

'Isn't Four-bits An Hour Too Much For Fruit Pickers?'

A stinging indictment of the pitifully low wage rates paid for farm labor crept into a question and answer series that appeared in the Sacramento Bee recently under the heading "Harvest Peak Brings Farm Youth Employment Questions."

Cited by the State Department of Employment as one of the questions most repeatedly asked by growers was:

"If a woman or minor works all day on a piece rate basis and picks \$3 worth of fruit must the grower pay the minimum \$4 wage?"

The department's answer—for women and minors only—is: Yes, under Wage Order 14 of the state Industrial Welfare Commission.

The department didn't mention the fact that for adult males the answer is "No". Adult male domestic farm workers are not covered by any minimum wage law.

Also unmentioned was the fact that growers are required to pay braceros—imported Mexican Nationals—a minimum of \$1 per hour.

Thus even if a woman works only 8 hours a day harvesting fruit in California on a piece rate basis the piece rate is apparently frequently set so low that she earns only 50 cents an hour—and she earns that much only because she's just nominally protected by state law.

Yet the questioning employers would like to pay her only 37½ cents or so an hour even though nearly all other workers in the state are protected by a minimum wage law that guarantees them 2½ times that much or \$1.25 an hour.

In the light of this bald question, can anyone honestly believe that the agribusiness interests in California could claim a labor shortage if they offered an adequate wage?

Meany Warns Big Cities COPE Meet of Need For All Out Registration Drive

AFL-CIO President George Meany warned delegates to the recent three-day Big Cities COPE Conference in Washington, D.C., that the recent formation of a number of conservative political action groups provides conclusive evidence that a drive is underway for a major effort in 1964 to elect a President and Congress to "turn back the clock on progressive legislation."

FEPC Raps Move To Repeal AB 1240

The California Real Estate Association's decision to seek to repeal the state's new Fair Housing law (AB 1240) was decried as

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THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Pitts Asks Action on Radio-TV Survey as FCC Weighs 'Fairness Doctrine' Case

Calling attention to the fact that there are a number of radio and TV programs that "attempt to besmirch, belittle or malign the labor movement," Thos. L. Pitts, State AFL-CIO leader, urged all central labor bodies this week to complete a check of local radio and TV listings to see if any such programs are being broadcast in their areas.

The survey, requested earlier by the National AFL-CIO, may prove very helpful to the labor movement if a case currently pending before the Federal Communications Commission is decided favorably, Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, explained.

At issue in the FCC case is the question of whether a radio or TV station must provide free time to answer views expressed on a sponsored program.

The issue arose when Life Lines, a taped radio and TV program produced by a Texas oil baron named H. L. Hunt, prepared a series of programs in opposition to the recently ratified nuclear test ban treaty. These programs were reportedly distributed to 323 radio stations in 46 states.

In most cases, Pitts explained, the sta-

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Right Wing Radio Net Pumps Out Propaganda

One of the richest men in America is operating a far flung right wing propaganda network that may flow into the autos and homes of millions of Californians the moment a radio or TV set is turned on.

Moreover, his operation, which is used to attack the U.S. Supreme Court, the United Nations, federal aid to education, mental health and medical care for the aged programs and a host of other American institutions and programs, enjoyed a postal subsidy on its mailing rates reserved for religious, educational and scientific publications from October 28, 1959 until congressional intervention and private investigation disclosed that one of the two

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AWOC Asks Boycott of Cal-Pak Products

"Don't buy Del Monte brands!" is the appeal being issued to "Mr. and Mrs. Consumer" by C. Al Green, Director of AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, in connection with a long, drawn out strike against the California Packing Corporation at a Stockton area labor camp.

A leaflet giving the background to the boycott request is being circulated by AWOC.

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FEPC Chief Raps Realtors Plan to Fight Housing Law

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"nothing less than an open declaration of war upon the legitimate housing aspirations of at least three million Californians" by Edward Howden, Executive Officer of the California Fair Employment Practices Commission in an address to the annual convention of California Apartment Owners' Association in San Diego this week.

If the CREA were really governed by its high sounding pronouncements concerning equal rights for all, Howden said, its leaders would be out trying to build affirmative support for the smooth operation of the Rumford Act rather than seeking to plunge the state into the throes of a mass battle over its repeal by ballot.

The CREA's proposed campaign would divide Californians along ethnic lines, destroy recent efforts to create mutual understanding and good will, and provoke bitter antagonisms and extremist activities, Howden warned.

Rejecting the CREA's claim that the act is a "forced housing" law, Howden, who heads the division enforcing the fair housing law, told the apartment owners that they were completely within their rights in requiring high standards, financial and otherwise, of their tenants.

