

Drive To Kill Fair Housing Law Perils Renewal Funds

If the California Real Estate Association's attempt to repeal the Rumford Fair Housing Act by initiative petition should get on the ballot and be approved, California may lose nearly one-quarter of a billion dollars in funds earmarked for urban renewal projects in the state, Attorney General Stanley Mosk reported this week.

Earlier Mosk had asked Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins (D. Los Angeles) to determine what impact the proposed initiative might have on urban renewal programs in the light of the non-discrimination provisions required in federal contracts for such projects.

Robert Weaver, administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency to whom Mosk's request was referred, replied saying:

"There is considerable doubt whether such (future urban renewal) projects could be authorized by the URA (Urban Renewal Administration) if the amendment were adopted."

In making public the text of Weaver's letter, Mosk said: "Undoubtedly the

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Senator's Anti-Civil Rights Bill Speech Aims To Scare Support for Measure

A speech that grossly misinterprets the provisions of the pending federal civil rights bill is being given wide circulation apparently in hopes of discouraging or scaring some labor officials into opposing the AFL-CIO backed measure. The speech, delivered by Senator Lister Hill of Alabama on the Senate floor on January 15, tries to maintain that the civil rights

Burton Wins 5th Dist. Congress Seat

COPE-endorsed Assemblyman Phillip Burton mopped up a clear majority of the 50,397 votes cast in a special primary election Tuesday to win, without a run-off, the Fifth Congressional District seat vacated by San Francisco's Mayor Shelley.

Burton, opposed by four other Democrats and three Republicans, polled 26,269 votes or 52 percent of the total cast. The turn-out amounted to more than 46 percent of the district's 108,963 registered voters.

The new Congressman, a specialist in social welfare legislation, has pledged to support the Administration's foreign policy and to help assure medical care for all needy Americans, not just the elderly. Commenting on the results of the election, Burton declared:

"I believe that my position on civil rights and support of medical care under Social Security, and my position that we should have massive public works to provide jobs for the unemployed, were key elements of the campaign."



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Pitts Pledges Aid on Farm Labor Needs; Growers Drop Bracero Extension Drive

Organized labor today pledged its fullest cooperation to state efforts to provide sufficient domestic farm workers to meet the seasonal needs of California agriculture and welcomed a decision announced by the Council of California Growers yesterday not to seek a further extension of Public Law 78 as "sensible and forthright."

Thos. L. Pitts, state AFL-CIO leader, said the growers' statement, which was submitted to the California State Board of Agriculture in Sacramento on Monday, indicated that growers recognize the primacy

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LBJ Renews Plea For Enactment of Medical Care Bill

"The American people want, need and can afford the best of health for all our citizens, old and young, rich and poor," President Lyndon B. Johnson declared last week in renewing the Administration's plea for prompt congressional enactment of a plan to provide medical insurance for the elderly under the social security program.

Asserting that "old age can be a dark corridor of fear" for older citizens who are "still defenseless against the heavy medical costs of severe illness or disability," the President called for a medical insurance plan for the elderly that would provide:

- Protection against the heaviest costs of a serious illness, including the costs of hospital and skilled nursing home care, home health services, and outpatient hospital diagnostic services.

- Basic benefits for everyone who reaches age 65 regardless of whether such persons are presently covered by social security.

- A base that related private programs can supplement.

- Benefit payments to cover the costs of services normally furnished in semi-private accommodations in a hospital but not the cost of the services of the patient's personal physician.

The program would be financed by a one-quarter of one percent increase in the social security contributions paid by employers and employees. The cost of similar protection for persons not now covered by social security would be provided from the administrative budget.

"In America," Johnson said, "there is no room for second-class health serv-

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of the state's unemployment problem as well as the need for a number of impartial studies to determine essential basic facts about agriculture and its labor force needs.

"Organized labor welcomes the growers' sensible and forthright abandonment of any intention to seek a further extension of Public Law 78," Pitts said.

"While we may have some further suggestions to make regarding the various state studies requested by the growers, we are in general accord with them on the need to get out the specific facts of the case and to develop a comprehensive program to uproot the causes of rural poverty and enhance farm job conditions and opportunities for the unemployed."

Pitts said labor's suggestions on wages, housing, transportation, labor-management relations and recruitment of domestic farm workers to replace the use of braceros in 1965 will be presented in Sacramento at a hearing called last Friday by Governor Brown for March 13. The day-long hearing, co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, will start at 9:00 a.m. U.S. Under Sec-

retary of Labor John F. Henning and Governor Brown will be co-chairmen of the meeting.

