

Fed Urges Action On Civil Rights Bill

In support of President Johnson's efforts to pry the civil rights bill out of committee and bring it to a vote, Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, wired California's 38-man Congressional delegation on Wednesday to urge them to sign the so-called discharge petition.

Similar wires from all affiliated local unions and central bodies as well as from individual union members would be helpful, Pitts said. The text of Pitts' telegram read as follows:

"California labor's firm pledge of support to President Lyndon B. Johnson in this most difficult period extends fully to the high priority he has given the immediate passage of a strong and meaningful civil rights bill.

"We urge you to demonstrate your dedication to the principle of equal opportunity by signing the discharge petition that is designed to release the civil rights bill from committee and bring it to a vote on the floor of the House. It is our understanding that the petition will be available for signature on Monday, December 9.

"The commitment of the nation to its highest ideal hangs in the balance. Obviously, this is not a matter that can tolerate partisan consideration, or that can wait on the will of a few who have thus far barred the bill from the floor."

Opposition Grows to Realty Agents' Campaign To Torpedo Fair Housing Law

Opposition to a drive by the California Real Estate Association to repeal the Rumford Fair Housing Law before it's even been given a fair trial continued to mount this week as concerned church and responsible civic groups throughout the state acted to urge their members not to sign the CREA's initiative petition.

AMA Sued For Record 'Fraud'

A \$400,000 damage suit has been slapped against the American Medical Association charging it with libelling an official of the Steelworkers Union by distributing an anti-union phonograph record which purports to present his voice and depicts him "as a tough-talking bully and extortionist."

The official, Paul Normile, a member of the USWA executive board and director of District 16 in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, declared in an affidavit filed with the suit that the voice on the record was not only not his but that he had never made the speech attributed to him or any speech of a similar nature. In addition, he declared that he had "never authorized or given permission for such use of my name by AMA, AMPAC or anyone else."

"The imputation to me of the state-

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THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Sacramento Story of 1963 Demands An Accounting By Solons, Pitts Says

Organized labor's official report on the 1963 legislative session in Sacramento was issued this week by state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts on the eve of a special state-wide labor conference on legislative and political issues held in San Francisco yesterday. The report, entitled "The Sacramento Story—1963" makes no bones about labor's dissatisfaction with the performance of the California legislature.

"It is not a story," Pitts said, "that can evoke cheers—or even passive acceptance—by any individual or group seriously concerned about the welfare of working people and the prosperity of our growing state.

"On the contrary, it is a story that

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Senate Passes Bracero Bill; Sole Hope is LBJ Veto

"Senate passage of the House version of a one-year extension of the bracero program will—unless vetoed—place an added burden on the nation's conscience for another year," Thos. L. Pitts, State AFL-CIO leader, declared Wednesday on learning of the final Congressional action on the measure.

Pitts had vigorously opposed the extension because the bracero program "has demonstrably depressed the wages and working conditions of domestic farm workers."

The House version, a stripped down measure which does not even include the equalizing amendments contained in the Senate-approved measure, was passed by a vote of 50-36 despite appeals by Senators Eugene McCarthy and Hubert Humphrey that the Senate at least insist on a conference with the House in an effort to salvage the Senate amendments.

The measure now goes to President Johnson for signature or veto.

Pitts appealed to all local unions and central bodies to wire President Johnson to urge him to veto the bill.

Carman Named To Key Post

Newell J. Carman, a vice president of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, and Western Regional Director of the International Union of Operating Engineers, has been named Secretary-Treasurer of the 300,000-member international union following the resignation of Frank P. Converse.

Carman, 51, was made Secretary of the San Francisco Stationary Engineers Local 39 in 1946 and appointed an international representative a year later.

In Los Angeles, despite an appeal by Chief Deputy State Attorney General Charles A. O'Brien to the CREA

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Opposition Grows to Realty Agents' Campaign to Torpedo Fair Housing Law

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to delay its proposed initiative, and a unanimous vote of support for the Rumford Act by the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, the realtors association remained adamant and said it would continue to circulate the petition.

