

Rejection of Bid For Foreign Farm Workers Urged

U.S. Labor Department rejection of the Coachella Valley Farmers Association's request for permission to employ 300 foreign workers in the date harvest was urged this week by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

In a wire dispatched to Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz, Thos. L. Pitts, the Federation's Secretary-Treasurer, said:

"Urge Coachella Valley Farmers Association foreign labor request be rejected. Urge adequate wage rates be made available to domestic farm labor immediately.

"California unemployment rate exceeds national average by over one percentage point. Domestic farm workers constitute core of California poverty problem. Certification of foreign workers would represent a severe and unjustifiable setback to efforts to solve these problems. It would also circumvent Congress' clear intent to remove bracero adverse affect on wages and working conditions in agriculture."

Pitts' wire was dispatched after State Director of Employment Albert B. Tieburg approved the Farmers' Association's request on Monday.

In approving the request, however, Tieburg pointed out that "it is clear now that this wage (\$1.25) is far too low for this hazardous work which is per-

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Labor Press Editors Act to Organize State ILPA Unit and Improve Papers

California Labor Press Editors took their first official step toward formation of a state chapter of the International Labor Press Association and explored a number of other proposals aimed at beefing up both the quality and quantity of the state labor press at a three-day conference near Santa

Rosa last weekend.

The editors, representing more than 30 state, county and local union publications, unanimously adopted a proposal to set up a state ILPA Chapter and named a representative statewide committee to draft by-laws and a proposed constitution for the new organization. These will be submitted to a founding convention to be held within the next 90 days.

Ken Fiester, secretary-treasurer of the ILPA, told the editors Friday night that a lot of liberal congressmen in marginal districts could be re-elected in 1966 if effective labor papers existed in their areas. He urged the creation of a state ILPA Chapter not only because it can serve as "a clearing house" for the problems of labor editors but also because it can

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Labor's plans to forge a united front to win passage of state legislation to improve the health and welfare of all Californians were spelled out at a statewide Labor Press Editors' Conference near Santa Rosa over the weekend by Albin J. Gruhn, president of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

"We're aiming to bring about a unified approach on problems vital to the labor movement as a whole," Gruhn declared.

To accomplish this, weekly meetings of the advocates of the various organiza-

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Gruhn Lauds Building Trades Forum As Move Toward the Great Society

If conferences such as the first California Construction Industry Management-Labor Forum being held this weekend in Palm Springs lead to a framework within which industries, such as the construction industry, can formulate programs and policies to fit the industry into the total economy, then a giant step toward the Great Society will have been made.

That's what Albin J. Gruhn, President of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, had to say in his keynote address to the opening session of the three-day conference last night.

While lauding the general concept of the conference, Gruhn urged the labor and management representatives participating in the meeting not to overlook "the basic importance of governmental economic policies to the health and well being of your industry."

He also asserted that management as well as labor has a vital interest in the elimination of so-called right-to-

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Labor Supports Stop-gap Disabled Insurance Bill

The state AFL-CIO this week declared its support for Governor Edmund G. Brown's emergency measure to protect the solvency of the state's Unemployment Disability Insurance Fund but em-

BULLETIN

The Ways and Means Committee approved AB 241 late Tuesday by a 12 to 6 vote after narrowly defeating a move to refer it to the Finance and Insurance Committee. It now goes to the Assembly floor and could come up for a vote at any time.

phasized that other improvements in the program are vitally needed and will be sought later in the session.

Testifying before the Assembly Ways and Means Committee Tuesday afternoon, Albin J. Gruhn, president of the

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Deadline Nears for Quantity Orders of Legislative Roster

Assembly committees are expected to be named next week. As soon as they are, the Federation will go to press with its 1965 roster of California's legislative representatives. One copy of the roster will be sent to all affiliates. Central labor bodies and other organizations interested in obtaining quantities of the roster at their own cost should make arrangements with the Federation's office in San Francisco immediately.

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work laws because you can't have a thriving construction industry in a state unless the worker of the state—the principal consumers—get a fair share of the wealth they create.