"Some aspects of the growers' study suggestions," Pitts said, "appear initially at least to be somewhat unrealistic."

"For example the growers urged the Governor to ask the President to authorize a nationwide study to find out how many unemployed workers and their families would be willing to come to California to fill seasonal farm labor jobs. Obviously no unemployed worker is able to state that he will be on hand for three or four months of seasonal work six to nine months ahead of time. Further, California has the internal resources to develop a fully competent domestic farm labor force without the kind of mass migration implied."

"Clearly the character and focus of any studies undertaken must be oriented toward making California agriculture more attractive and rewarding not only to presently trained domestic farm workers but to others in the ranks of the unemployed as well," Pitts said.

"If a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect can be developed between labor and agribusiness interests at the Governor's March 13 meeting, substantial strides could be made this year to prepare for a peaceful, prosperous and progressive evolutionary change in California's farm life next year," Pitts concluded.

According to the Governor's office about 20 percent of the state's farm labor last year was performed by braceros. Some 62,670 braceros were imported at the peak of harvest activities in California in October of last year.

The March 13 meeting will be held at the Department of Employment auditorium at 722 Capitol Mall, Sacramento.

Age Bias Banned On Federal Jobs

Stop discriminating against older workers!

That's the gist of an executive order issued last Thursday by President Johnson which ordered firms handling U.S. Government contracts to stop discriminating against older people in their employment practices.

The order, which also applies to sub-contracts, sets forth as federal policy that businesses engaged in federal work shall not:

- Discriminate against older people in "employment, advancement or discharge . . . or in connection with the terms, conditions or privileges of their employment."

- Specify maximum age limits in ads for employees to work on government contracts.

Wirtz Urges Action To Extend FLSA To 735,000 More

Prompt approval of President Johnson's proposal to extend basic minimum wage and maximum hours protections to 735,000 more workers and to remove the overtime exemption for 1,881,000 employees covered by other Fair Labor Standards Act provisions have been urged by Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz.

"Continuing failure to cover many larger enterprises can no longer be explained away in terms of any economic justifications. It reflects special interest pressures. It contributes to the perpetuation of a poverty we are now committed as a people to eliminate," Wirtz declared in a statement to a House Labor Subcommittee holding hearings on the proposal.

According to Wirtz, the Administration's proposals would extend FLSA protections to 190,000 employees in large hotels, motels and chains; 180,000 restaurant workers; 74,000 in retail food services; 80,000 in laundries doing at least \$1 million in annual business; 90,000 in agricultural processing; 34,000 in cotton ginning and 87,000 in small logging operations.

The newly covered workers would be guaranteed a minimum wage of \$1 an hour but no overtime protection. In stages over a four-year period they would reach the \$1.25 hourly wage floor and the 40-hour weekly work ceiling.

In contrast to these marginal protections, a resolution adopted by the AFL-CIO convention in New York last November called for a \$2.00 an hour federal minimum wage and extension of coverage "to all industries engaged in or affected by interstate commerce" with first priority to workers in hotels, motels, restaurants, laundries, hospitals and small logging operations.

The current FLSA extension measure does not include any provisions to raise the \$1.25 federal wage minimum or to lower the standard 40-hour workweek.

Consumers' Reading List

A list of state, federal and national non-profit organizations' publications containing current information pertinent to consumers in California may be obtained from Mrs. Helen Nelson, Consumer Counsel Office, State Capitol, Sacramento. Nearly a dozen of these publications are free for the asking.

BALM FOR GRIEVANCES

"The only way to keep men from agitating against grievances is to remove the grievances." — **Woodrow Wilson.**

Warning Issued On Folk Singers' Troupe Ad Pitch

Central labor bodies should be wary of promoters of road companies of folk singers who seek central labor body sponsorship for their appearances, according to Stanton E. Smith, AFL-CIO coordinator of local central bodies.

Why? Because several central labor bodies have found to their distress that the promoters, resorting to high pressure tactics and implied threats, use the central labor bodies' good name to induce merchants and other local citizens to buy tickets and to purchase ads for the road company's performances.

"Labor has had many sad experiences with advertising solicitors because it is impossible to exercise effective control over them," Smith said.

Once the solicitors leave town, whether a performance is held or not, the central labor body is left to repair the damage done by them to its reputation, he pointed out.

More important than the "clear financial risks" involved in such promotions, he added is the grave damage that can be done both to the reputation of the AFL-CIO and to local central bodies.

