

State Jobless Benefits Extended; U.S. Payments Halt

Effective April 1, jobless Californians can begin drawing unemployment benefits for up to a maximum of 13 more weeks thanks to the sorry fact that the state unemployment rate exceeded six percent for three consecutive months—in December, January and February.

The amount of the benefits for the extended period will be the same as the recipient's weekly benefit.

This will be the fifth time since the extended benefits provision was enacted in 1960 that such benefits have been extended. The last time they were extended was between April and September, 1963.

The state's unemployment rate averaged 6.3 percent during the December-February period, the state Department of Employment said this week.

On the federal level, the payment of unemployment insurance benefits to former civilian employees of the U.S. government and to former members of the armed forces were suspended be-

(Continued on Page 4)

Rising Hopes for Passage of Medicare Bill Trigger Counterattack By AMA

The American Medical Association "is stepping up its offensive against medicare by putting an elaborately planned 'Operation Hometown' campaign into high gear throughout the nation," a recent article in the Washington Post has disclosed.

"Organized through state and county medical societies at the AMA's

direction, the campaign is resulting in a barrage of anti-medicare letters to Capitol Hill and the White House," the Post story said.

The Post, a major daily paper in the nation's capitol, said that the AMA campaign, which had been in preparation for a year, "moved into the home stretch a few weeks ago."

"This coincided with reports that the House Ways and Means Committee soon would consider medicare in executive session and that committee chairman Wilbur B. Mills (D.-Ark.), long a foe of medicare, might permit a bill to be brought before the House for a vote, the report stated.

"In some areas," the Post said, "congressional supporters of the Administration's health care program for the aged are the targets of special advertising attacks."

At about the same time the Post story appeared, Rep. John Dingell (D.-Michigan) made a blistering attack in the House of Representatives on propaganda against medicare issued by the Hospital Insurance Association of America.

Dingell said the Association had dis-

(Continued on Page 3)



THOS. L. PITTS
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Secretary-Treasurer

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Record Turnout in Offing for State COPE Endorsement Convention in S.F.

A record turnout is expected at the Pre-Primary Endorsement Convention of the California Labor Council on Political Education, to be held in California Hall in San Francisco on Wednesday, April 8.

Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO statewide political arm, disclosed today that the rate at which delegate's credentials are still pouring in "reflects, in part at least, a growing awareness at the local union membership level of the need for a close look at all candidates in the light of the past performance of the legislature."

(Continued on Page 2)

Special Session Called as Impasse Balks Budget OK

A complete impasse in the state legislature this week forestalled passage of the state's \$3.67 billion budget before the 30-day budget session expires at midnight Easter Sunday, March 29, and thereby forced Governor Brown to call a special budget session to start next Monday.

Attempts to force the initiative to repeal the Rumford Fair Housing Act on the June ballot, although cloaked in avowed concerns about the adequacy of school finances, were at the hub of the deadlock.

To get the measure out of the lower house, the Democrats stripped the urgency clause from the bill and passed it with a simple majority. The vote was 49 to 28, with all the do-pass votes coming from the Democrats and all the nays from the Republicans. The Assembly lineup at present is 50 Democrats, 28 Republicans and two vacancies.

But the State Constitution requires a two-thirds majority vote for budget passage. As a result, when the bill went to the Senate, State Finance Chairman George Miller, Jr. (D.-Contra Costa) rejected the measure as "incomplete and imperfect" because it lacked the necessary two-thirds majority of 54 votes.

In a letter notifying the Assembly of the Senate's rejection of the bill, Miller pointed out that the measure contained no appropriation for support of the University of California, mental hospitals, prisons, the Governor, the legislature and "most other major functions of state government.

"If this bill were enacted into law,

(Continued on Page 3)

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(Continued from Page 1)

tials received to date, Pitts said, "the convention may prove to be the largest of its kind ever held in the State and that includes the Pre-Primary Conventions held in connection with the right-to-work fight in 1958, the Kennedy-Nixon battle in 1960, and the Brown-Nixon conflict just two years ago."

Candidates for the U.S. Senate seat presently held by Senator Clair Engle (D.- Red Bluff) will be interviewed by the 36-member Executive Council of California Labor COPE on April 7, the day before the convention, at the Del Webb TowneHouse.

The Secretary of State's Office disclosed yesterday that a total of 15 candidates had filed nomination papers for the post as of the 5 p.m. deadline on Wednesday. Included were 12 Democrats and 3 Republicans.

