

Labor Press Editors Parley Set Jan. 22-24

Plans for a California Labor Press editors' conference to be held at the Marine Cooks and Stewards School near Santa Rosa from Friday, January 22 through Sunday January 24, were disclosed this week by State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts.

In a letter to Labor Press editors throughout the state, Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, said the conference would explore the possibility of formation of an International Labor Press Association Chapter in California and include both workshops and general session discussions of the readability of the labor press and the technical aspects of readability.

Registration for the conference will open Friday afternoon with a general session scheduled Friday night at which Kenneth Fiester, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO News and the ILPA, is tentatively scheduled to speak.

Formation of an ILPA Chapter is currently scheduled to be taken up Saturday morning.

Other items on the agenda include a talk on the legislative outlook for 1965 and discussion of the development of the program of services to be provided by the two new centers for labor research and education on the Berkeley and UCLA campuses, including the possibility of the development of a series of labor press seminars.

The Marine Cooks and Stewards fa-

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REPEAL OF 14b HEADS LIST

AFL-CIO Calls for Big Investment in U.S. in Detailing Labor's 1965 Goals

A wide-ranging legislative program calling for a "massive investment in America" to bring an end "to poverty and deprivation" in the United States has been adopted by the AFL-CIO Executive Council for the 89th Congress which convenes next month. The program, covering 14 major areas of American life, is comprised of "practical down-to-earth measures"

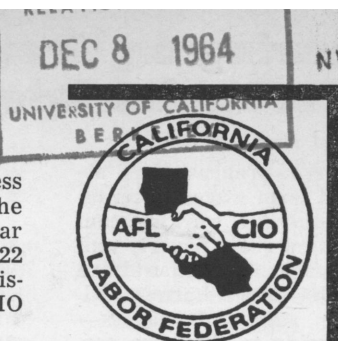
Move to Continue Bracero Use Hit

Asserting that it was "appalled" to learn that agribusiness interests are attempting to flout the will of Congress by devising a means to continue to use braceros, the AFL-CIO Executive Council last week adopted the following statement on migratory labor:

"Migrant farm workers have long been the most painfully exploited people in America, whether they were citizens or imported visitors.

"The AFL-CIO was gratified when

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THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Final Hearing on Growers Bid to Revise Bracero Program Opens in S.F. Monday

The last of four public hearings being conducted by an agency of the executive branch of the government as a result of agribusiness efforts to flout the will of the legislative branch will be held in San Francisco next Monday, December 7, when a U. S. Labor Department examiner sits down to consider what criteria should be applied to permit the continued importation of foreign farm workers after Public Law 78—the bracero program which Congress last year voted to terminate as of December 31, 1964—expires.

Congressional rejection of any further extension of the bracero program culminated years of persistent efforts by the California Labor Federation, the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee and the AFL-CIO nationally as well as a number of concerned civic and religious groups to halt the program.

These efforts were mounted be-

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U.S. Finds 'No Sign' Of Inflationary Spurt in Offing

Efforts by well-heeled special interest groups to promote hard money policies, which rebound to the disadvantage of the general consumer, by exploiting the nation's fear of inflation were refuted this week by a key government official who said that there was "no sign" of a new inflationary spurt despite widespread assumptions to the contrary.

The official, Arnold Chase, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, pointed out that from January through October, 1964, the rise in the consumer price index has amounted to 9/10ths of one point. In contrast, the January-October 1963 increase was 1.2 points, indicating that the rate of inflationary pressures has eased rather than accelerated.

The report backs up the position taken by the AFL-CIO Executive Coun-

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COUNCIL TO MEET

A two-day meeting of the executive council of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, will be held in the Hollywood-Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 8-9, 1964, to map the Federation's 1965 legislative program.

The Federation's legislative committee, however, will meet at the hotel Monday, December 7, the day before the executive council convenes, to take final action on its recommendations to the council.

