

AFL-CIO Unions Give \$82,969 to Aid Flood Victims

AFL-CIO unions gave \$82,969 to the Red Cross in California to aid victims of the disastrous floods that washed out entire communities in northern California last winter, state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts disclosed this week in announcing the conclusion of the California AFL-CIO Flood Relief Fund Drive.

Statistically, this amounts to \$23.61 for each of the 3,514 California families that applied to the Red Cross for aid. But the cash given to specific victims, of course, amounted to thousands of dollars in some cases and to lesser

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amounts in others. In any event, all union members can be proud of the contributions they made to ease the flood victims' plight," Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer.

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FLSA Extension Urged by Wirtz And Rights Leaders

Some 31 percent of the 4.5 million workers the administration wants brought under the minimum wage law make less than \$1.25 an hour, U.S. Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz told a Senate Labor Subcommittee this week.

Pressing for approval of the extension measure, Wirtz declared:

"Many families living in poverty do not need the services of welfare workers. They do not need public assistance. They do not need charity. They are quite capable of running their own affairs.

"What they do need is a living wage for the head of the family. One of the reasons they are not getting it is that a great many of these workers are employed in industries that have not

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THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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House Floor Vote Due on Section 14(b); Write Congressmen To Repeal It Now

With repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act expected to come up for a vote on the floor of the House in the near future, state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts today urged all union members as well as officers of local unions and central bodies to take pen in hand and let their congressmen know that they want this "grossly undemocratic, discriminatory and anti-union provision" repealed.

In a letter dispatched to all affiliates of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, Pitts said:

"Conservative forces ranging from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to the National Right-to-Work Committee and the John Birch Society are apparently succeeding in deluging congressmen with letters aimed at thwarting repeal of Section 14(b)."

These forces, he declared, know that "this is the first real opportunity the nation has had in 18 years to rid itself of a grossly undemocratic, discriminatory and anti-union provision that is designed to encourage states to compete with each other to see which can get away with paying its workers the least..."

They "must not be permitted to balk repeal of Section 14(b) in this current session," he said. To prevent this, it is "absolutely urgent that all affiliates and their individual members write immediately to their Congressmen to vote

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State Acts to Curb Phony Labor Paper's Practices

The state Attorney General's office last week charged the editor of a purported labor paper with engaging in "unfair and fraudulent business practices" and asked the Supreme Court to issue an injunction to stop him.

The complaint, filed against James R. Andersen, editor and publisher of the "Civil Service Employee's News" which was headquartered in the Forum Building at 1107 9th Street, Sacramento, said the tabloid tried to give the impression it is an official publication of an authorized civil service employee's association.

Among other things, the Attorney General's office cited: the publication's title; use of the phrase "published in the interests of 450,000 governmental

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Labor-Sponsored Anti-Poverty Plan Launched

It's underway!

The Alameda County Central Labor Council's \$235,761 anti-poverty program, believed to be the first project sponsored by a local labor council to win approval of the office of Economic Opportunity, got rolling in earnest last week when 200 jobless Oakland youths went to work on a variety of jobs for non-profit organizations.

Jobs involved in the project, which is designed to

equip the youths with good work habits, were cleared in advance with the unions involved to make sure that no regular workers would be displaced.

The youths, all between 16 and 21, were selected from more than 700 applicants most of whom come from areas in Oakland that have a youth jobless rate of 15 percent. All will receive at least \$1.25 an hour.

They include both school dropouts and those still in

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House Floor Vote Due on Section 14(b); Write Congressmen To Repeal It Now

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for HR 77," he added.

The state AFL-CIO leader cited the Birch Society's February Bulletin which advised its members to assist the anti-labor National Right-to-Work Committee's efforts to torpedo the repeal measure which is the AFL-CIO's primary legislative goal in this session. More recently, Pitts said, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce sent a bulletin to business groups urging them to start "an avalanche of letters and telegrams to Washington" to try to kill the repealer.

Pitts sent a letter to each member of California's 38-man Congressional Delegation this week urging them to vote for HR 77. His letter read in part:

"As you know, the people of our state have twice rejected the constitutional amendments that sought to impose compulsory open shop terms on labor-management relations in California through the guise of so-called 'right-

to-work' laws. In fact, the most recent effort in 1958 was repudiated by a majority of more than one million votes.

"This was no accident.

