

State's Jobless Rate Up Despite Unemployment Dip

California's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose in April from 5.6 percent to 5.8 percent despite a decline in the ranks of the state's jobless but joblessness was below year-ago levels for the first time in over a year, according to Albert B. Tieburg, Director of the State Department of Employment.

The decline in joblessness, however, apparently results principally from comparing 30 days of relatively fair weather last month with a rainy April 1963. Since the jobless rate rose despite the spur the fair weather last month gave to outdoor job activities, it serves to underscore the present inability of the state's job-growth rate to keep pace with its snowballing labor force.

On the national level the jobless rate stagnated for the third month at 5.4 percent although unemployment dropped 372,000 to 3.9 million between March and April. A year ago the nation's jobless rate was 5.7 percent and the state's was 6.2 percent.

Numerically, California's unemployment fell to 393,000 in April, a drop of 65,000 from a month earlier and 17,000 below the year-ago figure.

On the employment side, Ernest B. Webb, Director of the State Department of Industrial Relations, reported that

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Civil Rights Issue Vital to All, Gruhn Tells Nat'l Conference of Christians and Jews

"Too many people continue to view the civil rights issue as one of almost exclusive concern to those actively discriminated against," Albin J. Gruhn, President of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, declared at a meeting of the National Conference of Christians and Jews in Anaheim last week.

School Initiative Draws CFT's Fire

The California Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, is strongly opposed to a proposed initiative to boost state aid to schools by \$200 million unless the initiative is redrafted to include provisions for "long overdue reforms."

The Federation attacked the initiative petition being pushed by the California Teachers Association also because it would drive the total November ballot money requests to nearly \$1 billion and would endanger all money proposals on the ballot.

Governor Edmund G. Brown joined the CFT's opposition to the measure

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Pitts Urges Congress To Double-Check \$159 Million Water Pact For Loopholes

An urgent appeal to California's entire Congressional delegation to take a sharp look at the provisions of a pending \$157 million contract to construct a water distribution system on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley has been made by the state AFL-CIO.

Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, warned that the dominant monopoly landholders in the federal service area of the San Luis Project "are dangerously close to flouting the will of Congress in regard to the enforcement of the anti-monopoly provisions of U. S. reclamation law." This, he pointed out, will be directly contrary to the aims of

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Oklahoma Voters Kill 4-Year Drive To Ban Union Shop

Oklahoma voters have rejected a proposed "right-to-work" amendment to the State Constitution despite an intensive, heavily financed, four-year campaign to outlaw the union shop.

AFL-CIO President George Meany hailed the defeat of the "union-busting" measure saying:

"The returns made it clear that this was a statewide decision. While union members, as expected, turned out in force against the effort to destroy their organizations, they alone could not have won the fight.

"They needed—and received—strong support from outstanding political leaders, from the Negro community, and from a substantial proportion of the farmers of Oklahoma."

Union membership in Oklahoma is relatively small and the state is surrounded, except for a few miles of the Missouri border, by the "right-to-work" states of Arkansas, Kansas and Texas. In view of the victory despite these adverse conditions, Meany said he hoped that the voters repudiation of the issue "will prove to be the beginning of the end for the 'right-to-work' evil in other states as well."

Analysis of the vote, however, appears to indicate that the proximity of the other "right-to-work" states was a boon rather than a hindrance to defeating the amendment. In LeFlore County

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where the majority of county residents cross the border each day to jobs in Arkansas, a right-to-work state, the vote in the county was 6,894 to 2,803 against "right-to-work."

In Kay County which normally votes Republican and in 1960 gave Nixon a 2 to 1 majority over Kennedy, right-to-work forces had considered the County "safe" for the measure. But many of its residents work across the border in Kansas, another right-to-work state. As a result, the vote against banning the union shop was 9,210 to 8,238, an upset.

RIGHT WING FORCES

The coalition of right-wing forces spearheading the attempt to make Oklahoma the 21st state to ban union shop agreements consisted of the National Right to Work Committee and a special task force set up by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce which was strongly supported by Oklahoma's many right-wing extremist groups, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau, and the bulk of the daily press.

Observers on the scene estimated that the "right-to-work" groups spent from \$5 to \$10 for every dollar spent to fight the proposition but the Oklahoma State AFL-CIO mobilized thousands of union members and their wives for a massive educational campaign based on door-to-door canvassing, phone calls, leaflet distribution, card checks and a precinct organization which, in key areas, was organized down to the block and even half block level. These thousands of hours of volunteer work made up for the dollar difference.

