

## AWOC Needs Aid To Push for Key Farm Labor Pact

A second special appeal for financial aid to help the Agricultural Workers' Organizing Committee win its prolonged dispute with the V.C. Britton Company in Firebaugh was sent to all affiliates this week by state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts.

"The outcome of this dispute has a significance far beyond the number of workers involved," Pitts said, because the key issues are "the extension to agriculture of the fundamental principles of representation and bargaining in good faith."

More than two years ago AWOC overwhelmingly won a representational election held by the National Labor Relations Board for production, maintenance and truck-driving employees of the firm, one of the largest processors of alfalfa seeds in the nation and the largest in California.

The election, held in May, 1962, represented the first time that AWOC was able to participate in such an election because NLRB machinery is generally denied to farm workers and the state itself fails to provide such machinery for any workers.

Of 56 workers eligible to vote, 47 voted for AWOC and only seven votes were cast for no union.

This dispute is still unresolved, Pitts said, because "the firm has continued its 'Boulwaristic' tactics of refusing to negotiate a contract with AWOC except under intolerable 'open shop' conditions. Because of the fundamental issues involved, AWOC must press this dispute

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## Defense Spending, Once a Boon, Poses Problems Now, Pitts Tells Legionnaires

Defense spending, a boon to California's economy yesterday, poses serious problems today, state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts warned delegates to the 46th Annual Convention of the California Department of the American Legion this week.

Addressing some 3,000 legion delegates and guests at the Memorial Auditorium in Sacramento on Thursday, the labor leader pointed out that California's "tremendous contribution" to the nation's defense effort in recent years leaves the state vulnerable to severe economic dislocations and human and economic distress if changes in the nation's defense spending patterns are not offset by planned public and private investments to create jobs in labor market areas afflicted by defense cutbacks.

## Hearing Ordered On Water Pact

The U.S. Senate, responding to an appeal issued earlier this month by state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts, has decided to hold a hearing on the questionable \$157 million Westlands Water District contract which involves part of the San Luis Project on the West side of the San Joaquin Valley.

Senator Frank E. Moss, chairman of the Subcommittee on Irrigation and Reclamation of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, disclosed

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THOS. L. PITTS  
Executive  
Secretary-Treasurer

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## Labor's Rousing Welcome Prompts LBJ To Halt Parade To Greet Unionists

Organized labor joined more than half a million other San Franciscans last Friday to give President Lyndon B. Johnson the most rousing and enthusiastic welcome ever accorded anyone in the city's history. Hundreds of union members assembled at Market and Turk Streets beneath a large banner reading "California AFL-CIO Welcomes L.B.J." shortly before noon to await the President's motorcade which was scheduled to turn up Turk Street enroute to

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dedication ceremonies at the city's new Federal Building.

Waving posters aloft reading "Welcome L.B.J." and "Johnson for President," the unionists jostled and jockeyed each other good naturedly for better positions and listened to the inimitable Guckenheimer Sauerkraut Band of Musicians Local 6 as the sidewalk throngs swelled from

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## Johnson Asks All To Help U.S. Attain 'The Great Society'

President Lyndon B. Johnson called on Californians and all U.S. citizens to join him in working for "The Great Society" that is potentially within the nation's grasp in the course of a tumultuous, two-day sweep through California last weekend.

Addressing a huge crowd at a Democratic dinner Saturday at the Hollywood Palladium, the President urged all citizens to help write a "new charter of opportunity for older Americans—medical care, hospital services, increased social security benefits, housing and volunteer programs to utilize the skills of older persons."

"Join me on the path of a united nation pursuing The Great Society," Johnson urged.

Noting that "for almost the first time in our peacetime history, the great majority of the American people again have a common enterprise," the President said:

"If we can transform this unity of interest into unity of purpose, there is no limit to the greatness within our grasp."

Regardless of politics, the President said he felt Americans could agree on the following six goals:

1. Peace and an end to the threat of nuclear destruction.
2. A strong America with California first among the states contributing to that strength.
3. Continuation of the upward progress of prosperity.
4. Elimination of poverty.

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# Defense Spending, Once Boon, Now Poses Problem, Pitts Says

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velopment, recreation, urban redevelopment, transportation systems and many other fields.

