

## Tieburg Deplores Grower Rejection of U.S. Farm Labor

The coldly calculating efforts of California's agribusiness interests to create a semblance of a farm labor shortage to revive their access to cheap foreign labor were finally recognized this week by the public officials presently serving as personnel officers for the growers at the general taxpayers' expense.

Albert B. Tieburg, state director of the Department of Employment, declared Tuesday:

"It is astounding that growers would cry 'labor shortage' and then cancel their orders for workers when two bus loads of qualified farm workers especially recruited for them were on the road to them. But that's what the Imperial Valley Farmers Association did.

"True they did take those workers they already had hired in Bakersfield as a result of the all-out recruitment effort, but they have refused to take any since except local applicants from the immediate Imperial Valley area which we may be able to send them through our El Centro office."

Tieburg said there is no shortage of useable domestic farm labor in California today and criticized corporate farmers in the state for not making an adequate effort to use the available supply.

He said he would not consider importing additional farm workers from any source under the McCarran-Walter immigration statute (Public Law 414) until farmers have convinced him that they are utilizing fully the efforts of the

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## LBJ Spells Out Action Needed To Create 'Great Society'; Calls for T-H Act Changes

Declaring that "we want progress to be the servant and not the master of man," President Lyndon B. Johnson last Monday set up some road signs to lead to the "Great Society" now within the nation's grasp in his State of the Union address to the first joint session of the 89th Congress.

Specifically, the President said that within the next six weeks he would

## Labor Editors' Parley Jan. 22-24

Labor press editors from throughout the state will convene at the Marine Cooks & Stewards Center Friday afternoon, January 22, for a two-day conference on a broad range of labor press problems.

Kenneth Fiester, Secretary-Treasurer of the International Labor Press Association and a staffer on the AFL-CIO News in Washington, will open the conference with an address on the achievements, shortcomings and goals of the labor press following a 7:00 p.m. din-

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## Brown Asks Solons for Jobless Pay Hike and Better Benefits for On-Job-Injuries

Governor Edmund G. Brown called on the State's legislators this week to hike maximum jobless benefits from \$55.00 to \$66.00 a week, extend unemployment insurance coverage to farm workers, improve workmen's compensation benefits and increase employee contributions to the state disability insurance fund to keep it solvent.

Delivering his "State of the State" message to a joint session of the legislature on Tuesday, the Governor noted that although reappointment and revenues are the most difficult and urgent tasks confronting the lawmakers, "a dynamic state government, genuinely concerned with the needs of its people, must do more than mark time" in a number of other areas such as consumer protections, housing, mental health and education.

In the housing field, Governor Brown pointed out that largely due to

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## Public Workers' Free Speech Rights Upheld

The right of public employees to speak their mind on public issues has been affirmed by the Alameda County Superior Court in a case involving a Berkeley fireman who was suspended for 30 days without pay for writing a letter critical of the Berkeley City Manager and City Council.

Judge Lyle E. Cook ruled last Thursday, Dec. 31, 1964, that the various city ordinances prohibiting city employees from expressing disapproval of their superiors' policies and practices publicly were "vague and over-broad," and violated the fireman's right to free speech as guaranteed under the First

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## Fed Digest of Bills Coming

Within the next few weeks the News Letter will again tackle the job of digesting and evaluating bills introduced at the state legislature which are of primary concern to the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Schedules of committee hearings on bills of interest and other relevant news of the Sacramento scene will also be reported.

This service is designed to keep officers and members of organized labor throughout the state alert to the legislative situation as it unfolds.

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# Brown Asks Solons for Jobless Pay Hike and Better Benefits for On-Job-Injuries

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the State's tremendous population growth, "many of our citizens still lack adequate housing." Much of this lack, he said, "could be met with federal programs already in existence, but unused. . . ."

To encourage the use of such programs—which would not only spur employment in the building and construction trades but would help meet the state's need for low and middle income housing for families presently priced out of the housing market—the Governor reiterated his recommendation that the legislature create a state Department of Housing and Community Development.

