

House Passage of Bracero Bill Hit As 'Disgraceful'

"House passage of a one-year extension of the bracero program represents a great triumph of the power of corporate farm interests over simple human decency," Thos. L. Pitts, State AFL-CIO leader, declared today following action by the House of Representatives late yesterday which gave Public Law 78 a new lease on life.

"It also represents a grossly callous and disgraceful disregard of the severely impoverished lives of hundreds of thousands of American migrant farm workers and raises grave and reasonable doubts about the moral scruples of a number of the nation's elected representatives," he added.

"Just last May 29, the same House voted 174-158 to let this discriminatory program die a long belated death. Now these same representatives, by an almost identical vote, have abandoned a decision that was both economically and morally sound and reversed it.

"What caused the switch?" Pitts asked.

Noting that the new House-approved measure doesn't even include the modest amendment contained in the Senate-passed version to require growers to provide domestic farm workers with benefits

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Governor Cites Needs To Update Social Insurance Programs at COPE Banquet

Asserting that California needs "to achieve improvements in unemployment insurance, in disability insurance and in workmen's compensation," Governor Edmund G. Brown called on organized labor this week to begin marshalling its forces now to defeat in the 1964 election campaigns "the same old forces that tried to ram right-to-work down our throats in 1958."

The Governor, who was principal speaker at the annual fund-raising dinner of the Los Angeles

Kerr-Mills Rapped As 'Ineffective'

The Kerr-Mills medical care program enacted by Congress in 1960 "has proved to be at best an ineffective and piecemeal approach to the health problems of the nation's 18 million older citizens," according to the majority report of a U. S. Senate Subcommittee on Health of the Elderly.

In announcing the findings of their third evaluation of the Kerr-Mills Medi-

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THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Pitts Tells Plans For Special Labor Meet; Executive Council Raps ILWU Raids

Announcement of a plan to call a special conference of "a good cross-section" of the state's labor movement to review and revamp ways and means of assuring unity of action in both the legislative and political fields by Thos. L. Pitts, state AFL-CIO leader, coupled with a ringing denunciation of the "divisive raiding tactics" of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union were among the highlights of a two-day meeting of the Executive Council of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, held late last week.

Meeting at the Del Webb Towne-House in San Francisco on Thursday and Friday, the Council also:

- Adopted a strong statement on industrial safety problems and cited 15 principles and approaches that should be considered to develop effective local programs.

- Authorized the Secretary-Treasurer to endorse, after receipt of proper clearances, the strike against the General

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State Fed Urges Action To Bolster Safety Programs

The following policy statement on safety programs was adopted by the Executive Council of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, at its two-day meeting in San Francisco on October 24-25, 1963:

In 1962, a total of 1,023 deaths due to industrial accidents took place in California with consequences beyond measure upon the income and stability of the families immediately involved. During the same year, these tragic losses were augmented in our state by 166,008 lost time injuries of various durations, often with permanent effects such as inability to work any longer or to return to a job at equivalent rates of compensation.

Although these statistics show improvement over earlier years, they continue to represent an intolerable price exacted too often from working people in exchange for an employer's so-called "efficiency" and "profitability." Furthermore, the magnitude of the problem is actually on the rise in various industries where modern technology is accompanied by radiation, unprecedented noise levels, and other relatively new hazards.

The Committee on Safety and Occupational Hazards of the Federation's Executive Council therefore feels a deep responsibility toward attempting to generate a more vigorous onslaught upon the problem at all levels of the labor movement in order that significant inroads can be made into this fearful toll in the future.

This sense of responsibility stems from the knowledge that accidents do not just happen. Invariably they have

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County Council on Political Education, AFL-CIO, declared:

"The radical right is active today to a degree unknown in 1958. Their goals, in part, are to prevent the creation of stable unions and to deny workers their right to a union contract, adequate wages, reasonable job security and a voice in the rules of employment.

"It is just as relevant to remind you that the man who is the leading Republican candidate for the Presidential nomination says that one of his goals is to curb the power of 'big labor.' As you and I know, that really means—to cripple labor's gains.

"That candidate, who has supported a

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Brown Addresses L.A. COPE Banquet

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national right-to-work law was the author this year of a 'Labor-Management-Reform-Act.' It can best be described as an effort to shackle labor and to prevent its future expansion."

The state's chief executive said there just isn't "any justification for such harassment of the working men and women who have helped to make California the most progressive state in the nation."

"I urge you to throw the full weight of your energy and influence against those who would turn back the clock of progress," he said.

In connection with the social insurance programs, the Governor said that "in some cases we may need higher maximum benefits. . . . In others, we may need internal improvements in eligibility and means of financing." He assured those attending the \$25-a-plate dinner held at the Hollywood Palladium last Tuesday night that these matters "will receive full consideration in the future."

