

Invest a Letter In Medicare Bill, Pitts Urges

"The best investment any citizen in our nation can make right now is an air mail letter to Congress urging passage of the Medicare Bill just approved by the Senate last Friday," Thos. L. Pitts, State AFL-CIO leader declared today.

"This will be evident to anybody who takes the trouble to divide the \$1.5 billion cost of the proposed program by the 65 million workers presently paying social security taxes. It will cost an average of only \$11.50 a year to protect the nation's 13.5 million senior citizens 65 or over from the financial ruin often inflicted on them today by a prolonged illness," Pitts said.

Half of the \$23.00 annual cost of the medicare provision to the taxpayer, he explained, would be paid for by the employer.

"What this program amounts to is insurance that today's wage earners won't have to sacrifice the funds they save for their children's education or for other purposes to meet the medical bills of their parents or other elderly loved ones. It's a small price to pay," Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, declared.

"Moreover, beyond the nominal cost of the program, its passage will represent a long stride toward bringing the

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AFL-CIO Board Says:

Study of Platforms and Candidates Makes Johnson the 'Obvious' Choice

The AFL-CIO's 166-member General Board's unanimous endorsement of the Johnson-Humphrey ticket last week was taken following a study of the platforms of the two political parties and the records of the candidates of both parties, which, the board declared, made "the choice obvious."

Although the United States "has made impressive progress in many

U.S. Aid to Schools Held Essential

A massive federal aid-to-education program is urgently needed to assure "quality education" for all young people regardless of where they live or their economic background, delegates to the Fifth Convention of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, declared.

In adopting a policy statement on education, the union representatives charged that a false "local control" issue is being exploited by opponents of federal aid in order to preserve tax inequities that benefit the wealthy and deprive our schools of urgently needed funds.

"The problem grows more acute

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Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Attorney General Lynch to Address COPE Endorsing Convention in S.F.

California Attorney General Thomas C. Lynch, the state's newest cabinet officer, will be featured speaker at the forthcoming pre-general election endorsement convention of the California Labor Council on Political Education to be held in San Francisco next Friday, Sept. 18.

In announcing the Attorney General's acceptance of an invitation to address the union delegates, Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the State AFL-CIO's political arm, said:

"In an election year in which extremists, racists and 'right to work' promoters have set their sights on capturing the highest office in the nation as well as a host of key state and congressional posts, we are fortunate to have a speaker who has devoted his life to the premise that 'every man is equal before the law'

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Brown Raps Prop. 14 in Labor Day Speeches

Governor Edmund G. Brown described Proposition 14 as "a misguided attempt to write bigotry into California's Constitution" this week and warned that White Citizens Councils have been set up in Oakland and Los Angeles to work for it.

In the course of a series of Labor Day speeches at a Catholic Labor Institute breakfast in Los Angeles, a Retail Clerks Union picnic in Orange County and the annual picnic of the Alameda County Labor Council in Pleasanton, the Governor repeatedly emphasized the damage passage of the realtors' anti-fair housing amendment would cause.

"Approval of Proposition 14," he said, "would result in the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars in federal contracts."

Referring to its promoters as mostly "bigots and extremists," the Governor said they cannot stand to see a "moderate, tolerant, workable approach to equality."

He also pointed out that the guiding hand behind the proposition is the California Real Estate Association which, he said, "actively supported the 1958 state campaign to pass a right-to-work amendment."

The Governor also has appealed to the California press to publicize the "damage" inherent in Proposition 14 to get the facts on this issue to California voters.

"I am convinced Californians—with their fair and moderate traditions—will

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Writing Letters Urging OK Now For Medicare Bill Called 'Best Investment'

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benefits of modern medical care to millions of our elderly who presently forego it when they need it out of fear of the cost involved. Such a situation is a disgrace to the wealthiest nation in the world, particularly when nearly all of the less richly favored western nations have already acted to banish such fears far more comprehensively," he said.

Pitts also predicted that when it is passed, "and it will be," both the American Medical Association and the nation's insurance industry, "contrary to their fears, will benefit substantially because more money will be available for physicians fees and for purchasing supplemental hospital insurance."