## Bill Killed in 1963

During the 1963 session a modest, Federation-backed bill aimed toward this end was bitterly opposed by the Savings and Loan Associations, banks and other financial interests and was finally killed in the Senate Committee on Insurance and Financial Institutions.

In the educational field, the Governor said that just "to keep pace with population growth, we must have 150 new classrooms ready on Monday morning of every week of the year in California."

Pointing out that only three other states have vote requirements on bond issues as restrictive as California's, the Governor called for a cut in the "restrictive and archaic requirement" of a two-thirds majority vote to pass local school bond issues. In at least 32 states, he said, a simple majority is all that is required for municipal and other local bond elections.

## Consumer Laws Sought

In the field of consumer protections, the State's chief executive said "much remains to be done for full realization of the citizen's rights to choose, to be informed and to be heard."

Citing the billions of dollars Californians will spend on autos, appliances and other durable and non-durable goods during the year, Brown declared:

"To insure fair play in these transactions, we must end 'suede-shoe' operations, wage garnishments before judgments and deficiency judgments."

He also said he would call for legislation to assure that consumers are fully informed of the amount of interest they are required to pay when they buy on credit; for new laws to discourage deception and misrepresentation in food packaging; and for abolition of fair trade laws in the field of drugs.

The Governor voiced concern, too, over the abuse of the initiative process, saying:

"In recent years it has often been used to turn the ballot into a field for

jousting among public relations men wearing the colors of special interest....

"Legislation is needed," he declared, "to prevent special interests from turning the initiative to private gain through the use of professional petition circulators and large sums of money. If such a law can be written, I will support it. At the same time, I will not support any bill that would restrict the value of the initiative."

## Social Insurance Stand

The Governor's sole reference to social insurance program improvements was, for the most part, highly generalized and sketchy. It consisted of the following three paragraphs:

"Six years ago, we raised unemployment insurance maximums from \$40.00 to \$55.00. At that time, the average weekly wage in employment protected by insurance was \$102.64, making the maximum benefit available 55 percent of the wage. Today, the average wage is \$120.00. I propose that you raise the maximum benefit to restore the 55 percent relationship.

"At the same time, I will propose legislation to close the loopholes in our unemployment insurance laws. We should provide a decent level of benefits for those who are eligible. We should provide no benefits at all for those whose cases meet neither the spirit nor the intent of the program.

"I will submit legislation at this session to extend unemployment insurance to agricultural workers. I will also ask you to raise employee contributions to the state disability insurance fund to protect the solvency of that program. I will also ask for a raise in benefits under workmen's compensation."

## Key Problem Cited

One of the principal problems with the state's unemployment insurance program is that it is being starved by an inequitable "merit rating" system of financing that has allowed employers over the years to achieve tax cuts at the expense of the programs benefit structure.

The "merit rating system" is supposed to relate employer contributions to the unemployment experience of individual employers, but instead it has degenerated into a sophisticated tax dodge for certain employers whose employment stability is unrelated to efforts to ease unemployment.

The "merit rating" system has had the effect of reducing employer contributions to the point where they are paid now on only 60 percent of total wages under a long outmoded \$3,800 taxable wage base. In contrast, in 1946, when the taxable wage ceiling was \$3,000, taxable wages amounted to more than 85 percent of total wages.

In recognition of the inroads employ-

# Special Election Set in 5th State Senate District

A special election has been set for March 16 by Governor Edmund G. Brown for the state senate seat vacated in the 5th Senatorial District by veteran legislator Edwin J. Regan (D-Weaver-ville) who resigned last Sunday to accept an appointment to the District Court of Appeals.

Regan's resignation leaves the Democrats one vote shy of a two-thirds majority in the upper house of the legislature where the Democrats now hold 26 seats and the Republicans 13.

A special primary election will be held on Feb. 16 to select candidates for the special general election on March 16. But if any candidate wins a clear majority of the total votes cast in the special primary election no runoff election need be held.

