

Engle Introduces Truth-in-Packaging Bill in U.S. Senate

A truth-in-packaging bill designed to eliminate confusing and deceptive packaging of thousands of kitchen, bathroom and household products has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Clair Engle (D-Calif.).

Engle, who is co-sponsoring the bill with Senator Philip Hart (D-Mich.) said:

"This bill is meant to restore rational buying to the market place and to remove to a considerable degree the gauntlet of psychological traps, successive confusions and outright deceptions that today's housewife must face whenever she passes down a super-market aisle."

Some of the key features of the bill include:

- Net weight to be printed prominently on the front panel of all packages.
- A ban on illustrations on packages than can deceive the consumer as to content.
- Elimination of "cents-off" deals or "economy size" designations. These "come-ons" imply a control over retail prices that the manufacturer doesn't have and frequently the consumer realizes no saving.
- Action to prevent the use of packages that might deceive the consumer as to content.

Meany Asks More Job-Creating Action, Says 3.5% Growth Rate 'Not Enough'

Pointing out that President Kennedy's budget is based on a growth rate that "would insure six percent and more unemployment in 1963," AFL-CIO President George Meany called for "an expanded program of job-creating legislation" in later presidential messages and declared that until a substantial dent is made in unemployment, "we must and will continue to press for the 35-hour week."

Bill Seeks To Wipe Out Segregation

A measure attacking "second-class citizenship" created in public schools by de facto segregation was introduced in the state legislature this week by Senator Albert S. Rodda, (Dem. Sacramento).

The bill, SB 170, introduced at the request of Governor Edmund G. Brown, would create a Commission on Inter-group Relations which would expand and incorporate the present Commission on Equal Employment Opportunities for Teachers in the State Department of Education.

It would appropriate \$25,000 for

(Continued on Page 4)



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

Weekly News Letter

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY

Vol. 5—No. 4
Jan. 25, 1963

Published by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

151

State Legislature Gets Labor Program To Update Unemployment Insurance

A comprehensive set of proposals to bring the State's unemployment insurance system abreast of the needs of an automated space-age economy has been introduced in the California Legislature by Assemblyman Edward E. Elliott (D) of Los Angeles. The Elliott legislation, backed by the State AFL-CIO, consists of some 33 bills "designed to restore the integrity of a social insurance program that is essential to the prosperity of our modern industrial economy," according to Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

"Our unemployment insurance system today," Pitts said, "is being starved under a financing system that has allowed employers over the years, under the so-called merit rating system, to achieve tax cuts

(Continued on Page 2)

Committees in Senate Named For '63 Session

The announcement of committee appointments in the State Senate has completed the organization of the Upper House for the 1963 session of the California Legislature.

The important Labor Committee, which in the past has been the burial ground for most progressive labor legislation, will be chaired by Senator J. Eugene McAteer (D.) from San Francisco. Other senators appointed to the seven-man committee are the following: Howard Way (R) Tulare County; John W. Holmdahl (D), Alameda County; Eugene G. Nisbet (D) San Bernardino County; Stan Pittman (R) Butte County; Albert S. Rodda (D) Sacramento County; and Jack Schrade (R), San Diego.

The Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee, which passes upon social insurance legislation in unemployment insurance, disability insurance and workmen's compensation will again be headed by Senator Richard J. Dolwig (R) San Mateo County. Other members of this nine-man committee include: Clark L. Bradley (R) Santa Clara County; Hugh M. Burns (D) Fresno County; Ronald G. Cameron (D) Nevada, Sierra and Placer Counties; Randolph Collier (D) Del Norte and Siskiyou Counties; Donald L. Grunsky (R) Santa Cruz and San Benito

(Continued on Page 3)

State Legislature Gets Labor Program To Update Unemployment Insurance

(Continued from Page 1)

at the expense of the program's benefit structure."

The State AFL-CIO leader pointed out that because of exclusions from coverage and a benefit structure that has failed to keep pace with increases in wages and the nation's standard of living, the State's unemployment insurance program isn't even providing compensation for one-third of lost wages in the current period of high unemployment.

"The Legislature must come to grips with a financing system that is subverting the purposes of the program and denying jobless workers the level of benefits contemplated when the program was established," Pitts said.

FINANCING BILLS

The Elliott bills on financing, Pitts pointed out, attempt to correct the deterioration of the taxable wage base that has occurred over the years with the rise in wage levels, and seek to eliminate the individual firm merit rating system that bears virtually no relationship to responsibility for unemployment. In fact, the AFL-CIO leader noted that the present merit rating system actually results in a higher tax rate for the employer who enters a period of rapid expansion of employment.

