

Action to Meet Challenge of Automation Urged

Warning that automation and technological change threaten to greatly compound the paradox of record production and profit levels being accompanied by mounting unemployment and social distress, organized labor this week called for "bold fiscal and monetary policies to stimulate private and public demand . . . to fully utilize our skilled and unskilled manpower."

In adopting a policy statement on Full Employment and the Economy, delegates to the California Labor Federation's fifth biennial convention charged that "too much of California's economic and physical growth pattern has been determined by speculative and quick dollar considerations."

The statement noted that the nation needs four million new jobs a year just to keep from aggravating the rate of unemployment and, referring to state growth problems, declared that California is liable to become "a potent contender for the nation's leading depressed area due to cutbacks or shifts in defense and aerospace activities if adequate planning for growth isn't undertaken immediately."

The delegates deplored the fact that despite the nation's "unprecedented prosperity," a hard core of some 35 million people are living below the poverty level of \$3,000 for a family of four.

While noting that the bulk of the stim-

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Poor Pay Too Much, Wealthy Too Little To Finance Public Services, Labor Says

State and local sales taxes, along with those levied on property, take too much from the poor and too little from the wealthy to finance public services, labor representatives from throughout the state declared this week.

In adopting a policy statement on taxation, delegates to the biennial convention of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, also called for "full

restoration of the ability-to-pay taxation principle" nationally by plugging the "many flagrant federal loopholes now available to the wealthy." These loopholes, they declared, include "extravagant treatment of capital gains, mineral depletion allowances, state and local bond interest, income-splitting devices, family partnership arrangements and many others."

The statement pointed out that replacement of these "regressive" practices by the ability-to-pay principle would strengthen consumer purchasing power as well as help the state meet its "pressing growth needs."

The Federation also expressed some misgivings about the 1964 federal tax cut because of the higher percentage cuts in the upper income brackets. The statement noted that while the cut reduced the 20 percent tax rate on the first income bracket

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Perils of Goldwater's Candidacy and Prop. 14 Underscored at Convention

SAN FRANCISCO—Two principal issues—the threat posed to the nation by the Presidential candidacy of Senator Barry Goldwater and the threat to the state by the realtors attempt, embodied in Proposition 14, to sabotage the rights of Californians, to acquire property—dominated the 5th convention of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, being held this week in the San Francisco Civic Auditorium.

Interspersed with convention action on 14 policy statements and some 260 resolutions spelling out the Federation's programs and legislative goals for the next two years, speaker after speaker hammered home the importance of meeting these twin perils head-on where it counts, at the ballot box.

The nearly 2000 delegates attending,

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Labor Spells Out Objections to T-H and L-G Acts

"Unless the blatant pro-employer bias of the Taft-Hartley and Landrum-Griffin Acts is abandoned," the impact of automation may leave millions of breadwinners powerless to cope with the problem in their dealings with their employers, a policy statement on labor legislation adopted Tuesday by delegates to the statewide labor convention in San Francisco declared.

Asserting that "America's labor-management problems can be resolved only by free collective bargaining since the only two alternatives—unilateral employer action and government decree—are clearly alien to the precepts of political and industrial democracy," the statement attacked both of the two principal labor laws enacted since World War II saying:

"Both of these laws grant privileges to employers that are denied to unions. These include access to speedy injunctions, expedited elections, the right to sue and to seek sympathetic third party assistance in labor disputes."

The statement freely conceded that the "spectacular recent advance of technology has already virtually crippled labor's bargaining strength in some industries" and declared:

"These instances dramatize the serious

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Propositions, see Page 4**

Perils of Goldwater's Candidacy and Prop. 14 Underscored at Convention

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representing 1.3 million AFL-CIO union members throughout the state, also overwhelmingly re-elected Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts who had been opposed by Charles W. Walker of Local 11, IBEW, of Los Angeles. President Albin J. Gruhn, General Vice President, Manuel Dias and 33 vice presidents were chosen to serve as the Federation's Executive Council for the next two years.

Governor Edmund G. Brown, principal speaker at the opening session of the convention on Monday, warned the delegates that "the 1964 campaign will be no milk-run" and pointed out that "every tyrant in history has been swept to power on a wave of extremism."