Earlier, Ernest B. Webb, State Director of Industrial Relations, strongly rapped what appeared to be an attempt by CREA leaders to deny their association members an opportunity to hear both sides of the issue.

Webb said that he had received a copy of a "Special Notice" from the CREA to local realty board officers suggesting that although it "might be in order" for local board directors to meet with Fair Employment Practice Commission representatives, "general membership instruction" should come from counsel "within the industry."

The Division of Fair Employment Practices, which is charged by the legislature with enforcement and education concerning the fair housing law, is part of the Department of Industrial Relations. Since 1959 the FEP Division has participated in hundreds of speaking engagements before employer and union groups to interpret the fair employment law.

While acknowledging that realtors have every right to rely on the advice of private counsel as to the meaning of the Rumford Act, Webb declared:

"It is astonishing that the CREA leadership should seek to forbid face-to-face communication between its 40,000 members and the FEP officials responsible for administering the housing law."

"The FEP Division has a clear and elementary duty to interpret the new law and explain related procedures to all who are affected by it," Webb added.

The State Industrial Relations chief also said that of the 12 organizations in the housing industry that have already heard FEP commissioners or staff representatives, four were local realty boards.

"All reported that these meetings and the opportunity to ask questions were extremely valuable," Webb asserted.

"Apparently these discussions were going too well from the point of view of CREA president L. H. Wilson and some of his associates who are committed to an initiative petition campaign to prohibit any kind of law against racial and religious discrimination in housing.

"It seems that there is a small group within the California Real Estate Association which is determined to raise a bitter-end battle for residential segregation in our state and is afraid that, given a fair test, the law will be found just

and acceptable to all concerned," Webb declared.

The Rumford Fair Housing Act forbids the owners of most housing accommodations and their agents to refuse to sell, rent or lease to any person or group of persons because of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry.

Complaints of alleged violations may be filed with the FEPC, which investigates and then, through conference, conciliation and persuasion, seeks to correct any discriminatory practices. If conciliation is unsuccessful the law authorizes public hearings, and if necessary, court enforcement.

Anyone seeking information about the Fair Housing law or wishing to request a speaker may write or phone the FEP Division at P. O. Box 603, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco 1 (UN 1-8700, Ext. 2197) or at 107 South Broadway, Los Angeles 12 (MA 0-2610).

Other groups that have voiced opposition to the initiative petition include the San Francisco Real Estate Board which voted last Tuesday to oppose their state association's drive, the Unity Chapter of B'nai B'rith Women in San Francisco, the Palo Alto Real Estate Board, and the San Francisco Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The B'nai B'rith Chapter called the new law "a step forward in banning racial and religious discrimination" and urged citizens not to assist the drive against it in any way.

Assassination Alters View of Segregationist Leader

A leader of a pro-segregation Citizens' Council in Tacoma, Washington, resigned his post following President Kennedy's assassination and pledged that henceforth he would fight "those who oppose our great American ideals of freedom for all—no matter the race, color or creed—and justice for all."

In a letter addressed to the head of the Washington State Council of the Citizens' Councils of America, the Tacoman, J. (Bud) Nelson declared:

"... I feel that every radical, left and right, had his hand on the rifle butt and finger on that trigger. We are all guilty of fomenting hatreds of one sort or another, thus guilty of a common act of cruelty.

"Therefore I have no choice but to hereby tender my official resignation from the Washington Council Citizen's Councils of America. And I pray to my God that he forgive me for harboring any prejudices that I might have harbored."

Legislature Hit For Inaction in '63

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demands an accounting on the part of some key legislative leaders and individual members of the legislature whose penchant for power, prestige and acceptance caused them to place the interests of special privilege above those of the general welfare and turn their backs on the very people who helped elect them to office."