"The firms that benefit from the merit-rating system," he added, "rarely exercise any effective control over the factors that lead to unemployment, especially in recessions."

The Elliott bills on financing would:

- Increase the taxable wage base from \$3,800 to \$6,000 with provision for future escalation as benefit levels are increased in line with rising wage levels. (AB 203)
- Repeal so-called merit rating and provide for a uniform 3.5 percent employer contribution tax. (AB 208)

Organized labor has repeatedly pointed out that if any merit rating is to be allowed, it should be a uniform merit rate for all employers rather than an individual merit rate, and that this uniform merit rate should vary from year to year in accordance with the experience of all employers provided that the program is receiving adequate funding to meet current and projected costs. Further, it is organized labor's position that a sound financing program should be geared to providing for contribution payments on a counter-cyclical basis, so that maximum payments will be made during so-called "good times," and mini-

mum payments during so-called "bad-times."

MAJOR BENEFIT BILLS

Long overdue benefit increases would be accomplished by bringing the basic U. I. benefit schedule in line with the schedule that currently exists in the State Unemployment Disability Insurance Program. Accordingly, AB 253, would increase the maximum weekly benefit to \$75 with provision for an escalator clause that would adjust the maximum annually to assure a top benefit equal to two-thirds of average weekly wages in covered employment.

Individual benefits for eligible jobless workers, however, would continue to be geared to high-quarter earnings of the employed worker. Thus the benefit schedule would start at \$10 per week for high-quarter earnings up to \$175, and would increase \$1 in benefits for each additional \$25 of high-quarter earnings to the maximum benefit amount.

Those drawing the top benefit would be compensated at a rate equal to approximately 56 percent of lost wages, Pitts pointed out.

Among other major Elliott bills designed to improve the overall benefit structure are the following:

- AB 251, providing for dependency benefits equal to \$7 per week for the first dependent and \$5 for each additional dependent, not exceeding six. A dependent is defined to include a dependent spouse or child under 18 years of age.
- AB 205, providing for retroactive compensation for the present one week waiting period whenever the unemployment period exceeds seven days.
- AB 244, extending the duration period for the payment of benefits from 26 to 39 weeks.

In connection with the duration of benefits, Pitts noted that the level of hard core, long-term unemployment has been steadily increasing with the pace of automation. "The 26-week duration period established many years ago is no longer adequate to cope with the increasingly troublesome structural unemployment problems stemming from an accelerated rate of technological advancement," Pitts said.

EXPANDED COVERAGE

A series of Elliott bills would also close the major coverage gaps existing in the current unemployment insurance program. "A social insurance program, if it is to effectively serve both the individual and our private enterprise economy, must cover all wage earners," Pitts declared.

AB 194 would extend the program's coverage to include employment in pub-

More Action Asked To Create Jobs

(Continued from Page 1)

posals outlined in his State of the Union message and a \$4.5 billion increase for defense and space programs and higher interest payments. His budget anticipates a \$11.9 billion deficit and a 3.5 percent real growth rate.

Although the details of most of the President's legislative program will be spelled out in specific messages to Congress, the budget message indicated the broad outlines of a good bit of his program. Included were:

- Creation of a Department of Urban Affairs and Housing.
- A new \$1.2 billion program to improve "quality in all levels and types of education."
- Creation of a National Service Corps.
- Health insurance for the aged under the social security system, including benefits for those not covered by social security.
- A program to provide youth employment and training opportunities.
- Federal aid for medical school construction.
- More federal aid for hospital construction under the Hill-Burton Act.
- Expansion of the Peace Corps by 4,000 persons.

AFL-CIO Economist Named To OMAT In Labor Dept.

Seymour Brandwein, an AFL-CIO economist since 1953, has been named special assistant to Seymour Wolfbein, director of the Office of Manpower, Automation and Training, by U.S. Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz.

Brandwein, president of the Industrial Relations Research Association in Washington, D.C., has served with the Industrial Relations Division of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Wage Stabilization Board and was labor editor for the Bureau of National Affairs from 1945 to 1951.

lic service, agriculture, and non-profit organizations—the major exclusions in the present law. AB 191 and 193, respectively would remove the exemption for public service and non-profit employment separately.

At the present time, all of the Elliott bills are being held at the Assembly desk for referral to Committee. In the past all unemployment insurance bills have been sent to the Assembly Committee on Finance and Insurance.

