

## Public Works Jobs In State Must Be Expanded: Pitts

Disclosure that four new state-federal accelerated public works projects have brought the total of such projects in California to \$818,190 won cautioned praise this week from Thos. L. Pitts, state AFL-CIO leader.

"This sum unfortunately is a mere drop-in-the-bucket if considered realistically in the light of California's snowballing community needs," Pitts declared.

Pointing out that California's jobless rate has increased every month for the past three months while the national rate has been declining, Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO said:

"A vastly expanded federal-state program along these lines is absolutely essential if we are to come to grips in any meaningful way with the state's pressing unemployment problem."

In announcing the four new projects recently approved by the Wildlife Conservation Board, Governor Edmund G. Brown praised the Accelerated Public Works (APW) program as "an outstanding example of how the state and federal governments can cooperate to stimulate the economy of labor-surplus areas and, at the same time, produce important conservation bene-

(Continued on Page 2)

## U.S.-State Probes of Bracero Bus Crash Pressed as Vote Nears on PL 78 Extension

As Congress prepares to vote on a measure to extend Public Law 78 one more year, federal and state authorities continued their grim investigations this week of a tragic truck-train crash that splattered out the lives of 31 braceros and injured another 30 at a rail crossing near Chualar eight miles south of Salinas on September 17.

## New AFL-CIO Film Now Available

The new AFL-CIO 30-minute film, "In Common Brotherhood," which was telecast on some 60 TV stations throughout the nation last Labor Day weekend is being released immediately for use in union and community education programs as well as in high school and college classes.

Copies of the film, which de-

(Continued on Page 2)



THOS. L. PITTS  
Executive  
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## Civil Rights Push Today Parallels Unions' Fight in '30s, Gruhn Tells NAACP Parley

"The demands of Negroes today for civil rights—and their impatience—has a close parallel in the demands of workers for union rights in the 1930s and other periods of uprisings by labor," Albin J. Gruhn, president of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, declared over the weekend in an address to the NAACP Biennial Conference at Asilomar.

"The importance of the parallel," Gruhn asserted, "extends far beyond mere recognition of the similarities."

"In our rapidly automating society, it should be obvious that the security of some workers cannot be bought at the expense of the insecurity of other workers. By the same token, no free trade union movement in a modern industrial society can possibly survive that does not accept the equal rights drives of minorities as its drive and function."

While noting that organized labor, from President Meany on down, has not denied discrimination problems where they exist

(Continued on Page 3)

## Court Triumph For Firefighters Ends 8-Year Fight

After more than eight years of legislative and legal battling, the State Supreme Court last month upheld the right of fire fighters to join unions and declared that all cities—whether operating under a charter or under general laws—must recognize the unions.

The decision represents a long sought, clear-cut victory for the International Association of Fire Fighters and the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, which had carried the issue first through the legislature and finally through the courts to insure that the intent of the legislature's mandate was upheld.

"The high court's ruling banishes a legal cloud manufactured by anti-union elements to inhibit union organization and activity by fire fighters," Thos. L. Pitts, state AFL-CIO leaders, pointed out.

The history of the case goes back to at least 1955 when a measure to write the right of fire fighters to organize unions into state law was first introduced in the legislature.

Four years later in 1959, AB 618 (McMillan), a federation-sponsored bill that established a new chapter in the Labor Code relating specifically to fire fighters was finally passed and signed by Governor Brown. The measure stated that fire fighters shall have the right to self-organization, to form, join, or

(Continued on Page 4)

## Public Works Jobs Expansion Urged

(Continued from Page 1)

fits especially valuable to sportsmen."

To date the APW program in California has been largely confined to wildlife conservation projects for which the Wildlife Conservation Board provides the state's share of the cost from the Wildlife Restoration Fund. Half of the project costs are reimbursed by the federal government under the program.

At present, 15 APW projects are underway. The four new projects, which will be constructed in 1964, are:

- Improvement of the dam and expansion of recreation facilities at Fannon Reservoir near Placerville, \$35,000.
- Construction of a new Lower Sardine Lake dam in the Lakes Basin Area of Sierra County to assure continued existence of the lake since the present dam has been condemned, \$60,000.
- Development of boat launching facilities at Dos Reis on the San Joaquin River near Stockton, \$44,000.
- Construction of a new water supply system for the state's San Joaquin Fish Hatchery near Fresno to reduce fish production costs and shorten the rearing time for fish by supplying warmer water for the hatchery, \$44,850.