The seven most prominent candidates are Democrats Alan Cranston, Clair

Brown To Speak At Mental Health Awards Banquet

Governor Edmund G. Brown will be the principal speaker at the Fourth Annual Mental Health-Retardation Awards Banquet and Conference at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on April 10.

The conference, capped with an evening banquet to honor individuals and groups for distinguished volunteer service in behalf of the mentally retarded and mentally ill, is sponsored by the California Association for Mental Health and the California Council for Retarded Children in cooperation with the State Department of Mental Hygiene. The California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, is a co-sponsor of the event.

"Community Programs: Progress and Profit," will be the theme of the day-long conference featuring local, state and national experts on problems relating to mental health and retardation.

Topics to be discussed will include the resistance encountered in developing community mental health programs; "Federal Programs in Retardation"; and "Developing State Programs for the Mentally Ill and Retarded."

Five afternoon discussion meetings will be held, including one on "Labor's Role in Community Programs," to be conducted by representatives of the AFL-CIO Community Services Offices and of Retail Clerks Union Local 770.

Registration for the conference starts at 9:00 a.m. with the conference convening at 10:00 a.m.

Engle, George McLain and Pierre Salinger, and Republicans Fred Hall, Leland Kaiser and George Murphy.

Salinger's eligibility to run for the post is being challenged in the courts. Salinger was White House Press Secretary for President Johnson until he announced his intention to run for the Senate. His party status and legal residence, which had been in Virginia, are at issue.

All candidates have been invited to be interviewed to seek organized labor's endorsement.

Convention delegates will vote on endorsements involving 38 Congressional seats, 20 seats in the State Senate (in all odd-numbered districts) and 80 Assembly seats.

The interviewing of candidates seeking district endorsements for Congress, the State Assembly and State Senate is currently being conducted by local COPE organizations of central labor bodies throughout the state. Their recommendations will be submitted to the Executive Council which in turn makes its recommendations to the convention.

No endorsements in either statewide or district offices are official without action of the convention delegates by a 60 percent majority.

Although the convention itself will be held at the California Hall at 625 Polk Street, Convention headquarters will be at the Del Webb TowneHouse.

Thal-Larsen Gets Key Post On Manpower Commission

Governor Edmund G. Brown has appointed Mrs. Margaret Thal-Larsen of Berkeley, a regional economist of the Bureau of Employment Security, as executive secretary of the Commission on Manpower, Automation and Technology.

In announcing the appointment, the Governor said:

"In its selection of Mrs. Thal-Larsen, a distinguished economist and political scientist, the Commission has served notice to the people of this state that it intends to pursue to the fullest its responsibilities for a searching study of our state's socio-economic complex."

Mrs. Thal-Larsen, who is taking a year's leave of absence from her current post, recently completed a handbook on making manpower studies for the use of developing countries. The handbook was financed by the U.S. Department of State. Her office will be in San Francisco.

'What Labor Wants' Spelled Out in Supplement

"What does labor want?"

One of the most effective answers to that question is contained in a 44-page supplement to the New York Times that was prepared by the AFL-CIO and distributed both nationally and in Europe.

Articles in the supplement spell out the AFL-CIO's goals regarding automation, housing, community services, world affairs, education, legislation and on a host of other vital issues.

Since its publication, demand for the supplement has run high with many organizations outside the labor movement such as schools, legislators, church groups, the U.S. Information Agency, the State Department and the Armed Forces ordering the magazine in quantities for programs to help bring about a broader understanding of organized labor.

Likewise, college instructors, students, labor publications and community news media have been finding its usefulness almost unlimited.

The California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, has a limited supply on hand for distribution. If ordered from the national office single copies cost 10 cents. Quantity orders of 1,000 or more cost \$75 per 1,000.

Speech Hits Myth About Labor Costs

"Propaganda to the contrary notwithstanding, wages are not the determining factor in the price of many of the most important items you buy. For example, not so long ago a study was made of all the components that went into the total \$299 price of a washing machine. It may surprise you to learn that the single largest factor was the \$121 mark-up between the wholesaler's and the retailer's price. This mark-up alone constituted two-fifths of the final purchase price.

"You may also be surprised to know that the cost of this \$299 washing machine when it left the factory was only \$155.97. And of this \$155.97, \$74.87 went for materials and only \$8.27—or about three percent of the total price—went for labor. All the rest went for overhead, transportation, taxes, advertising, administration and other costs.

"So the truth of the matter is, while good wages in the city mean better prices for what the farmer sells, low wages do not necessarily mean low prices for what the farmer buys." — Al Hayes, President, International Association of Machinists, in a recent address to the national convention of the National Farmers Union.