"Californians, like most citizens throughout the nation believe in free collective bargaining. They recognize that union security clauses contribute to industrial peace by eliminating would-be 'free-riders' and by improving the union's capability for unity of action in protecting the workers it represents.

POLICY AFFIRMED

"The views of California voters as recorded at the ballot box are an affirmation of the nation's declared public policy of encouraging free collective bargaining.

"But Section 14(b) has long constituted a clear contradiction of that policy because it has permitted states to usurp the freedom of the employer and employees to decide for themselves one aspect of their contractual agreement—the issue of whether workers and their employers may negotiate clauses in their contracts to require that the cost of contract negotiation and enforcement be borne equally by all members of the bargaining unit enjoying the contract's benefits.

STRIFE CITED

"This issue—the attempt to deny workers the right to decide democratically by a majority vote among themselves what form of union security clause to seek in their contract—has spawned dozens of bitter, wasteful, strife-riddled battles throughout the nation during the past 18 years. It has not contributed to labor-management harmony but to disharmony, distrust and dissension.

"It has not improved the workers' wages or working conditions; it has undermined them and depressed them. . . .

"In short, Section 14(b) has proved to be divisive, immoral and contrary both to the public interest and to sound harmonious labor-management relations. This is demonstrated by the fact that after 18 years in some 40 "right to work" battles only 19 states still have such measures on their books. Among these 19 are those with the lowest living standards in the nation. They also include those states with the least amount of industry and the fewest union members.

"In the interests of affirming and improving our free collective bargaining process, protecting our free enterprise system and bringing to an end the wasteful and debilitating battles it has provoked, I urge you to vote to repeal Section 14(b)," Pitts wrote.

FLSA Extension Urged by Wirtz And Rights Leaders

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yet been covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act."

The measure under consideration would extend coverage chiefly to retail and service establishments, hotels, restaurants, laundries, hospitals and nursing homes, the construction industry, taxicabs, agricultural processing and small logging operations.

In response to questions from the Senators regarding the need for and possible impact of an increase in the present \$1.25 minimum wage, Wirtz pointed out that President Johnson suggested in his labor message to Congress that Congress study this matter. He noted that nothing in past experience indicates that extension of coverage or a boost in the minimum has any adverse effect on the economy.

The claim that a boost in the minimum wage would create more unemployment was not borne out when the minimum was raised in steps from \$1.00 to \$1.25 in 1961, he said. On the contrary, "the economy adjusted easily" to the 1961 hike, he said.

Last week civil rights leaders joined AFL-CIO union leaders in urging an extension of the minimum wage to the "poorest among us" and a boost in the minimum to \$2.00 an hour.

Testifying before a House Labor Subcommittee, Clarence Mitchell, legislative director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People declared that Negroes "most desperately need this legislation." And he pointed out that the improvements sought "will, as a matter of fact, benefit more whites than Negroes. . . .

"If the country faces up to these problems, it will do more than grant justice to a particular minority. It will take a giant step toward the solution of problems that afflict us all, black and white."

Mitchell testified on behalf of the Reverend Martin Luther King of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; A Phillip Randolph, President of the Negro American Labor Council and of the Sleeping Car Porters and an AFL-CIO Vice President; James Farmer, Congress of Racial Equality; Dorothy Height, National Council of Negro Women; James Forman, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and Bayard Rustin, Director of the Randolph Institute.

The civil rights leaders' statement also urged Congress to "earnestly consider" bringing farm workers and household domestics under the coverage of the minimum wage law.

Have You Signed Up for Summer School Yet?

The time is running short for local unions and central bodies to make arrangements to sponsor members to attend the California Labor Federation's week-long summer school to be held August 1 through 6 at the Santa Barbara campus of the University of California.

The school, designed to provide leadership training and an opportunity to discuss and explore labor's problems, programs and progress in depth with the aid of experts from the National AFL-CIO, the State Federation and the university community, will open with registration on campus at 4 p.m. Sunday and continue till mid-afternoon Friday.

Registration costs \$75. This covers accommodations, meals and instructional materials. Registration forms have been sent to all federation affiliates and should be filled in and returned to the Federation's Director of Education, John Carroll, at 995 Market St., Room 810. San Francisco, as soon as possible. Requests for further information should also be directed to him.

The summer school program has been developed in cooperation with the Centers for Labor Research and Education at the University of California at Berkeley and Los Angeles.

Local Labor Body Launches Program For Jobless Youth

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school who face problems in remaining in school due to poverty conditions at home.

