

Legislative Notes

Social Insurance

With three weeks left to go in the 1963 Session of the California Legislature, a glimmer of hope was raised this week that some improvements in social insurance legislation may yet be accomplished. The Federation is fighting down to the wire for advancements in unemployment insurance, workmen's compensation and unemployment disability insurance in a race with the clock.

(The Session adjourns on June 21st at midnight. June 6th is the last day the Senate may pass its own bills and June 11 is the corresponding day in the lower house for Assembly action on lower house bills. After these dates, the respective houses must turn to the consideration of bills from the opposite house.)

On the social insurance front in the Assembly, the Finance and Insurance Sub-Committees on Workmen's Compensation, Unemployment Insurance, and Disability Insurance are winding up their hearings on bills and are expected to report their recommendations to the full committee in the near future. Some improvement bills have been tentatively approved in each subcommittee, but the situation is too fluid at the moment to predict what action will be taken by the full Committee on Finance and Insurance.

On the Senate side, the fate of social insurance legislation rests in the Committee on Insurance and

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Ban On "Deficiency Judgments" Wins Senate Unit Okay In State Legislature

Assembly-approved legislation aimed at prohibiting "deficiency judgments" on repossessed goods has been cleared to the Senate floor for final action.

The Labor-sponsored consumer bill, authored by Assemblyman John Francis Foran of San Francisco (AB 481), would take the profit out of repossessions and stop practices that victimize the buyer through aggressive sales techniques.

A "do pass" recommendation was won from the upper house Judiciary Committee this Monday. Approval on the Senate floor would send the Foran Bill to the Governor for signature as the first major consumer measure of the 1963 Session.

Under its provisions, when a buyer defaults in his payments, the creditor would have the option of either suing for the unpaid balance or repossessing the goods. If the goods are repossessed, however, AB

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THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

Weekly News Letter

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House of Representatives Turns Down Extension of "Bracero" Importation Law

The House of Representatives this Wednesday rejected legislation to extend the bracero importation program for two more years beyond its expiration date on December 31, 1963. The vote was 174 to 158.

The refusal of the House to tolerate further extension of Public Law 78 was immediately hailed by State AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts as "a triumph of morality and common sense over greed and deceit."

"This is a victory on the side of human justice for impoverished domestic farm workers and their families who have been deprived of an opportunity to seek and obtain employment under cherished American standards of life and labor," Pitts declared.

The Federation had appealed to California's Congressional delegation little more than a week ago to defeat the extension bill (H.R. 5497), because of the bracero program's adverse effect on the wage and working conditions of domestic farm workers. Wednesday's action, however, is expected to intensify

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Fair Housing Bill Action Delayed

Further consideration of AB 1240—the Rumford Fair housing bill and top civil rights item of the 1963 legislative session—has been delayed for another week by the Senate Committee on Governmental Efficiency. The vote scheduled for this Wednesday has been rescheduled for Wednesday, June 5th.

The delay is an indication of trouble to labor, religious and civil rights groups pressing for passage of the Rumford bill. President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Hugh M. Burns, has been talking about a "Blue Ribbon" commission to "study" the housing discrimination problem.

In the meantime, Senator George Miller — a staunch supporter of AB 1240 — has secured Senate Committee Approval of SB 1108, a measure authored by the Contra Costa solon which would prohibit discriminatory practices by real estate brokers and salesmen as state licensees.

Under the Miller bill, the Real Estate Commissioner would be given the power to set up regulations against discrimination by real estate brokers and salesmen under penalty of suspending a person's license for 90 days for first offense and for six months for each subsequent offense.

Miller indicated that he would hold up a floor vote on SB 1108 until the Senate Governmental Efficiency Committee has considered AB 1240.

Housing Bill Sent To Assembly Floor

A greatly watered down bill aimed at implementing some of the far-reaching recommendations of the Governor's Commission on Housing Problems has been given a "do pass" recommendation by the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, Planning and Public Works.