The Governor noted, that while "we (the Democratic Party) did not achieve all our goals in the field of social insurance," the 1963 legislature managed to make some small improvements by hiking minimum unemployment and disability benefits from \$10 to \$25 a week.

On the issue of economic development, the Governor said "we need a many-pronged attack on structural unemployment. We must produce jobs—and we must also give people the skills to perform those jobs. And we must face the facts about the unemployed."

We must also, Brown added, "see automation for the mixed blessing that it is and face it as a major modern problem. Automation can stand for progress. It can produce goods at lower cost, and it spurs the economy by permitting more people to buy more goods. But we must also recognize that it displaces men."

After citing various efforts in the fields of education, training and retraining that the state has already undertaken to cope with these problems, Brown declared:

"I believe that—just as labor won the battle for social justice in the early years of this century—we will join forces now to make automation our tool, not our master."

He also urged the COPE workers to exert every effort to defeat opponents of fair housing who are seeking to repeal the Rumford bill by initiative petition in 1964.

Proceeds from the dinner, an outgrowth of the recent so-called Big Cities Conference of the AFL-CIO in Washington will help finance registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns aimed at electing as many liberal congressmen and state legislators to office in 1964 as possible.

State Fed Urges Action by Local Unions To Bolster On-The-Job Safety Programs

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immediate and contributing causes which, if not corrected and controlled, will result in a repetition of the accident. It is reliably estimated that the thorough enforcement of safety rules governing unsafe acts as well as hazardous conditions can reduce accidents by 30 percent. Another gain of about 20 percent can be made through inspections designed to detect hazards. If safety instructions are conscientiously followed, a further 20 percent reduction in accidents is possible. But needless to say, this practical and highly desirable objective will remain out of reach unless wholehearted participation by workers and their organizations is made a reality.

The Federation has an important contribution to make towards this objective by working to strengthen industrial safety orders and particularly by seeking more realistic appropriations for the educational, research and enforcement activities of the agencies involved.

There are, however, two general areas where an expansion of local union activity represents the most fruitful avenue for coming to grips with the problem. One of these is the area of engineering control, that is, the designing of plant and equipment so as to minimize hazardous conditions. Each place of work is unique and presents potential hazards that can be pinpointed best by the individuals employed in that location and particularly by those who have acquired an understanding of the principles of industrial safety.

The second area where the local union can effectively perform a service has to do with human behavior on the job. This is to say that the development of a more widespread appreciation of industrial safety principles on the part of rank-and-file union members is today perhaps one of the most fertile fields to be explored in the area of accident prevention.

In order to help local unions move in the direction of safer human behavior and engineering control, we have enlisted the cooperation of the California Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Industrial Safety towards a coordinated and on-going program. In offering our consultation services regarding all phases of these efforts, we are suggesting that the following principles and approaches serve as the basis for an effective program:

1 — Encouraging a better mutual understanding between labor and management as to their relative degrees of responsibility in this field.

2 — Developing "safety awareness" among members and their families by providing more information about the technical and behavioral causes of injury and the preventive measures nec-

essary, stressing the fact that unsafe acts assume greater relative importance in accident causation as unsafe conditions are reduced.

3 — Comparing your local's accident record with that of your craft or industry.

4 — Documenting the economic and other costs paid by the families of fellow employees killed or injured on the job in order to make the issues more personal.

5 — Analyzing the causes of accidents on your job site to establish not only how they can be avoided in the future but also whether such preventive steps have been taken.

6 — Stimulating members to express their own ideas on safety and granting awards for outstanding individual contributions.

7 — Focusing speakers' messages and visual aids insofar as possible upon the actual conditions of your craft or industry.

8 — Keeping abreast of statutory, technical and other safety developments affecting your members.

9 — Clarifying and strengthening procedures and agencies available for reporting, recording and correction of hazardous conditions.

10 — Devising equitable corrective action to deal with deliberate flaunting of safety rules.

11 — Drawing upon labor's own safety resources wherever possible in order to maximize the membership's confidence that their interests are not being compromised.

12 — Participating in an exchange of views through intra-industry and inter-industry safety bodies or seminars in the community in order to develop concerted legislative and other approaches to the problem wherever possible.

13 — Utilizing the labor press and other communications media to publicize safety news in the most interesting form possible.

14 — Building safety into job training, paying special attention to safety indoctrination of new employees, and keeping the safety message before the entire membership constantly.

15 — Communicating to affected workers the dangers involved in such relatively new hazards as radiation, chemicals and excessive noise levels.

While every local union knows how to set up a Safety Committee, the problem is primarily that of getting such a committee to function effectively by implementing the above purposes. The Federation is prepared to be of assistance in every possible way towards that end, including guidance toward individuals and agencies qualified to address themselves to any portion of your problems presenting special difficulties.