Gruhn said that 14 of the 20 states having so-called right-to-work legislation are generally the ones with the lowest family incomes and the worst poverty in the nation and the other six are states in which the average family income is only slightly above the poverty level.

NO COINCIDENCE

This "is more than a coincidence," he declared.

"The theory behind the right-to-work legislation is, in essence, that if we have weaker unions we will have a more prosperous economy," he explained.

But this theory doesn't hold up because the states that have adopted it have the poorest wage levels, the lowest educational levels and the least prosperity of any in the union, he asserted.

In contrast, California has enjoyed a 66 percent population increase between 1950 and 1963 compared to a national average of only 24 percent and emerged as a prime consumer market "especially because of its high wages," he said.

MUTUAL INTERESTS

The state AFL-CIO official's comment on the right-to-work issue as well as his other observations on the impact of automation, the need to promote quality workmanship, improve apprenticeship standards and update the skills of the industry's craftsmen were all focused on the joint interests of labor and management in the industry.

Noting that the jobless rate in the building trades is double the national average, Gruhn said it should be obvious "that we cannot continue indefinitely to have a prosperous construction industry in an economy where rates of unemployment continue to run at present levels."

As a step toward joint action to bolster the industry and achieve a measure of maturity in the industry's labor's management relations, he suggested that the management representatives seriously consider supporting such labor-backed proposals as those calling for a doubling of federal and state public works expenditures in California within the next three years.

NEEDS SPELLED OUT

Such a program, he said, is vitally needed for three key reasons:

1.—To replace the highways, bridges

and other facilities washed out in recent northern California floods.

2.—To put muscle into the President's anti-poverty program.

3.—To wipe out unemployment in construction and allied industries.

In conclusion, Gruhn said that a solution to the problems involved in spurring the state's lagging economic growth rate and making the fruits of automation a boon to all instead of a bane to many depends greatly upon whether "we have arrived at a stage in the development of this nation in which both labor and management are prepared to recognize as a fact of life that both are essential to a solution of the problems facing us."

The forum is designed to bring about a better understanding between the contractors and the representatives of their employees' various unions.

Six study groups were scheduled to discuss subjects which do not generally come up in the collective bargaining process. These subjects were: force account work; moonlighting; plant maintenance and contracting out; safety; training of apprentices and journeymen; and public relations.

The conference was held at the Riviera Hotel in Palm Springs.

State's Demo Congressmen Assigned Posts

Here are the committee assignments approved by the House of Representatives for Democrats in California's congressional delegation. An asterisk following a name indicates a new appointment. No asterisk indicates the Congressman has been reappointed to the Committee.

Agriculture: Hagen.

Appropriations: McFall; Cohelan*.

Armed Services: Wilson* and Leggett*.

Banking and Currency: Hanna.

District of Columbia: Sisk.

Education and Labor: Roosevelt and Hawkins.

Foreign Affairs: Cameron and Royal*.

Government Operations: Holifield and Moss.

Administration: Hawkins*.

Interior and Insular Affairs: Johnson, Burton, and Tunney*.

Interstate and Foreign Commerce: Moss and Van Deerlin.

Judiciary: Corman and Don Edwards.

Merchant Marine and Fisheries: Hagen.

Post Office and Civil Services: Tunney*.

Fed Seeks Unity or Labor Legislature

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tions in the labor movement will be held during the 1965 legislative session either to coordinate efforts on labor's general legislative goals, or to oppose adverse legislation.

Addressing the union publication editors Saturday on the topic "Labor and the California Legislature," Gruhn explained that procedures in the legislature have changed in recent years with greater emphasis now being given to the committee system.

COORDINATION VITAL

"With most of the 500 lobbyists in Sacramento representing special private interests, labor advocates must coordinate their efforts if they are to have any hope of keeping 80 Assemblymen and 40 State Senators informed of labor's position on scores of bills," he said.

Unlike the 1963 session which included 34 new Assemblymen, the current session has only 10 new faces in the Lower House, Gruhn pointed out. The fact that there are fewer freshmen lawmakers in the Assembly this year should simplify labor's communication job with the legislature as a whole, he said.