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U.S. Finds 'No Sign' Of Inflationary Spurt in Offing

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cil in Washington last week when it called on the Federal Reserve Board to reverse its recent action raising the discount rate from 3.5 to four per cent. The Council said the Board's action will increase costs by driving up the price of credit, force prices upward and curb economic activity at a time when such curbs "can slow down the advance of sales, production and jobs."

The strength of the dollar, the Council declared, "depends mainly on the strength and prosperity of the American economy at home. If a serious problem of short-term capital outflow is expected, such outflows should be curbed directly rather than to gamble with the pace of economic advance, particularly at a time of persistent high unemployment."

The FRB, which operates with substantial independence from the executive branch of government, said its action was dictated by the rise in the discount rate in Great Britain, which, the Board claimed, would attract American short-term funds and worsen the U. S. balance of payments situation.

But the AFL-CIO Executive Council said the Board's action "will do very little, at best, to curtail any sudden short-term outflow of private capital." Instead, the Council pointed out, it will, for example, curb construction loans from commercial banks.

As a result it could have a significant adverse effect on job opportunities in the building trades.

Move to Continue Bracero Use Hit

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Congress put an end to the importation of Mexican farm laborers under Public Law 78. We are appalled to learn that some large agricultural interests are making efforts to continue the same program under Public Law 414. This is clearly contrary to the intent of the Congress and it must not be allowed to happen.

"Moreover much remains to be done for American migratory labor. Congress should provide minimum wage standards for migratory farm workers, include them under the unemployment compensation system, strike out their exemption from the protection of the general labor laws, assure them of adequate housing and health services and see to it that their children have full and equal educational opportunities."

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cause the bracero program has severely depressed farm wages, accentuated already deplorable working conditions, perpetuated rural poverty and created enormous health and welfare problems which—since borne ultimately by the state's taxpayers—amount to a subsidy to the huge corporate farms, the principal users of braceros.

But the corporate growers are now seeking to use a provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (the McCarran-Walter Act) to maintain their unique position as the only industry in the nation that claims it can't afford to pay a living wage to U. S. workers.

ACT EXPLAINED

The Immigration Act requires the Attorney General to act on all employer requests to import or retain foreign labor for temporary employment. Before approving such requests, the Attorney General is required to get a certification from the U. S. Employment Service on the availability of like labor in this country, including a statement that U. S. Employment Service policies have been observed. One of these policies bans employment of foreign workers if their employment will adversely affect the wages and working conditions of domestic workers similarly employed.

But implementation of this policy has been non-existent in the past because there are a number of ways in which growers may circumvent it.

Congressional leaders, however, suggested late last month that revision of the Immigration Act be placed on President Johnson's priority list of legislation to be sought early next year. Such revisions could include tightening the foreign labor import procedures.

Despite Governor Brown's condemnation of Public Law 78 last year, the Governor, apparently under heavy pressure from the state's agribusiness interests, has now proposed utilization of the Immigration Act (Public Law 414) for a five-year phase-out period during which the number of braceros imported would be cut 20 per cent each year and the wages of domestic farm workers raised progressively until they reach \$1.70 in 1968, the last year of the bracero program.

At the first of the four hearings which was held in Washington, Jacob Clyman, Administrative Director of the Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO flatly opposed the idea of using Public Law 414, saying:

"We are grimly opposed to P. L. 414's being used even as a partial substitute for that law (P.L. 78) which has done so much to perpetuate the degradation of the hired man in agriculture."

The other two hearings were scheduled in Miami on December 2 and Dallas on December 4.

A recent UCLA study has demonstrated that many jobless California workers are available and willing to do farm labor if growers offer wages even remotely approaching the wages paid by other industries in the state.

Grower spokesmen both in the industry itself and on the university campus at Berkeley, however, are attempting to quash or discredit the UCLA study asserting that the jobless interviewed at the time of the study will not be the same jobless pool that will be available six months or a year from now. But the study is based on hour-long interviews with more than 660 jobless workers utilizing standard survey techniques. No objective, impartial critic of the study who has any knowledge of statistics would attempt to discredit it on such grounds.