To date, four candidates, two Democrats and two Republicans, have announced plans to enter the race. They are:

Jack Halprin, an attorney, and Colby Smith, an auto dealer, both Democrats, and Phillip Stubblefield, a music teacher, and David McLaughlin, principal owner of radio station KAHN in Redding, both Republicans.

er groups have made in reducing their payments to the unemployment compensation fund, delegates to the California Labor Federation's Fifth Convention in San Francisco last August adopted a resolution calling for repeal of the "merit rating" system and an increase in the taxable wage base from \$3,800 to at least \$7,500 with provision for future automatic escalation to revive the program so that it will be capable of meeting the challenges of a rapidly automating age.

The threat to the solvency of the disability insurance fund stems from the failure of the legislature to provide adequate increases in the taxable wage base to properly fund the program in the 1963 session. The legislature consciously created this problem in the 1961 session when it decided to reduce excessive reserves in the disability insurance fund.

The Governor failed to give any inkling of what sort of improvements in workmen's compensation benefits he intends to recommend but the critical need in this program is provision of comprehensive rehabilitation services for workers hurt on the job as well as substantial improvements in maximum weekly benefit amounts for both temporary and permanent disabilities.

## Statewide Labor Press Editors' Parley Jan. 22-24

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ner Friday night. He will also be on hand Saturday morning for a discussion session on the formation of an ILPA Chapter in California, one of the principal aims of the conference.

The Saturday morning session will open with a panel discussion aimed at identifying problem areas followed by open discussion by all participants of possible remedies. In the latter connection, the services of the newly established Centers for Labor Research and Education at Berkeley and UCLA will be explained by Don Vial and Jack Blackburn respectively.

Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, will speak on "Labor and the Legislature" at a noon luncheon to give the conference participants some insight to labor's legislative problems in the current session.

Technical instruction sessions on readability, improving layout and general communication skills led by Rod Holmgren, a journalism instructor at Monterey Peninsula College, and Herbert Jacobs, of the Journalism Department of the University of California at Berkeley, will be conducted Saturday afternoon with separate sections for editors of local union publications and community labor papers.

On Sunday, the Conference will concentrate on the roll of the Labor Press in legislative action. A panel discussion designed to set forth both the State Federation's and the Labor Press editors' viewpoints will be followed by a general discussion session. Representing the Federation on the panel will be Albin J. Gruhn, president, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, and Clinton Fair, the Federation's Social Insurance Director. The Labor Press editors' viewpoints will be spelled out by Bill Burns of the San Diego Labor Leader; George Ballis of the Fresno Valley Labor Citizen; and Al Haener of the United Automobile Workers.

The Conference, sponsored jointly by the Federation with the Centers for Labor Research and Education at the Institutes of Industrial Relations at UC and UCLA in cooperation with University Extension, is open to union officials responsible for labor publications as well as to labor press editors. The conference site, the Marine Cooks & Stewards Center, is a 340-acre facility which is being acquired by UC as a conference center. It is 5 miles north and 9 miles east of Santa Rosa on the Calistoga Road.

Registration forms for the Conference were dispatched early last month and should be returned immediately to

## Suit Filed in L.A. To Force Redistricting of Assembly

A suit seeking reapportionment of the State Assembly was filed in a Federal District Court in Los Angeles on Monday by Phil Silver, a Los Angeles Attorney.

The apportionment formula, establishing 80 Assembly Districts with one member from each as set forth in the State Elections Code, "results and must necessarily result in greatly unfair representation in the California legislature in favor of lesser populated assembly districts," the suit charged.

Silver claimed the section violates the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing equal protection under the law.

## Planners Predict Joblessness Rise

The National Planning Association, a private economic research organization, says the nation's unemployment situation will get worse rather than better in 1965 because the nation's growth rate is not keeping pace with the growth in the civilian labor force.

Although the country's Gross National Product (GNP) is expected to reach \$660 billion this year, the Association said in its monthly report that after allowing for price increases, this would mean a national growth rate of about 3.8 percent.

But to create just enough jobs to employ those entering the labor force during the new year and to compensate for gains in productivity, it would take an increase of almost 4.5 percent in the GNP, the Association asserted.