The measure, AB 2976 (Z'berg), creates a State Housing and Community Development Department, but generally restricts its activities

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COMMITTEE HEARINGS

ASSEMBLY

Monday, June 3

Judiciary, Room 2170, 3 p.m.
AB 2552 (Thelin) Judgment liens. **Watch**
AB 3067 (Petris) Administrative procedure. **Bad**
AB 2332 (Foran) Attachment. **Watch**
AB 2278 (Foran) Exemptions from attachments and execution. **Watch**
AB 2808 (Ferrell) Attachment. **Good**

Municipal and County Government, Room 2133, 3:45 p.m.
AB 1043 (Barnes) Industrial farms, road camps. **Watch**
AB 2626 (Petris) Public purchases. **Bad**
AB 2695 (Knox) Public employee group insurance. **Good**
AB 2918 (Mulford) State Housing Law. **Bad**
AB 2919 (Mulford) State Housing Law. **Watch**
AB 3095 (Moreno) Community redevelopment. **Good**

Public Health, Room 5168, 1:30 p.m.
AB 2986 (Knox) Radioactive material monitoring. **Good**
AB 1999 (Winton) Physical examination: restaurant employees. **Watch**

Tuesday, June 4

Finance and Insurance, Room 4202, 3:45 p.m.
***AB 2644 (Song)** Prepaid health service. **Good**
SB 1122 (Rattigan) Disability insurance. **Bad**

Fish and Game, Room 2170, 1:30 p.m.
AB 2936 (Thomas) Commercial sardine season. **Good**
AB 2937 (Thomas) Vessels carrying nets. **Good**

Public Utilities and Corporations, Room 2117, 1:30 p.m.
AB 2537 (Williamson) Household goods carriers. **Good**
AB 3126 (Pattee) Public Utilities. **Good**

Transportation and Commerce, Room 5168, 3:45 p.m.
***AB 2638 (Meyers)** Creates State Board of Vehicle Repair, etc. **Good**
AB 2348 (Kennick) Automobile repair dealers. **Good**

Wednesday, June 5

Elections and Reapportionment, Room 5168, 1:30 p.m.
AB 2600 (Ferrell) Circulation of election petitions. **Watch**
ACA 53 (Dymally) Education. **Bad**
ACA 62 (Petris) Formation of Assembly districts. **Watch**

Governmental Efficiency and Economy, Room 2170, 1:30 p.m.
AB 2718 (Lunardi) Cosmetology. **Watch**
AB 2719 (Lunardi) Cosmetology schools. **Watch**
AB 2550 (Greene) Advertising of packaged products. **Good**
AB 3008 (Britschgi) Cosmetology. **Watch**
AB 3010 (Britschgi) Cosmetology Act. **Watch**
AB 2590 (Meyers) Unfair Cigarette Sales Act. **Bad**
AB 3087 (Meyers) Cosmetology. **Good**
AB 2475 (McMillan) Barbering. **Watch**
AB 2674 (Beilenson) Selling practices. **Good**

Industrial Relations, Room 5168, 3:45 p.m.
AB 2941 (Waldie) Relating to employment of aliens. **Watch**
AB 3048 (Meyers) Relating to discrimination against older workers. **Good**
ACR 74 (Belotti) Relative to application of State Housing Law to dwellings in unincorporated areas. **Bad**

Thursday, June 6

Government Organization, Room 2133, 1:30 p.m.
AB 2098 (Pattee) Regulations of state agencies. **Bad**
AB 2726 (Pattee) Alcoholic beverages. **Watch**
AB 2424 (Petris) American-made materials. **Bad**

SENATE

Monday, June 3

Business and Professions, Room 4040, 9:30 a.m.
AB 775 (Beilenson) Contractors. **Watch**
AB 1786 (Henson) Contractors. **Watch**
AB 1847 (Henson) Contractors. **Watch**
SB 1026 (Dolwig) Outdoor advertising. **Watch**
AB 2127 (Meyers) Specialty contractors. **Watch**

Judiciary, Room 4203, 9 a.m.—Also on adjournment and 8 p.m. if necessary.
SB 1054 (Christensen) Liability of public agencies. **Watch**
SB 950 (Teale) Deficiency judgments. **Bad**

Labor, Room 5007, 10 a.m.
AB 1173 (Knox) Relating to wages. **Watch**
AB 1338 (Waite) Filing employment injury reports. **Good**
AB 1750 (Warren) Relating to wages. **Good**
***SB 889 (McAteer)** Unlawful labor activities. **Good**
SB 1449 (McCarthy) Industrial Accident Commission. **Watch**
SB 1620 (Miller) Private employment agencies. **Bad**