Re-evaluation of labor's position since the preliminary review of the session was issued last July 26 does not warrant any change in the view that the 1963 session "reflected a divided and confused legislature, lacking in orientation toward social and economic objectives," Pitts declared.

The hard facts of the matter are, the AFL-CIO leader said, that the legislature left behind it "an uneven record of achievement, failure and inaction."

"On several broad legislative fronts, the session was turned into a field day for conservative and reactionary forces seeking to stem the tide of socio-economic progress," Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, asserted.

While citing passage of the Rumford Fair Housing Bill as "unquestionably one of the major achievements of the session," Pitts deplored the fact that during six months of continuous session the legislature failed to correct serious deficiencies in California laws governing labor-management relations. The operation of the Committee system thwarted floor consideration of these measures, he declared.

Likewise, on the social insurance front, consideration of key bills affecting unemployment insurance, workmen's compensation and unemployment disability insurance were stymied principally because the Assembly leadership allowed "insufficient time" for their consideration, Pitts said.

The report contains a tabulation of roll call votes cast by the state's lawmakers on key issues which served as a touchstone for participants at the labor conference yesterday.

The conference, held in the Comstock Room of the Sheraton Palace Hotel, sought to develop a "broadly based consensus" of what needs to be done by organized labor to assure unity of action in both legislative and political fields.

Discussions included suggestions to program legislative activities within the framework of a political action program for 1964 that will more effectively link the endorsement of candidates and campaign efforts to the achievement of legislative goals.

Secretaries of central labor and craft councils and similar bodies at the local, regional and state levels as well as various members of international unions participated in the special day-long conference.

AFL-CIO Convention Delegates Spell Out 15-Point Economic Program for Nation

A 15-point program designed to arouse the nation from its economic lethargy and bring it to "sustained full employment" was adopted by the AFL-CIO convention at the Americana Hotel in New York City.

"No simple cure-all, easy panacea or one-shot gimmick" can heal the ills that have kept more than 5 percent of the American work force unemployed for six years, the convention declared.

"A comprehensive and massive job-creating effort is required without delay," rationally fitting together separate actions needed on many fronts "into a coherent program . . . commensurate with the dimensions of the problems we confront," the resolution on the national economy emphasized.

To direct this program—which would include among other things the \$11 billion tax cut proposed by the Kennedy Administration, a shorter workweek, a \$2 minimum hourly wage and expanded coverage—the convention called for creation of a National Planning Agency, involving the democratic participation of all elements of the population.

AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany observed that the resolution stressed that unemployment is the nation's number one problem and "indicated the need for complete cooperation between all segments of American society to solve this problem." He pledged the willingness of the federation's officers and Executive Council "to meet with the business organizations of this country, who must certainly be concerned, in an attempt to find a solution."

A number of the convention's major economic policy recommendations embodied in the resolution also were treated in separate measures. The "over-all wrap-up," in the words of Federation Vice Pres. Walter P. Reuther, represented an effort "to tie together all of the separate elements that go into the basic question of how does America get itself back to work."

"We have to reach ahead," he declared, "and we have to raise our sights . . . to develop new concepts and new approaches to deal with new problems, and to realize new opportunities."

Reuther, who headed the subcommittee which produced the resolution and is chairman of the federation's Committee on Economic Policy, cited the example of the European democracies which "have freed themselves of a lot of ancient, obsolete economic myths" and have established "a mechanism by which they can achieve a measure of rational democratic planning."

"They have understood that you can have public planning for people compatible with private planning for profits," he declared. "We have not as yet

learned that lesson, and until we do we are going to be flying blind into the future where the dangers and the pitfalls are so great that they can undermine the very structure of our free society."

The resolution also specifically called for these measures, among others:

- Enactment of the Kennedy Administration's \$11 billion tax cut proposal with amendments to concentrate its benefits among low and moderate-income taxpayers.

- Increased federal spending for public works, including a \$2 billion extension of the Public Works Acceleration Act through 1964, stepped-up low-rent housing programs, and expanded programs of federal aid for housing, urban redevelopment, community facilities, mass transit, health facilities, and development and conservation of natural resources.