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(Continued from Page 1)

state government as such would grind to a complete halt," Miller wrote.

Before the Assembly acted on the bill, Assemblyman Robert Crown (D.-Alameda) had warned the lower house Republicans that the Senate would not accept a bill passed by a simple majority. At that time he pointed out that an extra session would cost \$10,000 a day and that before long this would cancel out the limited budget cuts proposed by the Republicans.

Crown accused his Republican colleagues of holding the budget as "hostage" while refusing to negotiate a ransom.

The Republican bloc in the legislature has been attempting to force a \$260 million school construction bond issue and other bonds totalling \$770 million on the June primary ballot. But the Governor has announced he is opposed to putting any bond issues on the June ballot because such action would automatically require a June vote on the segregation initiative—the initiative to repeal the Rumford Fair Housing Act.

In the course of a series of Republican efforts to make minor reductions in the budget earlier in the week, there was one notable defection from the strict party line positions that have prevailed.

This occurred when only 15 of the 28 Republicans backed a move by Assemblyman Robert E. Badham (R.-Costa Mesa) to slash the budget for the Fair Employment Practices Commission by 50 percent. Three Republicans joined 49 Democrats to defeat the Badham amendment.

Support Freedom Bond Drive, Meany Urges

AFL-CIO President George Meany has called on all affiliated local unions and central labor bodies to "help our country while we help our members" by supporting and promoting the U. S. Treasury Department's Freedom Bond Drive.

Noting that over eight million U. S. wage earners are now taking advantage of the Payroll Savings Plan to invest regularly in U. S. Savings Bonds, Meany reported that the 1963 campaign resulted in the addition of more than a million workers to that plan.

The AFL-CIO chief said that organized labor has become increasingly convinced of the importance of the savings bond program to the individual wage earner as a way to save for his future security. After all, he pointed out, it's "the safest investment on earth."

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(Continued from Page 1)

patched a letter to all members of Congress that contained "distortions which shocked me."

In general, he said, the letter claimed that private health insurance policies and existing programs "provide adequate protection of our people."

But Dingell pointed out that HIAA spokesmen who appeared before the House Ways and Means Committee last November had admitted that "the benefits provided in policies for the aged are about one-third less than the benefits provided to younger people."

"To grasp the full significance of that fact," he added, "one must remember that average spending by aged persons for hospital and nursing home care is more than three times that by younger persons." Moreover, he said, "older persons' incomes are generally much lower than those of the rest of the population."

"One-third less benefits for people with three times the need and below-average incomes hardly add up to 'adequate protection,'" Dingell asserted.

"Contrary to the claims of the hucksters, private health insurance simply cannot and does not provide the aged with the protection they need," he concluded.

The AMA's "Operation Hometown" is also covered in the current issue of the monthly publication of the National Council of Senior Citizens which said that the "long-planned, richly-financed counterattack" by the American Medical Association was triggered by rising hopes for enactment of old age social security hospital insurance in the current session of Congress.

Before the drive to prevent enactment of the labor-backed King-Anderson bill is over, the medical lobby may well have spent more than \$7 million in anti-medicare propaganda, the NCSC publication said.

That is the minimum amount that went into organized medicine's campaign against the King-Anderson bill in 1962 when the measure was defeated by two votes in the Senate, the NCSC estimated.

Substantiation of the organized campaign came from senior citizens' clubs across the country which have forwarded to council headquarters clippings of standard AMA newspaper advertisements that are beginning to appear in many states under county medical society sponsorship. These ads have been printed in such widely separated areas as Baker County, Oregon; Louisville Ky.; South Bend, Ind.; and Ham-tranck, Mich., as well as in communities

in California, Illinois and Iowa, the Senior Citizen's Council reported.

The AMA assault also reportedly includes a sophisticated letter-writing campaign that attempts to avoid the impression of an organized campaign by shunning the practice of sending identically worded messages to members of Congress.

The current practice, according to an account by Washington's Scripps-Howard columnists George Clifford and Tom Kelly, is to have everyone in a doctor's office—nurses, technicians and receptionists—sign individually worded letters, written on non-uniform stationery so that they appear to represent the spontaneous feelings of people who have no particular connection with each other.

John W. Edelman, acting president of the National Council of Senior Citizens, also charged that there was widespread falsification in a number of ads sponsored by AMA affiliates in that they attempt to "frighten" workers into the belief that passage of the medicare program would drastically reduce their take-home pay.

Much of the advertising states that enactment of the King-Anderson Bill would result in a 23 percent increase in the payroll tax of a \$100-a-week worker, Edelman said.