CITY VOTERS REJECT IT

Other breakdowns of the vote disclosed heavy margins against "right-to-work" in areas of labor strength, in Negro precincts and in Indian areas such as Cherokee County. And despite powerful support in the daily newspapers for the right-to-work proposal, the amendment trailed in Oklahoma's two biggest cities, Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

Interestingly, although the referendum was of concern to union members throughout the nation and the top issue for Oklahomans who cast more votes in the referendum than in the Senatorial primary contests of the Democratic and Republican parties combined, the daily press outside of Oklahoma gave it scant coverage, another example of the power of the press to censor by omission.

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President Johnson's "all-out war on poverty."

The contract as presently negotiated between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Westlands Water District would subvert U. S. reclamation law and give a \$1,000 per acre bonanza to the large landholders who own most of the some 340,000 irrigable acres embraced by the district, Pitts said.

"Is this what President Johnson had in mind when he declared an all-out war on poverty? . . . His poverty program actually envisages making land available for family farms to help alleviate rural poverty. This is also one of the basic purposes of reclamation law. If the President's poverty program is to have any meaning in rural areas it is vital that the President's Secretary of Interior be required to enforce the excess lands provision of U. S. reclamation law," he declared.

The State AFL-CIO leader spelled out his objections to the contract in a letter dispatched to the State's federal representatives last Thursday but just made public today.

'HOODWINKING' CHARGED

The contract, already approved by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, "would hoodwink Congress into accepting 'paper' enforcement of the anti-monopoly protections while laying the groundwork for effective and inevitable evasion of the (reclamation) law," Pitts charged.

"The contemplated method of evasion," Pitts added, "is so obvious that we find it difficult to understand the indifference displayed by the Department toward Congress and the law of the land in submitting the contract for review."

The key to the "method of evasion," Pitts indicated is "the tremendous potential for the underground storage of water in the San Joaquin Valley, including the service area of the San Luis Project." But the contract's "fatal flaw" is that it provides for the construction of a distribution system before obtaining recordable contracts from the large landholders requiring the sale of excess lands as a condition of receiving heavily subsidized project water. In addition the district contract includes a clause that refers to the delivery of percolating water as "unavoidable," thus, exempting such delivery from the anti-monopoly protections, Pitts explained.

"Once the distribution system is constructed, the water would percolate freely into the deep wells of the excess landholders" making enforcement of

payment for the water "virtually impossible," he pointed out.

"Under these circumstances, effective enforcement of reclamation law requires that the recordable contracts be obtained prior to the construction of the distribution system," Pitts said.

LAW EXPLAINED

Reclamation law bans delivery of project water to more than the law's 160 acre limitation (320 for man and wife) unless the large landholder signs a recordable contract agreeing to sell his excess lands to eligible buyers within a 10 year period. During the 10 year period he may receive the subsidized water for the excess acreage. The law applies only if the landholder obtains the subsidized water from the federal project.

Some of the principal aims of the reclamation law are to prevent unjust enrichment of large landholders at the general taxpayers' expense and to alleviate rural poverty by making reclaimed land available for family farms, Pitts explained.

The federal service area encompassed in the San Luis Project includes almost a half million acres of irrigable land, the great bulk of which is in large holdings.

The Southern Pacific Company alone owns about 120,000 acres in the federal service area and approximately 65,000 of these acres are within the Westlands Water District, the State labor leader said.

To substantiate his assertion that the pending contract would result in a \$1,000 an acre giveaway to large land owners, Pitts pointed out that enactment of Public Law 86-488 in 1960 authorized spending up to \$290 million for construction of the federal portion of the San Luis unit and an additional \$192 million for water distribution in drainage systems for the area or a total of \$482 million.

Bearing in mind that the San Luis area includes almost 500 million acres of irrigable land and that "the interest saved by landholders over the payout period roughly equals the investment, the public subsidy to each land owner is \$1,000 per acre," Pitts explained.

\$120 MILLION FOR S. P.

Thus, he added, if the present contract is allowed to stand, "the owners of excess lands in the federal service area will in effect receive a subsidy of about \$360 million to which they are not entitled under the law. The Southern Pa-

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Civil Rights Issue Vital to All, Gruhn Tells Nat'l Conference of Christians and Jews

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rights guaranteed all Americans under the constitution.

"This is obvious to any of us who grew up in mixed communities or attended unsegregated schools. We accepted the situation as the natural order of things and thought little more about it.

"In other words, the enforcement of civil rights legislation has an educational as well as a correctional function."

Speaking on the subject, "Labor's Role in Our Changing Community," Gruhn emphasized organized labor's historic and continuing role as the leader of forces within the state and nation fighting in behalf of the public interest and the general welfare.

"Much too often," he said, "the needs of the general public simply do not coincide with the profits interests of . . . powerful economic-political groups."

"One of the most dramatic and profound clashes between the public and private interests today," he said, results from "the dislocations being wrought by automation and other forms of technological change."

Noting that although the urgent need for a solution to this problem is acutely felt by the displaced worker and by hundreds of thousands of young people seeking to find a place in the labor market, Gruhn pointed out that "no such sense of urgency is visible in the ranks of most of the corporate leadership responsible for initiating these new technologies.