Basically the issue boils down to people versus profits—one of whether more than 240,000 California farm workers shall be condemned to sub-poverty level incomes or the intent of Congress shall be honored by requiring the corporate growers to pay U. S. wages to grow U. S. products.

A spokesman for the California Labor Federation will testify at the hearing which opens at 10 a.m. in the State Building, 455 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco.

'Africa Needs Balanced Economic Development'

The second African Regional Conference of the International Labor Organization, which is to run until December 12, opened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Monday with an address by Emperor Haile Selassie.

The Emperor told the more than 300 delegates that Africa needs "a balanced socio-economic development" that would assure an equitable distribution of income.

Thirty African nations, as well as observers and representatives from other countries, are taking part in the conference. Among other things to be taken up at the conference are methods and principles of wage regulation, employment conditions and working conditions for African women.

The California Labor Federation and the International Affairs Department of the AFL-CIO have announced plans for a western states regional conference on international affairs to be held in San Francisco next Spring.

AFL-CIO Calls for Big Investment in U.S. in Detailing Labor's 1965 Goals

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country can easily afford, and one that is essential to its destiny and to the future of freedom on earth."

At a news conference following the one-day council meeting in Washington, AFL-CIO President George Meany said that restoration of free collective bargaining by repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act, which encourages states to enact so-called "right to work" laws, will have top priority in the AFL-CIO's legislative program.

The so-called "right to work" laws are aimed at subverting the right of workers "to maintain effective unions," Meany said. Noting that the 1964 Democratic party platform is pledged to repeal Section 14(b) Meany said he believes that there are "sufficient votes" in the new Congress to accomplish that goal.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH 14(b)

The need to restore free collective bargaining was the first of the 14 major areas of national life cited by the executive council as requiring congressional action.

The council's statement said that "it is evident that free labor and free management should be able freely to agree upon mutually acceptable terms of employment. They should, therefore, be free to negotiate a contract making union membership a condition of employment. . . .

"... Section 14(b) allows the states to outlaw the union shop as such, regardless of the wishes of the workers and their employers. It cedes a negative jurisdiction to the states in an area which the federal government has otherwise properly pre-empted.

"This is an unwarranted intrusion upon the rights of organized workers and their employers to negotiate mutually acceptable agreements. It offends the basic principles of federal-state relationships and should be repealed," the council declared.

In addition to the need to rectify overlapping or contradictory provisions of the three major labor-management relations measures enacted since 1935, the council also spelled out Labor's goals in 12 other areas as follows:

SOCIAL INSURANCE

—A national hospital insurance system based on social security principles for those over 65.

—Substantial boosts in cash benefits for the retired, the disabled, and for widows and dependent children. Adjustments in benefits for the retired should take into account the fact that 65 is no longer a realistic age for retirement.

—Establishment of a federal system of reinsurance for all private pension plans to guarantee benefit payments.

—Enactment of minimum federal standards for unemployment insurance programs, including standards for weekly benefits, eligibility and duration of payments and to prevent the inadequate financing of such programs.

WAGE-HOUR IMPROVEMENTS

—Modernization of the Fair Labor Standards Act to cover all workers whose jobs affect interstate commerce.

—A boost in the federal minimum wage to \$2 an hour to assure all workers of a standard of living above the poverty level.

—Reduction of the standard workweek to 35 hours.

—An increase in overtime pay from time-and-a-half to double-time to discourage overtime and create new jobs.

EDUCATION

—Enactment of a program of federal aid to elementary and secondary schools.

—Federal aid to schools serving culturally-disadvantaged children from low-income areas.

—Comprehensive federal assistance to college students, including scholarships, student loans, and work-study opportunities.

—Appropriation of additional U.S. funds for more community junior colleges.