Pitts suggested that letters and wires be rained in on Reps. Howard W. Smith, House Rules Committee Chairman; Wilbur D. Mills, Ways and Means Committee Chairman; and Harry F. Byrd, Senate Finance Committee Chairman, as well as to the voter's own Congressman.

The Senate version, as finally passed by a 60-28 vote on Sept. 3, would provide medicare benefits for all people now 65 and over, including those who are not covered by social security or railroad retirement benefits. It would liberalize the amount of outside income one can earn without foregoing social security benefits from \$1,200 to \$1,500. It would also permit recipients to earn \$1,500 more and draw up to half that amount from their benefits.

"The obstacles confronting the Senate bill when it reaches the House all underscore the need for a massive outpouring of grass roots pressure demanding action on the measure now," Pitts said.

To send the bill directly to a Senate-House Conference Committee requires either unanimous consent, which appears to be out of the question, or clearance by the House Rules Committee headed by Rep. Howard W. Smith (D.-Va.) Chairman of the Rules Committee who is believed to be opposed to any medical care plan and could block the bill by refusing to convene his committee.

In addition, it is unlikely that the lower House would approve a medicare program without the endorsement of Rep. Mills, Ways and Means Committee Chairman who has stubbornly opposed all medicare proposals under the social security system heretofore.

If the Senate version does go to a

Union Reports in Directory

The U.S. Department of Labor is publishing five regional directories of 51,856 unions that file reports under the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosures Act. The directory lists unions by states and by organizations within states.

Conference Committee the Senators who would participate are: Harry F. Byrd, (D.-Va.); Russell V. Long, (D.-La.); George A. Smathers, (D.-Fla.); Clinton P. Anderson, (D.-N.M.); Albert Gore, (D.-Tenn.); John A. Williams, (R.-Del.); and Frank Carlson, (R.-Kan.). Of these seven, only Senators Gore and Anderson voted for the medicare proposal but under Senate rules, all would be expected to uphold the Senate position.

U.S. Aid to Schools Held Essential

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each succeeding year due to factors such as rapid population growth and the heightening educational requirements demanded by modern industry," the statement pointed out.

Asserting that due to the unequal resources of the nation's states and localities, it is "highly evident that only the more progressive and uniform federal tax system is capable of providing adequate and equal educational opportunities," the delegates' statement called for enactment of a program to provide grants and loans to states for classroom construction, teachers' salaries, scholarship aid, compensatory and adult education, vocational training and more adequate student housing.

The financing of such a program should be viewed as "an indispensable expenditure" for the development and growth of the nation and its citizens, the statement said.

The state AFL-CIO policy statement also appealed for "vigorous participation by working people in community affairs generally" to turn back "the threat of strait jacket educational conformity" posed by right-wing programs receiving "heavy subsidy from the most backward elements in the big business community."

On the state level, the statement urged extension of organizing and collective bargaining rights to teachers so they "can deal with school administrators in an effective and dignified manner with regard to salaries, tenure, professional standards and other critical conditions of employment."

It also called for state action to end the tax inequalities existing between school districts and to eliminate bias against culturally deprived children and poverty groups.

A broad consumer education program, coupled with federal and state legislation such as truth-in-lending, truth-in-packaging and measures to require pre-testing of cosmetics, was also urged by the trade unionists.

Sharp Rise in Rail Crashes Seen if Prop. 17 Passes

Repeal of the State's minimum train crew law, the objective of Proposition 17 on the November ballot, would result in "sharp increases in the number of railroading accidents, casualties and deaths, and in property damage," Roger W. Jessup, Southern California co-chairman, California Committee to Preserve Railroad Safety warned this week.

When California's safe crew law was temporarily suspended during World War II, he pointed out, "the casualty rate per million locomotive miles was a shocking 45-50 percent greater than for preceding years.

"The casualty rate was 16.78 per million miles in 1941, he said, but the rate soared to 23.92 in 1942, 31.56 in 1943, 32.64 in 1944 and 37.92 in 1945, according to California Public Utilities Commission reports.

"Train accidents in California zoomed from 1581 in 1941 to 2596 in 1942, 3520 in 1943, 3798 in 1944 and 3971 in 1945. These are the highest on record for any period. Following the national emergency, California reinstated its minimum crew laws, and the accident rate quickly dropped," Jessup explained.

