

Court Sets July '65 Deadline For Redistricting

The California legislature has been directed to reapportion the State Senate "in no event later than July 1, 1965" by a special three-judge federal court in Los Angeles.

The two-to-one ruling last week stipulated that if the legislature fails to act the court will retain jurisdiction to require them to do so to bring about conformity with the U.S. Supreme Court's "one man—one vote" decision early this year.

Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Stanley Barnes and U.S. District Judge Myron D. Crocker concurred in the order. Judge Charles H. Carr of the U.S. District Court dissented and reserved the right to file a dissenting opinion.

The ruling last Thursday resulted from a taxpayer's suit filed more than two years ago by Attorney Phil Silver against the State Attorney General's office.

State Senator Edwin Regan (D-Weaverville) said he would suggest that the Governor make reapportionment the subject of a special session of the legislature to run concurrently with the regular session to facilitate handling the issue.

If the State Senate is reapportioned on a strict population basis, Los Angeles County would elect 15 of the state's 40 Senators. The four southern counties of Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange and Imperial combined would elect 21 of the 40. Some 52 per cent of the state's population lives in those four counties.

Compact Legislative Program for 1965 Wins Approval of Executive Council

A compact 1965 legislative program "to improve the working conditions and protect the consumer interests of all Californians" was adopted this week by the Executive Council of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. The Council also adopted a resolution reaffirming its support of Congressional action terminating the bracero program this year and stating

Consumers Map Program for '65

The Association of California Consumers called on the state and federal governments this week to take action to end a host of consumer abuses and thereby restore fair play to the marketplace.

Holding its fifth annual convention at the Del Webb TowneHouse in San Francisco, December 5-6, the consumers group spelled out a five-point program for Congressional action and adopted more than a dozen resolutions linked to state issues.

(Continued on Page 4)



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Fed Warns of Peril to Other Workers if U.S. Sells Out to Growers on Braceros

Demanding that the Labor Department "assume a neutral role" in the labor-management problems of agriculture, the State AFL-CIO this week denounced intensive grower propaganda promoting a "backdoor substitute" for the bracero program. It warned that such action would place American living standards "on the auction block" since this precedent, under the McCarran-Walter Act would open the door to cheap labor importation in other poorly organized industries.

Testifying at a U.S. Labor Department hearing in San Francisco on Monday, a spokesman for Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, emphasized that Public Law 78 (the bracero program terminated by Congress as of December 31, 1964) was specifically limited to agriculture.

But the McCarran-Walter Act (Public Law 414) "applies to all industries with equal force and effect," Walter

(Continued on Page 2)

Union Benefits Show Up In H&W Fund Pay Boosts

A measure of the fruits of collective bargaining is contained in a recent report on increases in contributions by California employers to union-management health and welfare funds.

In the past three years the average contribution has risen 28 per cent and now amounts to a monthly average of \$21.16 per employee, according to Ernest B. Webb, director of the State Department of Industrial Relations.

Between 1961 and 1964, average employer contributions for health plans increased by 17 per cent, from \$17.81 to \$20.92, in the Los Angeles area; and by 36 per cent, from \$15.50 to \$21.10, in the San Francisco area.

Much of the increase in the average employer contribution in the period 1961-64 went for improved or additional benefits but a portion was absorbed by the rising cost of medical care, Webb said.

In the Los Angeles-Long Beach area, the medical care component of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index rose seven per cent during the period. In the San Francisco-Oakland area, medical care costs went up 10 per cent.

These facts resulted from a study of 1,667 union agreements recently completed by the Department's Division of Labor Statistics and Research.

About 95 per cent of the 1,400,000 workers employed under the collective bargaining contracts studied have health plan coverage paid for in full or in part by their employer. For 84 per cent covered by welfare plans, the full cost is paid for by the employer.

(Continued on Page 3)

Fed Warns of Peril to Other Workers if U.S. Sells Out to Growers on Braceros

(Continued from Page 1)

Simcich, the AFL-CIO spokesman explained. This means, he said, that there would be "nothing whatsoever to prevent unscrupulous employers in any field" from recruiting foreign workers at cut-rate wages for periods ranging up to three years.