URBAN PROBLEMS

—A heavy increase in grants-in-aid for public housing for low-income families to eliminate slums.

—A program to provide low-cost, long-term loans for housing for moderate income families.

—Acceleration of urban renewal efforts with special attention and assistance for the thousands of families and small businesses dislocated every year by new highways, housing developments and other public projects.

—Adequate appropriations to implement the mass transit bill enacted last year.

—Creation of a cabinet level Department of Housing and Community Affairs to coordinate and expedite solutions to urban problems.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

—Expansion of federal programs to provide grants-in-aid to meet a vast backlog of urgently needed community facilities, including water and sewage systems, cultural centers and public buildings, along with full appropriation of funds already authorized to attack air and water pollution problems and construct highways, hospitals, health facilities, college buildings and airports.

The council pointed out that "as the nation invests in these facilities, it will also create huge numbers of useful jobs

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Is There Equal Justice For Poor?

"Equal Justice for the Poor Man," a new booklet exploring the problems facing the poor in obtaining equality before the law, has just been published by the Public Affairs Committee, a non-profit educational organization.

While noting that "more progress has been made in the last few years than in the previous one and three-quarters centuries of the American republic," the booklet makes it abundantly clear that much still remains to be done because the lack of adequate financial resources often results in a denial to the poor of adequate legal counsel.

It explores the scope of the Constitutional rights to which all defendants are entitled, the problem of recruiting lawyers, the role of public defenders and legal aid offices and includes a critical comparison of American legal aid efforts with that of the English system.

In the last instance, an English lawyer argues that U. S. programs are founded on the principle of charity rather than right; that we "give" assistance and that the poor cannot "claim" it. Such a principle is wrong, the Englishman argues, because it violates "the ideal that all, rich and poor, should have equal access to justice and the courts."

Copies of the booklet may be obtained for 25 cents from Public Affairs Pamphlets, 381 Park Ave., South, New York 10016.

Suit Says Firm Violated FLSA

A suit charging a Fresno firm with violating the Fair Labor Standards Act by failing to pay some employees the federal minimum wage and using child labor was filed in a U. S. court in Fresno this week by Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz.

The civil suit, filed against five partners in the firm of Lamanuzzi & Pantaleo which operates a fruit dry yard in Fresno, also charged that the partners had violated the record-keeping and interstate shipment provisions of the law.

Wirtz' suit is the outgrowth of a probe conducted by the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division. It asks the court to enjoin the partners from future violations of the law.

The business employs about 105 workers in its Fresno dry yard cutting peaches and nectarines during July and August. The fruit is sold to a San Jose packing company that processes, packages and sells much of it out of state. The Lamanuzzi & Pantaleo partnership also has other fruit operations ranging from ranches to a packing plant.

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and therefore increase the number of consumers and taxpayers."

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

—Enactment of the Appalachia program to attack chronic depression on a regional basis and the development of similar programs in other areas based on a regional rather than a single community approach.

—New federal initiative to conserve and develop the nation's water supplies, national forests and range lands, giant

Shoppers Asked To Seek Union Label in Yule Gifts

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, AFL-CIO, urges Christmas shoppers to double check for the Union Label when buying men's and boys' clothing for Christmas gifts.

To guide shoppers, the union has published a revised list of non-union brands, entitled "Pass Them By."

Among the well-known brands no longer on the unfair list are the Weldon Pajama Company and Ernst Ties of San Francisco. Both firms were unionized by the clothing union during the past year. Copies of the revised list are available from the Union Label Department, 26 Seventh Street, San Francisco, Calif.

Shoppers are urged to shun all non-union products, including the non-union Henry I. Siegel (H.I.S. brand) products. The union is continuing to picket major retailers of H.I.S. men's and boys' clothing. Community pressure, intimidation, and racist appeals have been used to prevent unionization of the company's southern plants, the union says.

