-Walter Act and a condemnation of anti-semitism in the Soviet Union to appeals for action to end de facto segregation in schools and discrimination in housing. It also includes the text of the policy statement on civil rights that was adopted at the Federation's convention in August.

Noting that one of the principal aims of that policy statement was realized little more than a week ago when President Kennedy issued an executive order barring discrimination in federally financed or assisted housing, Pitts asserted:

"The President's action demonstrated that when we holler loud enough and long enough we can make progress. But to speed up progress in the civil rights field—as well as in other fields—we need more good union hollerers and we need to holler all together."

The executive order, which fulfilled a campaign pledge, applies to all new housing financed by Federal Housing Administration or Veterans' Administration mortgages as well as federally assisted public housing built under urban renewal, college dormitory and other U.S. programs.

Pitts pointed out that the pressure to bring about effective action on civil rights issues must be generated from the constituency of state and congressional legislators. Until they are made to feel the pressure little is likely to be accomplished," Pitts observed.

"But this is the stuff democracy is made of. It takes guts and gusto to fight for things you believe in but if you don't fight for them you either never get them or you lose those things you have by default.

"Most of the resolutions contained in these two pamphlets deal with issues and action that require the wholehearted active support of all union members, their locals and their Central Labor Councils to achieve their realization," the State AFL-CIO leader added.

Action sought by the various resolutions include:

- Amendment of the Fair Employment Practices Act to remove the exemption now allowed to non-profit corporations and agricultural employers and to outlaw age discrimination.
- Support of the position that no public employee should be prevented from exercising his full political rights.
- A systematic program to expose the nature of totalitarianism and the activities of authoritarian extremist groups.
- Continuation of the boycott against Sears, Roebuck & Co., Richman Bros. Clothing, and suits and coats made by the Henry I. Siegel (HIS) Co.

Lockheed Blamed For Strike Action

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ists, AFL-CIO, voluntarily returned to work a week ago yesterday at the federal government's urging. On Monday a federal judge in Los Angeles issued a temporary restraining order to prevent the machinists from resuming their strike. This is a preparatory step to the invocation of a provision of the Taft-Hartley Act calling for an 80-day cooling-off period in labor disputes that may "endanger" the national safety.

Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, hailed Wirtz's statement as "forthright and incisively honest" and denounced Lockheed management for launching a "go it alone 'right to work' campaign."

Equal Opportunity Group Meets in L. A. Dec. 13

The statewide committee for Equal Opportunity in Apprenticeship and Training for Minority Groups will hold an all-day meeting next Thursday, December 13, starting at 9:30 a.m. in the California State Building at 107 South Broadway, Room 5016, Los Angeles, according to Webb Green, a vice president of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and chairman of the committee.

the State Legislature to develop a long term program to make more housing of better design in better planned communities available with more adequate protection as to quality and financing for the buyer.

- Commended President Kennedy for signing an executive order barring discrimination in federally financed housing.
- Called on the State Department of Finance to grant the request of the Consumer Frauds Division of the Attorney General's office for more funds.

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develop a comprehensive program of measures to eliminate discrimination on the basis of race, religion, and ancestry in housing, employment, schools and public accommodations, as well as to provide more effective state administrative machinery to enforce anti-discrimination laws.

The equal rights goals expressed in resolutions and policy statements adopted by the delegates to the California Labor Federation's biennial convention in Long Beach last August will be advanced through the coordinating committee's program, Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, and a co-chairman of the CCFP, explained.

C. L. Dellums, chairman of the CCFP and president of the West Coast Region NAACP, said the conference would include discussion of proposals to:

- Extend the coverage of the existing Hawkins Fair Housing Act to include the sale or rental of private as well as publicly assisted housing and to place enforcement responsibility with the Fair Employment Practices Commission.

- Overcome "de facto" school segregation by banning discriminatory gerrymandering of school districts, promoting integration, enforcing non-discrimination in teacher placement, insuring fuller utilization of school facilities, and establishing sound standards for the location of new school buildings.

- Provide for effective vocational guidance in training and retraining programs for youth.

- Insure more effective enforcement of legislation banning discrimination in facilities, services and accommodations furnished by businesses.

- Require the revocation of the state licenses of any business or professional group that persists in refusing to eliminate discriminatory practices in membership or the rendering of services.

Other officers of the CCFP, besides Dellums and Pitts, include: The Reverend John H. Burke, Daniel S. Colley, the

New Journeymen Get Some Words Of Wisdom On Labor From 'An Old Grad'

"... human progress often depends upon the courage of men who dare to be different."

This was part of one of six sage guidelines suggested to 104 electrical apprentices by Charles Scholibo, Western Regional Director of the National Electrical Contractors Association, at the annual Apprenticeship Completion ceremony held in Los Angeles last week.

More than 1,800 apprentices have been graduated under the apprenticeship program sponsored by the Los Angeles County Joint Apprenticeship Committees of Local Union 11, IBEW, and the Los Angeles Chapter of the NECA since its inception in 1950.

Scholibo, the principal speaker, underscored the rising demand for specialists in the electrical field since the advent of the space age and asserted that the reason why labor expends its energy and resources to fight for educational opportunities and to promote civil rights is because those who are a part of the labor movement "are convinced that democracy means economic, social and political justice for all."

Citing himself as "an old grad," Scholibo condensed his view of the labor movement for the new journeymen in the following six points:

1. That the organizational rights, privileges and responsibilities you enjoy today were bequeathed to you by workers of an earlier generation who gave unselfishly of their time, talents and even their lives, to the cause of freedom from oppression and justice for the exploited. This is a precious heritage. You have a solemn obligation to preserve and extend it to those less fortunate. Always remember that human progress often depends upon the courage of men who dare to be different.
2. That labor unions are NOT business enterprises. They are living, dynamic organisms which enable workers to express their desires and

Reverend Msgr. Thos. J. O'Dwyer, and Edward R. Roybal, all co-chairmen, and Dr. H. Claude Hudson, treasurer, and William Becker, secretary.

aspirations. They are dedicated unselfishly to the service of others.

3. That down through the years of struggle for the right to exist and function as agencies of representation, a genuine sense of brotherhood and fraternity among organized workers has developed that should always be preserved. It is this brotherhood which gives meaning to life and makes it worth living.
4. That each of you, in order to win the respect of others, must first be self-respecting. Your lives must be living monuments to the tradition we call organized labor. Your activities must be beyond reproach because your work is important to society. In the words of the revered Justice Louis D. Brandeis, "the employer needs the unions to stay him from the fall to vanity; the employees need them for their own protection; the community needs them to raise the level of the citizen. Strong, stable trade unions under a dedicated leadership can best serve these ends."
5. That there is a virtue in humility, and that you can be humble without being servile. Humility is the work of the totally civilized man. Humility, coupled with powers of insight and strength of conscience will insure your contribution to the labor movement.
6. That your own organization and the labor movement of which it is a part, will be judged in a measure by your future personal conduct and performance and the impressions you create in the minds of others.

Scholibo attacked "irresponsible" congressional investigations of unions for contributing to the stigma which at times is attached to unions and asserted that "the overwhelming majority of unions are decent and honest—but this is not newsworthy. Only sin and corruption make news."

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