Smith urged central labor bodies officials to avoid becoming a party to solicitations of this type and to reject such proposals if made to them.

Outlook Dims for Curbing Radio-TV Spot Ads

Efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to limit by rule the amount of time radio and TV stations may devote to commercials were virtually abandoned last month when the Commission, under heavy pressure from the industry and other special interest groups, voted unanimously to drop the proposal.

In announcing its decision, however, the FCC confessed misgivings over the action by noting that it still regards over-commercialization as a serious problem and announcing its intention to deal with it on a case-by-case basis.

Last June the Commission's new chairman, E. William Henry, declared that "it is time, and past time to get specific" on what the FCC means by "over-commercialization." Commissioners Kenneth A. Cox and Robert E. Lee, together with Henry, were the three members of the seven-man board who reportedly favored the crackdown on too many spot commercials.

The issue had received scant coverage in the nation's metropolitan press, undoubtedly because many newspaper publishers also own radio and TV stations. It raised a furor in the industry, however, with the result that Representative Walter Rogers (D., Texas), Chairman of the House Communications Subcommittee, "wrote and pushed through his subcommittee and the parent Commerce Committee a bill to prohibit the Commission from limiting commercials by rule," according to "Broadcasting," the industry's weekly magazine.

The bill is currently before the House Rules Committee and the Texas Congressman is urging its enactment.

Representative John E. Moss, a Sacramento Democrat and a member of the Rogers subcommittee spearheaded support for the FCC crackdown on over-commercialization.

"I think that the industry, if it wants to be regulated on an ad hoc basis, is not following the best policy. It would be better off if the FCC were to have set standards," Moss declared.

The Commission's announcement noted that, despite assertions by

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employers," the AFL-CIO pointed out.

Moreover, rather than undermining union security systems, or interfering with union representational rights, the bill would actually strengthen them by depriving non-union employers of the "advantage" they now have over unions and unionized employers in being able to practice racial discrimination in employment policies without the risk of running afoul of existing federal law, the statement explained.

In short, both organized and unorganized employers would be placed on an equal footing under the bill's anti-discrimination provisions. This would abolish the special incentive that segregationist employers now have for keeping a union out.

The Senator's conclusion that the equal employment opportunity provision of the bill would require that Negroes be given preference over whites in employment, the AFL-CIO statement said, "is utterly false."

"The bill does not require 'racial balance' on a job. It does not upset seniority rights already obtained by any employee. It does not give to any race the right to preferential treatment in hiring or terms of employment. It does not prevent an employer or a union from relying on genuine gradations in skill or experience or similar qualifications in deciding whom to hire or promote or refer to a job. It does not force a union to favor non-union men over union men.

"It lays down just one overriding rule regarding employment: starting one year after the bill is effective, unions and employers alike are forbidden to judge a man by the color of his skin or the faith he professes," the AFL-CIO's analysis said.

But Senator Hill's speech builds "a long tale of horrors" on the false presumption that a violation could be found on a job "because there were less carpenters, proportionately, of a given race than of another race."

The truth of the matter is the job

some Congressmen and many broadcasters, the FCC does have the authority to adopt a rule regulating the amount of time radio and TV stations may devote to commercials. It also said it would "continue to take whatever steps are necessary to prevent" the occurrence of over-commercialization.

Any of you radio listeners or TV watchers want to drop a note to your Congressman or to the FCC opposing the Rogers bill and demanding a curb on too many commercials?

rights section of the bill only forbids discrimination in employment because of race or religion. It does not affect an employer's right to hire whomever he wants for whatever other reason.

In other words if non-discriminatory hiring results in racial imbalance because whites are better qualified, have greater seniority or apply in greater numbers, there is still no violation of equal employment guarantees of the pending bill, the AFL-CIO said.

Senator Hill also contended that the "representation status of a union before the (labor) board could be suspended or cancelled," as a result of provisions in the bill. But the AFL-CIO's legal department reported that the bill says nothing about a union's representation status before the NLRB.

In summary, the AFL-CIO comments note that the AFL-CIO supports the civil rights bill because it is morally right and because in the truest sense it is in the best interests of all American workers.

Any affiliates receiving copies of Senator Hill's speech should contact their local central bodies for further details on the inaccuracies it contains.

The House-passed civil rights bill was formally received by the Senate this week but it was not referred, as is the general routine, to the Senate Judiciary Committee, which in the past has served as a dead letter drop for civil rights measures.

Instead, Democratic leader Mike Mansfield used parliamentary procedures that leave the decision on when the issue will be brought before the Senate for debate up to the majority leader.