It also warned that the rate of growth in the second half of 1965 may slow down "unless additional policies in support of economic growth are adopted."

the Center for Labor Research & Education, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California, Berkeley 94720. The \$25.00 registration fee includes all room and board expenses at the Center. Checks should be made payable to the "Regents of the University of California."

To accommodate those flying into San Francisco and others in need of transportation to the conference site, vehicles will depart from the Barrett Airport Bus Service downtown terminal at 375 O'Farrell Street at 3, 4 and 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 22, to arrive in time for refreshments and the dinner session at 7:00 p.m.

Conference Coordinators are John Carroll, the Federation's Director of Education, and Vial and Blackburn of UC and UCLA respectively.

## LBJ Cites Action Needed to Create 'Great Society'

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- Establishment of special funds for job-creating public programs to be launched if a recession threatens.

- Extension of the minimum wage to two million unprotected workers.

- Improvement and modernization of the unemployment compensation system.

- Changes in the Taft-Hartley Act including Section 14-B "to reduce conflicts that for several years have divided Americans in various states."

- Enforcement of the civil rights law and the elimination of barriers to the right to vote.

- Further efforts to provide workers with skills demanded by modern technology.

- "A new policy for our Merchant Marine."

In addition, President Johnson said that "important changes in our housing programs" must be made to plan the regeneration and development of entire metropolitan areas and called for the creation of a cabinet-level Department of Housing and Urban Development to spearhead this effort.

On the international level, the President suggested that Americans would welcome a chance to listen to Soviet leaders on "our television—and I would like the Soviet people to hear our leaders." He also said that the government is exploring ways to increase peaceful trade with Eastern Europe and Russia.

Earlier on Monday, Congress voted its first major rules change in 15 years when it limited to 21 days the time the Rules Committee may hold up legislation approved by other committees. The change enables House Speaker John W. McCormack, (D-Mass.) to determine whether stalemated bills should be brought to the floor for a vote.

In the past, the conservatively-dominated Rules Committee has repeatedly blocked liberal legislation from reaching the floor of the house for a vote even though a majority of the nation's representatives favored such action.

In the Senate, Senator Russell B. Long, son of the late Huey Long, was elected Senate Democratic whip to succeed Vice President-elect Hubert H. Humphrey. Long defeated Senator John O. Pastore of Rhode Island by a vote of 41 to 25.

Although regarded as a Dixie "liberal," Long voted against the Civil Rights Law last year and against the Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty in 1963. But, in the course of last year's election campaign, he said he could support the Democratic platform pledge for enforcement of the Civil Rights Law and that southern politicians must accommodate themselves to a steady increase in Negro voter registration.

## Jobs in Road Building Due To Jump Sharply

Direct employment in the construction of highways aided by federal funds will increase by 6,500 workers each year to more than 250,000 by 1970, the Labor Department has announced.

With the program entering its greatest period of construction, costs are expected to reach \$5.5 billion per year, or more than \$1 billion over the 1964 total.

## Action Urged To Clarify Wording of Ballot Props

Lt. Gov. Glenn M. Anderson this week called for "every effort" to be made "to wipe out voter confusion over the wording of California's ballot propositions."

"I have seen reports recently," Anderson said, "which indicate that more than half of California's seven million citizens who voted last November were unable to understand the ballot propositions. While I would prefer to believe that the number is far less, the fact remains that there is substantial voter confusion, and we must remedy the problem as soon as possible. . . .

"Far too many ballot propositions are a morass of complex wording and phrasing. Some of them would tax a lawyer's comprehension. This is a disgraceful situation in a democracy, and I think it ought to be corrected as soon as possible," he declared.

## Rails Spent \$2 Million To Kill State's Minimum Crew Law

Assistant Secretary of State Walter C. Stutler has disclosed that railroads operating in California have admitted spending a whopping \$2 million on their Proposition 17 campaign to kill the state's "minimum crew law" and wipe out the State Public Utilities Commission's authority to set certain minimum safety standards on freight trains.