"Only the factor of race, religion or national ancestry is not to be taken into account as you size up a prospective tenant family. The law says nothing whatsoever about family size, children or pets, quietness and respect for privacy, financial stability, or any other method you normally use to protect your operation against the fiscally incapable or irresponsible apartment seeker," he said.

Talk of constitutional rights to refuse the sale or rental of housing because of race, religion, or ancestry, is "a transparent wrapping for CREA's announced intention to do everything in its power to take away from the minority Californians those basic provisions of state law which now give them their only chance—their only source of hope—that some day they too will be permitted to exercise the right, called inalienable by Article I of the California State Constitution, of acquiring and possessing property," Howden declared.

The CREA's action came in the wake of the failure last month of a virtually faceless organization called "The Citizens League for Individual Freedom" to get 292,662 valid signatures of registered voters to force a referendum on the law.

The referendum move was spearheaded by a San Francisco ad man

Pitts Asks Action on Radio-TV Survey as FCC Weighs 'Fairness Doctrine' Case

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tions obtained sponsorship from the HLH Products Company which is owned by Hunt. As a result, it was reported that a percentage of the sponsor's fee which Hunt paid was returned to him as producer of the Life Line programs.

James J. Wadsworth, former ambassador to the U. N. who recently headed the Citizen's Committee for the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, took exception to the Life Line series and asked for equal time to answer the views expressed in the series.

Wadsworth contends that although his committee does not have the funds to pay for equal time, the stations that aired the original series should be required to provide 15 minutes of time free so that both sides of the question could be presented to the public.

"Heretofore nearly all cases brought before the FCC under the equal time provision," Pitts explained, "have in-

named Robert D. Weinmann, who described himself as the only "face" in a "faceless" organization because the purported 15,000 league members are anonymous and even the names of a five-man "steering committee" which is reportedly composed of prominent Berkeley businessmen, are kept secret.

Weinmann said the league's drive failed by about 50,000 signatures.

If it had succeeded the effective date of the Rumford Fair Housing measure (AB 1240) which became law on September 20 would have been delayed until the referendum was held.

Even before the referendum move failed, the Los Angeles Home Builders Association was plotting to torpedo the fair housing law even more effectively than the referendum would have permitted.

In a notice sent to its members, it had urged them not to act on the referendum proposal because, as their president put it, "a referendum would leave the door open for further punitive state legislation in the housing field and for a multiplicity of harassing laws by cities throughout the state against industry and the property owner."

In contrast, the notice said, "a properly drawn constitutional amendment would guarantee property owners' rights at the state, city and county level."

The notice also included an inquiry as to how much each member of the Home Builders Association would contribute to a campaign to impose such a constitutional amendment on all Californians.

The Home Builders financial inquiry was no penny ante request. The four categories of financial aid pledges for a scheme to assert property rights at the expense of human rights ranged from "under \$500," the lowest category, to "over \$5,000."

volved either an unsponsored program or a complainant willing and able to pay for his time on the air."

But last July the FCC issued a public notice requiring that "if one viewpoint of a controversial issue of public importance is presented, the licensee is obligated to make a reasonable effort to present the other opposing viewpoint or viewpoints." The fairness doctrine also states that "it is immaterial whether a particular program of viewpoint is presented under the label of 'Americanism,' 'anti-communism' or 'states' rights,' or whether it is a paid announcement, official speech, editorial or religious broadcast."

"Needless to say," Pitts asserted, "a favorable decision in this case could do much to remedy the gross imbalance that presently exists on the airways of the nation so far as editorializing against the welfare of the working man is concerned."

The local surveys of radio and TV programming will "constitute a vital contribution to the defense of organized labor," Pitts explained.

Programs cited as often reflecting an anti-labor bias included:

Life Lines

National Education Program—
Harding College

Dan Smoot

Manion Forum

Christian Crusade

Billy James Hargis

America's Future, R. K. Scott

Human Events

20th Century Reformation Hour,

Dr. Carl McIntire

National Right to Work Committee

Pitts urged all central bodies to report their findings to him as soon as possible to permit completion of a statewide study by October 21. The city, time, station and channel number of any stations carrying any of the programs listed above should be included in the report, he said.

All Swedes To Get 4-Week Vacation

All Swedish workers will get three and one-half weeks vacation next year and four weeks in 1965 as a result of legislation just enacted by the Swedish Parliament.

A three week vacation has been guaranteed to all Swedish workers since 1938.

The Swedish Conservative Party had argued that the extra week would raise production costs five percent but Arne Geijer, the leader of Sweden's Central Federation of Labor, and President of the International Federation of Free Trade Unions, pointed out that the rapid pace of automation and technological improvements would take care of most of the cost.

Billionaire's Right-Wing Radio-TV Net Pumps Propaganda Into Our Homes

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churches named on the application for the postal subsidy did not exist and the other church failed to answer inquiries about its role as a sponsor.