Tuesday, June 4

Insurance and Financial Institutions, Room 4040, 1:30 p.m.
***SB 782 (McAteer)** Workmen's compensation: heart trouble. **Good**
SB 809 (Grunsky) Workmen's compensation. **Bad**
SB 810 (Grunsky) Workmen's compensation. **Bad**
***SB 1150 (Collier)** Medical care insurance. **Good**
SB 1250 (Holmdahl) General credit provisions. **Good**
SB 1491 (Holmdahl) Unemployment disability insurance. **Watch**
SB 1492 (Holmdahl) Workmen's compensation: computation of. **Watch**
SB 1494 (Holmdahl) Unemployment disability insurance. **Good**
SB 1501 (Farr) Unemployment insurance: releases. **Watch**
SB 1506 (Farr) Unemployment insurance. **Watch**
SB 1539 (Rees) Workmen's compensation and insurance. **Bad**
SB 1548 (Rees) Workmen's compensation. **Bad**

Local Government, Room 4040, 9:30 a.m.
AB 1194 (Knox) Firemen: maximum working hours. **Good**

Wednesday, June 5

Education, Room 5007, 9:30 a.m.
AB 1745 (Garrigus) Classified employees' sick leaves. **Watch**
AB 756 (Winton) Standard supervision credential requirements. **Bad**
AB 2339 (Flournoy) Recomputation: basic, equalization aid. **Watch**
AB 1361 (Porter) Certified employees. **Bad**
AB 2169 (Waldie) Part-time classified school employees. **Good**

Governmental Efficiency, Room 4203, 9:30 a.m.
ACR 43 (Foran) Apprenticeship training in secondary schools. **Watch**
AB 1 (Unruh) California Arts Commission. **Good**
***AB 609 (Z'berg)** Personnel classification plan. **Good**
AB 1884 (Meyers) State civil service. **Bad**

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Financial Institutions. A hopeful sign before this committee is the amendment by Senator George Miller of a Federation-sponsored bill, SB 1201, to make a number of improvements in the badly lagging unemployment insurance program. The amended bill, which is waiting hearing, would do the following:

1. Increase the maximum weekly benefit from \$55 to \$65.

2. Boost the minimum weekly benefit from \$10 to \$25, with an appropriate amendment to the 75 percent rule to prohibit disqualifications at the bottom end of the schedule.

3. Liberalize weekly benefits between the top and bottom by providing for graduated benefits in a uniform schedule geared to \$26.50, instead of the present \$28, high quarter earnings steps. Starting at the proposed \$25 minimum, benefits would be increased one dollar for each \$26.50 of high quarter earnings to the maximum \$65 benefit, which would be payable on high quarter earnings of \$1,631.50 and over.

4. Repeal of the so-called "lag quarter" rule which currently disqualifies some 19,000 otherwise eligible workers.

The amendments to this Federation-sponsored measure would increase benefit payments by an estimated \$56.7 million in a benefit year like 1963 without the necessity of modifying employer contribution schedules. The measure, however, has a long way to go in the next three weeks, and the battle will be up hill all the way.

On the Senate side also, the Federation is battling defensively to defeat SB 784, an unemployment disability insurance bill by Senator Thomas M. Rees of Los Angeles which would again allow the private insurance carriers to select disability

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Monday, June 10

Business and Professions, Room 4040, 9:30 a.m.
AB 2037 (Winton) Public works and purchases. **Watch**

Judiciary, Room 4203, 9:00 a.m.—Also on Adjournment and at 8 p.m., if necessary.
AB 1294 (Dannemeyer) Employees' actions. **Good**
AB 1799 (Foran) Safety in employment. **Good**

Ban On "Deficiency Judgments" Wins Senate Unit Okay In State Legislature

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481 would prohibit a "deficiency judgment" against the defaulting buyer to cover the difference between the amount owed and the price for which the repossessed goods are sold, plus court costs and attorney's fees incurred by the creditor who repossesses the goods.

In testimony supporting the legislation, the State AFL-CIO cited actual cases where the repossessed goods (frequently over-priced and loaded with heavy credit charges) are often sold at a fraction of their actual value, thus enabling the creditor to profit from the deficiency judgment obtained against the consumer through court action.