"This tragic experience during World War II makes it crystal clear that it would be unwise to repeal our train manning statutes. Safety measures are even more vital now to cope with today's longer, heavier, and faster freight trains."

Proposition 17 would not only repeal California's minimum crew laws, but would also eliminate the State Legislature and State Public Utilities Commission from ever again determining minimum train manning requirements for the public safety, he added.

Demo-GOP Voter Gap In Orange County Narrows

The gap between Democratic and Republican registration in Orange County has been narrowed from 25,452 to 14,800 since the June 2 primary, County Clerk William St. John disclosed last week.

As of August 25, registration in Orange County stood at 211,038 Republicans and 196,238 Democrats, compared to June primary totals of 197,390 Republicans and 171,938 Democrats.

For the November 1962 general election, Orange County had 177,892 Republicans registered compared to 168,525 Democrats, giving the GOP a 9,367 vote lead. For the general election in 1960, however, Democratic registration topped Republican registration by a slim 458 vote margin with 154,373 Democrats registered compared to 153,915 Republicans.

Attorney General Thomas C. Lynch To Address COPE

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and who for years as San Francisco's District Attorney has regarded it as his personal duty 'to protect that equality regardless of a person's creed, color or race.'

Governor Brown appointed Lynch Attorney General just one month ago today to replace Stanley Mosk who was placed on the State Supreme Court to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Chief Justice Phil S. Gibson. Associate Justice Roger J. Traynor was elevated to Chief Justice.

"The primary purpose of the COPE Convention," Pitts explained, "will be the endorsement of candidates for partisan offices who will support such labor-backed programs as medical care for the aged under social security, federal aid to education, and other liberal measures to meet the nation's needs and to assure a progressive and prosperous economy."

The Right Reverend James A. Pike, Episcopal Bishop of San Francisco, will deliver the invocation for the convention, which will be held in California Hall at 625 Polk Street at Turk. The meeting will convene at 10 a.m.

Following Lynch's address, the delegates will make endorsements in the November 3 General Election, including endorsements for President, Vice President, and U. S. Senator as well as in the State's 38 Congressional districts, 20 odd-numbered State Senatorial districts, and 80 Assembly districts. In addition, the delegates will dispose of any resolutions and other relevant issues.

The General Board of the AFL-CIO has already unanimously endorsed the Johnson-Humphrey ticket of the Democratic party.

The Executive Council of California Labor COPE will meet at convention headquarters in the Del Webb Towne House on Thursday, Sept. 17, to review the endorsement recommendations of local political action bodies and develop the 35-member council's recommendations to the convention. All official endorsements, however, will be made by the delegates to the convention.

Registration for the convention will open at the Towne House at 10 a.m. Thursday and continue throughout the day. A registration desk will also be set up at California Hall on the day of the convention.

Parts of the Nation's Goal

"Medical care for the old, increased minimum wages, the war on poverty are parts of a program with a single goal: to give every American a place of dignity in our national life."—Lyndon B. Johnson.

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noted that, nonetheless, one-fifth of the nation still struggles against poverty" and "four million workers cannot find jobs."

Examining the platforms and the candidates' records in this light, the Board concluded that:

"The election of Lyndon B. Johnson and Hubert H. Humphrey is a matter of the most vital concern to the labor movement, to all the people of the United States and to the cause of peace and freedom throughout the world."

Here are some excerpts from the General Board's study:

THE PLATFORMS

Labor Legislation — "The Republican platform is virtually silent on labor-management relations. Its only substantive references are: (1) a thinly veiled threat to put unions under the anti-trust laws, as if people could be equated with commodities, and (2) an attack upon the National Labor Relations Board.

"The Democratic platform, in sharp contrast, promises substantive improvement in labor-management legislation. It calls for repeal of Section 14 (b) of the Taft-Hartley Act which permits the so-called 'right to work' laws that outlaw union security agreements. . . . pledges removal of inequities in federal laws that hamper organization of workers and unfairly penalize unions for legitimate strikes and legitimate picketing.