U.S. Jobless Rate Dips, State's Rises

The nation's persistently high unemployment rate dipped slightly in December from 5.8 to 5.6 percent, the national average for the calendar year, but the state jobless rate climbed from 5.4 percent in November to 5.7 in December, indicating 385,000 Californians were without jobs last month, 25,000 more than a month earlier. The state figures, unlike the Federal figures, are not seasonally adjusted and, therefore, are not comparable.

The Labor Department's monthly report disclosed that numerically the country's pool of the unemployed was stagnant between November and December, totaling 3.8 million in both months, and that long-term joblessness of 15 weeks or longer rose by 100,000 or 10 percent to one million during the last month of the year.

The total employment in the nation dropped 400,000 to 67.6 million in December. Non-agricultural jobs, however, showed a greater than seasonal increase to 63.5 million but most of the rise in non-farm employment—1.5 million above December, 1961 — occurred during the first part of the year, the report said.

A day prior to the release of the employment figures, Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz announced a revision of the Department's unemployment releases along lines recommended by a special Presidential committee.

Beginning with the December figures, Wirtz said, "A panel of technicians who are responsible for collecting and analyzing employment statistics will be given the added responsibility of presenting employment data to the press and the public."

Starting with the March release on unemployment figures for February, Wirtz said the material presented will be expanded to include additional characteristics of the employed and unemployed and will report both actual and seasonally adjusted figures. It will also contain other breakdowns to make the figures more understandable and useful, he added.

In reporting on California's jobless situation in December, Albert D. Tieburg, new Acting Director of Employment noted that the December jobless figure was below the year earlier level of 399,000 when the jobless rate was 6.1 percent. He pointed out that California jobless rates are not adjusted for seasonal variations and cannot be compared with seasonally adjusted national rates.

The state's civilian labor force, comprised of the employed and the unemployed available for and seeking work, stood at 6,752,000 in December, 1962, compared with 6,547,000 a year earlier.

The state's civilian employment to-

State Senate Committees Named For '63

(Continued from Page 1)

Counties; George Miller, Jr. (D) Contra Costa County; Alan Short (D) San Joaquin County; and Vernon L. Sturgeon (R) San Luis Obispo County.

The equally important Governmental Efficiency Committee, which passes on civil rights measures as well as many other bills of interest to organized labor is composed of 11 members and chaired by Senator Luther E. Gibson (D) of Solano County. The other members are: Hugh M. Burns (D) Fresno County; Stanley Arnold (D) Lassen, Modoc and Plumas Counties; John C. Begovich (D) Amador and El Dorado Counties; Randolph Collier (D) Del Norte and Siskiyou Counties; Richard J. Dolwig (R) San Mateo County; Robert J. Lagomarsino (R) Ventura County; J. Eugene McAteer (D) San Francisco County; John F. McCarthy (R) Marin County; Edwin J. Regan (D) Shasta and Trinity Counties; and Stephen P. Teale (D) Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties.

As of this date, the composition of the Assembly committees is still unknown. Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh has only revealed the appointment of Robert W. Crown (D) of Alameda as chairman of the Lower House Ways and Means unit. Thus, the Assembly continues to be largely unorganized for the session.

Other committees in the Upper House, in addition to those named above, are as follows:

Agriculture Committee: Virgil O'Sullivan (D) Chairman; Samuel R. Geddes (D); James A. Cobey (D); Hugh P. Donnelly (D); Fred S. Farr (D); Robert J. Lagomarsino (R); John A. Murdy, Jr. (R); Aaron W. Quick (D); Joseph A. Rattigan (D); Walter W. Stiern (D); Vernon L. Sturgeon (R); Howard Way (R), and Robert D. Williams (D).

Business and Professions Committee: Alan Short (D) Chairman; John F. McCarthy (R);

taled 6,367,000 in December, an increase of 219,000 or 3.6 percent from a year ago, according to Ernest B. Webb, director of Industrial Relations. Total employment rose 51,000 between November and December, a larger than usual advance for this period, Webb said.

The state employment and unemployment figures for December are based on revised theories adjusted to latest benchmark data and therefore are not comparable to statistics carried in previous releases by the two state departments.

L. M. Backstrand (R); Luther E. Gibson (D); Stan Pittman (R); Joseph A. Rattigan (D); Walter W. Stiern (D); Stephen P. Teale (D); and Alvin C. Weingand (D).