"The fact is that Social Security taxes on the average would rise only 25 cents per week," he pointed out.

The King-Anderson Bill would give persons over 65 three options. They could choose hospitalization protection for up to 45 days in each illness without additional cost, or up to 90 days with a \$10-a-day charge for the first nine days, or up to 180 days with a flat charge of 2.5 times the average cost for a single day.

In addition they would be eligible for up to 180 days of skilled nursing home care after hospitalization, up to 240 home health visits a year, and various out-patient hospital services.

"The National Council of Senior Citizens does not contest the right of the AMA to persuade others to its point of view.

"However, when the AMA uses lies in public advertising programs surely the public has a right to ask that the AMA fight its battles with clean hands," Edelman said.

The Test of Progress

"The test of our progress is not whether we add to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."—Franklin D. Roosevelt.

State Retraining Aid Goes Begging

Many workers displaced from jobs who could not meet the eligibility requirements for allowances under the federal Manpower Development and Training Act (MDTA) can qualify immediately for state retraining programs and still receive unemployment compensation, according to state director Albert B. Tieburg.

The trouble is not enough of them know it, he said.

Last year 2,447 displaced workers enrolled in training courses in 175 different occupations under the state program "but statistics on technological change, automation and plant relocation in California indicate that potentially there are many more who need retraining than are getting it," Tieburg said.

The emphasis on the federal Manpower Development and Training Act "has overshadowed" the state's retraining program, he asserted.

In actuality the state program, complements the federal program and offers the additional advantage that eligible applicants can be referred immediately to existing courses in local schools instead of waiting until special courses under MDTA are established, he pointed out.

In fact, anyone who is jobless and eligible for state unemployment insurance compensation can walk into a local employment service office, apply for a course, be approved and enrolled the same day, and receive jobless benefits while attending the course until his benefits are exhausted, Tieburg pointed out.

Since its inception in 1961, 6,417 persons have been approved for state training programs and, as of December, 1963, 2,259 had completed training. Of these, 1,326 or 59 percent got jobs, most of them in training-related occupations.

To qualify for the state's retraining

State Jobless Pay Extended 13 Weeks; U.S. Benefits Halt as Funds Run Out

(Continued from Page 1)

cause of exhaustion of federal funds at the close of business on March 19.

The suspension, which does not affect state jobless benefits, will not surprise unemployed persons now receiving the federal insurance because the State Department of Employment, which serves as the agent of the United States government, already has prepared claimants to anticipate an interruption of benefit payments.

Claimants who remain unemployed during the suspension should continue to certify at the department's local offices in the usual manner. Those who do will receive any benefits due them when supplementary money for the remainder

of this fiscal year becomes available. Otherwise, the back payments cannot be made.

On Wednesday the Senate approved a \$42 million emergency appropriation to provide funds to resume the payments to the more than 100,000 Federal Employees and ex-servicemen affected. The measure was subsequently rushed to the White House for the President's signature.

The department said it had no way of knowing how soon it will be possible to resume payment of benefits. Claimants who continue to report during the suspension will be notified by the department's local offices throughout the state when payments can be resumed.

Booklet on Equal Rights Available

"Those who feel the sting of discrimination should know the full range of legal remedies available for securing and enjoying their rights. Others should know the extent of their responsibility under the law," Attorney General Stanley Mosk asserted in announcing the availability of a booklet entitled "Equal Rights Under the Law."

The booklet, just revised for the third time, contains the complete text of the

programs, the following conditions must be fulfilled.

- Applicants for retraining must have a valid California unemployment insurance claim.
- Reasonable job opportunities in the wage earner's present line of work must be scarce in the area.
- The retraining course must be for a skill in demand.
- The applicant must have the aptitude and qualifications needed to complete the course.
- The course must be approved by the director of employment.

Rumford Fair Housing Act, Governor Brown's Code of Fair Practices and the Unruh Civil Rights Act as well as the full text of the 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (The Anti-Poll Tax Amendment).

"While we can be proud of these statutes, in cold fact, laws are only printed documents. Whether they become living expressions of constitutional guarantees translated into realistic experience will be determined by you, the citizen. Knowledge of the law and compliance with it are vital prerequisites for these provisions to be meaningful," the Attorney General said.

Free copies may be obtained by writing to the office of the Attorney General at any of the following three offices: Room 6000, State Building, San Francisco; Library and Courts Building, Sacramento; and P.O. Box 1311, Main Office, Los Angeles.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

"If I were a worker in a factory, the first thing I would do would be to join a union."—Franklin D. Roosevelt.

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