As a result, the Post Office investigated and subsequently revoked the exemption privilege.

But during the two or three years the subsidy was allowed, the taxpayers of the United States were, in effect, underwriting a propaganda campaign that appears to be aimed at discrediting and maligning the programs, policies and institutions of the United States government.

The Texas billionaire behind this propaganda drive is Haroldson Lafayette Hunt who was cited as the second richest man in the United States in Eric Sevareid's book, "Thunder on the Right." His wealth, derived from the Hunt Oil Company and a host of other interests including the HLH Parade Company, a food canning and processing business which is a division of the Hunt Oil Company, has been estimated at \$3 billion with an annual income of possibly \$50 million.

'COOLIDGE WAS OK'

Hunt's political philosophy was indicated in part last year when he asserted that the last U.S. President he approved of was Calvin Coolidge. But he stated his belief that the rich should rule more succinctly in his own privately printed book, *Alpaca*, which goes all out for plutocracy. For example, in his view, as stated in *Alpaca*, this is the way things should be:

"The more taxes you pay, the more votes you get . . . if you accept state aid because you are poor or sick, you cannot vote at all and you're denied an old age pension . . ."

Following the abortive Cuban invasion in 1961, Hunt was quoted in *Time Magazine* as saying:

"It's just as well that the Cuban invasion failed, because it was 'just one Communist government trying to overthrow another.'"

A FAR FLUNG OPERATION

Hunt's propaganda campaign is a multi-phase operation. It includes a 15 minute radio program broadcast six or seven days a week called *Lifeline*; a five minute, five-day a week *Lifeline* TV program; publication of a four-page political commentary called *Lifelines* which is published three times a week; a *Lifeline* essay contest which is a continuing solicitation of what he regards as "patriotic" writings; and a book club called *Lifeline Links*, which serves as a clearing house for right wing writings.

Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, warned California union members and the public in general that the

extent of this one man's influence on the political thinking of all Americans "is frightening when it is recognized that as of February 1962 the *Lifeline* radio program alone was being broadcast 343 times a day over 304 different stations in 279 towns in 42 states and the District of Columbia."

In California alone, Hunt's philosophy is subtly expounded on TV programs in Los Angeles and San Diego and 21 radio programs in Bakersfield, Burbank, Eureka, Fresno, Garden Grove, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Palm Springs, Redding, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Barbara, and Visalia. It is aired on four Los Angeles stations, two San Francisco stations, two San Diego stations and twice on the same stations in Garden Grove and San Diego.

The timing of the program is generally geared to breakfast, lunch or dinner hours.

WHERE IS 'FACTS FORUM'?

Prior to September, 1958, Hunt's evangelistic efforts in behalf of rule by the rich were wrapped up in a bundle of radio and TV programs that generally carried the title "Facts Forum." The ultra right wing radio announcer, Dan Smoot, got his start in the patriotic business on "Facts Forum" and subsequently broke with Hunt and set up shop for himself.

But Facts Forum had been denied tax exemption or free radio time as a "public service" because it has been widely attacked as a rightist propaganda front.

When it was converted to *Lifeline* however, the Internal Revenue Service did not even require a new application for tax exemption. Everything was changed—name, personnel, nature of the program—everything except the man who actually controlled those organizations and the privilege extended by the internal revenue service—freedom from paying taxes on funds used in spreading rightest political propaganda.

Unlike the earlier *Facts Forum*, *Lifeline* promotional material claims that it "never attacks nor discredits minorities and does not deal with racial issues." But its attacks on the U.S. Supreme Court frequently include the phrase "since 1954," the year of the school desegregation decision.

Likewise in sowing seeds of suspicion and distrust of church groups in general it studiously avoids mentioning the National Council of Churches or other organizations by name but says that "support gained from church circles in the United States helps them (Communists) to break down the moral antipathy of a community and gives the infiltrators respectability which they desperately need."

THE VOICE OF AUTHORITY

In establishing its own authority, the *Lifeline* programs repeatedly refer to

The Real Right to Work

"I would guarantee by every means in my power the right of laboring men to join a union, and their right to work as union men without legal interference from either capitalists or non-union men."—Theodore Roosevelt.

anyone opposed to their view as "the Mistaken." Thus all shades of political opinion to the left of the extreme far right are summarily dispatched.

For example in an article entitled "The United Nation's Charter versus the United States Constitution" they state that "the Second World War was but another step in the program of the Mistaken to conquer the entire world."

On Medical Care for the Aged through Social Security, Hunt's propaganda outlets parrot all of the old American Medical Association discredited arguments such as that it would reduce the quality of medical service or destroy the doctor-patient relationship.

Another example of *Lifeline*'s soft-sell technique is wrapped up in the following quote which indirectly maintains that welfare programs in general are unnecessary:

"There are those in America who do not trust the goodness of humanity. These social planners are convinced that the hungry will not be fed, the naked clothed or the aged cared for unless the power of the state intervened."