**"The list is a mile long, and it is getting longer every day of public neglect," he declared.**

Alluding to the civil rights struggle, Pitts told the Legionnaires that "the spirit of freedom that permeates our society is strongest among those who are still fighting to achieve equal rights.

"Their aspirations are 'American' in the highest tradition, and they cannot be left to fight alone without subjecting them to the influence of forces antagonistic to our way of life."

The core of the problem, he said, rests in the ability of the state and the nation "to relate the needs of our people to our production potential in an economy that has 20 to 25 percent of its population either living in poverty or on the borderlines of poverty."

At present, "according to the state's Economic report, our production potential in California is at least \$3 billion above actual production. This, in part, is the measure of the lagging of purchasing power behind the state's capacity to produce," he explained.

Despite the recent slight drop in the level of unemployment nationally, joblessness in California is officially at a rate of about six percent. But this rate, Pitts said, fails to include hidden unemployment stemming from youths and others who drop out of the labor force because there are no jobs at their skill levels. The official rate also fails to account for the many who are employed only part-time who want and need full-time work, he added.

Economists estimate that adjustments for such hidden unemployment would boost the state's official jobless rate to

well over eight percent, the state labor leader asserted.

Noting that California manufacturing industries have provided 661,000 new jobs since 1950, he pointed out that 60 percent of these new jobs were in the aerospace industries.

But the State Economic Report says that "this industry will no longer provide the growth and demand that in the past has helped so importantly in the employment of our (California's) labor forces."

Since the Report also says that "all indications point to a decline in military procurement expenditures in the years immediately ahead," Pitts warned that "the implications of this kind of lopsided growth cannot be swept under the rug."

He said that some defense firms are beginning to recognize the urgency of diversifying into non-defense areas of production, and an Advisory Panel on Aerospace and the Electronics Industry has been appointed by the Governor to help them.

Pitts also noted the importance of developing "effective 'early warning' systems on contract phaseouts."

In this matter, he concurred with Governor Brown who said recently that there should be a "deliberate federal policy to offset reductions in defense investments with investments to meet the vast unmet social needs of our state and nation."

"By providing a substitute demand for goods in areas of urgent social need," Pitts said, "an important stimulus towards diversification may be given to some of our defense plants." He also noted that prospective changes in the nation's defense spending patterns are liable to severely affect white collar workers such as technicians, engineers and scientists.

"Nearly 53 percent of all employees in the aerospace industry are in the white collar and technical category," he said, "compared with 28 percent in other manufacturing establishments."

Thus, a cutback in defense goods would displace more skilled workers in the white collar fields than a comparable cutback in the demand for goods stemming from an economic recession, he said.

If the state's future growth is more in the direction of non-defense industries and construction projects, however, more jobs would be created for lower level skills currently in surplus supply, he pointed out.

In short, he emphasized, "it isn't enough to just talk about growth without reference to the kind of growth we will experience."

The starkness of the employment problem confronting the state, Pitts said, is highlighted by national authorities who "are predicting that two-thirds

of all products that we will buy 20 years from now are still to be developed . . . (and) that 50 percent of the children who today are in grades one through six will be employed in occupations that don't even exist now."

As a result he concluded:

**"Never before in our history has it been so important for labor and management to work cooperatively toward a solution of these training and related problems with the assistance of government."**

## LBJ Halts Parade To Greet Unionists

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four to eight to twelve persons deep and spilled off the curb into the street, leaving barely enough room for a car to pass.

As the motorcade turned off Market into Turk Street, President Johnson, seeing the sea of union posters, stopped the motorcade and clambered from his open-top convertible to be welcomed by state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts and other city and state union leaders.

Before he even got out of the car, however, the crowd surged forward, engulfing him with hands to shake and words of praise and encouragement.

It was nearly three minutes after the motorcade stopped before the President was able to work his way through to Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, and other elected union leaders. More than five minutes elapsed before the President worked his way back to the car and the motorcade got underway again.

In dedicating the new Federal Office Building and Courthouse at 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Johnson said he believes Californians will vote for a "government which can get things done and knows where it is going."

"That's the kind of government you have had for the past four years and that is the kind of government you are going to get for the next four years," he said.