COMPACT PROGRAM

Gruhn, who spoke in behalf of the Federation's Secretary-Treasurer Tom Pitts who was unable to attend, also noted that the legislative program adopted by the Federation's Executive Council in Hollywood last December, pursuant to actions taken by delegates to the Federation's convention last August, is a much more compact and manageable one than has been adopted in a number of years.

Instead of introducing separate bills for each improvement sought in the state's various social insurance programs, the Executive Council, aided by a legislative advisory committee, has drafted three omnibus bills — one on workmen's compensation, one on unemployment compensation, and the third on disability insurance — that encompass labor's proposals to eliminate inequities and improve coverage and benefits, he said.

The conference, jointly sponsored by the Federation and the Centers for Labor Research and Education at the University of California's Berkeley and Los Angeles campuses, was held at the Marine Cooks and Steward's Center 14 miles northeast of Santa Rosa.

Public Works: Johnson and Dyal*.

Rules: Sisk.

Science and Astronautics: Miller, Chairman; and Brown*.

Veterans Affairs: Brown and Wilson*.
Ways and Means: King.

Labor Press Editors Act to Organize State ILPA Unit and Improve Papers

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and should encourage the establishment of more and better local union publications as well as assist central body papers in improving their content, layout and readability.

All member publications of the ILPA are required to adhere to a strict code of ethics. The organization also polices phony labor papers that try to bludgeon employers into taking ads, Fiester explained.

Serving on the committee to set up the founding convention for the California ILPA Chapter will be representatives of:

- The central labor council publications in San Diego, Los Angeles, Fresno, San Francisco, Oakland and Sacramento;

- The local union publications, Utility Reporter of IBEW Local 1245, Oakland, and American Aeronaut of the Machinists District Lodge No. 727, Burbank;

- The statewide publication, Service Union Reporter of the California State Council of Building Service Employees, Los Angeles;

- The California Labor Federation, and the two Centers for Labor Research and Education at the University of California's Berkeley and Los Angeles campuses; and a representative of the Olympic Press Labor publications headquartered in Oakland.

In addition, a representative of the Southern California Teamsters will be invited to consult with the Committee.

The Committee was also charged with developing a proposed program for action by the founding convention, including proposals to develop a continuing relationship with both the University's Labor Research and Education Centers and the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

The continuing committee has scheduled its first meeting for 10 a.m., Thursday, February 18, at the Hilton Inn at the San Francisco Airport.

Focal points for the conference, aside from the ILPA issue, were "The Problems Besetting Labor Press Editors" and "The Labor Press and Legislative Action."

In general discussions of both of these topics, the union editors stressed the need for cartoons, fact sheets and feature stories geared to labor's legislative and political action programs.

Here are some of the other suggestions tossed out at the conference:

- To get more copy from local unions, send them mimeographed forms with spaces designated for the five W's—Who, What, When, Where and Why—of their news. Forms should include the editor's organization, address and phone number as well as spaces for the local union.

- Post stickers on local union office

phones carrying the editor's name and phone number.

- Contact management public relations department and industry publications for photos and cooperation on stories.

- Experiment more in make-up by using boxes, hoods, kickers and more art to improve the paper's eye-appeal on the inside as well as front pages.

- Put more warm, live, breathing people in the pages, using more direct quotes and names.

- Peg at least one Page 1 story to the woman's angle since they're generally the ones to see the paper first.

Contributing substantially to some of the suggestions above were two instruction sessions on layout and readability conducted by Rod Holmgren, a journalism instructor at Monterey Peninsula College, and Herbert Jacobs, a lecturer on journalism at the UC Berkeley campus.

The conference was held at the hilly, rain-washed Marine Cooks and Stewards' Training and Recreation Center 14 miles northeast of Santa Rosa, which the University of California is negotiating to acquire. It was jointly sponsored by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, and the Centers for Labor Research and Education of the Institutes of Industrial Relations at the Berkeley and Los Angeles campuses of the University of California.

Birchers' Income Doubled in 1964

The gross income for the John Birch Society in 1964 was \$3.2 million, twice its income the previous year, and its membership increase was "substantially more than double," according to John Rousselot, the Society's national public relations director.