Education Committee: Hugh P. Donnelly (D) Chairman; Stanley Arnold (D); Fred S. Farr (D); Donald L. Grunsky (R); J. Eugene McAteer (D); George Miller, Jr. (D); John A. Murdy, Jr. (R); Virgil O'Sullivan (D); Joseph A. Rattigan (D); Albert S. Rodda (D); and Walter W. Stiern (D).

Elections Committee: Albert S. Rodda (D) Chairman; Harold T. Sedgwick (R); Fred S. Farr (D); Samuel R. Geddes (D); Thomas M. Rees (D); Howard Way (R); and Alvin C. Weingand (D).

Finance Committee: George Miller, Jr. (D) Chairman; Stephen P. Teale (D); Stanley Arnold (D); Hugh M. Burns (D); James A. Cobey (D); Randolph Collier (D); Hugh P. Donnelly (D); Luther E. Gibson (D); J. Eugene McAteer (D); John F. McCarthy (R); John A. Murdy, Jr. (R); Thomas M. Rees (D); and Alan Short (D).

Fish and Game Committee: Ronald G. Cameron (D) Chairman; Aaron W. Quick (D); John C. Begovich (D); Robert J. Lagomarsino (R); Eugene G. Nisbet (D); Frank S. Petersen (D); Jack Schrade (R); Walter W. Stiern (D); William Symons, Jr. (R); Howard Way (R); and Alvin C. Weingand (D).

Institutions Committee: Robert D. Williams (D) Chairman; Robert J. Lagomarsino (R); Ronald G. Cameron (D); Albert S. Rodda (D); and Alvin C. Weingand (D).

Judiciary Committee: Edwin J. Regan (D) Chairman; Frank S. Petersen (D); Clark L. Bradley (R); Ronald G. Cameron (D); Carl L. Christensen, Jr. (D); James A. Cobey (D); Richard J. Dolwig (R); Fred S. Farr (D); Donald L. Grunsky (R); John W. Holmdahl (D); Robert J. Lagomarsino (R); Virgil O'Sullivan (D); and Joseph A. Rattigan (D).

Local Government Committee: Joseph A. Rattigan (D) Chairman; Stan Pittman (R); Clark L. Bradley (R); Samuel R. Geddes (D); Eugene G. Nisbet (D); Thomas M. Rees (D); Edwin J. Regan (D); Albert S. Rodda (D); Harold T. Sedgwick (R); Stephen P. Teale (D); and Robert D. Williams (D).

Military and Veterans Affairs Committee: Carl L. Christensen, Jr. (D) Chairman; John C. Begovich (D); Aaron W. Quick (D); Thomas M. Rees (D); and William Symons, Jr. (R).

Natural Resources Committee: Fred S. Farr (D) Chairman; Eugene G. Nisbet (D); Stanley Arnold (D); John C. Begovich (D); Ronald G. Cameron (D); Carl L. Christensen, Jr. (D); Samuel R. Geddes (D); Donald L. Grunsky (R); John F. McCarthy (R); Frank S. Petersen, Jr. (D); Aaron W. Quick (D).

Public Health and Safety Committee: Walter W. Stiern (D) Chairman; Jack Schrade (R); John W. Holmdahl (D); Frank S. Petersen, Jr. (D); Aaron W. Quick (D); Harold T. Sedgwick (R); and Vernon L. Sturgeon (R).

Public Utilities Committee: John W. Holmdahl (D) Chairman; William Symons, Jr. (R); L. M. Backstrand (R); John A. Begovich (D); Richard J. Dolwig (R); Virgil O'Sullivan (D); and Robert D. Williams (D).

Revenue and Taxation Committee: Donald L. Grunsky (R) Chairman; Thomas M. Rees (D); Stanley Arnold (D); Clark L. Bradley (R); Randolph Collier (D); Luther E. Gibson (D); John W. Holmdahl (D); George Miller, Jr. (D); Virgil O'Sullivan (D); William Symons, Jr. (R); Stephen P. Teale (D).

Social Welfare Committee: Vernon L. Sturgeon (R) Chairman; Alvin C. Weingand (R); James A. Cobey (D); Frank S. Petersen (D); Stan Pittman (R); William Symons, Jr. (R); and Robert D. Williams (D).

Transportation Committee: Randolph Collier (D) Chairman; L. M. Backstrand (R); Carl L. Christensen, Jr. (D); Richard J. Dolwig (R); Hugh P. Donnelly (D); Samuel R. Geddes (D); Luther E. Gibson (D); John W. Holmdahl (D); J. Eugene McAteer (D); John F. McCarthy (R); Jack Schrade (R); Alan Short (D); Vernon L. Sturgeon (R).