Turning to Governor Brown's five-year bracero phase-out proposal, the Federation spokesman noted that his stand "places him at complete odds" with the Democratic State Central Committee's recent resolution condemning the use of foreign labor in any form.

ISSUE CONCEDED

The Governor's proposal, the Federation spokesman declared, clearly concedes that at least a \$1.85 minimum hourly rate and a \$2.31 piece rate would prevail the first year without braceros.

"This amounts to a frank confession that California's 262,000 peak season domestic workers (who presently earn about \$1.10 an hour) are this year being assessed at least 75 cents an hour to guarantee agri-business' profit levels."

For farm labor families managing to find 3000 hours of work annually, this means that they have been robbed of roughly \$2250 in wages in each year since 1950 according to Governor Brown's own "modest estimates," the Federation's representative said.

Pointing out that the State's Chief Executive is charged "with responsibility for discouraging rank and discriminatory exploitation of workers and with strengthening . . . job opportunities during a period of serious unemployment," the State AFL-CIO said it was "shocked" at the Governor's proposal and urged him to reconsider it.

Taxpayers were also reminded that they "will continue to pay corporate agriculture a major direct subsidy so long as vastly substandard wages" characterize California's more than 310,000 farm jobs. The Federation pointed to soaring social welfare costs, juvenile delinquency, crime, disease and inferior educational opportunities as social evils that have flourished under these conditions at the expense of the state's taxpayers.

PROPAGANDA RAPPED

The State AFL-CIO ridiculed the corporate growers' repeated predictions of disaster over Congress' ending of the bracero program this year with the observation:

"If we are to believe agribusiness propaganda, the very survival of California's economy is jeopardized by the scheduled removal of one-sixth of last

year's peak farm labor force—namely, the 48,000 braceros then working alongside 262,000 U.S. workers in our valleys. To hear them tell it, our economy would be completely gutted as the impact spread into canning, transportation, steel, frozen food and container plants, the ice works, the wax works, and on into the state's financial centers.

"Surely this is the height of irony. If 48,000 braceros are so critically vital to the entire State of California, how can it be that their 262,000 domestic co-workers have been dealt with all these years as virtually valueless outcasts?"

"It is precisely on this score that the hypocrisy and duplicity of agribusiness become apparent. We contend that if they place such a premium upon farm workers—domestic as well as foreign—then the grower-shipper-processors have been wilfully guilty of . . . gross misrepresentations," the State AFL-CIO said.

A KEY QUESTION

"If farm workers do in fact constitute the base of California's economy, then why have they alone been denied access to our labor laws, our social welfare programs, our unemployment insurance benefits, equal Social Security coverage and the like?"

"Have the agricultural corporations lied in the past or are they lying today? In any event, it is not the federal government's function to bail them out. Quite the contrary, any involvement by government should be to help rather than further hurt these innocent victims of corporate deceit," the labor spokesman insisted.

The dimensions of this issue were underscored by the Federation's observation that, even at existing wage levels, California's corporate agriculture spent \$650 million last year for hired farm labor. The wage stakes involved if the Labor Department does not interfere with the bracero program's death are so great, it contended, as to make deliberate staging of "crops rotting in the fields" by the growers in the next few months a very real possibility for which the public should remain alerted.

"For those who are apt to brood if and when some of the Imperial Valley's lettuce is permitted to rot, we trust that some of their energy will be given to consideration of the hundreds of thousands of human beings—men, women and children—who have been rotting in those same fields now for many years," Simcich declared.

POVERTY ANGLE

The State AFL-CIO also linked the issue to President Johnson's war on poverty and the new Civil Rights Act, pointing out that "no matter how successful the anti-poverty program proves

Pay Boost Urged By Board For All State Employees

A five per cent pay hike for 76 per cent of state government workers and a 2½ per cent boost for the rest has been recommended by the State Personnel Board.

The increases are necessary to "avoid state salaries lagging substantially behind those being paid in private industry and other public agencies in California," the Board asserted in submitting its recommendations to Governor Edmund G. Brown and the legislature.

Financing for the wage adjustments, which would amount to \$25.7 million, would be broken down with \$17.4 million to come from the General Fund and \$17.8 million from Special Funds.

State employee organizations had asked for increases ranging from five to 30 per cent.

to be, it will not offset 10 per cent of the poverty that will be perpetuated if a new label is slapped on the old, discredited bracero program."