## Special Election to Pick State Senator in 7th Dist.

A special primary election has been set for November 5 to choose nominees for a special runoff election on December 3 to select a successor to State Senator Ronald G. Cameron of Placer County who was appointed to the Superior Court last month by Governor Edmund G. Brown.

Assemblyman Paul Lunardi (Dem-Placer County) has announced that he will run for Cameron's seat in the 7th State Senate District.

The special primary election will be the first implementation of a new law (AB 3042) enacted by the 1963 Legislature. Under this law any candidate receiving a majority of all votes cast in the primary would be elected and the December 3 election would be cancelled. If no candidate receives a majority in the special primary then the candidate of each qualified political party receiving the highest vote will be placed on the special election ballot for December 3.

## Medics Education Aid Bill Sent to JFK

Rejecting an abortive attempt by Senator Barry Goldwater (Rep. Arizona) to kill a student loan provision, the U. S. Senate has passed and sent to the White House a \$236,400,000 measure to provide aid to medical education.

The bill, the first of President Kennedy's education measures to clear Congress, was approved by a vote of 63-18, the same vote by which Goldwater's amendment to cut out the student loan provision was defeated.

The measure calls for the following program over a three year period:

- Construction of teaching facilities to train physicians, nurses, professional public health personnel, optometrists, pharmacists and podiatrists—\$105 million.
- Facilities to train dentists — \$35 million.
- Replacement or rehabilitation of existing teaching facilities — \$35 million.
- Loans to students in medicine, dentistry and osteopathy to be administered by the schools which will be required to put up 10 percent of the funds—\$30.7 million.
- Additional loans to permit students who have received loans for academic years ending before July 1, 1966, to continue their education—\$30.7 million.

Interest rates on student loans will be three percent annually or the "going federal rate" based on market prices of long term federal bonds, whichever is higher. The loans are repayable within 10 years starting three years after graduation.

Matching grants to build new facilities or expand old ones may cover up to two-thirds of the cost of construction so far as teaching facilities for physicians, dentists, nurses, optometrists, pharmacists, and podiatrists are concerned.

Grants to schools of public health may cover up to 75 percent of the cost but other grants may not exceed 50 percent of construction costs.

## Education and Joblessness

The unemployment rate last year for adult males (25 to 54 years of age) with an eighth grade education was nine percent. For those who went to high school — but didn't finish—it was seven percent; for high school graduates, well below four percent; and for those with some college education about two percent, according to the U. S. Department of Labor.

## New AFL-CIO Film Now Available

(Continued from Page 1)

picts organized labor's efforts to strengthen free trade unions throughout the world and to stymie Communist efforts to subvert them may be purchased outright for \$50. The film is also being added to the AFL-CIO library and may be rented for \$3.00 per showing.

George Guernsey, assistant director of the AFL-CIO Department of Education said an unusually heavy demand is expected for this film so he urged central labor bodies or local unions or other groups to place their rental requests at least three weeks in advance.

Requests to purchase or rent the film should be addressed to Mr. George Guernsey, AFL-CIO Department of Education, 815 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20006. All checks should be made payable to William Schnitzler, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO.

In an epilogue to the film, George Meany, AFL-CIO President, pointed out that American labor is anti-Communist "because we believe in freedom." Noting that all totalitarian governments, whether Communist or Fascist, are alike, Meany declared: "We are equally opposed to all of them."

The title of the movie is taken from a phrase that President Kennedy voiced when he referred to individual welfare and dignity and the desire of becoming a person "in the highest sense of the word."

"These are the inspirations we share with the people of the world. They weld us together in common brotherhood . . ." President Kennedy declared.

## Effective Date of Radiation Safety Standards Deferred

The effective date for the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act Radiation Safety and Health Standards has been postponed from September 8 to January 6, 1964, by Secretary of Labor, W. Willard Wirtz in order to give consideration to requested changes.

The Act sets basic labor standards for employees working on government supply contracts in excess of \$10,000 and contains minimum wage, overtime pay, safety and health, and child labor provisions.

# Civil Rights Push Parallels Labor's Fight in '30s, NAACP is Told

(Continued from Page 1)

"within our ranks," Gruhn pointed out that labor's admission of problem areas "has been frank and forthright."

