

## Pitts Warns Of Bracero Revival Efforts

The die-hard reluctance of agribusiness to accept Congressional and popular rejection of the Bracero program is becoming increasingly evident with the unfolding of a broad propaganda campaign to renew Public Law 78 in some form after its scheduled December 31 cutoff date.

The latest in a series of hastily assembled Congressional bills was offered last week by Representatives Utt, Teague, Talcott, Martin, Gubser and Clausen, all Republicans from California.

Providing for a three-year extension of the Mexican farm labor importation program, the bills would permit 150,000 braceros to be brought in during 1964. This ceiling would taper off to 120,000 and 90,000 levels in the following two years.

Over half of the 195,000 braceros brought into the country this year were utilized in California.

In announcing the proposed three-year extension bill, Congressman Utt made clear the fact that his measure was being supported to the hilt by the cannery, food

(Continued on Page 4)

## Brown Raps Senate Minority For Merciless Slashes in State's Budget

A bare bones budget bill of \$3.1 billion was signed by Governor Edmund G. Brown last Saturday after what the Governor called "a minority of Senate members, catering to a handful of corporate interests blocked the will of the majority" and defeated the tax reforms he had proposed.

The worst casualty of the minority block's action which slashed the Governor's budget by more than \$97 million was education. In addition to chopping large sums for capital outlay and other support for the University of California and the state college system, the legislature's action blocked a \$100 million increase in apportionments to local school districts over the next two years. It also dumped salary increases for state employees.

Following the rejection of the Administration's labor-supported revenue proposals, the legislature adopted a budget that was balanced by cutting out all support for new and augmented programs beyond normal workload increases. This will result in a severe curtailment of social welfare and health services if sources of additional revenue are not provided during the special



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Executive  
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# Weekly News Letter

Vol. 5—No. 27  
July 5, 1963

Published by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO



## Eight Students Top 459 Others To Win \$500 State Labor Fed Scholarships

Eight college-bound high school graduates are \$500 richer today. They were named winners this Monday of eight \$500 scholarships offered in the 13th Annual Scholarship Competition sponsored by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. The winners are:

Stan Speros Draenos, 17, of 2817 E. Hampton Way, and a student of McLane High School, Fresno; Raymond Norman Palmer, 17, of 465 Lakewood Circle, and a student at Las Lomas High School, Walnut Creek; Bradford Curie Snell, 17, of 590 Rim Rock Rd., El Cajon, and a student at Grossmont High School, Grossmont; Winfred Ray Hadley, 17, of 2281 Cochran Rd., and a student at McKinleyville High School, Arcata; Susan Thomas, 18, of 3629 Wawona Drive, and a student at Point Loma High School, San

Diego; Maryellen Vizcarra, 17, of 1826 Alfreda Blvd., San Pablo and a student at Richmond Union High School, Richmond; Leo C. H. Soong, 17, of 2916 Avalon Ave., Berkeley, and a student at St. Ignatius High School, San Francisco; and Richard H. Smith, 16, of 430 Elwood Ave., and a student at Oakland High School, Oakland.

Further details on the interests and ambitions of the scholarship winners will be carried in a subsequent edition of the News Letter.

### No Restrictions

Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the state labor Federation, explained that the winners may apply their awards at any accredited college or university. No restrictions of any kind are placed on the future course of study undertaken by them, he added.

The winners were selected on the basis of a two-hour written examination held on May 17 at the various high schools of the 467 competing students. The examination was designed to explore and evaluate the students' knowledge and understanding of labor and industrial problems and his ability to convey this knowledge. The test also sought to determine the students' understanding of past and present social and economic conditions that have affected labor-management relations.

All graduating seniors in all California high schools, both public and private, were eligible to compete for the scholarships.

### Judges Named

Serving on the three-man panel of judges for the 1963 examination

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued on Page 3)

## **A Force for Progress**

### **State Fact Finding Agency Honored at Four-Day Economic Conference in S.F.**

California's Division of Labor Statistics and Research was honored in San Francisco last week for 80 years of public service at the 21st Interstate Conference on Labor Statistics.

The 4-day conference, the first ever held on the West Coast, brought together top economists, statisticians, educators, labor and business leaders for an extensive discussion of the economic facts of life—past, present and future.

Maurice I. Gershenson, Chief of the Division, was honored in the course of the conference for directing the state's labor statistics program for the past 25 years. In commenting on the state's spectacular growth, Gershenson noted that some of the earliest reports of the division which was then called the California Bureau of Labor Statistics, indicated that factory wages were about \$18 per week and that the 12 hour day was not uncommon although more enlightened industries had reduced the work day to 10 hours.