"We know," the Governor declared, even if Senator Goldwater doesn't, "that in the pursuit of liberty, extremism is not only a vice, it is a fatal vice; and in the search for justice, moderation is not only a virtue, it is the essential virtue."

In reviewing the state's unemployment problem, the Governor pledged "to restore unemployment benefit levels to a proper relationship with present weekly wage levels and to seek legislation "to raise contributions" to the disability insurance fund "to keep it solvent."

Calling also for action to win medical care for the aged, better schools, and vast amounts of new housing for low and middle income groups, the Governor declared:

"We will do all of these things if you and your brothers register and vote. We will do none of them if you don't. So let us set to work immediately to assure the same turnout, the same enthusiasm that produced the great victory in 1958."

On Tuesday, National COPE Director Al Barkan told the delegates that the "labor movement faces a political crisis of the first magnitude" and then spelled out the reasons why.

"We are up against a fanatical, dedicated, well-organized, richly financed opposition; an opposition that will stop at nothing to achieve their ends; an opposition that is so bold they make no secret what they have in store for you and the people you represent," he said.

Citing Goldwater's exact words on labor issues, Barkan quoted the Arizona Senator on the following issues:

Right-to-work—"I strongly favor enactment of state right-to-work laws which forbid contracts that make union membership a condition of employment."

Unions and anti-trust laws — "Unions

should come under the anti-trust actions."

Trade unions—"There is no question but that the trade unions have been scoring bulls-eyes for 30 years, taking away freedom which belongs to you and me and our children."

The National COPE Director called on the delegates to "drop everything" to defeat Goldwater.

"When we are fighting a life or death struggle, when our enemies say to us, 'if we win, we are going to give you a national right-to-work law; we are going to put you under anti-trust; we are going to limit collective bargaining to individual units,' I say to you, it is a trade union crime for a labor leader to keep quiet about this threat," Barkan declared.

Calling on the assembled union leaders "to accept the responsibility for educating your members," Barkan added:

"It's not Tommy Pitts' job; it's not Al Gruhn's job; it's not the job of the central bodies or National COPE. It's primarily your job."

Barkan urged the union leaders to tell their members in their own words, through letters, union newspapers and all sorts of meetings what a national right-to-work law would mean to them.

Under Secretary of Labor John F. Henning, speaking at the afternoon session Tuesday, declared that the Republican Party "has abandoned whatever was left of the legacy and memory of Abraham Lincoln and has chosen rather, the doctrines of Barry Goldwater and the Birch Society, doctrines founded on division, hatred and fear."

Charging that the Goldwater program "has specific designs on the trade union movement," Henning said:

"The Goldwater Administration would impose a feudalistic society upon the people of this nation . . .

"Goldwater would break your political strength because he is wise enough to know that by doing this, he breaks your economic strength," Henning explained.

The highlight of the Wednesday afternoon session occurred during the presentation of the scholarship winners to the convention delegates when Sheba S. Solomon, one of the winners pledged:

"You can be assured that I will never cross a union picket line nor enter a store under a boycott, and I will definitely look for that union label . . .

"With the reactionary standard bearer, AuH2O, threatening all the hard-won gains that the men and women of labor have struggled for, threatening the forward progress of civil rights, threatening the future of this young generation and perhaps even the future of this planet, it is especially important for the labor movement to exert its powerful influence to overcome the measure (Propositions

Labor Spells Out Objections to T-H and L-G Acts

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possibility of an overwhelmingly pro-employer imbalance in the years ahead.

"Such a revival of corporate domination of our society could have extremely grave economic and political ramifications reaching far beyond the ranks of organized labor," the delegates, representing more than 1700 local unions throughout the state, warned.

Among other objections to the Taft-Hartley Act, the labor delegates pointed out that it imposes "severe restrictions" on peaceful picketing; outlaws the closed shop; requires minute detailing of permissible types of union security clauses; and permits "coercive 'free speech' privileges to employers before captive audiences convened for this purpose during working hours."

In reference to the Landrum-Griffin amendments, the statement declared that they had added regulations "serving no purpose whatsoever other than to fill the legal profession's coffers at the laboring man's expense. On top of this, they also greatly facilitated the ease with which a small minority group could hamstring a union's effective operation."