House Passage of Bracero Bill Hit As 'Disgraceful'

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comparable to those enjoyed by imported workers, Pitts declared:

"The lack of even this token gesture to decency and fairness reflects and underscores the enormous powers that the corporate agribusiness interests, which are almost the sole users of the braceros, are capable of exerting in the halls of Congress."

Even a grossly inadequate amendment proposed by Rep. James Roosevelt (D-California) to limit the use of braceros next year to farms that have used them in the past was rejected.

Another amendment to require farmers using braceros to offer domestic workers the same housing, workmen's compensation, transportation and minimum work guarantees granted to braceros, was also rejected.

Before voting for the extension a number of Congressmen emphasized that they were approving the measure only to serve final notice on farm interests that the program must terminate at the end of 1964.

"This is just their conscience talking," Pitts said.

"The basic, fundamental and overriding issue is a decent wage for farm labor. For the wealthiest nation in the world to claim it cannot afford to pay the harvesters of its food a living wage is purely and simply disgraceful. Particularly with the unemployment we have in California, I can see no reason for any Congressman to support any extension of this measure in good conscience," Pitts said.

The Right to Strike

"I thank God that we have a system of labor where there can be a strike."

That's what Abraham Lincoln said during the Civil War when he learned that General Rosecrans had ordered Union soldiers to take the place of striking newspaper printers in St. Louis. Lincoln sent word that the servants of the federal government should not interfere with the legitimate demands of labor and the strikebreaking soldiers were withdrawn.

Senate Report Raps Kerr-Mills As 'Ineffective'

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cal Assistance for the Aged Program, the eight Senate Democrats on the Subcommittee reported that only 148,000 aged persons received help in August 1963 — "less than one percent of the nation's elderly."

The program, enacted with the blessings of the American Medical Association and the tacit consent of the insurance industry and which still has not been adopted by some 22 of the nation's 50 states, is never likely to become nationwide, the committee's report said.

And while 28 states had adopted Kerr-Mills' plans through August 31, 1963, the report pointed out that five states — California, New York, Massachusetts, Michigan and Pennsylvania — received 88 percent of federal funds distributed under the programs up to December 31, 1962 even though "those five states have only 32 percent of the nation's elderly people."

There is an even greater disparity in the level of benefits available under Kerr-Mills, the senators said, pointing out that "except for four states having comprehensive programs (Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York and North Dakota), benefits are nominal, nonexistent or inadequate."

Commenting on the report, Senator Pat McNamara (D-Mich.) Chairman of the 12-man Health Subcommittee of the Special Senate Committee on Aging, said:

"The report only confirms my long-standing belief that only through the universal approach of a social security-financed program can the basic health needs of our senior citizens be effectively met."

(California's Kerr-Mills program, which could be used to supplement an effective, nationwide program such as is envisioned in the King-Anderson bill to provide medical care for the aged through social security, was substantially improved in the 1963 legislature through enactment of AB 59. This legislation repealed the relatives' responsibility law, eliminated the 30-day waiting period for assistance to those in nursing homes by providing assistance from the first month following admission to a nursing home, and provided a \$3,000 deductible on private hospital and nursing home costs, so that a person may now qualify for Medical Assistance to the Aged (MAA) in a private hospital or nursing home after 30 days, or an expense of \$3,000 whichever occurs first. In addition, residence requirements to qualify for admission to county hospitals such as

Irvan John Cary, Ex-UAW President, Dies on Trip

Irvan John Cary, former president of the old AFL United Auto Workers who had served as an organizer and field representative for the AFL-CIO since the 1955 merger, died of a heart attack on a hunting trip near Provo, Utah, on October 19. He was 58.

At the time of his death, Mr. Cary, who had dedicated his life to the labor movement, was serving as coordinator for the Food and Hotel Division of the AFL-CIO Los Angeles-Orange County Organizing Drive.

Recalling Cary's "brilliant career as one of America's most effective labor leaders," Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, said that "all of us in the California labor movement who have known him and his work will have many occasions in the future to remember his contribution toward raising the conditions of life and labor of the working man."

Services were held Wednesday, October 23, in San Bernardino where he lived. He is survived by his wife, Eloise; a daughter, Carol Ann, and a son, John, of Denver.

three years in the state and one year in the county, were eliminated.)

Just last week House Speaker John W. McCormack, announced that action on the King-Anderson bill would have to be delayed until next year. McCormack accused Republicans on the House Ways and Means Committee of "blind opposition" to the legislation and said that every effort would be made to pass it next year.

Representative Wilbur D. Mills (D-Arkansas) Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, claimed that his committee was too busy with the tax cut bill to begin serious work on the medical care proposal.

But Representative Cecil R. King (D-California) got Mills to agree to hold public hearings on the measure from mid-November through Thanksgiving. It is hoped that these hearings will lay the groundwork for approval next year of some form of social security financing.