In contrast, today's weekly earnings in manufacturing industries average \$114 per week and the prevailing work week is 40 hours or less.

Some of the statistics gathered by the agency in 1883 revealed work weeks as long as 98 hours, or more than 16 hours a day, 6 days a week.

#### **State's Growth Tallied**

During the four score years of its existence, the agency has tallied the state's population as it rose from less than 1 million to well over 17 million. In the same period the labor force has grown from less than 500,000 to more than 6.5 million and the state has moved from 23rd in population among the then 38 United States and 21st in size of labor force, to first in both population and labor force. Union membership during this interval rose from about 25,000 to 1.75 million.

Gershenson won another tribute last year when he was named a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in recognition of the state's outstanding labor statistics program.

The Division, part of the State Department of Industrial Relations which is under the direction of Ernest B. Webb, compiles statistics of the number of persons employed, hours worked, earnings, in what industries and where. It also develops statistics on wages and prevailing collective bargaining practices that are used in negotiations and arbitrations as well as other data relating to health, welfare and pension plans, union membership, strikes and lockouts.

In addition it measures the cost of

living for a self-supporting working woman. These latter figures are developed for use in setting the California minimum wage for women and minors.

#### **Studies Bare Abuses**

Over the years, studies by the division that have documented the exploitation and abuses inflicted on California workers have sparked so much public indignation that they have led to the enactment of protective labor legislation.

For example, in 1910 a survey of women's wages found such wages to be so low that the results of the survey were used successfully to support Governor Hiram Johnson's proposals in 1913 to enact a minimum wage law for women and minors.

Likewise reports that demonstrated that women were being required to work excessively long hours resulted in the enactment of the state's 8-hour law for women.

Flagrant abuses by fee-charging employment agencies which were disclosed in studies made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics resulted in the enactment of laws to regulate and license such agencies and led to the creation of public employment agencies which initially were operated by the California Bureau of Labor Statistics.

#### **Fake Schools Attacked**

Again in the 1920's a Bureau survey revealed the exploitation of "extras" by fake movie schools and unscrupulous employment agencies. This survey brought about the birth of the Central Casting Corporation, a central employment office the cost of which was borne by the movie producers.

Even in its infancy, however, the Bureau was in the forefront of improving social conditions. In the 1880's when rooms for housekeeping rented for \$10 to \$20 per month and a seamstress could earn only fifty cents per day or \$3 for a six day week, the Bureau surveyed some 527 prostitutes in San Francisco to determine what led them into prostitution.

The Bureau's report, which made it abundantly clear that inadequate wages were the principal cause, read in part:

"Many women have declared that before leading a life of shame they had toiled night after night to keep body and soul together.... Just think what the temptations are to a girl who is thrown on her own resources entirely, and who has to pay for her board and room, and clothe herself besides, on

such a miserable pittance (50 cents per day). No friends except those picked up at a cheap boarding house. The dull monotony of the work, the joyless, colorless existence, the absence possibly of ambition, make young and reasonably healthy women yearn for sympathy and crave for some little pleasure. Temperament is everything in such matters, and the best moral training in the world fails to act in every case on a vivacious young woman left alone in a large city."

#### **Evolution Noted**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics became the Division of Labor Statistics and Law Enforcement when the Department of Industrial Relations was formed in 1927. In 1945 all statistical activities of the Department of Industrial Relations were consolidated in the renamed Division of Labor Statistics and Research and all law enforcement functions previously undertaken by the agency were assigned to a separate division of Labor Law Enforcement.

The four day conference in San Francisco heard reports on manpower and occupational outlook problems, new developments in industrial relations and accident prevention statistics, prices and living conditions, and the national interest in economic growth.

Ewan Clague, Commissioner of Labor Statistics for the U. S. Department of Labor, summarized the conference prior to its adjournment on noon Friday.

Speaking earlier on the subject of the current economic situation, Clague put his finger on the key economic fact of the present time, "namely, that the labor force is growing faster than employment."

#### **Key Economic Fact**

"One reason for this," Clague said, "is that the productivity of the economy, expressed as the output of goods and services per man-hour of labor, has continued to show a strong trend. The increase in output per man-hour for the total private economy (excluding government) increased nearly four percent from 1961 to 1962... in other words, the nation continues to obtain a larger increase in output than in the labor required to produce it."