The crowd, estimated at 50,000, cheered enthusiastically.

### Federal Aid Issue

Earlier in the day at a groundbreaking ceremony for the Bay Area Rapid Transit System in Concord in Contra Costa County, the President rapped opponents of federal aid saying:

**"The idea that we are 50 separate countries, that the federal government representing the destinies of 190 million people does not have a duty to meet the needs of the people—this idea is as out of date as the dinosaur."**

The President's first stop in California was at Edwards Air Force Base in

## Appeal Made For Aid to AWOC

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to victory if the benefits of organization are to be brought to the most depressed segment of our labor force," Pitts declared.

Checks to help AWOC bring the dispute to a successful conclusion should be made out to the "Farm Workers' Organizing Assistance Fund" which was established by the Federation several months ago when the first appeal to aid this cause was made.

In urging affiliates to act as soon as possible on the matter, Pitts said:

**"We all share a fundamental responsibility in helping to organize agricultural workers so that they may participate in the wealth they help to produce."**



**LYNDON AND LABOR** — President Lyndon B. Johnson halted his motorcade at Turk and Market Streets in San Francisco last Friday and stepped from his car to be welcomed to California by State AFL-

CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts (arrow) and scores of other union members. More than half a million San Franciscans turned out to greet him, the largest and warmest reception the city has ever staged for anyone.

Southern California where he inspected some of the nation's newest developments in air power and addressed a large crowd at the base.

Noting that 50 percent of the U.S. space effort is carried out in California and that the state "is responsible for 23 percent of the entire defense effort—more than twice as much as its nearest competitor," the Chief Executive pointed out that "in less than four years California has received more than \$21 billion in contracts."

These "prime contracts" have come to California because California has the know-how, the skills, the plants and a driving determination to help America, he said.

"Today the arms of America stand as an obstacle to aggression in every part of the world . . . (and) have made it possible to take more tangible steps

toward peace than at any time since the cold war began," the President said.

#### Steps Toward Peace

He elaborated on the peace theme Friday night in an address to some 2,500 guests at a Democratic dinner at the new San Francisco Hilton Hotel. The President recalled that his party had promised "right here in San Francisco" four years ago to "seize the initiative in searching for ways to reduce the risks of nuclear holocaust."

In fulfilling the pledge, the President said that the U.S. has set up a disarmament agency, negotiated a limited nuclear test ban treaty, established a hot line to Moscow, and "with the Russians, cut back on production of material used to make nuclear weapons."

But Johnson made it clear that he intends to continue to negotiate from a position of strength.

"As long as I am President," he declared, "I intend to see that America's defense can never be the object of doubt or her strength the subject of suspicion."

#### Civil Rights Plea

The President departed from his prepared text to comment on the Senate's passage earlier in the day of the civil rights bill. He appealed to the entire nation to comply with it saying:

**"It is a major step toward equal opportunities for all . . . and a milestone toward full justice for all citizens."**

The President spent Friday night at the Fairmont in San Francisco and flew to Los Angeles Saturday morning to dedicate the new University of California campus at Irvine in Orange County, and to address a Democratic dinner in the Hollywood Palladium Saturday night. — (See Johnson Asks, Page 1)

## Plea by Pitts Leads To Senate Hearing On Water Pact

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this week that the hearing would be held on Wednesday, July 8.

As presently written, the contract would authorize construction of the water distribution system before obtaining recordable contracts from large landholders to require them to abide by the anti-monopoly provisions of U.S. reclamation law, Pitts explained.

If the contract is allowed to stand, Pitts said in his letter requesting the hearing, "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 Pacific stands to benefit by a potential subsidy of \$120 million," Pitts said.

## Help U. S. Attain Great Society: LBJ

(Continued from Page 1)

5. The full blessings of liberty for all Americans regardless of race or color.

6. Adequate care for the elderly, the sick and the handicapped.

State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts represented organized labor at the head table at the Hollywood dinner.

While taking part in the site dedication of the new University of California campus at Irvine in an ultra-conservative section of Orange County, Johnson called for the elimination of racial injustice and asked his listeners to help show the world "that people of compassion and commitment can free their fellow citizens from the bonds of injustice, the prisons of poverty, and the chains of ignorance.