One example cited before the committee was the experience of an individual in Los Angeles who bought furniture on a conditional sales contract with a balance of \$636 to be paid over a period of six months. The buyer defaulted because of illness, and two months later the furniture was repossessed and sold for \$220. The creditor obtained a deficiency judgment in the amount of \$416 plus \$90 attorney's fees. The buyer, it was pointed out, protested in vain that the furniture was practically new when repossessed.

The experience of a Redwood City housewife has cited as another example. She purchased a television set and some other house furnishings on a conditional sales contract with an unpaid balance of \$321.06. Repossession followed within two months upon becoming unemployed. The Redwood City housewife protested:

"They claimed they sold the repossessed goods for \$105 leaving a balance of \$206.06. They put it through and now have it up to a little under \$300. . . .

"I have a nine year old grandson to raise alone, and I just don't have the money to throw away. . . ."

In the same vein, the Federation cited the experience of a Municipal Court Judge in Los Angeles who described the abuses of deficiency judgments as follows:

"The primary problem is that the goods are repossessed and sold for such a pitifully small sum of money that the deficiency judgment which we are compelled by law to render is shocking to us in most instances. Yet, as judges, we are helpless to do anything about it at present be-

cause even when the defendants are represented by lawyers they practically never bring us any actual proof that the article in question was not sold for the best price which the vendor was able to obtain. It is almost impossible for the lawyers to obtain such proof."

"Deficiency judgments," it was pointed out also, become the basis for wage attachments which frequently cause the individual to lose his job or force him into bankruptcy.

Committee approval of the Foran Bill was voted over the opposition of the California Bankers' Association.

Senators Virgil O'Sullivan, Ronald Cameron and Joseph Rattigan effectively challenged misstatements by the opposition which were advanced to "white wash" the deficiency judgment problem.

The "do pass" recommendation was on a voice vote. Earlier, the Assembly-approved bill had been transferred in the upper house from the Committee on Insurance and Financial Institutions to the Judiciary Committee, headed by Senator Edwin J. Regan.

Other Action

Elsewhere on the consumer front, encouraging action was taken by the Assembly Committee on Finance and Insurance. On Tuesday, the Assembly unit gave "do pass" approval to several consumer-oriented bills sponsored by the State Consumer Counsel as follows:

AB 2866 (Unruh) makes "referral sales" unenforceable where part of the inducement offered by the seller is a rebate, commission or other consideration to the buyer if the buyer sells or gives information leading to a sale.

AB 2862 (Unruh) also received approval. This bill would guarantee greater rights to purchasers in cases where the sales contract is sold to a third party. The buyer would be provided the right, in case of willful violation of the retail sales act, to rescind the contract and recover amounts paid to a holder who purchased the contract with knowledge of violation.

AB 2861 (Unruh) also favorably acted upon by the Committee, would bar recovery of the time price differential or service charge in connection with a contract sold to a person who acquired it, and in

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insurance risks adversely to the State Fund. The effect of the Rees bill would be to undermine standards adopted by the Department of Employment under 1961 Federation-sponsored legislation and upheld by the State Supreme Court in Pitts vs. Perluss which prohibit voluntary plans of private carriers from skimming the cream off of disability insurance risks.

SB 784 has won approval from the Senate Committee on Insurance and Financial Institutions, and is currently in the upper house Finance Committee, chaired by Senator George Miller.

Automation Commission

AB 49 (Elliott) creating a statutory California Commission on Manpower, Automation and Technology has finally reached the floor of the Senate, having been cleared by the upper house Finance Committee.

One of the primary purposes of this Federation-supported measure, which is also a key plank in the Governor's legislative program, would be to project skill needs into the future so that well-planned job training and retraining programs may be developed in the implementation of the federal Manpower Development and Training Act and other training legislation of recent origin. Despite the long delay, it is expected that AB 49 will have smooth sailing from here on out.

Tax Reform

The Governor's Tax Reform Program, backed by the State AFL-CIO, is headed for its crucial test in the lower house as we go to press. AB 1944 and 1946 are scheduled

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the exercise of ordinary care should have known of a failure to comply with the provisions of the retail sales act.

Also receiving committee approval were AB 2863 (Unruh) which prohibits the inclusion of a clause in retail installment contracts which would require the buyer to pay any charge for the exercise of his rights in rescinding or voiding the contract, and AB 2864 (Unruh) extending the retail sales act to include purchases of less than \$50. This latter bill would make it possible to rectify retail sales abuses occurring in transactions involving small purchases.