By patronizing union stores and demanding union-made products, shoppers will be using their funds to support union conditions, a good policy not only at Christmas but all year round.

A Note On MDTA

The Manpower Development and Training Act was approved on March 15, 1962. It requires the federal government to determine manpower needs and resources and to "deal with the problems of unemployment resulting from automation and technological changes and other types of persistent unemployment." The Act is administered by the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

grids for the interstate transmission of electric power and to expedite the desalinization of sea water.

HEALTH PROBLEMS

—Legislation providing federal scholarships and other student assistance to meet the nation's pressing need for skilled personnel in hospitals and other health facilities.

—Grants and loans for the operation of community mental health centers; for the construction of facilities for direct-service health plans based on group practice; and for hospital construction and modernization.

WAR ON POVERTY

Noting that President Johnson's war on poverty "has captured the imagination of America," the Council said that virtually every item in the AFL-CIO's legislative goals is an attack on poverty. But the Council pointed out that more funds are needed for the Equal Opportunities Act and the Manpower Development and Training Act.

TAX POLICY

The federal tax structure, the Council said, should be improved by:

- Eliminating excise taxes.
- Closing all tax loopholes.
- Easing the disproportionate burden of taxation on low income groups.
- Eliminating income taxes on those at or below the poverty level.

The AFL-CIO is opposed, however, to "the indiscriminate rebate of federal taxes to the states with no restrictions on the use of such funds."

CONSUMER PROTECTION

- Enactment of truth-in-lending and truth-in-packaging legislation.
- Creation of a federal consumer information service.
- Opposition to all forms of so-called "fair trade" laws designed to maintain monopoly price-fixing.

MIGRATORY LABOR

—The importation of Mexican farm labor must be stopped now and the conditions of migrant farm laborers improved by including them under national labor and social insurance laws (See story on page 1).

FOREIGN TRADE AND AID

The Council pledged continued support for trade expansion if a mechanism to protect workers and businesses adversely can be made to work. It called for the incorporation of fair labor standards in world trade; continued support for foreign aid programs; and the use of American flag ships to transport foreign aid cargoes.

Union Wages in Building Trades Up by 15¢ an Hour

The hourly wage scales of union building trades workers climbed an average of 15 cents in cities of 100,000 population or more in the past fiscal year which extended from July 1, 1963 to July 1, 1964, according to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The increase was one percent more than had been recorded in each of the two preceding 12-month periods.

Registering the greatest gain were machinists whose average hourly wage scale rose 20 cents. Next were plasterers with a 19 cent increase. The average hourly wages for boilermakers, plumbers and rodmen rose 18 cents and 16 other crafts showed a gain of 15 cents or more.

As of July 1, 1964, union hourly wage scales averaged \$4.25 for all building trades workers combined. The average for journeymen alone was \$4.46 and for helpers and laborers it was \$3.40.

Union scales were increased for 9/10ths of the building tradesmen included in the survey during the year ended July 1, 1964, the Bureau said. Increases vary from 10 to 25 cents an hour for nearly two-thirds of the workers.

By trade, average union hourly scales for journeymen varied from \$4.04 for paperhangers to \$4.73 for elevator constructors. Among those in the helpers and laborers classifications, the average varied from \$2.67 for composition roofers' helpers to \$3.75 for plasterers' laborers.

The union scales used in the survey are the basic minimum wage rates agreed upon through collective bargaining between employers and trade unions. They exclude holiday, vacation or other payments made directly to the worker each pay period as well as overtime beyond the established maximum daily and weekly hours. Since the scales do not reflect either rates for apprentices or premium rates, they do not represent total hourly earnings of organized building trades workers.

Mimeographed listings of the union scales by trade for each of the 68 cities included in the survey may be obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

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cility, soon to be acquired by the University of California, is about five miles north and 9 miles east of Santa Rosa on the road to Calistoga.

Initial plans for the conference were mapped at a meeting in Fresno last month attended by nearly a dozen interested labor press editors.