And in connection with civil rights, the labor spokesman said that "nothing could undercut the cause of first-class citizenship more than perpetuating the bracero supply since the great bulk of our farm workers are either Mexican-Americans, Negroes or Filipino-Americans."

The Federation's testimony scored agribusiness interests for resisting efforts to raise farm workers' wages and legislative safeguards "even to the level of dishwashers, office boys . . . or floor sweepers employed in our canneries."

The Labor Department should allow these problems to be resolved "by the only people who can resolve them legitimately and realistically, namely, the employers and their employees," Simcich said.

NO HONEST ALTERNATIVE

"No honest alternative exists. Congress itself has found that the Department, as the bracero program's administrator, has proven grossly and conspicuously incapable of preventing adverse effect upon America's own farm workers," he declared, pointing out that the growers still haven't made one "honest recruitment effort" to fill their labor needs.

"They can advertise until doomsday but so long as the job offer spells \$1.10 an hour, no fringe benefits, no unemployment insurance and the nation's most deplorable working conditions, California's workers will find the job repugnant. And so long as the bracero supply remains for the growers to exploit, the status quo will remain because the unenforceability

(Continued on Page 4)

Compact Legislative Program for 1965 Wins Approval of Executive Council

(Continued from Page 1)

The proposals, winnowed from more than 250 resolutions adopted at the state AFL-CIO's biennial convention in San Francisco last August, will be presented to the state's lawmakers when the legislature convenes next month.

"It's a realistic program to prepare the state to cope with the social and economic problems now snowballing into avalanche proportions as a result of the accelerating rate of job losses to automation, defense production cutbacks, and the state's soaring population which is presently expanding by more than 600,000 persons a year," Pitts declared.

PROPOSALS SPELLED OUT

Winding up a two-day meeting at the Hollywood-Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood on Wednesday, the 36-member Council, representing 1.4 million AFL-CIO members in California approved proposals calling for, among other things:

- A State Fair Labor Standards Act to include a \$2 state minimum hourly wage; a 40-hour work week with provisions to curb overtime to create additional jobs; and to empower the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations to issue wage orders to assure that fair labor standards prevail.
- Collective bargaining rights for employees of public agencies, health care facilities and hospital districts.
- A 35-hour work week and improve-

Medical Care Costs in Family Budget Double

The cost of medical care has risen faster than any other item in the family budget during the past 10 years, according to Arnold Chase, Deputy Commissioner of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics..

Based on the 1957-59 cost of living index, Arnold said that medical care costs increased 33.3 per cent between 1954 and October 1964, substantially more than twice the average rate of increase for all items in the index which was 14.9 per cent for the decade.

Such an alarming rise in the cost of medical care underscores the need for prompt action to enact a program to provide medical care for the aged under social security.

Despite the senior citizens' plight, the president of the American Medical Association this week reiterated the AMA's adamant stand against medicare and called on the AMA's house of delegates to authorize expenditure of large sums of money to underwrite a nationwide propaganda campaign.

ments of health and retirement benefits for state employees.

- Separate statement of principal and interest on all loans.

- Anti-professional strikebreaker legislation.

- Repeal of the Jurisdictional Strike Act, which, Pitts explained, "is contrary to the public interest because it encourages employers to promote company unions to challenge legitimate labor organizations in representational disputes."

SOCIAL INSURANCE

In the social insurance field, the Council will press for legislation to provide major improvements in workmen's compensation, including restoration of both temporary and permanent maximum disability benefit levels to sums commensurate with the "wage loss" principle on which the program was founded, and initiation of a rehabilitation program to minimize both the disabilities and the social costs of industrially injured employees.

"The present practice of simply 'paying off' workers maimed, disabled or impaired in industrial accidents, can no longer be tolerated. It's neither good labor relations, nor good human relations," Pitts declared.

"In fact," he added, "it's not even good economics because in the long run—after the 'pay off' is spent—the state's taxpayers foot the welfare cost for large numbers of injured workers who could have been rehabilitated to lead gainfully employed, self-sufficient and rewarding lives, instead of lives filled with bitterness, ostracism, despair and hopelessness."