Rep. Cameron Bares Links Between Ultra-Conservation Group and Birchers

Representative Ronald Brooks Cameron called on his fellow Congressmen last week to reject awards offered by a right-wing extremists organization called Americans for Constitutional Action because the group is substantially financed by the John Birch Society and because its awards constitute "a mockery of the very ideals they purport to salute."

Noting that the ACA had scheduled a reception in Washington to present "distinguished service" awards to 153 Congressmen who scored high on the ACA's ultra-conservative voting index, Cameron asserted that the Birch Society "is again seeking—through the ACA—to clothe itself in the honorable political philosophy of conservatism."

"Half the top officers of ACA are also John Birch Society leaders and about one-fifth of ACA's financial support comes from Birch members," the freshman representative from California's 25th Congressional District who unseated an avowed Bircher, John H. Rousselot in November, reported.

"I know of no sitting member of Congress who would accept a medal from the Birch Society. Is it then appropriate to accept a medal from an organization only half removed? I think not," he said.

Cameron told his colleagues that the ACA had grown out of The Committee for the 48 States which was set up in 1955 to lobby for Constitutional amendments that would have, among other things, limited the amount of federal income tax and revised the electoral college to weaken the voting power of urban areas. The chairman of the 48 states group was the finance chairman of ACA and more recently an endorser of the Birch Society, Cameron said.

Other JBS officers, members, endorsers and editorial advisors interlocked with the ACA, Cameron added, included:

Retired Brigadier general Bonner Fellers, vice chairman and secretary of ACA and a Birch endorser.

Charles Edison, ACA treasurer who is a member of the editorial advisory committee of American Opinion, the Birch Society publication.

Howard Buffet, an ACA trustee who, Cameron said was an enthusiastic member of the Birch Society.

Cameron said his charges were based on reports filed by ACA with the clerk of the House of Representatives. In the three months immediately preceding the 1962 elections the records show that 10 identifiable

Birchers gave or lent a total of \$19,200 to ACA. This constituted nearly 20 percent of all contributions reported by ACA, he added.

Among a number of other representatives who rose to compliment Cameron on his report and to add to the record of ACA's operations were Don Edwards and Chet Holifield both of California.

Holifield said that "ACA considers that the majority of the House has voted against the spirit and principles of the Constitution" on two-thirds of the 73 record votes since 1957.

"Little wonder, then, that they are so hysterical," he commented.

Rep. Frank Thompson, Jr. (NJ) ridiculed the ACA's voting standards because they add up not to conservatism but to reaction in their opposition to labor, aid to education, public works and welfare programs and their support of private power monopolies and high interest rates.

ILPA Judge Offers Some Suggestions

Some pertinent constructive advice for labor press editors is offered in a pamphlet published by the International Labor Press Association.

The pamphlet reproduces a letter written to the ILPA by John Emmerich, one of the Harvard University Nieman Fellows who helped select the Association's 1962 labor press award winners.

While lauding the labor press for "dealing with extremely important and interesting issues which have not been properly dealt with by the popular press," Emmerich suggested, among other things, that labor press editors should:

1—Show more initiative in their columns.

2—Strive continually for simplicity, clarity and directness in news and feature stories.

3—Relate union activities to broader community issues.

4—Eliminate crowded black

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for hearing before Ways and Means this Thursday afternoon. These measures provide for State income tax withholding, quarterly estimated returns and income tax payments by those not subject to withholding, and quarterly payments of bank and corporation taxes on a current basis. Both measures are under heavy fire by opponents of the Governor's program for speeding up revenue collections and relating them more closely to the incidence of growth.

The Governor's \$3.25 billion budget for 1963-64 hangs in the balance along with additional revenues to offset anticipated deficits in fiscal year 1964-65. Brown has pledged a "fight right to the wire," and has issued a charge of "blackmail" concerning a Republican minority caucus threat to mount a vote blockade against passage of the budget unless his income tax withholding plan is defeated or withdrawn.

In other phases of the Governor's tax reform program, the Assembly has approved AB 1947 requiring quarterly payments of the insurance premium tax by private carriers. The vote was 43 to 26. ACA 33, closing the so-called "principal office" property tax deduction enjoyed by private carriers in the payment of the insurance premium tax, is waiting clearance from the lower house Constitutional Amendments Committee.