Citing the recent steel settlement as reflecting a general pattern of a slowing down in the rate of wage increases, Clague pointed out that the annual rate of wage increases is about 2.5 percent, which is appreciably lower than the trend in productivity.

These factors, coupled with declining wholesale prices for farm and industrial commodities, help explain why unemployment for the first five months of 1963 has averaged about 200,000 higher than in the previous year, Clague said.

And there is every indication that unemployment will continue to rise, especially among teenagers where it was at a rate of 18% in May, he inferred.

# Brown Raps Senate Minority for Slashing State Budget

(Continued from Page 1)

budget for local assistance in connection with licensing and adoptions is expected to have a disastrous effect in depriving large numbers of children of the benefits of prompt and suitable adoptive placement.

A cut of \$1.6 million from the Department of Mental Hygiene's budget cancels proposals to provide new services for children and initiate a geriatric program to reduce hospital populations as well as to acquire needed increased drug supplies and other materials.

Another \$2 million which would have been used to liberalize the Short-Doyle program of aid to local mental hygiene clinics also fell under the legislators' ax.

Governor Brown said it was "tragic that the eleventh hour trimming of his budget by the legislature should strike its most severe blow at education.

"It is doubly tragic because it

## 8 Students Win \$500 Scholarships In Fed's Contest

(Continued from Page 1)

were: Otto Morgenstern, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Economics, University of San Francisco; Leon F. Lee, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Industrial Relations, San Jose State College, San Jose; and Benjamin Aaron, L.L.B., Director, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California at Los Angeles.

Of the eight scholarships awarded this year, five were made available through the direct cooperation of the following affiliates of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO:

The Los Angeles Building and Construction Trades Council; the Legislative Board of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen; the California State Council of Carpenters; the Carpenters Ladies Auxiliary, California State Council; and the California State Council of Culinary Workers, Bartenders, and Hotel and Motel Service Employees.

Local central labor bodies, unions and school officials throughout the state cooperated with the Federation to encourage participation in the scholarship competition.

did not have to be that way. The revenue proposals that I submitted called for tax reforms across-the-board for industry and individual taxpayers alike.

"A majority of the members of the Senate approved my plan for full support of California schools, public health programs, libraries and many, many other urgently needed services.

"But a minority of the Senate members, catering to a handful of corporate interests, blocked the will of the majority.

"They were able to do this because the California constitution provides banks and corporations with special protection in tax matters.

"A two-thirds vote is required in the legislature to change the tax status of corporations, although there is no such provision for individual taxpayers. The minority ruled on my revenue proposals. It was able to veto the will of the majority because of that special protection," the Governor declared.

Assemblyman Phillip Burton of San Francisco said this week that he would seek a constitutional amendment to reduce legislative votes affecting taxes of banks and corporations to a simple majority.

Burton said that the fact that "taxes paid by individuals may be effected by a majority vote of the Assembly and Senate but a two-thirds vote is required to change the taxes of banks and corpora-

tions" results in "a special and unfair privilege." The majority of both houses favor changes in the tax structure of banks and corporations and the will of the majority is nullified by the two-thirds vote requirement, he said.

Following a close examination of the budget presented to him by the legislature, the Governor said:

"I found that even the level of this budget—which is totally inadequate to California's needs—cannot be supported for more than a year by current revenues. As a result, I have trimmed out two kinds of items—those which can safely be deferred for a time, and those which committed the state to heavy long-term expenditures with no guarantee of long-term revenues to support them."

One of the most important items that the Governor found necessary to delete was \$5,828,900 for the Santa Cruz Campus of the University of California.

"I do not disapprove this project," he said. "On the contrary, I think it is a magnificent and imaginative plan for a new kind of University of California campus."

"But," he explained, referring to all the items lopped off the budget:

"I cannot, in conscience, commit the state of California to a project which will require hundreds of millions of dollars for construction and operation until I know that the necessary revenues and supporting programs will be forthcoming."

## 'Aid Desegregation,' Meany Urges

More than 800 AFL-CIO central bodies have been urged by Federation President George Meany to take an active part in forming biracial committees "to accelerate the destruction of racial barriers at the local level."

Noting that President Kennedy urged the labor movement to help speed up national progress on civil rights by joining vigorously with such groups where they already exist, Meany pointed out that the President's request is "wholly in keeping with existing AFL-CIO policy as established by the 1961 convention."