- Reversal of the Federal Reserve Board's action in mid-1963 increasing the rediscount rate to 3.5 percent. "America needs an expansionary monetary policy—an ample and growing money supply and relatively low interest rates—to stimulate economic activities," the resolution declared, adding that membership on the governing and advisory bodies of the Federal Reserve System, "now dominated by bankers and big businessmen," should be opened up to all major sectors of American society, including trade unionists."

- Enactment of a youth employment opportunities program to provide "meaningful work for young people, 16 to 21 years of age" in conservation and public service.

- A faster pace of increases in wages and fringe benefits . . . to broaden and strengthen the mass markets that are essential for an economy whose ability to produce more goods and services, more efficiently, is growing rapidly."

- An increase in the federal minimum wage to \$2 an hour and expansion of coverage to the 16 million non-supervisory workers now exempt "to lift the buying power of low-income families."

- A cut in standard working hours, with a 35-hour week as the goal, and payment of double-time for overtime "to spread job opportunities in this period of rapidly advancing productivity, accelerating growth of the labor force and intolerably high unemployment."

- Additional federal standards to extend the duration and raise the level of benefits to unemployed workers, with the federal government supplying sup-

CIVIL RIGHTS AND JOBS

"When we talk about equal opportunity, we are talking in idle terms if we don't take steps to create opportunity. This is why I don't think we can separate the need for a tax bill and the need for human rights legislation." — President Lyndon B. Johnson.

plemental benefits at this duration and level over the interim period.

- A national manpower policy "to assist working people and communities to adjust to the disruptions of rapidly changing technology" including an effective nation-wide U.S. Employment Service, a genuine retraining program to upgrade the skills of the work force, an effective program to rehabilitate the economic health of chronically distressed industrial communities, adequate systems of vocational and general education, and federal relocation allowances to assist unemployed workers who wish to move to areas of job opportunities.

- Appointment by the President of the Commission on Automation he has proposed, and creation of a Technological Clearing House to gather information on technical changes, actual and planned, and their impact on the economy, as "a basis for programs to assure that the benefits of automation will be realized and its dangers avoided."

- An "all-out war on the shameful persistence of poverty" among 20 percent of America's families, including such specific measures as a higher minimum wage and expanded coverage, higher social security benefits with a reduced retirement age and old-age hospital insurance, improved unemployment compensation, adequate assistance payments to economically distressed families, expansion of low-rent public housing, and adequate opportunities for the education, including higher education, of low-income families.

- Federal legislation to outlaw discriminatory employment practices that limit the job opportunities of Negroes and other minorities.

- Federal examination of the pricing policies in major administered-price industries to curtail abuses and focus public attention on cost-price-profit-investment relationships.

- Measures to solve the international balance of payments problem, within the context of expansionary domestic policies to eliminate the economy's slack and sustain full employment. These should include direct federal restriction, at least temporarily, of investments by U.S. companies in other industrial countries; possible federal restrictions on the flotation of foreign securities in U.S. money markets; strong and positive efforts by the government toward the establishment of a new international monetary mechanism that would eventually reduce international pressures on the American dollar; policies to maintain and increase America's sizeable export surplus.

AMA's Anti-Union Record Hit as 'Fraud'; Union Official Asks \$400,000 Damages

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ments contained in this record has had . . . the most adverse consequence for me, my reputation, my official career, and my state of mind," Normile said.

"Particularly disturbing is the attribution to me of remarks authorizing, approving, indeed urging that employees be coerced into making political contributions, even to the extent of threatening interference with their employment rights; and the depiction of me as a tough talking bully who uses 'strong-arm' tactics to get his way. Such tactics

School Building Pacts Can Ban Discrimination

Local school boards may include clauses banning discrimination in employment in school construction contracts, the State Attorney General's office said this week in answer to a query from Assemblyman William Byron Rumford (D-Berkeley).