Water Resources Committee: James A. Cobey (D) Chairman; John A. Murdy, Jr. (R); L. M. Backstrand (R); Carl L. Christensen, Jr. (D); Hugh P. Donnelly (D); George Miller, Jr. (D); Eugene G. Nisbet (D); Stan Pittman (R); Edwin J. Regan (D); Jack Schrade (R); Harold T. Sedgwick (R); Alan Short (D); and Howard Way (R).

New High School Film Tells Labor's Role in Economy

A new educational film that can do much to bring some balance to the teaching of economics in our high schools has been produced by the Joint Council on Economic Education in cooperation with the AFL-CIO.

The film, entitled "The United States Economy in Action," is a three-part series that presents an impartial view of the role of the labor force in the development of the economy.

The third part of the series called "The Role of Our Labor Force — The Pulse of the Nation," deals most directly with organized labor's most immediate concerns.

In a brochure announcing the availability of the films, the Joint Council on Economic Education suggested that central labor councils can make a valuable and direct contribution to the economic education of high schools in their areas by contacting the head of the social studies department in their school system and making arrangements to present the film to the school system as a gift.

Copies of each part of the series cost \$8.50.

Part I of the series deals with population growth and income distribution since 1860. It stresses the need to attain an adequate rate of economic growth to absorb the increasing numbers of people entering the job market every year and discusses public policies such as those putting a floor under wages. It also focuses attention on the composition of the labor force and the role of trade unions in securing higher wages through collective bargaining.

Part II tackles the problem of the respective roles of government, management, and labor. It documents the growth of big business and discusses federal legislation that has been passed to curb its most flagrant abuses. It also depicts the achievements of the labor

Grader Loses Bid For Congress Seat In First District

William F. Grader, COPE-endorsed candidate for the 1st Congressional District seat vacated by the death of Rep. Clem Miller last October, was defeated in a special election held Tuesday by Donald H. Clausen, a Crescent City Republican. An unofficial but complete tally of all 539 precincts gave Clausen 79,111 to Grader's 64,740 — a plurality of 14,371 votes.

Clausen, an insurance man and a native of the District, was unopposed on the Republican side of the ticket. Grader had opposition from a maverick Democrat, John C. Stuart, who, however, polled only 1,631 votes.

With 215,436 eligible voters in the District, registered Democrats outnumbered Republicans by about 14,000. Principal cause of Grader's defeat was attributed to the failure of Democrats to vote and to the fact that Clausen had been campaigning for the post for nearly a year while Grader had scarcely a month to place his name and program before the voters.

movement since the passage of the Wagner Act in 1935 and touches on some of the benefits that trade unions provide their members.

Part III digs into the five principal economic problems confronting the nation today: economic growth; economic stability; economic security; economic freedom; and economic justice. The problems of economic growth created by technological change and innovation are presented dramatically and effectively, Ruttenberg said. The benefits of employment insurance, social security, and such specialized services as vocational rehabilitation are also explained.

"The Role of Our Labor Force," Part III of "The U.S. Economy in Action" series, may be ordered directly from the Joint Council on Economic Education, 2 West 46th Street, New York 36, New York.

Bill Seeks To Wipe Out Segregation In Public Schools

(Continued from Page 1)

the budget of the existing Commission on Equal Employment Opportunities for Teachers which, under the new title, would take on the work of "advising and assisting in school districts in problems involving ethnic distribution of pupils and school attendance areas," Rodda said.

In commenting on the bill, Governor Brown noted:

"It is the policy of the State of California and the State Board of Education to discourage segregation wherever it occurs. This bill will be a first step toward eliminating de facto segregated school districts. There can be no second-class citizenship in our public schools."

Although the Commission and its staff would have no enforcement powers, it would seek to effect changes in segregated schools and districts by developing plans and procedures for local districts.

"This approach has already had some notable success in combating discriminatory practices in the hiring of teachers," Senator Rodda observed. "It is my hope that this bill will prevent the kind of impasses that have developed in some school districts over the state."

Although problem areas now are most dramatically evident in the large metropolitan areas, the Senator observed that "there are many small communities that have developed segregated schooling."

Studies show that there is a strong inter-relationship between segregation in housing and schools, he added. Although most of the school segregation cases stem from segregated housing, it is also true that school attendance lines have often contributed to segregated housing patterns, he said.

California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
995 Market Street
San Francisco 3, Calif.

RETURN REQUESTED

Industrial Relations Librarian
Institute of Industrial Relations
214 California Hall
San Francisco, California

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 7085
San Francisco, Cal.