Rousselot said last week that the Society's income came almost exclusively from contributions and membership dues but that expenditures last year had nearly equalled income.

He disclosed that Reed Benson, son of Ezra Taft Benson, President Eisenhower's Secretary of Agriculture, has established residence in Washington, D. C. and plans to open a Birch Society Informational Office there.

"It is likely he will register as the legislative advocate (lobbyist) if we decide that is the appropriate thing to do," Rousselot said.

In 1963, the Society reported that its total income for 1962 had been \$737,716. At that time its chief sources of income

Calif. Labor COPE Backs Jack Halpin For Senate Seat

Jack Halpin, prominent Shasta County labor attorney and former Deputy Director of the State Department of Finance, has won the endorsement of the California Labor Council on Political Education in his bid for election to the state Senate to represent Shasta and Trinity Counties.

In announcing California Labor COPE'S concurrence with the unanimous recommendation of Five Counties COPE, the representative labor body in the fifth state Senate district, Thos. L. Pitts, executive officer of the State AFL-CIO's political body, declared:

"Jack Halpin has already demonstrated that he has the energy, experience and devotion to the public interest to make an excellent State Senator. His experience as a Superior Court Judge and as Deputy Director of the State Department of Finance has equipped him with a knowledge of, and an insight to, the state's legislative and judicial processes that none of his opponents can begin to match.

"His career, which has included handling a number of workmen's compensation cases, reflects an integrity and selfless concern for justice not found often enough in candidates for offices of public trust. He deserves to be elected and we're proud to support him."

Halpin, a Democrat, is one of four candidates for the seat recently vacated by former Senator Edwin J. Regan (D-Weaverville) who resigned to accept an appointment to the Appellate Court.

A special primary election is set for Tuesday, February 16. If no candidate wins a clear majority of the total votes cast in the primary, then a special general election will be held on March 16.

Total registration in the district is 31,723, of which 64 percent are Democrats. Halpin faces one other Democratic opponent in the primary, and two Republicans are in the running to be their party's nominee.

Noting that county officials are expecting less than 30 percent of the registered voters to cast ballots, Pitts urged all trade unionists in the district to pitch in to help get out the vote for Halpin.

were contributions, accounting for \$306,526, and dues, accounting for \$286,326.

More than 41 per cent of the Society's income in 1962 was expended on salaries. Recently published reports on the Society's income for last year have not contained sufficient information to determine if that percentage still holds.

Labor Supports Stop-Gap Disabled Insurance Bill

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California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, said:

"We urge the immediate enactment of AB 241 because further delay would endanger the ability of the Department of Employment to pay the benefits presently assured to the beneficiaries covered by the Act."

Gruhn pointed out that AB 241, introduced at the Governor's request by Assemblyman George Zenovich (D-Fresno) provides no additional benefits and proposes no permanent increase in the tax rate.

The Zenovich bill does call for a flexible wage base designed to keep benefit payments and employee contributions in balance and for monthly instead of quarterly remittance of employee contributions by most employers in the state.

The Federation's testimony, presented in behalf of Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts, emphasized that it was endorsing the Governor's disability insurance bill only because of the "clear and present danger" to the immediate solvency of the Fund and asserted that "at a later date in the session" the Federation would ask the lawmakers to improve the disability program in a number of other ways.

These other improvements are spelled out in the Federation-sponsored disability insurance bill (AB 466) introduced last Thursday by Assemblyman Edward E. Elliott (D-Los Angeles). They include extending coverage to all public employees; boosting hospital benefits from \$12 to \$20 per day; establishing additional benefits for dependents at the rate of \$7 for the first and \$5 for each additional dependent; making pregnancy benefits available under the employee-financed program; extending benefits permanently from 26 to 39 weeks; protecting a worker's benefits following a limited period of coverage under workmen's compensation, and striking out a current provision that disqualifies workers from benefits during a trade dispute.

The Governor's emergency measure includes none of these improvements.

In fact, AB 241 (the Governor's bill) "makes only two permanent changes," Gruhn pointed out. It increases the taxable wage base ceiling, presently \$5,600, to "a realistic level," \$7,500.