**"My quarrel is with those who out of bigotry or otherwise want to accentuate or exploit remaining problem areas and deny, obscure or hide the basic and fundamental commitment of the labor movement to removing the cancer of discrimination from American life," the AFL-CIO official stated.**

Gruhn called attention to the fact that enactment of FEP legislation in 1959 and the Rumford Fair Housing Bill in the 1963 session was made possible by virtue of the fact that civil rights, religious and labor groups pooled their efforts to work together through the California Committee for Fair Practices.

## REAL OPPONENTS CITED

"All of these were accomplished over the opposition of many business and industry groups who would today have the public believe that labor wants to drag its feet on the civil rights front," Gruhn declared.

After reviewing the leading role played by the California Labor Federation in establishing a minority problems workshop at the 1960 Apprenticeship Conference which resulted in the formation of the Committee on Apprenticeship Opportunities for Minority Groups, Gruhn directed his attentions to the needs of the future.

"There is much that needs to be done within the framework of the California Plan to substantially improve training opportunities. Apprenticeship clearing houses or information centers were established on a pilot basis in Fresno and Los Angeles, and there is one now operating in San Francisco, but there is room for vast expansion and improvement. Work on the formation of local committees to supplement and complement the Statewide Committee on Equal Opportunities in Apprenticeship and Training must also be accelerated," he said.

**But even under perfect conditions, no appreciable dent can be made in the overall job problem of Negroes through apprenticeship programs alone, he said.**

"Unfortunately, recently enacted legislation at both the federal and state levels is geared essentially to institutional type train-

ing rather than the expansion of on-the-job training opportunities. This is a serious matter which involves a fundamental re-evaluation of the relationships between vocational and other institutional type training on the one hand and on-the-job training on the other," Gruhn asserted.

"Unless we know the direction in which we must move to match men and jobs to meet the needs of industry, the obstacles will become larger and larger. We must accelerate the attack against the cancerous growth of school dropouts by stepping up youth counseling programs at all levels," he said.

## JOBS ARE KEY PROBLEM

"But the fundamental problem for all workers is the volume of jobs," he declared.

**"Equal opportunity, in other words, can have meaning only if there is full opportunity for all and there are jobs for all Americans. Our mutual efforts must support and apply pressure to secure the adoption of economic programs on the national, state and local level to reduce unemployment, spur economic growth, and achieve full employment with the aid of government moving to satisfy the backlog of social and community needs," he said.**

The problems of economic growth and jobs stand "not only as the greatest threat to the success of the equal rights movement but also as the greatest potential source of any internal conflict between the civil rights and labor movements in the implementation of our mutual objectives," he pointed out.

In a labor market in which there are not enough jobs to go around, "people don't always behave rationally, even though they may be fully committed, morally and intellectually, to sound principles of unionism and equal rights," he explained.

## SPECIAL TREATMENT ISSUE

"This is the kind of situation that gives rise to charges that special treatment is being sought for Negroes and other minority group members seeking employment. Morally—given the past pattern of discrimination, the cumulative suffering of the Negro, and other considerations—the demand for special treatment might be the basis for argument.

**"But does this change the practical situation? . . . Will those who are currently teetering on the brink of unemployment and already vying with each other to hold their jobs yield to make way for others?" he asked.**

"This is the practical problem we face in many instances in our economy today as we move together to implement equal rights that have behind them the moral force of generations of suffering," Gruhn stated.

A "modern tragedy" would take place if civil rights groups, such as the NAACP, and organized labor ever permitted "a wedge to be driven between our movements," he said.

Turning to the recently enacted Rumford Fair Housing Bill (AB 1240), Gruhn said that the full implementation of that act "must be within the framework of an economic program geared specifically to the needs of low and moderate income families . . ."

## LEGISLATURE FAILS TO ACT

Despite the fact that California has a "magnificent report" on the state's housing problems, the state legislature in the last session "failed to take even one minor step to carry out a housing program so vital to a successful fair housing program . . . (and) . . . there is still no real indication that California is prepared to mobilize the state's credit to meet fundamental human needs in housing."

Calling on the conference delegates to face the facts, Gruhn declared:

**"When we talk about fair housing—about implementing equal rights in the housing field—we must be prepared to take on the financial interests and the land speculators that are part of the power structure that dominate the housing policies of this state. The labor movement has been pointing this out for years and the civil rights movement cannot postpone the day of reckoning with it any longer if fair housing is to amount to anything more than a high sounding phrase."**

If the civil rights groups and organized labor "continue to move together on the moral, legislative and economic fronts—with God's help—victory can and will be won, not in the distant future but now," Gruhn concluded.