"Help us to open the doors of America's abundance and freedom's promise to every man, whatever his race, region or religion.

"Help us to build a strong and vital — and progressive — society in education, health, in transportation, in every field of endeavor."

A day earlier at ground breaking ceremonies for the Bay Area Rapid Transit System in Concord on Friday, the President had attacked those who opposed federal aid as people who are as "out of date as the dinosaur." At Irvine, he touched on the same theme, asserting that "education is a national need."

And then, he promised, "as long as I am President the education of your children is going to receive top priority from the men who lead our nation."

The President returned to Washington following the dinner at the Hollywood Palladium Saturday night.

## New Pamphlet on 'The Extremists' Now Available

A new 24-page pamphlet featuring highlights from the film strip, "The Extremists," has just been published by the AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education.

Produced in hopes of encouraging more union members and other thinking citizens to participate in the crucial presidential election campaign this year, the pamphlet reproduces some of the political smut passed out in Dallas the day President Kennedy was assassinated. It also details some of the programs and policies of extremist groups as well as their sources of income and the resources with which they operate.

If anyone still needs a push to get busy in politics this should serve as a substantial prod. Copies of "The Extremists," COPE Publication No. 137C, may be ordered from AFL-CIO COPE, 815 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

## Civil Rights Bill Due To Be Law By July 4

The Civil Rights bill, approved by the Senate by an overwhelming vote of 73-27 last Friday night—just nine days after the historic 71-29 vote to impose cloture—this week appeared to be assured of final passage in time to be signed into law by the Fourth of July.

House Rules Committee Chairman Howard W. Smith (D-Virginia), an opponent of the measure, announced this week that his committee would clear the bill by next Tuesday to pave the way for a House vote accepting Senate amendments.

Smith caved in after President Lyndon B. Johnson prevailed on GOP leaders to supply the necessary Republican votes on the Rules Committee to issue the call to bring the bill up for a vote over his head.

## Truth-in-Lending Bill Shelved by Senate Unit

A labor-backed bill to require full disclosure of the interest charges on consumer credit purchases was apparently killed this week when the Senate Banking Committee voted 8 to 6 to send the bill back to a subcommittee for further study.

Despite the fact that both the late President John F. Kennedy and President Johnson as well as organized labor and a growing number of consumer groups have worked vigorously to bring the measure to the floor for a vote of the full Senate, lobbyists for banking and lending interests have thus far been successful in keeping the measure bottled up in committee.

## Apprenticeship Centers Prove Worth in Test

A year's trial of a number of new Apprenticeship Information Centers has demonstrated that the centers offer "a new and better way to match people and desires to jobs and careers," U.S. Under Secretary of Labor John F. Henning reported to the National Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunity in Apprenticeship and Training in Chicago last week.

Henning said he was convinced that these information centers "will be most effective in expanding employment opportunities for everyone, regardless of race or creed."

Since the program was initiated last year, seven centers have been set up in major cities, but Henning indicated that plans are afoot to have at least 15 such centers in the nation's heaviest areas of industry and population by this time next year.

Just last month, Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, urged delegates to the third Biennial California Conference on Apprenticeship to establish such information centers in every major labor market area where a joint apprenticeship committee is functioning.

The information centers, Pitts explained, operating on an equal opportunity basis, would disseminate information on apprentice openings and on the qualifications necessary for admission. Three centers are in operation in the state under the "California Plan" for improving apprenticeship opportunities for minority groups.

## President Hails Equal Pay Law

The nation's first federal law requiring equal pay for women which went into effect June 11 has been hailed by President Lyndon B. Johnson as "a landmark in America's progress toward a society of decency."

The President said that America has been made "stronger—not softer—as we have laid aside gradually one by one the old biases and ancient prejudices against the equality of women."

The new law applies to employers and workers covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act and prohibits lowering salaries of men to equalize rates.

But Rep. Edith Green (D-Oregon) a principal sponsor of the bill, said that even the new law will provide coverage to less than one out of three working women. She urged extension of FLSA coverage to help "the millions of women who make 70 and 80 cents an hour working in laundries, department stores and domestic work."