"This simply means that the tax rate will be applied against all wages earned by the great majority of wage earners in our state" in covered employment in keeping with sound social security principles, he said.

The monthly remittance feature of the Governor's bill is necessary to keep the cash balance of the Fund fairly con-

Edw. P. Morgan Show Celebrates 10th Anniversary

This month marks the 10th anniversary of the AFL-CIO's sponsorship of Edward P. Morgan and the News, a program of news and comments that has been honored with virtually every award available for high quality reporting and public responsibility during the intervening years.

For the past 10 years Morgan has enjoyed the enviable conditions laid down by the AFL-CIO and the American Broadcasting Company that stipulate simply that his broadcasts be fair in news and comment with no censorship on either, regardless of where the chips fall. These conditions have resulted in a sponsorship of greater duration than that of any other national news broadcaster.

The program, carried coast to coast over the ABC radio network, provides a voice of responsible journalism and rational comment to combat the heavy din of radical right-wing broadcasts. Trade unionists who encourage their friends, neighbors and fellow workers to tune in to the Morgan show will be doing nothing more than helping themselves and their communities to an understanding of social, political and economic affairs that will leave them less vulnerable to the fears and alarms propagated by extremists.

The Edward P. Morgan show is carried on the following California stations:

City	Station	Time
Bakersfield	—KPMC	—6 p.m.
Bishop	—KIBS	—6 p.m.
El Centro	—KICO	—9:45 p.m.
Los Angeles	—KABC	—6 p.m.
Los Angeles	—KPFK-FM	—10:45 p.m.
Mojave	—KDOL	—6 p.m.
Palm Springs	—KPAL	—6 p.m.
Sacramento	—KRAK	—7 p.m.
San Diego	—KSDO	—6 p.m.
San Fran.	—KGO	—6 p.m.
Sonora	—KVML	—6 p.m.
Yreka	—KSYC	—6 p.m.

stant, Gruhn said. With quarterly remittances as at present, the Fund fluctuates greatly requiring very substantial sums to be in reserve at certain periods during the year and thereby making it possible to make any sound investment of the Fund's balance "without endangering" its cash position, he explained.

In conclusion, he urged that no substantive changes other than those involving finance be considered at this time and that the lawmakers act promptly to remedy the Fund's financial position "before damage to the program ensues."

Rejection of Bid For Foreign Farm Workers Urged

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formed 50 or more feet above ground in a swinging harness."

Tieburg also pointed out that "prevailing piece rates offer virtually no chance of bettering the minimum hourly guarantee."

In view of this, he said, "date pickers and pollinators ought to get flight pay or at least some substantial incentive beyond what ordinary harvest hands who work securely on the ground make."

Pitts said Tieburg's statement "clearly recognizes that the only honest, effective way to recruit the domestic farm labor needed is to require corporate growers to negotiate for their labor force on the same basis as all other U.S. industries."

In endorsing the CVFA's request, Tieburg also said he would not do it if he thought he had a choice. He said he was doing so only because the growers had met the Labor Department's standards which include offering a minimum wage of only \$1.25 an hour.

However, Tieburg declared:

"I also am recommending to Secretary Wirtz that he set a minimum wage of \$1.50 an hour now and \$1.65 effective April 1, 1965. These wages will be more in keeping with the demands of the job. Foreign workers aren't any braver or more skilled in this work than our domestic workers. The foreigners have to learn it just as our people do. Foreigners will do it simply because they are paid a lot more in terms of the purchasing power they have when they convert our money into their money," the State's Employment Director said.

Nothing could more clearly demonstrate that the wage criteria established by the Labor Department are adversely affecting the wage rates of domestic farm workers today. The situation also demonstrates that the wage standards are imposing a ceiling rather than a floor on the farm wages of domestic workers as the California Labor Federation has consistently contended they would.

You're Right!

Those who made the observation that "More buildings seem to be going up every year" were right. According to the Department of Labor, construction in 1964 totaled \$65.9 billion, increasing 6 per cent in dollar terms and 3 per cent in physical volume from the 1963 total. Private construction rose 5 per cent and public construction was 7 per cent higher.