Brown OK's Punch Card Vote Device

A report clearing the way for counties to use a lightweight, inexpensive, punch-card voting machine has been signed by Governor Edmund G. Brown.

The machine, the Harris Votomatic, permits the voter to punch out his ballot preferences on a computer card that is counted on a standard computer counter machine. It also provides for write-in votes.

In signing the report submitted by the Commission on Voting Machines and Vote Tabulating Devices, which approved the machines' use by counties at their option, the Governor said the machine "might prove to be the solution to a problem that has plagued California election officials and voters for years: the 'bed sheet' ballot that is confusing to mark and slow to count."

Tests of the machine proved it to be accurate, to require few instructions to voters, and capable of withstanding continuous operation. Although not fool-proof, the average voter trying conscientiously to use the machine properly should have no trouble, the test results indicated.

"AFL-CIO analysis — Clearly the Republican platform promises nothing to the American labor movement except an attempt to hobble unions with even more restrictive legislation and to stack the cards against unions in the application of existing laws. . . . The Democratic platform promises to improve the existing framework of federal legislation and to provide long-needed relief to unions in the legitimate conduct of their affairs.

The Domestic Economy — "The Republican platform demonstrates absolutely no concern for the No. 1 domestic problem of our time—unemployment. . . . (It) opposes higher premium pay for overtime and endorses more teenage employment at less than the federal minimum wage. We can only view this as an invitation to return to the days of the exploitation of child labor.

"The Democratic platform . . . recognizes the importance of . . . achieving full employment . . . as a matter of the highest priority . . . commits its candidates . . . to the goal of putting all Americans who want and can fill a job, back to work . . . and to meet the problem of automation by insuring that no worker be unfairly penalized by being denied a job because of this new technology. (It) takes sound and progressive positions on housing, hospital insurance for the aged, social security improvements, improved unemployment compensation standards and many other necessary domestic economic policies.

"AFL-CIO Analysis — The Republican proposals would do absolutely nothing to solve the problem of unemployment. . . . The Democratic platform faces squarely up to the problem of unemployment and recognizes the responsibility and duty of the federal government to provide for the general welfare.

Civil Rights—"The Republican platform promises 'full implementation and faithful execution of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.' However an effort to strengthen this section . . . by writing in a commitment that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 would be 'enforced' was rejected. . . . despite the fact that Republicans in both houses, with the conspicuous exception of the Republican candidate for president, voted for the bill by a 4 to 1 margin. . . . The Republican platform ignored the clear fact that to achieve equal opportunity . . . there must be full opportunity . . . (and) rejected proposals . . . that the platform spell out opposition to extremists of both the far right and the far left.

"The Democratic platform pledges enforcement of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 . . . recognizes the necessity of providing

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full opportunity so that equal opportunity will be more than a phrase in our political vocabulary . . . (and) specifically rejects extremism and the advocates of extremism — the Communist party, the Ku Klux Klan and the John Birch Society.

"AFL-CIO analysis — the AFL-CIO was a long and strong advocate of the Civil Rights legislation which has just been passed. . . . We feel that in this case as in the case of the domestic issues discussed earlier, the choice is obvious.

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT

"Barry M. Goldwater, a member of the U.S. Senate for 12 years . . . has cast 53 votes on legislation considered by the AFL-CIO to be of primary importance to the nation. In every case—whether the issue involved world affairs such as the atomic test ban treaty, or social justice such as the civil rights bill or economic progress, such as the Wage-Hour law—he voted wrong.

"A Goldwater victory would mean a radical change of direction in that policy . . . we believe Senator Goldwater's approach, if applied, would heighten the risk of an atomic holocaust . . .

"It is our considered judgment that Senator Goldwater is basically an impulsive man, not given to deep thought or careful consideration, unversed in the historical background against which every national leader must function, seemingly unaware of basic human needs and wholly unresponsive to the subtleties of international relations upon which the survival of mankind depend.

"Lyndon B. Johnson . . . since 1937 . . . has been recorded on virtually every piece of legislation brought before Congress . . . during the years President Johnson and Senator Goldwater both served in the Senate (1953-60), President Johnson voted right 28 times and wrong 7 times while Senator Goldwater was wrong on every vote he cast. . . . On balance Johnson has a liberal record; and what is more important, it has become more liberal with the years.