# Firefighters Victory in State High Court

(Continued from Page 1)

assist labor organizations, to present grievances and recommendations on wages, salaries, hours and working conditions to their governing body, and to discuss these issues with such governing body through their unions but that they shall not have the right to strike.

The measure also stipulated that fire fighters shall not have the right to recognize a picket line when performing their official duties as fire fighters.

Despite the fact that these rights were spelled out in the State Labor Code, some local fire chiefs and community officials attempted to ignore the law.

The first court test came in a case involving a Merced County fire captain named Monroe Johnson who was dismissed for unionizing activities on May 12, 1961.

On appeal to the courts, Johnson's dismissal was initially upheld by a Merced Superior Court but the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1396, AFL-CIO, appealed the decision to the Fifth District Court of Appeals which reversed the lower court's decision on June 4, 1962.

Subsequently, in a stipulated judgment, the fire captain was reinstated to his post with a lump sum settlement for pay lost and Merced County and its fire department agreed that they would "at all times comply with Sections 1960-1963 of the Labor Code . . . and . . . that the county and the fire department will not discriminate against either Monroe Johnson or anyone else by reason of his activities in the labor union. . . ."

This case, finally resolved late in January 1963, involved the first appellate court ruling on the provisions of AB 618.

But the State Supreme Court ruling last month further engraved the rights of California's fire fighters

to organize the body of California law. The decisions were rendered into two cases involving the cities of Los Angeles and Palo Alto.

The Los Angeles suit, filed by Local 748 and its president William B. Wheatley, involved the right of a fire fighters' union to sue its governing body. The union sought to restrain fire department officials from interfering with the efforts of union fire fighters to present their views on salary boosts before the city council.

Reversing a lower court decision the Supreme Court directed the Superior Court to hold a trial on the suit.

In the Palo Alto case, involving Local 1319 of the IAFF, the Supreme Court reaffirmed judgments made by a Superior Court and the District Court of Appeals that fire fighters did have the right to organize and present grievances and recommendations on wages, hours and working conditions to the city government. The city of Palo Alto had contended that chartered cities were autonomous and therefore not subject to Sections 1960-1963 of the State Labor Code.

The decisions in both cases were written by Justice Raymond J. Peters, who noted:

"Labor relations are of the same state-wide concern as workmen's compensation, liability of municipalities for perfecting and filing of claims and the requirement to subscribe to loyalty oaths, all of which have been held to be governed by general law in contravention of local regulations by chartered cities."

The jurist also noted that: "There are innumerable authorities holding that general law prevails over local enactments of a chartered city, even in regard to matters which would otherwise be deemed to be strictly municipal affairs, where the subject law is of state-wide concern."

# Bus Crash Probe

(Continued from Page 1)

ican farm workers killed in accidents while being transported to or from the fields where they worked indicate the answer to the governor's question is: No!

In California 125 farm workers were killed and 2,754 injured between 1952 and 1962, figures that appear to be utterly out of proportion to the general accident rate considering the number of people involved, Maurice I. Gershenson, chief of the State Division of Labor Statistics, said.

Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz sent Frank Potter, National Director of the Labor Department's Farm Labor Service and Albert Norton, Regional Director to Salinas to conduct the federal investigation. They are seeking to determine whether safety standards applying to the transportation of Mexican farm workers had been violated.

Assemblyman Edward M. Gaffney (D-S.F.) chairman of the subcommittee on Industrial Safety of the interim committee on Industrial Relations announced early this week that he planned to hold a two-day hearing on the crash at Hartnell College in Salinas on Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. Monday's hearing will start at 11 a.m. and Tuesday's at 10 a.m.

At Boulder, Colorado a resolution adopted by the migrant committee of the National Council of Churches said the accident points up the need for more protective legislation.

"Such appalling accidents which occur in every harvest season should cause every American to take to heart the plight of one million migratory farm workers," the resolution said.

A demand to expand the investigation "to expose to public view the many vicious practices and distressing conditions surrounding the operation of Public Law 78" was made by the Rev. John Simmons, Chairman of the Emergency Committee to Aid Farm Workers.

In telegrams to Governor Brown and Secretary of Labor Wirtz last Friday, the Rev. Simmons also urged investigation of charges of "prostitutes (being) brought into barracks housing braceros and a multitude of other evils."

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