"In fact, there is every reason to believe that the short-range improvements in corporate earnings that have come about as a result of the permanent displacement of tens of thousands of workers have given rise to unmitigated rejoicing on their part," Gruhn declared.

This attitude coupled with "nefarious

approaches on the part of the vested interests toward maximizing their earnings" through "exorbitant pricing practices," particularly in the prescription drug field, and "deceptive packaging and labeling" techniques, results in a "shameful form of systematized and mass theft," he charged. Moreover it is abetted in the consumer field by "deceitful and misleading lending practices" that have resulted in efforts to enact truth-in-lending legislation.

Citing these and many other areas in which vested interests work to the detriment of the public or community interest, Gruhn pointed out that such practices take their heaviest toll among minority group members.

As a result, "the fortunes of organized labor and the civil rights movement now and in the future are most profoundly intertwined at the political level," he said.

Noting that there are still some members of the labor movement who oppose civil rights legislation, Gruhn asked:

"How could it be otherwise in view of the fact that nationally we represent some 13.5 million people from all sections of the country?

"But," he added, "let me assure you . . . that the civil rights bill would not be the subject of the filibuster talk-in on the floor of the U.S. Senate today had this issue enjoyed the same degree of support over the years from the leaders of the business community as it has from organized labor."

The labor leader also refuted point by point the realty interests' attacks on the Rumford Fair Housing Law and declared that the "maximum possible resources of organized labor" will be thrown into the fight to defeat the realtors' attempt to ban fair housing legislation in California.

"Nothing could be a more meaningful tribute from Californians to the late President John F. Kennedy than the defeat of this initiative proposal in view of his dedication to bringing equal rights to all Americans. Let me remind you," Gruhn said, "of his statement of the problem:

"We preach freedom around the world and we mean it, and we cherish our freedom here at home, but are we to say to the world, and much more importantly, to each other that this is the land of the free (except for the Negroes); that we have no second-class citizens (except Negroes); that we have no class or caste system, no ghettos, no master race (except with respect to Negroes)?"

"Now the time has come for this nation to fulfill its promises . . ."

Teachers Union Opposes CTA's School Initiative

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this week, referring to the CTA initiative as a "very very bad thing." The Governor indicated however that he hasn't given up hope of getting the CTA to abandon the initiative.

In San Francisco, Marshall Axelrod, a CFT Vice-President, said that school administrators "are already making it known that they expect teachers to circulate the petitions and finance the drive."

The CFT spelled out its opposition to the petition in a resolution distributed this week which read as follows:

"The members of the California Federation of Teachers, an organization composed of classroom teachers, along with all other Californians' recognize that there is a pressing need for educational reform as well as for a massive increase in school aid.

"It appears increasingly evident that the California Legislature will pass a reform education finance bill this year with substantial new money for the schools.

"The California Teachers Association seeks to place on the November ballot an initiative constitutional amendment requiring an unrestricted \$200 million increase in state aid without any suggestion of teacher supported, badly needed, and long overdue reforms, such as reductions in huge class sizes, unification of small districts and reversal of the trend toward top heavy administrative structures.

"Any request for additional funds endangers the passage of the much needed \$270 million school bond construction issue proposed by the Legislature.

"The CTA initiative would drive the total November ballot money requests to nearly one billion dollars and would endanger all money proposals on the ballot.

"The CFT insists that necessary reforms of the educational system in California such as reduction in class size, a reduction in the number of administrative and supervisory positions, adequate teachers' salaries, and elimination of inefficient school districts be detailed in the initiative itself before it is worthy of support. Until the initiative contains such detail the California Federation of Teachers must in fulfillment of its professional responsibility to the children of California, oppose the initiative.

"The CFT recognizes that its stand places upon it the responsibility to continue to press vigorously for proper financing coupled with further educational reforms."

Anti-Pay TV Initiative Qualifies for Nov. 3 Ballot

An initiative measure to ban pay television in California has qualified for the state's November 3 election ballot, Assistant Secretary of State Walter Stutler announced this week.

Stutler reported that more than 675,000 valid signatures had been certified. The number required was 468,259. The anti-pay TV measure was the 10th to qualify for the ballot.

An 11th measure to authorize a state-franchised but privately operated lottery is expected to qualify later in the week, he said.

State Jobless Rate Rises to 5.8% Despite Dip in Unemployment; U.S. Rate Stagnant

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civilian employment, at 6,506,000, was 198,000, or 3.1 percent higher than a year-ago and reflected the largest increase from year-ago levels in the past 10 months. But he likewise pointed out that the gain was measured from a rainy April 1963 in which normal Spring expansion was inhibited.