This emotional pitch, pegged to the "goodness of humanity" serves subtly to discredit social planning in general and to infer that such programs are wasteful, Pitts pointed out.

Another major target of the *Lifeline* propaganda campaign is the repeal of the 16th Amendment, which Hunt's spokesmen maintain "... has done more to promote the growth and expansion of government than any other single factor."

EQUITABLE PRINCIPLE CITED

But Pitts noted that the 16th amendment, which called for graduated income taxes, is based on the equitable principle that people should be taxed in accordance with their ability to pay.

"It has always seemed ironic to me that some of this nation's impoverished billionaires should have the audacity to suggest that the graduated income tax should be abolished and all costs of government paid for by sales and excise taxes that hit the workingman hardest.

"But this proposal, deceptively tagged the 'Liberty Amendment' was embodied in measures introduced in our state legislature as well as in congress.

"I would urge all citizens of our state and nation to be as wary of this amendment as they should be of the insidious propaganda disseminated by the so-called *Lifeline* operations," the State AFL-CIO leader said.

Meany Warns of Need for All Out COPE Vote Drive

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tion's 22 most populous areas to use its "natural advantage" in the big cities and their suburbs.

A massive registration and get-out-the-vote campaign is the answer to the conservative drive, Meany said, and he urged the delegates to "improve on past performances."

Pointing out that in 1960 about 60 per cent of union members voted in the Presidential contest and that in the 1962 Congressional elections about 50 per cent voted, Meany said:

"This just about equals the voting performance of the population as a whole. We should do better."

"The outcome of the Presidential and Congressional elections next year will hinge on what we are able to accomplish in the major industrial cities and the fast growing suburbs around them," he added.

Statistics substantiating the gap in voting performance between city dwellers and rural and other non-urban residents were supplied by political analyst Louis Harris.

Comparing the voting performance of eligible voters in urban areas with those in non-metropolitan areas, Harris reported that the turnout in the urban areas was 18 per cent less than in the non-metropolitan areas of New York State; in Missouri the figure was 15 per cent; Wisconsin nine per cent; Illinois and Minnesota seven per cent; Michigan six per cent, and California five per cent.

This lag in performance "costs hundreds of thousands of votes for

Opposition to New Price-Fixing Bill Urged by State Unit

Opposition to so-called "quality stabilization" legislation now before Congress was urged last week by California's Program Advisory Committee to the State's Consumer Counsel.

In a resolution adopted at a recent meeting in Coronado, the State Advisory unit called on the Governor to "actively oppose all legislation authorizing the fixing of retail prices by manufacturers" including HR 3669 because it not only "does not aid the small retailer but subverts the free enterprise system and is fundamentally unAmerican."

The committee, which is appointed by the Governor, also urged the Governor to permit the consumer counsel, Mrs. Helen Nelson, to "vigorously oppose" such legislation herself.

"Quality stabilization" is the new label being used by big business interests in an attempt to get Congress to give manufacturers what amounts to monopolistic control over the prices of their products. Such legislation has formerly been known by the equally deceptive label of "fair trade" legislation.

The Program Advisory committee said it was convinced that such legislation "seriously harms the public through higher prices and the elimination of competition."

liberal candidates," he pointed out.

The delegates climaxed the conference with a visit to the White House where President Kennedy praised organized labor's support of social welfare legislation which he said had built a "solid framework" to bolster the nation's economy in times of stress.

Guides Offered On Pension Plan Record Keeping

A bulletin providing guidelines on the retention of records on welfare and pension plans has been issued by the Office of Labor-Management and Welfare-Pension Reports of the U. S. Department of Labor.

The bulletin explains, among other things, that administrators of all plans subject to the Welfare and Pension Plans Disclosure Act must keep records available for examination for at least five years. Such records include vouchers, work sheets, receipts and other basic data that substantiate documents submitted to the Labor Department as part of the disclosure requirements.

Under certain conditions, the interpretive bulletin notes, the use of microfilm for retaining the records is permitted. When tape or punch cards are used, however, the original records must also be retained.

Copies of the bulletin, which was carried in the Federal Register, may be obtained in Northern California from Robert Holland, Area Director, Office of Labor-Management and Welfare-Pension Reports, Room 506, 444 Market Street, San Francisco or from Mr. Fred Ragsdale, 1031 South Broadway, Room 1212, Los Angeles 15, California.

About 170,000 plans are covered by the Welfare and Pension Plans Disclosure Act. The law is administered by the Office of Labor-Management and Welfare-Pension Reports which resulted recently from a merger of the administrative functions of the Landrum-Griffin Act and the Welfare-Pension Plans Disclosure Act.

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