

Plans Sketched For International Affairs Parley

Plans for a labor conference on International Affairs to be held in San Francisco next spring were disclosed this week by Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

"It is our intention," Pitts said, "to involve representative labor leaders throughout California and the western states, including Hawaii."

Initial plans for the conference were discussed in San Francisco last week by Jay Lovestone, AFL-CIO International Affairs Director; Jack Sessions, a national AFL-CIO staff man assigned to the conference; and John Carroll, the state Federation's Director of Education.

"The chief aims of the conference," Pitts explained, "will be to sharpen our knowledge or organized labor's vital stake in international affairs, and to seek additional ways in which the labor movement in the western states can contribute to the strengthening of free trade unions throughout the world."

Pledging the national AFL-CIO's full cooperation to the conference, Lovestone noted that the California Labor Federation has played a significant role in helping to develop trade unions in Japan and other countries in the Far East, and added:

"The exchange of trade union missions is an especially promising development."

The exact date for the conference has not yet been set.

Bracero Revival Would Balk Poverty War and Discredit Govt., Gruhn Warns

"Nothing could make more of a farce out of the processes of representative government" than revival of the bracero program through "an obscure provision of Public Law 414—the McCarren-Walter Act," Albin J. Gruhn, president of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, declared last week in a speech at Stockton.

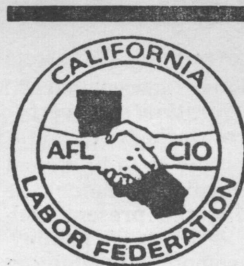
Drive to Shun Oil Firm Gains Support

Support is mounting for the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers' "don't buy" campaign against Standard Oil Company of California, which is trying to force employees to accept a settlement below that made by all other major oil firms.

Backing came from the International Union of Petroleum Workers which, like OCAW, is faced with Standard of California's 3½ per cent offer, contrasted to the 4½ per cent wage-and-benefit package which OCAW negotiated with other big oil firms.

IUPW joined in the appeal to union

(Continued on Page 2)



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Executive Council to Map Legislative Program for 1965 at Hollywood Meet

The 1965 legislative program of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, will be molded into shape at a two-day meeting of the Federation's Executive Council in the Hollywood-Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 8-9, 1964. Thomas L. Pitts, the Federation's secretary-treasurer, pointed out that the legislative program for the state's 1.4 million AFL-CIO union members is being developed from legislative resolutions and statements of policies approved by delegates to the Federation's biennial convention held in San Francisco last August.

"The scope of these resolutions, many of which were initiated by local unions and central labor councils as a result of problems that have a statewide impact, range from proposals to improve wages,

(Continued on Page 2)

Top Speakers Due At Consumers Convention in S.F.

The Association of California Consumers, a group organized nearly five years ago to serve as a megaphone to amplify the consumer's voice in the market place and direct it at state and national lawmakers in behalf of the beleaguered buying public, will hold its fifth annual convention at the Del Webb TowneHouse in San Francisco December 5-6, 1964.

Rep. James Roosevelt (D-L.A.) and Mildred Edie Brady, a noted writer on consumer affairs, head an impressive list of speakers for the conference.

Other speakers will include Assemblyman Charles H. Warren, (D-L.A.), author of the "truth-in-lending" bill in the 1963 state legislative session, and George Grover, a member of the State Public Utilities Commission and a key man in the PUC's recent decision to reduce telephone rates.

A special feature of the convention will be a series of workshops on consumer problems to be held the afternoon of December 5. Led by experts, these workshops will cover such topics as consumer credit, repair services, pesticides and the special consumer problems of the poor.

Association President Jackie Walsh, who is also president of the Local Joint Executive Board of Culinary Workers, said the public is invited to attend the convention but explained that voting will be limited to association delegates who have been members in good stand-

(Continued on Page 3)

Executive Council To Map Legislative Program for '65

(Continued from Page 1)

hours and working conditions in various industries such as public employment and farm labor to a wide assortment of generalized welfare problems such as consumer issues that vitally affect all Californians," Pitts said.