A minority opinion written by Republican Sens. Dirksen of Illinois, Goldwater of Arizona and Carlson of Kansas accused the majority of "premature judgment" in calling the Kerr-Mills plan unworkable and claimed that the growth of voluntary medical insurance coverage for the elderly was not sufficiently considered.

Repeated studies, however, have shown that the benefits available under many such voluntary plans are grossly inadequate and that, moreover, the elderly segment of the population most in need of medical care is unable to afford such insurance.

Pitt Tells Plans for Special Labor Parley; Raps ILWU Raids

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Telephone Company called by the Communication Workers of America on October 19 which is now in its second week.

In calling for the special labor conference, Thos. L. Pitts, the Federation's secretary-treasurer, explained that its purpose would be "to obtain a consensus of opinion. This is what we need," he said.

Participants at the conference are expected to include representatives from international unions, central labor councils and other district and state councils. The scope of the conference will include the programming of legislative activity in the months immediately ahead based on recent legislative experiences and emphasize the necessity to develop unity of action on the political front.

Although the conference would have no official status since the Federation's Constitution delegates authority over legislative priorities to the Executive Council between conventions, the participants to the conference could make an invaluable contribution by helping to develop a broadly based "consensus of opinion on what needs to be done," Pitts said.

After a detailed review of instances of raiding attempted against AFL-CIO affiliates by the ILWU and District 50 of the United Mine Workers as well as by a number of so-called "independent" organizations, the Council:

1—Reaffirmed its determination to resist the "divisive raiding tactics being employed by the ILWU to gain job control over workers already organized in the AFL-CIO unions."

2—Denounced these raids and others by District 50, the Christian Labor Association, the National Association of Independent Unions and similar employer-oriented "front" organizations as "unfair and unethical practices that are predatory in purpose and destructive of harmonious collective bargaining relationships."

The ILWU was ousted from the CIO before the 1955 merger of the AFL-CIO because it was purportedly dominated by left-wing elements.

Contacted after the meeting, Pitts explained that the ILWU was "becom-

ing increasingly desperate because of its own dwindling empire with the result that it was selling the labor movement's traditional principles of the good and welfare of all working people down the river."

In connection with industrial safety problems, the 36-member Council offered the assistance of the Federation to local organizations to develop on-going safety education programs to pinpoint and correct many of the underlying causes of accidents.

Noting that 1,023 persons lost their lives in industrial accidents in California last year and that there were 166,008 lost time injuries in the same period, the Council declared that "although these statistics show improvement over earlier years, they continue to represent an intolerable price exacted too often from working people in exchange for an employer's so-called 'efficiency' and 'profitability.'"

"Furthermore, the magnitude of the problem is actually on the rise in various industries where modern technology is accompanied by radiation, unprecedented noise levels, and other relatively new hazards," the statement said.

To generate a more vigorous assault on the problem on all levels, the Council urged strengthening of statutory industrial safety provisions and "more realistic appropriations for educational, research and enforcement activities of the agencies involved."

The Council's statement also urged a greater degree of engineering control in designing plants and equipment to minimize hazardous conditions and a continuous service program initiated by local unions to drive home the importance of industrial safety principles to union members. Human behavior on the job, the statement said, "is today perhaps one of the most fertile fields to be explored in the area of accident prevention."

In the latter connection, the Council's statement set forth 15 suggestions to help local unions establish effectively functioning safety committees.

The CWA strike against the General Telephone Company was called after

the company rejected a union proposal to place the issue before neutral arbitrators. Involved in the strike are some 9,000 CWA members whose contract expired last June 3. The company, whose headquarters are in Santa Monica, provides telephone service to 1.3 million subscribers in Southern California.

Action To Defeat Repeal of Fair Housing Law Urged

Governor Edmund G. Brown this week called on his cabinet members to exert every effort they could to try to discourage the California Real Estate Association and apartment house owners from attempting to repeal the Rumford Fair Housing Act (AB 1240).

Asserting that the proposed initiative measure would stir national unrest "and blanket all of the great issues" during next year's presidential campaign, the Governor appealed to his aides saying:

"If you have any influence with the California Real Estate Association and the apartment house owners, I wish you could get them to call it (the initiative petition) off."

The initiative measure, Brown warned, would negate not only the Rumford bill passed by the 1963 legislature but also the earlier Unruh Act banning discriminatory practices by any business serving the public.

Sponsors of the initiative petition must obtain some 500,000 signatures on the petition by next June to qualify it for the November ballot. If it qualifies for the ballot, Brown said he would do "everything I can to beat it."

In the course of the Governor's Council meeting, Brown also indicated that next year's budget session of the legislature will have more than fiscal matters to consider.

"I have no inhibitions about putting things on special call at the budget session," he asserted. "There's no reason why we should wait until 1965 to act on everything."

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