The biggest job increases over the year were in services, government and trade, Webb said. Employment in manufacturing, at 1,443,000 last month, was practically unchanged from a year ago. Sharp reductions continued in aircraft, electronics and missiles manufacturing with the result that these three industries alone had a total of close to 5,000 fewer workers in April than a month earlier.

The state's civilian labor force, comprised of the employed and the unemployed available for and seeking work, was 6,899,000 in April, 181,000 more than in April 1963.

For the nation as a whole employment climbed 1.4 million to 69.9 million in April, nearly double the normal seasonal gain, the U.S. Labor Department said. The unusual increase was "partly a result of increases among domestics and farm workers," the Department added.

Farm employment climbed 412,000 in April to total 4.4 million and non-farm employment rose by 948,000 to 65.4 million.

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cific stands to benefit by a potential subsidy of \$120 million," Pitts said.

The State AFL-CIO leader noted, however, that the provisions of the San Luis Act which authorized funds for distribution facilities specify that the Secretary of the Interior is to submit "a contract"—not a succession of contracts at various times—covering distribution facilities for various portions of the federal service area. Since the Westlands contract covers only a part of the federal service area in the San Luis project, the contract is deficient, he said.

Although Udall has already approved the contract, the San Luis Project Act affords Congress a legislative "oversight" or review period not to exceed 90 days.

Since this grace period has not yet expired, Pitts urged Congress to take advantage of it by:

A substantial increase of part-time workers created something of a paradox. Since part-time workers are counted as employed, an increase in this sector results in an apparent improvement in the job picture. But the key rate of "labor force time lost through unemployment and part-time work"—perhaps the best index yet developed to reflect any real progress toward full employment—climbed from 5.8 percent in March to 5.9 percent in April. A year earlier it was 6.4 percent.

Although the ranks of the long-term unemployed—those jobless 15 weeks or longer declined 100,000 between March and April, they still remained too high at 1.2 million. Most of the over-the-year reduction did, however, occur among the worst-off, those jobless six months or longer. In April 1963 long-term jobless totaled 1.4 million.

While the slight improvement in the nation's overall jobless picture was reflected by a drop in the jobless rate for adult men from 4.4 percent a year ago to 3.8 percent in April, 1/10th of 1 percentage point less than a month earlier, and the rate for adult women dipped from 5.6 percent in March to 5.4 percent in April, the same as a year ago, the teenage jobless rate soared from 15.6 percent a year ago to 16.2 percent last month.

The nation's total labor force last month was 76.5 million, 1.6 million above April 1963.

1. Returning the contract to Udall unapproved.
2. Stipulating that no contract will be accepted that does not cover the entire federal service area and that does not clearly indicate the lands to be served and the status of recordable contracts necessary to qualify excess lands to receive water.

3. Demanding elimination from any future contract such weakening clauses as the one which refers to delivery of percolating water as "unavoidable."

4. Requiring the Secretary of the Interior to submit the Westlands file to Congress prior to decision.

Otherwise, Pitts declared, the contract advanced by the Department will "make a mockery of the policy decision of the Congress to apply the full scope of reclamation law to the San Luis Project."

A Bill of Rights for Senior Citizens

A fight for a bill of rights to protect millions of older citizens from want, indignity and loneliness has been pledged by U. S. Senate candidate Alan Cranston.

Speaking at Leisure World, a retirement community at Seal Beach, Cranston deplored the fact that most of the nation's 18 million citizens over 65 are denied "opportunities to use their skills and intelligence either in useful employment or community life."

The State Controller, organized labor's Democratic choice for the U. S. Senate, promised to work for "early passage of Medicare, 100 per cent Widows' Benefits under social security and the outlawing of employment discrimination because of age."

He spelled out his 10-point bill of rights for older citizens as follows:

- 1—The right to dignified medical and health services on a prepaid basis, without regard to economic status.
- 2—The right to an adequate income that prevents economic hardship and suffering upon retirement.
- 3—The right to work and to obtain employment without restriction based solely on age or arbitrary retirement practices.
- 4—The right to live independently as one chooses, in accommodations that are safe, convenient and economical.
- 5—The right to continuing educational opportunities.
- 6—The right to meaningful activity and recreational and community services.
- 7—The right to transportation and freedom of movement.
- 8—The right to effective community services that prevent physical dependence or social and personal isolation.
- 9—The right to protection from exploitation and misrepresentation.
- 10—The right to institutional care facilities, when needed, that are geared to a philosophy of rehabilitation and restoration.

Bargaining Pacts Aid Heart Of Industrial Self-Government

"... grievance machinery under a collective bargaining agreement is at the very heart of the system of industrial self-government. Arbitration is the means of solving the unforeseeable by moulding a system of private law for all the problems which may arise and to provide for their solution in a way which will generally accord with the variant needs and desires of the parties."—Justice William O. Douglas.