The statement urged that the federal government extend to government contracts under the Walsh-Healey Act the inclusion of fringe benefits as part of the prevailing wage as is now the case under the Davis-Bacon Act. It also called for:

- A \$2.00 minimum wage.
- Double time for overtime.
- A 35-hour workweek without reduction in take home pay.
- Extension of the Fair Labor Standards Act to 17 million workers presently excluded.

On the state level, the AFL-CIO delegates called for:

- Curbs on the use of anti-labor injunctions.
- Repeal of the misnamed "Jurisdictional Strike Act."
- A ban on professional strikebreakers.
- Guarantees of the right to organize and to bargain collectively, particularly in regard to intrastate commerce and public employment.
- Wage and hour provisions similar to those urged nationally under a State FLSA "to wipe out another type of wholly unjustified discrimination against intrastate workers," including those employed in agriculture.

14 and 17) and the man that are aimed at our defeat," she declared.

So the delegates got the word again, this time out of the mouths of babes.

Farm Labor Cited As Key Battlefield In Poverty War

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lies "in the very elementary fact that . . . agriculture's wages and fringe benefits, due to its virtually unlimited bracero supply, are only one-third those offered to assembly line workers."

In refuting the "absurd contention" put forth by the state's agri-business interests that domestics won't do farm work, the statement pointed out that close to 80 percent of the 309,000 hired workers in the state's agriculture at the peak of the season last year were California residents and another 16,000 were interstate domestics "despite the deplorable conditions that prevail." Less than 48,000 or barely 15,000 of the total, were Mexican Nationals.

The Federation asserted that there was "absolutely nothing different about agriculture. To attract and keep American workers, regardless of the industry, an employer has to comply with American standards rather than with those of Mexico."

In this connection, the statement drew a parallel with regard to industrial employment:

"It is the most apparent thing in the world that no more than a handful of workers would be available to any manufacturer opening a plant . . . at \$1.05 an hour . . . without any fringe benefits or unemployment insurance coverage . . . If such a firm needed 1,000 or more employees, it would have to compete realistically with the average \$2.95 hourly wage, along with fringe benefits and working conditions prevailing in manufacturing throughout California. When such a plant became fully competitive with other employers on these conditions, no one doubts that its potential source of manpower would be without any known limit."

The delegates, representing thousands of local unions throughout the state, called on both federal and state legislators to honor their commitment to end Public Law 78 and to enact legislation to:

1. Implement farm workers' organizational and collective bargaining rights.
2. Improve their job placement services, partly through utilization of union hiring halls.
3. Provide unemployment insurance coverage.
4. Establish long-term, low-interest sale and rental family housing programs for farm workers.
5. Provide minimum wage coverage with safeguards against excessive overtime employment.
6. Provide standard social security coverage.
7. Require adequate toilet and hand-washing facilities in the field.
8. Set up training programs to max-

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et to 16 percent this year and to 14 percent in 1965, "its relative impact upon upper income was far more profound."

For example, the statement said:

"The highly theoretical 91 percent rate previously applicable to the top income group was slashed to 77 percent in 1964 and to 70 percent next year on that portion of their income exceeding \$400,000 annually. And, if the past is any guide to the future, sharp-penciled tax lawyers will see to it that no one in this group pays anywhere near this rate."

The labor delegates said that the tax cut "unquestionably has a positive short-range impact" on the economy, but added:

"We cannot, however, realistically lose sight of the fact that its long-run consequences could even be negative if it should result in reducing already inadequate federal expenditures for urgent public needs."

As another example of the undermining of the progressive quality of the federal income tax as it existed before World War II, the statement pointed out that in 1939 a married couple, exempted from the first \$2,500 annually and falling into the first taxable bracket, paid only four percent on the taxable amount, but that a similar couple today begins paying at a 16 percent rate on the amount over \$1,000.

Pointing out that about 60 percent of California's total revenues come from consumer levies, the State AFL-CIO's tax statement stressed the unfairness of taxes that are not based on the ability-to-pay principle by citing a recent study that demonstrated that the state's consumer-type taxes "impose an 18 percent greater burden on incomes of less than \$1,000 than on those over \$10,000."