Under standards set by the federal government, the youths must come either from families that are on welfare, have an unemployed father or have an annual income of \$4,000 or less for four persons or incomes of a similar scale for smaller or larger families.

The project is under the direction of Paul Katz, plant superintendent of the East Bay Labor Journal and business representative for Cemetery Workers No. 322. Katz has taken a leave of absence from his Labor Journal position to direct the program.

During the first two days of the project, the young workers turned to on such projects as remodeling a mission for transient workers, removing fences and planting new lawns for the Oakland Housing Authority, assisting in research at a library and aiding in a general cleanup at a boys club and a plumbers' training school.

The Labor Council, under the leadership of Robert Ash, a vice president of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, initiated the program in the belief that not enough of the present anti-poverty programs offer youths a chance to learn "what it is like to do a day's work."

Most of the staff for the program, which has enjoyed the full cooperation of the Alameda County Building Trades Council, has been recruited from various unions with the aid of business representatives and others. The 16 foremen and four area supervisors, all of which are trade unionists, include members of the Retail Clerks, Office Employees, Plumbers, Construction Laborers, Carpenters, Teachers, Municipal Employees and Steelworkers.

Rep. Jeffery Cohelan, who helped win approval for the project, commended the Council saying:

"It is particularly significant that this is one of the first grants to any labor organization and it is certainly fitting recognition of the Alameda County Central Labor Council's great dedication to the problems of the unfortunate and under-privileged.

"I know you will make a huge success of this project and by doing so you add to a better America for us all."

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey,

Workers Denied DI Hospital Benefits Since March 31 Should Apply Now: Pitts

"Thousands of workers hospitalized for disabling off-the-job illnesses or injuries since March 31, 1965, may now receive the \$12-a-day hospital benefit they paid for but didn't get if they apply for it by July 31, 1965," state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts advised California union members last week.

Pointing out that some 70,000 eligible workers were denied benefits totaling \$5.5 million during the benefit suspension period, Pitts urged central body and local union officers to spread the word to their membership that the fund is now ready to make back-payment of these benefits.

The suspension went into effect last April 1 to assure the solvency of the employee-financed State Disability Insurance Fund. It came after a stop-gap measure (AB 241—Zenovich) to correct the solvency issue, which had won Assembly approval, was undermined by amendments tacked on in the Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee by Senator George Miller, Jr., (D-Martinez) and led to a legislative impasse.

The California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, supported the Assembly-approved version but vigorously opposed the Miller amendments.

But on June 18, the last day of the session, a joint Senate-Assembly Conference Committee corrected some of the weakening amendments, let others stand, and approved the bill.

Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the Federation, said workers eligible for back payment of the \$12-a-day hospital benefit should get claim forms from their hospital, doctors or any field office of the Department of Employment or by writing to the Department of Employment's Division of Disability and Hospital Benefits, 800 Capitol Mall, Sacramento.

After July 31, 1965, district offices of

who was in San Francisco on a speaking tour at the time approval of the project was announced, also commended the Council for its action.

Headquarters for the program are in Room 213 of the Labor Temple at 2315 Valdez Street (Phone: 415-6184.)

All non-profit organizations, including co-op nurseries, churches and unions, that lack the finances necessary to do needed work in the area have been invited to submit work project proposals.

The youths are divided into five-member crews and work under a skilled foreman who is paid average building trades rates plus fringe benefits. An estimated 82 percent of the funds in the grant will go directly to the creation of jobs.

the Department of Employment will determine on an individual case basis whether there is "good cause" for filing a late claim.

"Eligible workers who file by the July 31, 1965, deadline will undoubtedly save themselves a lot of trouble with red tape," Pitts noted.

State Employment Director Albert B. Tieburg said several weeks will be required to complete payment of the suspended benefits and that claims will be processed in the order received. The payments may be made either to the claimant or the hospital as the circumstances of the case dictate.

State's Personal Income Up 6.9%

Personal income in California climbed to an annual rate of \$59,052,000,000 during the first quarter of 1965, Governor Edmund G. Brown disclosed last week.

The figure represented an increase of \$3.8 billion, of 6.9 per cent, over the first quarter of 1964 and \$1,435,000,000, or 2.5 per cent, above the fourth quarter.

Payrolls in contract construction, which declined during the last half of 1964, showed the largest increase from the fourth quarter level with a gain of \$235 million or 9.3 per cent.