By a vote of 45 to 27 this week, the Assembly also approved and passed on to the Senate AB 1950, which would reduce the state gift tax exemption from \$4,000 to \$3,000, increasing State revenues by a half a million.

AB 1945, removing some 850,000 low- and moderate-income individuals and families from any tax liability under the State income tax law is currently on the Assembly Inactive File waiting for Ways and Means clearance of AB 1944 and 1946. This measure cancels the liability of single persons now paying \$5 and married couples paying \$10 or less in State income taxes.

The entire tax reform program is being carried by Assemblyman Nicholas C. Petris of Alameda County.

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House of Representatives Turns Down Extension of "Bracero" Importation Law

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grower efforts to secure Congressional approval of extension legislation in some form before the automatic expiration date.

Pitts warned affiliates to remain alert to these efforts which are sure to come. "We can't rest on Wednesday's decision until Congress adjourns," Pitts said.

In a formal statement to the press, the state labor leader attributed the House decision "not alone to the efforts of the AFL-CIO, but to an obvious expression of moral indignation on the part of the general public concerning the years of mass exploitation that have been sanctioned by law."

Pitts asserted:

"Contentions by growers that a labor shortage exists have been patently false for years, and they know it. There is an ample supply of domestic labor available. It's merely a question of the willingness of growers to compete for it under

American standards like other employers.

"The only shortage that exists has been, and is, a wage shortage imposed principally by large corporate farm industrialists who use the bracero program to exploit a foreign labor force while thousands of domestic farm workers—able and anxious to work—go jobless, hungry and, in many cases, homeless."

"The labor movement in this state," Pitts declared, "stands ready to assist California agriculture in obtaining the supply of qualified domestic labor needed to harvest crops."

In the course of hearings held by a subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee, the California Labor Federation provided extensive documentation of P. L. 78's adverse effect on domestic farm workers.

"The truth that shrieks at anyone who looks at the desperate plight of domestic farm workers is that at a time when productivity has risen faster in agriculture than in other segments of the economy, the wages of domestic farm workers, which were piteously low to begin with, have lagged farther and farther behind.

"I hope that this is just the initial step in the long march this nation has yet to make to correct the abuses that have been foisted through ignorance and indifference on our domestic farm laborers," Pitts declared.

Department to lend funds for experimental low-cost housing development to appropriate sponsors and to assist redevelopment programs where relocation problems exist.

4. The Department would analyze the housing market to assist private industry in meeting housing needs.

The transfer provisions regarding the Division of Housing provide that the existing budget, functions (code enforcement, licensing, etc.) and personnel of the Division would continue, but the name of the Division would become the Division of Housing Standards and its functions would be closely co-ordinated with the new Department's program.

It is anticipated that the bill will be re-referred to the Assembly Ways and Means Committee for clearance before a vote is taken on the floor of the lower house.

Equal Pay Bill Wins Approval In Both Houses

An 18-year crusade for equal pay for women neared fruition last week when both the Senate and the House approved an AFL-CIO backed bill to ban wage differentials based on sex.

The bill outlaws wage discrimination by employers covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act but does not apply to firms not covered by the law.

Minor differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill must be ironed out before it can be sent to President Kennedy for his signature but both bills presently contain provisions to prevent employers from "equalizing" wages by lowering the higher rates for men instead of raising the lower wages for women. During hearings on the bill, the AFL-CIO insisted that such a provision was "essential".

The legislation will become effective one year from the date of its enactment. Similar bills have been introduced in every Congress since 1945.

In urging all Congressmen to support the measure, AFL-CIO legislative director Andrew J. Biemiller said that although the bill does not "fully meet" the need for effective legislation, it is "in line with long-standing AFL-CIO policy in support of equal pay for women workers."

JFK Speaks His Mind on Key Role Of Labor Unions

In an address to the International Association of Machinists at their 75th Anniversary Banquet in Washington, President Kennedy spelled out what he thought about unions in no uncertain terms, saying:

"Those who may find fault with the labor movement today in the United States, as they find fault with so many things in this country, need only look abroad — in Latin America, in Europe, in all parts of the world — and see labor unions controlled either by the Communists or the government, or no labor unions. And when they find either one of those three conditions, they find inevitably poverty or totalitarianism.

"Therefore, I think it is a fair judgment to make that a free, active, progressive trade union movement stands for a free, active, progressive country. And that is the kind of country I am proud to be President of. . . .