THE IMMEDIATE JOB

The executive council's immediate job at the forthcoming meeting will be to translate these resolutions into specific legislative proposals, he said.

"Despite President Johnson's sweeping victory on November 3," Pitts pointed out, "the liberal bloc in the state's legislature, although still substantial, lost ground in the Assembly and barely held its own in the Senate. In view of this it is obvious that a united, cooperative effort on the part of all affiliates will be necessary to maximize the progress to be made by the Federation's legislative program in the 1965 session."

The 36-member executive council—comprised of Pitts, the Federation's president Albin J. Gruhn and 34 vice presidents—will convene at 10:00 a.m.

UNIT MEETS DEC. 7

A meeting of the Federation's Legislative Committee, will be held on Monday, December 7, the day before the Executive Council convenes, to put the finishing touches on its recommendations to the executive council.

The Legislative Committee's recommendations were initially drafted at a meeting at the Del Webb TowneHouse in San Francisco on November 10 with the assistance of a 15-man Advisory Committee which was appointed following a suggestion made by the Committee on Legislation at the Federation's fifth convention last August.

The legislative program developed by the forthcoming executive council meeting will be pushed during the 1965 session of the legislature which convenes on Monday, January 4, 1965.

THE TRUTH WILL OUT

This nation was conceived in liberty and dedicated to the principle—among others—that honest men may honestly disagree; that if they all say what they think, the majority of the people will be able to distinguish true from false; that in the competition of the market place of ideas, the sounder ideas will in the long run win out—**Elmer Davis.**

Bracero Revival Would Balk Poverty War and Discredit Govt., Gruhn Warns

(Continued from Page 1)

and harassing actions when compared to the major concentration of poverty in the ranks of farm workers . . .

"If the war on poverty is to be waged in earnest in California, it cannot be done by perpetuating the present conditions existing in agricultural employment or anything remotely resembling them," he declared.

Gruhn told the Lejionarios, an organization of American workers of Filipino descent many of whom now or at one time have worked on California farms or have had relatives who performed farm labor, that the congressional action late in 1963 granting a one-year, phase-out extension of the program was "a clear and undeniable mandate from Congress" to terminate the program as of December 31, 1964.

"That mandate calls for immediate projection of this industry's employers to the 20th Century where, along with all other employers, they must begin to deal with their workers as human beings and to compete in the American rather than in the Mexican market for their labor.

"Not only does this mandate mean that payment of wage rates in agriculture comparable to those existing in other American industries, it means in

addition that there is an urgent need for immediate action to extend the unemployment insurance program to farm workers," the state AFL-CIO official said.

It also means, he added, that the growers as well as the state and federal governments must develop low-cost sale and rental housing for farm worker families and the federal government must provide full social security coverage for farm workers.

The California Labor Federation, he pledged, would be involved in this fight "to the hilt."

In the course of his remarks, the Federation's president reviewed the structure, function and accomplishments of the Federation and cited some of its current goals.

Among the latter, he said, are increases in average benefits payable under the state's unemployment insurance program which now amount to only \$40 a week even though the state's average weekly wage in covered employment is more than \$120 a week, and institution of a meaningful program to provide "full physical and vocational rehabilitation" for injured workers as a matter of right as well as to raise allowances for both permanent and temporary disabilities.

Larry Itliong, a member of the Lejionarios and an organizer for the AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers' Organizing Committee introduced Gruhn to the delegates. Al Green, director of AWOC, was also on the platform and was highly praised by President Gruhn for his untiring efforts in behalf of the organization of agricultural workers.

More than a thousand persons of Filipino extraction attended the convention.

Disabled Should Check Up On Social Security Benefits

New amendments to the Social Security Act will bring new or higher benefits to more than 100,000 totally disabled workers and dependents throughout the nation, according to Social Security Commissioner Robert M. Ball.

The amendments, recently signed into law by President Johnson, removed a restriction on retroactive applications for disability insurance benefits. This restriction had caused some disabled workers and their dependents to be denied benefits completely or to receive only reduced benefits.