The figures compiled by the Department of Finance showed wage and salary payments of \$40,181,000,000 were \$2.7 billion (7.3 per cent) above the corresponding period of a year ago and \$1.2 billion (3 per cent) above the fourth quarter of 1964. Each of the major components of this sector increased from the previous quarter as well as from the first quarter of 1964.

First quarter wages of federal civilian employees showed the largest percentage increase, 12.4 per cent, compared with a year ago.

Among other industries with above-average growth during this period, were services (10.3%), communications and utilities (10.0%) and state and local government (9.6%). Although still below the overall average, the growth in manufacturing wages and salaries of 5.7 per cent from the first quarter of 1964 indicated a continuation of the improvement shown in the fourth quarter when manufacturing wages and salaries rose 5.3 per cent above the year-ago level.



UNIONS AID FLOOD VICTIMS—State AFL-CIO leader Tom Pitts (left) presents the final check from the California AFL-CIO Flood Relief Fund Drive to Emil Lewis, Red Cross Western Regional Director, as Joseph Rodell, Red Cross labor liaison officer, gives Pitts a copy of a booklet detailing the kind of cash assistance the state Federation's campaign helped make possible. AFL-CIO unions donated a total of \$82,969 to help victims of the disaster get back on their feet. The Red Cross distributed it in cash directly to those in need. The presentation signaled the end of the special fund drive initiated last January by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

AFL-CIO Unions Donate \$82,969 To Aid Flood Victims

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urer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO said.

Signalizing the end of the fund drive, Pitts presented a final check for \$3,161.13 to Emil Lewis, Western Regional Director for the Red Cross, in San Francisco.

Not included in the total are the "substantial donations" made by AFL-CIO affiliates to the annual Red Cross Fund Appeal in March which was conducted in the middle of the Federation's special fund drive, he pointed out. The total does include contributions made to the concurrent flood relief fund drive conducted by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, AFL-CIO, he said.

The state AFL-CIO campaign was initiated in January after flood waters as much as 50 feet deep swept away bridges and homes and wrecked highways and railroad lines, leaving thousands homeless, hungry, jobless and disheartened.

Some 24 persons were killed and 1,

653 injured as a result of the flood waters which surged through 34 counties in the northern half of the state, an official summary of the disaster issued by the State Department of Water Resources reported.

The report said that the flooding of the Smith, Klamath and Eel Rivers "exceeded all previous floods of record" and struck a "devastating blow" against the timber industry, leaving 4,000 workers jobless and resulting in payroll losses estimated at \$675,000.

The flood had one beneficial result, however. The fact that the six-county area hardest hit had "almost no flood protection" according to the state report has spurred efforts to launch flood control projects on both the upper and lower Eel Rivers eight to ten years ahead of schedule.

A post-flood analysis by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pointed out that:

"More than \$100 million (in damage) took place in the valleys of northern California coastal streams and another

State Acts to Curb Phony Labor Paper's Practices

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employees in the State of California"; a claim that solicitors were state employees; and an assertion that the paper was circulated to more than 50,000 state employees when only 5,500 copies of its last edition were printed.

The complaint also charged that representations were made that funds paid for advertising space benefit state employee associations in some manner. It was filed by Deputy Attorney General Robert G. Foley.

Andersen has apparently ceased publication, closed the Sacramento office and is understood to have left the state, a spokesman for the Attorney General's office said.

Legitimate labor papers adhere to the code of ethics adopted by the International Labor Press Association, AFL-CIO, which states in part:

"Member publications will make no claim or suggestion directly or through salesmen that the purchase of advertising space can accomplish anything for the advertiser beyond winning consumer acceptance of the advertiser's product or service."

\$50 million on the Rogue and Umpqua Rivers in Oregon where there are no major flood control projects."

In contrast, the report said, "in California's Sacramento Valley only a few miles away, the Sacramento River levee and bypass system prevented damage exceeding \$150 million for the fourth time in less than 10 years and the Shasta and Folsom Reservoirs saved almost \$100 million more."

"Reports such as these," Pitts said, "underscore the justification of the AFL-CIO's position in consistently urging a substantial expansion in public works projects of this nature. Such projects not only save lives and millions of dollars in property damage, but also create jobs and stimulate the economy."

All funds contributed to the Federation's Flood Relief Fund Drive were turned over to the Red Cross and distributed in cash to the flood victims to help them to replace or repair their homes or acquire essential furnishings, the state AFL-CIO leader explained.