Rumford had asked whether clauses banning discrimination in employment similar to those required by the Governor's Code of Fair Practices in state construction pacts could be included in local school district contracts.

The Attorney General's office held that such contractual clauses are not preempted by the State Fair Employment Practice Act and that they do not otherwise contravene state law. Therefore, the State's opinion said, ". . . their inclusion in school construction contracts is within the authority of a school board."

Among the clauses Rumford referred to were:

1. A requirement that the contractor and his sub-contractors not practice racial discrimination in employment on the building project.
2. Provision of contractual penalties for willful violation.
3. A provision that a finding by the Fair Employment Practice Commission of a violation of the Fair Employment Practice Act by the contractor shall constitute a finding that the contract has been violated.

are offensive to me, as they are to all the officials I respect in the labor movement," Normile asserted.

Filing of the suit in the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. was announced on the final day of the National AFL-CIO Convention recently held in New York by President George Meany. Referring to the record, which was apparently produced by the American Medical Political Action Committee, as "an absolute fraud," Meany declared:

"The AMA has a perfect right to oppose the King-Anderson bill which we are supporting . . . but they do not have a right, in my book, to forgery or fraud."

Ironically, the record, the suit charges, depicts Normile as a "tough-talking bully who uses strong-arm tactics to obtain money to 'knock out' the 'docs' and to promote the medicare bill." But it has been played to groups of doctors and other persons for precisely the opposite purpose — to encourage physicians to contribute funds to the AMA's hysterical campaign to thwart enactment of an adequate hospitalization insurance program financed through the social security system.

The AMPAC record is called "AMPAC Brings You the Voice of COPE." A booklet accompanying the record describes it, the suit noted, as "a transcription of a meeting held early in 1963 by the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education in Allegheny County Pennsylvania" and lists the speaker as "Paul Normile, COPE chairman of the Allegheny Labor Council and Director of District 16, United Steelworkers." The booklet claims that the transcription was obtained from "a COPE member" who opposes COPE's "high-pressure" methods.

The record was played at a press conference at the convention so reporters could hear for themselves that the voice was not Normile's.

TV newscasts subsequently carried Normile's voice and the recording across the U.S.

AMA President Dr. Edward Annis reportedly tagged Meany's charge of "fraud" as "completely false," but a spokesman at AMA's Chicago headquarters simply said that the suit was improperly directed to AMA because AMPAC is a separate organization.

Delegates Brand Radical Right as Freedom's Foe

The radical right is concerned with "promoting reaction and not with defeating communism," delegates to the AFL-CIO convention declared, and "the John Birch Society, the White Citizens Councils and their ilk are communism's strongest allies."

The convention in a resolution on civil liberties and internal security warned that freedom is under attack from both the radical right and the radical left. "The tiny but fanatical Communist Party" in the U. S., the convention said, is chiefly important as a recruiting ground for "spies and traitors" and can be handled by effective security measures.

But the AFL-CIO "flatly rejects" the doctrine that the way to fight communism "is to jettison individual liberties . . . and to adopt the very tactics which make communism abhorrent to those who believe in human freedom," convention delegates declared.

The resolution sharply rejected the belief that turning back the clock on social progress and reducing the powers and tax revenues of the federal government is the way to defeat the radical left. It specified as examples proposals to abolish the income tax and emasculate the American constitutional system by giving the state legislatures the power to rewrite the Constitution and perpetuate rural, minority control over those legislatures.

The intent of the three constitutional amendments being pushed through state legislatures is "nefarious," the resolution declared, and "their consequences would be disastrous."

The Supreme Court has become a principal target of right-wing extremists because the court "often stood forth as a courageous and vigilant protector of traditional American liberties and freedoms" at a time when "hysterical reaction was riding high in the Congress."

"The AFL-CIO commends the Supreme Court for its continued stalwart defense of individual civil liberties," the convention declared.

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