"When tragedy thrust upon him the duties of President, he undertook with unsurpassed vigor the task of fulfilling the program launched by John Kennedy. The legislative achievements of President Johnson's nearly 10 months in office are the greatest since the first Roosevelt administration. The unflinching concern of Lyndon Johnson for the poor and the deprived has in all truth aroused the conscience of all Americans.

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT

"William E. Miller has served without distinction in the House of Repre-

sentatives since 1951 and has also been National Chairman of the Republican Party. His voting record . . . is one of consistent opposition to social progress on virtually every front. . . . There is nothing in his record to suggest that he is equipped to be the nation's No. 2 officer—much less to assume the presidency itself.

"Hubert H. Humphrey, has been a U. S. Senator since 1949 and . . . has been a vigorous and articulate spokesman for human rights and human progress . . . as majority whip, he played a major role in the legislative victories of the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations. America today needs to choose a vice president who could, if called upon, ably assume the duties of the presidency . . . there is no doubt . . . that Hubert Humphrey is best qualified to meet that test.

"The choice is obvious," the General Board's statement declared, "both as to the platforms and the candidates." It urged the nation's 13.5 million AFL-CIO union members to give the Johnson-Humphrey ticket their most wholehearted support.

An Enduring Stand On Trade Unions

"Admit everything that has been charged against it, the offenses of trade unionism against organized Capital, against justice, are not one hundredth part as rank as those of organized Capital against the laboring classes, against common rights—offenses which still would be continued practically everywhere in their shame and in their infamy if it were not for trade unions; offenses which smell to high heaven today where no trade unionism flourishes to do battle in the name of common humanity against the sweatshop system and similar evils. . .

"The only weapon the laboring man has is unity. He should cling to it. He should be encouraged and aided to its possession. He is learning day by day to use it better; with more moderation; with more justice. Surely he would have to labor overtime in order to use it more unjustly than organized Capital often does. And certainly no one has the legal or any other right to declare he shall not have such a weapon." —The late C. K. McClatchy, Editor of the Sacramento Bee stating his paper's view of organized labor on May 27, 1911.

The Sacramento Bee reprinted his commentary in full on Labor Day, 1964 asserting:

"It reflected the Bee's viewpoint on organized labor then; it reflects the Bee's position on this Labor Day."

Brown Raps Prop. 14 in Labor Day Speeches

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oppose this initiative if they know the damages it could do," the Governor declared.

The Governor urged newsmen attending a press-radio-television banquet in the Governor's Hall at the State Fair to "make your own investigation and get the facts before your readers, your viewers and your listeners."

He also roundly denounced the California Republican Assembly's action endorsing the anti-fair housing proposition saying that "without question" Goldwater forces were behind the CRA's action.

"This is the Goldwater mind reflected in the old moderate California Republican Assembly I was proud to be a member of," the Governor said, referring to the period prior to 1934 when he became a Democrat.

The presiding bishop of the Episcopal church and all four Episcopal bishops in the state joined the Governor in condemning Proposition 14 as morally wrong.

The cleric's statement, carried in the September issue of "Church and Race," published by the Episcopal National Council's Department of Christian Social Relations said the realtor's amendment would amount to legalized segregated housing in the nation's most populous state.

The five bishops are the Right Rev. Arthur Lichtenberger, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States; Bishop James A. Pike of San Francisco; Bishop Eric F. Bloy of Los Angeles; Bishop Clarence R. Haden, Jr. of Sacramento; and Bishop Summer Walters of San Joaquin.

Bill to Aid Rail Workers OK'd

A bill to make possible larger pensions for the wives of some railroad employees was passed by the House Sept. 3 and sent to the Senate. The measure would let the spouse of a railroad employee receive the spouse's annuity under the Railroad Retirement Act in addition to any social security benefits earned in her own right. At present social security benefits must be deducted from the Railroad Retirement payment.

First 8-Hour Law in 1868

The first federal 8-hour day law was passed by Congress in 1868. It applied only to laborers, workmen, and mechanics employed by or on behalf of the U.S. government.