Moreover, the statement went on, "in the case of retail sales and use taxes, the very low income groups paid 30 percent more than the families above the \$10,000 level." If the study had included \$50,000 and \$100,000 income families, "it would undoubtedly have shown the lower income group paying at least a 100 percent higher effective tax rate," the statement said.

"Contrary to the general propaganda line peddled by the lobbyists representing the wealthy, this and other studies make it clear that it is the low-income families rather than the affluent, who are being subjected to confiscatory tax policies," the statement added.

imize year-round employment opportunities.

9. Provide health, education and welfare facilities adequate to the need.

The statement also commended the "steady groundwork being laid by the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee" and pledged the state AFL-CIO's "fullest possible cooperation with AWOC in the future."

In urging the legislature "to move vigorously in the direction of the progressive ability-to-pay principle both at the individual and corporation levels, the Federation said that the reforms they recommended would stimulate corporate profits as well as the actual earnings of wage and salary workers. In addition, it noted that much of the impact of such taxation in higher brackets would be absorbed by reduction of the federal tax liability of the higher income taxpayers. Such state action would also strengthen pressure for the following reforms:

1. Direct federal income tax credit for income taxes paid to states, a practice already applicable to gift and estate taxes.
2. Increased state aid to local subdivisions through devices such as tax-sharing.
3. Expanded federal grants-in-aid to states and localities.
4. Transfer of federal revenues to states implementing a meaningful progressive taxation policy.

Anticipating the old arguments of business groups that progressive taxation would create a "bad business climate," organized labor cited a recent report by the University of California's Bureau of Business and Economic Research which dismissed this contention saying:

"Higher than average taxes, if coupled with better than average governmental services, beneficial to industry, may well encourage rather than discourage entry of firms."

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ulus necessary to provide an economic growth rate sufficient to offset California's exceptionally high jobless rate must come from federal action, the statement declared that "the state itself can assist greatly by comprehensive planning, by facilitating industrial diversification, and by encouraging the diversion of federal defense reductions toward meeting our sadly neglected social needs."

The most recent state and national jobless figures disclose a further widening in the State-U.S. jobless gap with California's unemployment rate climbing from 6.0 in June to 6.1 percent in July while the U. S. rate dropped from 5.3 percent in June to 4.9 percent in July, the lowest rate for the national level in seven years.

The statement also urged that President Johnson's National Commission on Automation be empowered to interpret projected changes so that the nation can begin developing rational solutions.

Attack on Schools Hit By Braden

Tom Braden, president of the State Board of Education, this week called on organized labor and all California citizens to protect California's free public school system from what he termed the "Go Back Movement," which, he warned, "has just won a statewide primary election."

The "Go Back Movement," Braden told the State AFL-CIO convention delegates, is composed of "malefactors of great wealth," such as Robert Welch, H. L. Hunt, Coast Federal Savings and Loan in Los Angeles, and people of the same ilk as the brown shirts, who were essential to Hitler's rise to power.

The brown shirts, he pointed out, were not wealthy men. "They were middle-class citizens, poorly educated maybe, frightened perhaps, insecure, anxious to be a part of some militant movement and to restore themselves to the glory, which, they were told, their ancestors had possessed in the past," Braden said.

In California today, the State School Board chief warned, the members of this movement "want to remove the word 'democracy' from textbooks . . . and . . . to substitute the word 'republic'. They object to the statement that Americans all came from foreign lands . . . they want to delete the references to old Mr. Rockefeller's treatment of workers and to the great strike at the Colorado Fuel and Iron . . . They want to take out any mention that the American worker fought for economic gains . . ."

Asserting that the members of this movement regard such references as 'Communist,' Braden declared that the state is "faced with a counter-revolution against the great gains and even against the facts of the history of the New Deal."

"If the 'Go Back Movement' in California education has its way," Braden warned, "the free public school system as we know it in California, as you built it in California, will no longer exist, either upon the terms of the Santa Ana Register which doesn't want the public school system to be free (it says it is 'Socialist') or, it will no longer exist upon the terms of (John Birch Society Leader) Robert Welch and the other proponents of the new order who would so alter our public school system that it would no longer produce men whose minds are free."