For workers disabled as a result of injuries or illnesses incurred off the job, the state AFL-CIO will seek legislation to improve the employee-paid state disability insurance program by extending coverage to all public employees, boosting hospital benefits from \$12 to \$20 per day, and providing additional benefits for dependents.

The Federation will also push for modernization of the state's unemployment insurance program by raising the long out-dated tax base from \$3800 to \$7500; providing coverage for agricultural and non-profit employees; boosting statutory maximum weekly benefits to \$80 with an escalation clause; and extending coverage from 26 to 39 weeks.

Other proposals call for legislation to repeal the Hot Cargo and Secondary Boycott Act, extend the voter registration period, and establish democratic machinery to determine collective bargaining rights in intra-state commerce.

STAFF EXPANSION

Pitts also reported on steps taken to reorganize and expand the Federation's

Welfare-Pension Plan Assets Now Total \$70 Billion

The assets of about 170,000 welfare and pension plans now reporting under the Welfare and Pension Plans Disclosure Act totaling some \$70 billion, a key Labor Department official has disclosed.

Frank M. Kleiler, director of the office of Labor-Management and Welfare-Pension Reports said recently that 79 per cent of plans reporting are welfare plans, about 20 per cent are pension plans, and one per cent are combination plans.

Total contributions to the plans exceed \$15 billion a year.

Of the pension plans reporting, Kleiler said that 73 per cent require no employee contributions and that almost 75 per cent now contain provisions to permit retirement prior to age 65. Such provisions are being pushed by AFL-CIO unions as a means of helping to cope with the impact of automation and the inadequacy of the nation's job growth rate.

staff—including employment of Clinton Fair as Director of Social Security, John S. Carroll as Director of Education, and Harry Finks as Director of Public Relations.

Fair, joining the Federation after more than eight years with the Social Security and Legislative Departments of the national AFL-CIO office in Washington, is due to take up his duties in San Francisco next week. He will also help press the Federation's legislative program in Sacramento, Pitts said.

Carroll, former County Superintendent of Schools in San Diego, and a long-standing supporter of the labor movement, and Finks, who resigned after more than 20 years as Secretary and President of the Sacramento Central Labor Council to take his Federation post, have both been on the job for the past several months. Finks has also long been a vice president of the Federation.

Further action to acquire additional space to accommodate the Federation's expanded staff is currently under way, Pitts said.

The Executive Council also approved placement of the Nut Tree, a roadside restaurant on Highway 40 near Vacaville, on the Federation's "We Don't Patronize" list in response to a request for such action from the Solano County Central Labor Council.

In addition, it adopted a resolution condemning the attempt of giant retail food store chains in the Los Angeles metropolitan area to impose monopoly control over independent store operators and urged all union members and the public at large to support members of the Meat Cutters unions locked out by the dispute.

Fed Warns of Peril If U.S. Sells Out to Growers

(Continued from Page 2)

of any administrative guarantees has been conclusively demonstrated" for the past 13 years.

Charging that Congress ended P. L. 78 because it has served as a "bludgeon" in corporate agriculture's hands, the Federation cited the 1960-61 Imperial Valley lettuce harvest as an example. The record shows, its spokesman said, that the growers wiped out piece rates in that season and imposed a flat 90 cents an hour rate. This was because, under the prevailing wage doctrine, their 70-cents an hour braceros would have to be paid at the piece rates which yielded domestics up to \$3.00 an hour.

In inflicting this 70 per cent wage cut upon domestics while an alleged labor shortage existed, the Federation said, the growers completely reversed the law of supply and demand.

IMPACT CONSIDERED

It also noted that few workers in any industry would remain "available" for their present jobs if a governmental program inflicted the same kind of damage upon their pay envelopes.

In supplementary written testimony, the Federation refuted stock agribusiness myths concerning U.S. workers' alleged refusal to do farm work under any conditions and attempts to justify use of braceros on grounds of regional competition.

It also elaborated related issues such as the bracero program's destruction of family housing opportunities for domestic workers and the negligible consumer price consequences that would result if this industry entered the 20th Century. The Federation also entered an extensive analysis of the working farmers' positive stake in decent farm wages as opposed to that of the large scale vertically-integrated bracero users whose canning and shipping profits are maximized by keeping farm wages—and therefore the cost of commodities to agribusiness—at a rock-bottom level.