Housing Bill Sent To Assembly Floor

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to pressing for modifications in federal legislation to meet California's particular housing needs. Missing from the bill are the bold recommendations of the Housing Commission to mobilize the State's credit to supplement federal programs and provide low and middle income housing within planned communities without discrimination or income stratification. (See News Letter, February 1 issue, containing the Commission's recommendations.)

Even in its emasculated form, the Z'berg bill is considered a step in the right direction. In its main features, AB 2976 provides for the following:

1. Creation of a State Housing and Community Development Department, constituting the existing Division of Housing, a new Division of Housing Development and an Advisory Commission with labor representation.

2. The Department would work with federal agencies to make federal programs more appropriate in California and would assist sponsors and local government in getting started on projects.

3. A sum (\$2,000,000) is in the Governor's budget to allow the new

DI Refund Notice

Well over \$4 million will be refunded this year to wage earners who overpaid their disability insurance premiums last year, but only if they apply for their refunds by June 30.

Nearly four and a half million California wage earners were covered by non-occupational disability insurance in 1962, and paid one percent of their first \$4,100 in wages for this insurance.

Persons who work for two or more employers in a year may have too much deducted for this purpose because each employer, as required by law, makes a withholding for disability insurance.

When the wage earner's total of withholdings for this purpose exceed \$41 for the year he becomes entitled to a refund of the excess.

More than 235,000 Californians applied for such refunds last year and received checks averaging \$20. Such refunds, however, are not automatic. Persons entitled to them must file the necessary application with the Department of Employment.

Application forms are available at any of the Department's offices.

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headlines and unlead type "that make the paper difficult to read and unattractive to the eye."

5—Strive for livelier editorials. Emmerich also said, however, that he and the other judges "were tremendously impressed by the general quality of the many labor press newspapers and magazines we examined. The publications were competently edited, imaginative,

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\$400 Executives

The Assembly has approved legislation (AB 2444, Foran) providing that executives, administrators, and professional women must earn \$400, rather than \$350, per month in order to be exempt from the women's eight hour law. This is the standard recently adopted by the Industrial Welfare Commission in its revision of wage orders covering women and minors.

AB 983 (Bane), which would undermine the eight hour law by re-enacting the so called defense production act, is still in Ways and Means having won clearance from the lower house Industrial Relations Committee over the opposition of the Federation.

Public Employees Political Rights

On a 60 to 12 rollcall vote the Assembly has approved and sent to the Senate AB 856 (Petrus), increasing the area of permissible political activities by public employees at the local level. The measure preempts the field of political activities and gives public employees at the local level the right to participate fully in political campaigns for state and federal offices during their off-work hours. Restrictions on participation in local political activities is left to local option along with authority to curb political activities during working hours.

In the upper house, the measure has been referred to the Senate Governmental Efficiency Committee.

and extremely vigorous in many cases. I suspect that, on the whole, they show up a similar cross-section of small-town and big-city commercial newspapers."

TV Repair Bill

Legislation sponsored by the State's Consumer Counsel (SB 1292—Short) has won initial approval by the Senate Business and Professions Committee and is currently waiting clearance from the upper house Finance Committee. On a two-year trial basis, the bill prohibits fraudulent, deceptive and grossly incompetent practices—including false and misleading advertising of repair services. It sets up a Bureau of Electronic Repair Dealer Registration authorized to "police" repairmen. The Bureau would be authorized to informally adjust complaints received from consumers and to seek court injunctions, if necessary, to prevent continued unlawful practices.

Another regulatory measure in the TV and radio repair field, AB 1359 (Beilenson) has passed the Assembly and has been referred to the upper house Governmental Efficiency Committee.

Auto Repairs

Federation-sponsored legislation, AB 2638 (Meyers), providing for the licensing of automotive repair shops and the certification of mechanics as to their competency, is set for hearing before the Assembly Transportation and Commerce Committee on June 4. The measure is designed to provide consumers with protections against abuses in the automotive repair field.

A different approach to the same problem in legislation sponsored by the State's Consumer Counsel has been defeated. The measure, AB 2348 (Kennick), provided for the registration of repair shops only, and authorized a state agency to spot check repairs and prohibit deceptive and generally negligent practices. The Kennick Bill has been referred to Interim Committee for study.

California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
995 Market Street
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