Ball urged severely disabled persons who worked under social security for at least five of the 10 years before they became disabled to contact their nearest social security office promptly if they have not yet applied for disability payments.

Drive to Shun Oil Firm Gains Support

(Continued from Page 1)

members and friends of labor not to buy products marketed throughout the West by Standard Stations, Inc., Chevron and Signal Oil Companies.

The unions asked consumers to return Standard of California credit cards to the company with letters urging Standard to match the terms of other major companies.

The "don't buy" appeal has also won the endorsement of the San Francisco Labor Council and the Alameda County, Contra Costa County and Kern-Inyo-Mono Counties Central Labor Councils.

OCAW Local 1-561 filed unfair labor practice charges against the company with the National Labor Relations Board over Standard of California's unilateral implementation of the rejected company wage proposal at Richmond. The AFL-CIO union also challenged the company's institution of a new training program that increased the probationary period from six months to three years.

The other firms' 4½ per cent package included an additional week of vacation for employees of five or more years service, which OCAW sought to curb mounting automation job losses in the oil industry.

Top U.S. Civic Leaders Set Up Council To Fight Right Wing Radio-TV Tirades

The National Council for Civic Responsibility, a non-partisan organization composed of distinguished Americans from all walks of life, has announced that it will monitor the radio and TV programs of 10 right-wing organizations and issue a digest of their contents.

The Council's chairman, Dr. Arthur Larson, who served as Eisenhower's director of the U.S. Information Agency, pointed out that more than 7,000 radio and TV programs are aired weekly by right-wing groups such as Manion Forum, America's Future, Church League of America, White Citizen's Council, and the Rev. Carl McIntire.

"We plan to challenge the spokesmen for the radical right with their own words," Larson declared. "For too long have they filled the air with noxious propaganda, but there has been no physical record," he said.

Larson, now associated with the Duke University School of Law, said the Council will send transcripts to any organization or person who is the subject of a radio attack.

The Council is already sending its five minute "antidote" to right-wing broadcasts to more than 30 radio stations. It has also published a pamphlet entitled "Extremism: 20 Questions and Answers" which is available for 25 cents from the Council at 65 E. 55th St. New York City.

The Council, an adjunct of the Public Affairs Institute, also plans to publish accurate information concerning extremists groups, their origin, their leaders, their objectives, their viewpoints, and their financing, and to seek the cooperation of the nation's communication media to expose them.

Its work will be financed by voluntary contributions to the Public Affairs Institute. Such contributions are tax exempt.

Larson said the Council would also seek to focus national attention on local harassing activities by extremist groups.

"There are many local communities

in which the tactics of extremists have made life miserable for good citizens—through spying, nocturnal phone calls, economic and social pressures, stonings, even bombings, and other tactics alien to the American way of working out political decisions," he declared.

He said the Council's daily radio programs seek to "correct the principal errors currently propagated" by what he called "radical reactionary organizations." The broadcasts present first-hand experiences of individuals throughout the nation who have suffered personally as a result of harassing activities by extremists.

The broadcasting activities are currently limited to states where extremist organizations have been most active, but will be expanded to other states as the Council's budget permits, he said.

The "sheer quantity and persistence of radical reactionary propaganda has reached the point where it is going far beyond reassuring the prejudices of a small fringe group," Larson asserted.

"The statistic I personally found most ominous is this: There are more than 7,000 radio and television broadcasts weekly in 50 states now being aired by groups whose officers are either acknowledged members of the John Birch Society, or linked with it in other ways."

Twelve such organizations named by Larson are:

**Americans for Constitutional Action
America's Future
Christian Crusade
Christian Freedom Foundation
Church League of America
Citizens Foreign Aid Committee
Conservative Society of America
Liberty Lobby
Manion Forum
National Economic Council
Dan Smoot Reports, and
We, The People**

In addition, he said, "more than a score of organizations . . . can be identified as engaged in the kind of propaganda we are concerned about."