"These are your schools," Braden reminded the delegates. "You won them in free elections. But don't forget that the victory you won took 100 years." Then, he added,

"Don't let it go!"

Braden also urged the people of California to recognize that what has been done to insure equal educational opportunity for all children may be nullified "if they are fooled by the real estate lobby and by suddenly silken-toned racial agitators into passing Proposition 14."

Fed Convention Takes Stand On 17 Ballot Issues

Organized labor pounded out its position on the 17 propositions to appear on the November 3 ballot this week and, in the process, resoundingly condemned Propositions 14, 16 and 17.

Nearly a dozen delegates took to the floor to stress the urgency of defeating Proposition 14, the realty interests' move to eliminate a buyer's constitutional right to acquire property in California, pointing out that the question of whether California will go to Goldwater or Johnson depends in great measure on this issue.

In summing up the unanimous opposition to the measure expressed by the delegates, Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts warned that trade unionists throughout the state must inform themselves and their members of the "deceit and deceptions" being used in efforts "to hoodwink" the voters on Proposition 14.

A number of delegates also took to the mike to underscore labor's solid opposition to Proposition 17, the initiative which would scratch off the books the state's minimum railroad crew laws presently protecting the public's safety and strip the Public Utilities Commission of authority to set minimum rail safety standards.

Following some floor debate of Proposition 15, the anti-pay TV initiative, and Proposition 16, the proposed statewide lottery that would assure its promoters of a vast bonanza at the taxpayers expense and grant them a 10-year monopoly on its operation, delegates to the California Labor Federation's 5th convention in San Francisco adopted the following recommendations:

Proposition No. 1—\$150 million beaches and parks bond issue **Vote YES**

Proposition No. 2—\$380 million construction bond issue **Vote YES**

Proposition No. 3—\$260 million school building aid bond issue **Vote YES**

Proposition No. 4—Property tax exemption for veterans **No recommendation**

Proposition No. 5—Property tax exemption for widows of veterans **Vote YES**

Proposition No. 6—Retaliatory tax of insurance companies **No recommendation**

Proposition No. 7—Investing retirement funds in corporation stock **Vote YES**

Proposition No. 8—Re-election of Superior Court judges in counties with populations exceeding 700,000 **Vote YES**

Proposition No. 9—County supervisorial district boundaries **Vote YES**

Johnson Asks For Labor's Aid

President Lyndon B. Johnson called on organized labor in California to help create "that Great Society in which we (will) have conquered ignorance, violence, poverty and disease" in a telegram addressed to the 2,000 delegates participating in the California Labor Federation's 5th convention in San Francisco. The telegram read:

"The California Labor Federation has been a major factor in making California a progressive state. You have shown a sound combination of intelligence and determination on behalf of the welfare of your membership.

"You have helped select a congressional delegation which has recently supplied the margin by which legislative victories have been won. We can take pride in the record of achievement of Congress since President Kennedy and I took our oaths three and one-half years ago.

"With your support we raised the minimum wage and lowered taxes. We increased our military strength and reduced government waste. We supported civil rights and opposed crime.

"We lessened war tension abroad and launched a war on poverty at home. We stimulated trade with every nation and cut down the outflow of gold.

"We gave new help to vocational and college education and new hindrances to delinquency. We attacked traffic jams in congested cities and set aside a wilderness reserve in wide open spaces.

"We helped business create more jobs and encouraged the jobless to take training.

"We are still battling for medicare for the seniors and better education for the youngsters.

"That great society in which we have conquered ignorance, violence, poverty and disease can be ours if we work for it.

"I want to work with you.

Lyndon B. Johnson."

Proposition No. 10—Disposition of school land fund revenues **Vote YES**

Proposition No. 11—Municipal contracts with counties **Vote YES**

Proposition No. 12—Property tax relief in disaster areas **Vote YES**

Proposition No. 13—Safeguard against misuse of the California Constitution **Vote YES**

Proposition No. 14—Sales and rentals of residential real property **Vote NO**

Proposition No. 15—Television Programs Initiative **No recommendation**

Proposition No. 16—Lottery License **Vote NO**

Proposition No. 17—Railroad train crews **Vote NO**