The civil rights resolution adopted by the delegates to the AFL-CIO convention in 1961 reads in part as follows:

"We look to the civil rights com-

mittees of our central bodies to initiate community-wide civil rights inventories and to develop corrective programs in the light of their finding.

"It is our purpose not only to mobilize the resources of organized labor to eliminate all discrimination in its own ranks, but also to enlist community-wide support of labor's drive against discrimination."

"As you see," Meany said, "the President is requesting no more than the convention itself proposed. Those central bodies which have not yet acted on the basis of the convention resolutions should now proceed without delay to set up a civil rights or human rights committee, take an inventory of dis-

(Continued on Page 4)

# Pitts Warns of Agribusiness' Efforts To Revive Bracero Shop

(Continued from Page 1)

machinery, trucking and wood container interests.

Cautioning against complacency based on the recent House of Representatives vote terminating Public Law 78, Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation AFL-CIO, declared:

"It would be a tragic mistake to underestimate the potential strength of the corporate processors and growers on this issue. As a wage-cutting device serving the profits of integrated agribusiness interests, the bracero program has been a windfall of unprecedented proportions. It is unlikely that such a 'gold mine' will be abandoned without a major counter-offensive capable of reversing the recent vote in Congress.

"The demagogic appeals of the agribusiness public relations effort won't miss a trick. Unless we remain alert to the situation, the crocodile tears that are already being shed will drown the first major ray of hope that has crossed the lives of America's millions of farm workers and their families in many years."

Although the three-year extension proposal professes to gradually phase out the program, Pitts noted that even this aspect of the bill is illusory. He based his conclusion on the fact that the annual ceilings prescribed as to the number of braceros to be permitted are on a head count basis exclusive of re-contracts. Through extensive recontracting of the 150,000 braceros to be admitted in 1964, as an example, it is quite possible that the man-hours of bracero labor utilized could actually dwarf the role such workers have played in American agriculture during the recent past.

While stressing the farcical nature of these "phase-out" bills, Representative Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D., N.Y.) declared on the House floor:

"In actual practice, the difference between these new bills and the one defeated by the House on May 29 is that these measures would extend the Mexican Farm Labor Importation Program for three years, while the one previously defeated would have extended it for only two years."

Other bills introduced in recent weeks include a one-year extension proposal offered by Representative Burt Talcott, a Republican from Salinas, and a similar measure co-authored by two Republican Congressmen from Colorado.

Although none of these attempts to resurrect the bracero program have as yet been reported out of committee, observers in Washington, D.C. have warned of the danger that legislators sympathetic to the bracero users might be able to maneuver one or more of the proposals onto the floor.

## Williams Bills Move

Six of the Williams migrant farm workers bills, S. 521-S. 526, have passed the U.S. Senate.

## 'Aid Desegregation,' Meany Urges

(Continued from Page 3)

crimination problems within our own ranks and in the community, immediately formulate a program to deal with these problems and proceed to implement this program.

"If you desire advice, counsel or technical assistance in this area, please call on me at once. Also please keep me informed of your progress," Meany added.

Meany dispatched a separate letter to state bodies calling on them to assist local bodies and to create or encourage bi-racial organizations at the state level.

"As you know," Meany said, "in many states some areas of discrimination—employment, housing and public accommodations, for example—are already covered by

The legislation would improve educational opportunities for migrant children and adults (S. 521); authorize grants for day-care facilities for migratory children (S. 522); prohibit harmful agricultural child labor (S. 523); require Federal registration of crew leaders (S. 524); establish a National Advisory Council on Migratory Labor (S. 525); and authorize grants for sanitation facilities (S. 526).

The bills, authored by Senator Harrison Williams (D., New Jersey), are now pending in the House of Representatives. S. 526 has been referred to the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce; the other five bills have been referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

A crew leader registration bill similar to S. 524 has already been favorably reported by the House Education and Labor Committee. This measure, H.R. 6242, was reported on June 4, 1963, and is now pending before the House Committee on Rules.

state law. A thorough look at the extent to which such laws are being enforced would be a most appropriate activity for a state bi-racial group. Where no such laws exist, the need for better inter-racial communication is even more pressing.

"Therefore I ask you to proceed without delay along the lines set forth in my letter to the local central bodies."

The California Labor Federation's Executive Board was scheduled to consider various methods of augmenting and implementing the President's request at the Executive Council meeting to be held at the Edgewater Inn Marina Hotel in Long Beach next Tuesday and Wednesday, July 9-10 in Long Beach.

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