He estimated that ultra-rightist organizations now spend upwards of \$20 million a year.

"The unchecked increase in this kind of propaganda is degrading the American political dialogue to such a point as to damage our self-respect at home and our reputation for public responsibility abroad," he declared.

In addition, radical reactionary positions are "quite literally" undermining American democracy, he concluded.

The Nut Tree Hit as Anti-Labor By Solano CLC

The "NUT TREE," a roadside restaurant near Vacaville on Highway 40, has been placed on the "WE DO NOT PATRONIZE" list of the Central Labor Council of Solano County.

James H. Pollard, the council's executive secretary, said the action was taken at the request of Local Union No. 560 of the Bartenders and Culinary Workers of Vallejo. The restaurant, he explained, "has a long anti-labor history dating back to 1948."

Consumers Assn. To Map Plans at SF Parley Dec. 5-6

(Continued from Page 1)

ing for not less than 30 days prior to December 5.

"The 1965 session of the California Legislature will convene soon and will deal with legislation of the greatest importance to all of us," she said.

"On its agenda will be truth-in-lending, auto repair and many other important measures. The ACC convention provides a unique opportunity to learn the issues, help formulate an effective legislative program and prepare for action," she declared.

The convention will also mark the fifth anniversary of California's Office of Consumer Counsel. Mrs. Helen Ewing Nelson, who was named to the office by Governor Edmund G. Brown in the Fall of 1959, will also be present.

Registration for the convention will open at 8:00 a.m. December 5 and the convention itself will convene at 9:45 a.m. The principal speeches will be scheduled either in the morning sessions or at a Saturday luncheon. Mrs. Walsh urged delegates to return their duplicate credentials as soon as possible with the \$6.00 registration fee which includes the luncheon on December 5.

Congressman Roosevelt has a long standing interest in consumer problems, particularly in the high cost of distributing food and consumer goods which he has studied as a member of the Select Committee on Small Business and as chairman of its Subcommittee on Distribution Problems.

Mrs. Brady has been associated with Consumers Union, which publishes Consumer Reports, since 1950 as an economic consultant, associate director and research associate. She is currently writing a book on consumer problems.

A Word of Thanks

"I want to thank you and the union for all the wonderful things you do for me. I am happy that you give me a higher pay and I live in a better house and my children went to better schools and I thank you for all of these things. But most important of all, Brother Reuther, for 18 years I worked in the Kelsey-Hayes foundry before the union—and for 18 years they called me dumb Polak. And then the union come along and they called me brother."—An elderly worker of Polish descent to Walter Reuther during a UAW local union 20th Anniversary celebration.

Wages Up 3.1% in Pacts Signed in '64, BLS Study Finds

The average (median) wage rate adjustment provided by major collective bargaining settlements during the first nine months of 1964 was 3.1 percent of straight-time hourly earnings, preliminary estimates by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics disclosed this week.

Of about 2.3 million workers affected by these settlements, 2.2 million workers who received pay hikes got increases amounting to 3.2 percent, excluding the value of supplementary benefits.

The Bureau's statistics indicate that expenditures on benefits increased proportionately more than wage rates between 1959 and 1962. General wage rates during this period, the Bureau reported, totalled about 20.5 cents or 8.9 percent of straight-time average hourly earnings in unionized manufacturing establishments. Combined with the increase in actual expenditures on the major supplementary benefits obtained through collective bargaining, the increase amounts to about 28 cents an hour or 10 percent over the three-year period.

About 1.1 million of the workers affected by settlements during the first nine months of this year were in manufacturing and the average wage-rate boost was 2.5 percent.

In non-manufacturing industries, about 45 percent of the 1.2 million workers studied received wage increases ranging between 2.5 and 3.5 percent. Most of these workers were in trucking, although some were in the telephone industry. The average adjustment in the non-manufacturing industries studied was 3.1 percent.

Have Times Changed?