Committee Tables Needy's Food Stamp Plan Extension

President Johnson apparently lost one of the first battles of his "unconditional war on poverty" when the House Agriculture Committee tabled an Administration bill to extend the Food Stamp Plan to needy persons in all states.

The Food Stamp Program, initiated as a pilot project by the late President Kennedy shortly after he took office, provided needy persons with coupons that they could use to purchase a portion of their food. The program was instituted in 42 depressed areas.

President Johnson had asked Congress in his state of the union and farm messages to extend the program to the rest of the nation and make it permanent. Instead, five Democrats joined 14 committee Republicans to table it.

Opponents contended the program cost too much and would result in federal controls over local welfare programs. In their view evidently federal controls over hunger are less important.

Realty Salesmen's Drive To Kill Fair Housing Law May Cost \$237 Million

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sponsors of the segregation initiative did not realize it would have the incidental effect of depriving us of urban renewal programs, our major weapon against urban blight."

Mosk said that federal officials had informed him that \$237,608,172 in federal funds earmarked for California projects are jeopardized by this initiative."

Such a loss, the Attorney General observed, "would truly be a tragic setback to California cities."

It would also apparently have an adverse effect on the state's building and construction industry and, ironically, on the business volume of the state's realtors since urban renewal projects tend to spur other private construction.

Asserting that the CREA initiative would not only entrench racial discrimination in the state constitution but would "guarantee . . . the physical decay of our cities" as well, Mosk urged the realty salesmen's group to "abandon their efforts to place this danger upon our ballots."

U.S. Property Law Expert Refutes CREA Position

Last week one of the nation's leading authorities on property law, Professor

Richard R. B. Powell, concluded that the rights of property owners do not include the right to discriminate by race in the sale or rental of houses.

Writing in the current issue of the Hastings Law Review, Professor Powell said:

"Property rights cease when civil rights involving the public welfare are at stake."

In his article, which was prompted in part by the current CREA initiative campaign to repeal the Rumford Fair Housing Act, Professor Powell observed:

"Property rights have been redefined in response to a swelling demand that ownership be responsible and responsive to the needs of the social whole.

"Property rights cannot be used as a shibboleth to cloak conduct which adversely affects the health, the safety, the morals or the welfare of others."

The CREA and other Rumford Act opponents argue that property owners have absolute discretion to do what they please with property.

But Professor Powell pointed out that: "There was a time when profitable houses of prostitution were thought to be within the property rights of generally respected members of the community. This is no longer true."

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ices." The nation's goal should be to enable each American to enjoy the benefits of modern medical knowledge, he added.

Hearings on the issue were concluded by the House Ways and Means Committee last month but the committee has taken no action since then to release the bill for debate on the floor of the House.

Committee Chairman Wilbur Mills (D.-Ark.) is an avowed opponent of the program, as are, reportedly, a slight majority of the 25-man Committee.

Although the measure has been introduced in various forms in at least the past four sessions of Congress, it has never been permitted to reach the floor of the House to give all 435 of the nation's elected representatives an opportunity to voice their views on its merits.

In other specific major recommendations in the health field, the President requested legislation for:

- A five-year extension and considerable expansion of the Hill-Burton program providing federal aid for hospital construction.

- Construction of new nursing schools and expansion of others coupled with a federal nurse scholarship program to boost the total number of nurses in the nation by 75 percent—from the present 550,000 to 680,000—by 1970.

TRADE UNIONS' ROLE

"The services which the labor unions can render in the future are even greater than they have rendered in the past. The employer needs the unions 'to stay him from the fall to vanity'; the employees need them for their own protections; the community needs them to raise the level of the citizen. Strong stable trade unions can best serve those ends."—Justice Louis D. Brandeis.

Handicapped Aided by AFL-CIO Film

A new 14-minute AFL-CIO film entitled "They Have What It Takes", produced in cooperation with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, addresses itself to the subject of labor-management cooperation toward more job opportunities for the disabled.

In outlining such an approach, it drives home the point that when special care is taken in matching the man and the job, the disabled worker presents no special problem or unusual risk.

In a closing statement, AFL-CIO Pres-

ident George Meany appeals to employers to judge handicapped workers on the basis of their ability rather than on their disability.

Labor organizations interested in enhancing their public relations and educational work in this area can purchase the film by writing to AFL-CIO's assistant director of education George T. Guernsey, 815 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

The cost is \$25.00 per print. Checks should be made payable to William F. Schnitzler, Secretary-Treasurer, AFL-CIO.

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