Expense statements filed by the so-called "California Committee to Eliminate Railroad Featherbedding" were probably the largest ever filed in his office, Stutler said.

The statements showed that nearly all the money came from the Western Pacific, Southern Pacific, Great Northern, Santa Fe and Union Pacific Railroads. The bulk of this sum was spent for a saturation advertising campaign utilizing billboards, radio, TV and newspaper media.

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special Federal-state agricultural manpower recruitment teams.

If the corporate growers "are short of workers, we have plenty of qualified applicants now—more, in fact, than we have jobs for," he declared.

Any grower or association of farmers seeking to import workers under Public Law 414 must get a certification from Tieburg that foreign workers are necessary because sufficient domestic labor is not available.

Indicative of the manner in which the corporate growers are attempting to create the appearance of a labor shortage is the fact that since the federal-state recruitment drive got under way the growers have hired only 1,365 of the more than 3,391 applicants who have applied just in Stockton, Bakersfield, Oakland and Los Angeles for the jobs.

**Observers on the scene said some of the growers were deliberately rejecting many experienced domestic workers and accepting only less promising looking applicants apparently to try to bolster their contention that domestics can't do the work.**

In a curious statement that concedes the availability of adequate domestic labor, Herbert Lee, President of the Imperial Valley Farmers Association claimed that the "problem was one of screening of the workers" and that his association was unable to deal with the workers sent by the employment office and the "200 to 300 more which were showing up on their own every day at our gates."

The Imperial Valley growers informed the Department of Employment that they would accept applicants from any part of California except the four communities where the joint state-federal recruiting teams are trying to get farm workers. Their only explanation for this action was the lame contention that they believed that workers recruited in those areas—Los Angeles, Bakersfield, Stockton and Oakland—are unlikely to be good for farm jobs.

Edwin H. Peters, state farm labor placement supervisor for Imperial and San Diego Counties repudiated the growers claims that his office was sending incompetents to work in Imperial Valley and said he was "puzzled" by the lack of cooperation shown by the growers. He also expressed surprise that "the growers say they're getting too many domestic applicants when earlier they told us the end of the braceros program would create a labor shortage."

U.S. Under Secretary of Labor John F. Henning visited the Los Angeles

## Public Workers' Free Speech Rights Upheld

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Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and deprived him of due process of law.

The fireman, Claude T. Belshaw, a veteran of 20 years with the Berkeley Fire Department, won \$668.00 in back salary, plus 7% interest.

The judge also ordered that Belshaw's record be expunged.

In his letter, Belshaw, who was suspended in August, 1963, charged that the Police Department had "fooled" the Personnel Department, the City Manager and City Council into giving policemen a larger pay increase than firemen.

Marshall Krause, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union which handled Belshaw's case, said this case is significant because it shows that the idea that "government employees can't have the rights of free speech and press as do other citizens" is "dead wrong."

The decision, he added, affirms "the right of public employees to speak out on issues of public concern."

The Berkeley City Attorney's office indicated this week that no decision had yet been made on whether the case would be appealed to the State Supreme Court.

State Farm and Casual Labor office last Sunday to find out how the recruitment program was going and said he was "impressed" by the applicants. To demonstrate their ability as citrus pickers, the applicants were required to climb a ladder with a 40-pound sack of oranges.

Tieburg also denied the claim that the domestic workers being recruited were incompetent and declared:

"We are witnessing something I have felt for a long time: that Americans will take these farm jobs if properly offered." Many growers, Tieburg added, "liked the braceros because the Mexican is a hard worker and is submissive because he fears if he acts up he will be repatriated to Mexico . . . But growers must now learn to deal again with Americans who are not as submissive and who will not be pushed as easily.

"Limits on the amount of work will have to be applied and the growers will have to start furnishing American instead of Mexican style food," he added.

Last week the Imperial Valley Farmers Association canceled an order for 1800 workers, contending the American workers referred by the employment office were incompetent. But the cancellation came before the domestic workers had even been given a chance to show what they could do.