"Our merchants and master-manufacturers complain much of the bad effects of high wages in raising the price, and thereby lessening the sale of their goods both at home and abroad. They say nothing concerning the bad effects of high profits. They are silent with regard to the pernicious effects of their own gains. They complain only of those of other people."—Adam Smith, *Historian-Economist*, nearly 200 years ago.

The Need for Bargaining

"Not only has labor a right to organize, but also it is socially desirable that it do so because of the need for collective action in the maintenance of standards of living."—The *Executive Board of the Division of Christian Life, National Council of Churches of Christ*.

Disability Benefit Maximum to Rise to \$80 Thanks to Fed-Sponsored Clause

Californians who cannot work because of sickness or injury not caused by their jobs will receive a maximum of \$80 a week in disability benefits during 1965, the State Department of Employment announced this week.

The 1965 increase results from an escalation clause contained in a bill sponsored by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, during the 1961 legislative session.

The 1961 escalation clause provides that the disability insurance benefit shall be increased in one-dollar steps for each dollar by which two-thirds of the average weekly wage in covered employment exceeds \$70.

As a result, disability benefits in 1965 will range from \$25 to \$80 a week compared with the current range of \$25 to \$77 a week.

Only workers earning \$1,875 and more in the highest quarter of their base period, however, will qualify for the \$80 maximum weekly benefit.

The average weekly wage during the second quarter of 1964, the controlling quarter in the formula, was \$119.50. Last year, the second calendar quarter wage average was \$115.68. Application of the "two-thirds" formula to the 1964 average weekly wage yields \$79.71, which is \$2.71 above the present \$77 maximum weekly benefit. The escalation clause calls for rounding the product of the disability benefits formula to the nearest dollar, resulting in the addition of the three \$1 steps in the benefit scale on January 1, 1965.

The increased benefits, however, are applicable only to disabilities that begin on or after January 1, 1965.

Remember the Old Days of RTW

"... Let us remember the early times in which we, in America, had what we now call 'right to work' legislation—the ugly sweatshops on the East Side of New York, with all the ramifications of individual exploitation and of human degradation.

"It was only through the emergence of organized labor in the United States that individual dignity was restored to the laboring man and protection given to him and to his family.

"Unionism in America has ever since been a stronghold of democracy, a source of progressive thinking and a bulwark against totalitarian trends. Let us not be misled by well-phrased appeals which, in the end, will weaken organized labor and eventually destroy unionism in these United States. The contribution of labor to American democracy has been considerable. It has enriched our lives and introduced values into our society which are of utmost importance to me as a religious person."

—Dr. Max Nussbaum, Rabbi of Temple Israel, Hollywood.

NCIP Plans Study Of Chance to End RTW in 3 States

In virtually every state in which the so-called "right to work" law was an issue in the November election, the anti-labor "right to work" forces took such a shellacking that the National Council for Industrial Peace is planning to undertake studies to determine the possibility of repealing existing "right to work" laws in Wyoming, Indiana and Utah.

"In Montana," the NCIP analysis said, "the issue . . . brought about a revolution in the control of the Montana Senate and House of Representatives. The same was true in New Mexico, Wyoming, Utah, Indiana and Pennsylvania.

The labor vote turnout on the "right to work" issue was especially heavy in large industrial states, the Council reported.

For example, Indiana, which Richard Nixon carried in 1960, went heavily Democratic this year. This was also true in Pennsylvania where the National Right to Work Committee has been pushing for a "right to work" law for the past two years, as well as in Ohio and Michigan.

The Council's analysis also indicated that every state in which a "right to work" law has been pushed returned large majorities for President Johnson. Such states included Maine, Vermont, Delaware, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Montana, New Mexico, California and Washington.

Although Oklahoma also voted for Nixon in 1960, the state's voters rejected a "right to work" law at a special election last May and returned to the Democratic column in this year's election.

Profits Rise 22 Percent

After-tax profits for manufacturing corporations were 22 percent higher in the first six months of 1964 than in the same period last year, government reports indicate. The soaring profits were disclosed in a report by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Trade Commission.