Equal Pay Act

The Equal Pay Act of 1963, which bans wage differentials based on sex for workers covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act, was signed by the President on June 10, 1963 and went into effect on June 10, 1964.

Pensions Act Amended

The Welfare and Pension Plans Disclosure Act of 1958 was amended to require that descriptions and financial reports be filed only for plans covering 100 or more participants.

Consumers to Press for End to Abuses In Marketplace at U.S. and State Levels

(Continued from Page 1)

The more than 200 delegates representing 250,000 California consumers also heard Mrs. Mildred E. Brady, a co-founder of Consumers' Union, assail the "sloppiness" uncovered in some assembly-line work, which, in some cases, posed hazards to the purchaser of the manufactured products. She urged the delegates to set up consumer action committees throughout the state to press for effective legislative action.

Mrs. Brady suggested that such committees should keep a check on how the lawmakers vote on bills affecting consumers; set up educational centers to provide consumer advice; and assist news media in detecting misrepresentation in advertising.

Another speaker, George G. Grover, a member of the state Public Utilities Commission, told the delegates that the poor are never "adequately represented" in commission hearings.

On the federal level, the delegates called on Congress for action along the following lines:

- Authorization of, and appropriations for, a full-time paid consumer counsel to the President, with provisions for an adequate staff, as a step toward creation of a U.S. Department of Consumers at the cabinet level.
- Truth-in-lending legislation to require the disclosure of the true cost of credit.
- Truth-in-packaging legislation to provide labelling standards and establish standardized weights and measures for packaged goods.
- Action to reduce the high price of prescription drugs.
- Amendment of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to require pre-testing to protect the public.

The Association also went on record in opposition to any legislation to "increase consumer prices through . . . a federal system of resale price maintenance." This was aimed principally at so-called "fair trade" or "quality stabilization" measures.

On the state level, the delegates stressed the need to amend the Rees-Levering Act to ban deficiency judgments against automobiles sold on credit and also urged the state's lawmakers to take decisive action in the 1965 general session of the legislature to:

- Prohibit creditors from obtaining wage attachments against debtors before obtaining a judgment, along with the establishment of principles to assure that such attachments do not leave the family destitute.
- Standardize bread loaf weights.
- Clarify existing law to assure that interest charges on revolving charge ac-

counts do not exceed the state's maximum of 18 percent per year, with provisions to assure that a full month's interest is charged only when credit is extended for a full month.

- Prohibit referral selling schemes to protect the state's consumers from being "needlessly victimized."

- Place authority to enforce current laws regulating installment sales (such as the Unruh and Rees-Levering Acts) in a state agency such as the Corporations Commissioner and provide adequate funds to assure enforcement.

- Increase the Consumer Counsel's budget to allow for an adequate research staff and to expand educational facilities.

- Enact a "comprehensive pre-paid health care program" for all California residents.

- Pass legislation to implement the recommendations of the Pesticide Review Committee to protect both the public and the state's natural resources from the haphazard, indiscriminate use of pesticides.

- Renew the Electronic Repair Dealer Registration Act authorized by the 1963 legislature and establish the Bureau of Electronic Dealer Registration on a permanent basis to protect the public from fraudulent TV repair practices.

- Pass legislation to require individuals and firms preparing income tax returns be fully qualified in tax law and financially responsible for their services.

Among other things, the Association commended the Public Utilities Commission for its action in bringing about a reduction in telephone rates and adopted a resolution calling for a vigorous information and education program on consumer issues to implement the President's war on poverty.

Mrs. Helen E. Nelson, Governor Brown's Consumer Counsel, was presented with the Association's Award for Outstanding Public Service and a resolution commending President Johnson's Special Advisor on Consumer Affairs, Mrs. Esther Petersen, Assistant Secretary of Labor, was also solidly endorsed.

What Labor Wants

"We want more school houses and less jails, more books and less arsenals, more learning and less vice, more constant work and less crime, more leisure and less greed, more justice and less revenge—in fact more of the opportunities to cultivate our better natures, to make manhood more noble, womanhood more beautiful and childhood more happy and bright." —Samuel Gompers