

State Jobless Rate Up While National Unemployment Down

The unemployment rate in California rose sharply last month while nationally unemployment dropped. Last month's unemployment rate in the state was 6.2 percent; 38 percent higher than the national rate of 4.5 percent.

Unemployment in California numbered 444,000 in July. This total, while representing a slight decrease from the June count, was 29,000 higher than in July 1964. July's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 6.2 percent compares with 5.8 percent in June and 6.0 percent one year ago.

Total civilian employment in the state was 6,864,000, a drop of 39,000 from the all-time record set in June.

NATIONAL LEVEL

On the national level the number of employed persons rose sharply in July, on the strength of a 1.6 million increase in teenage employment. At 4.5 percent the July unemployment figure for the nation fell to its lowest level since October 1957. The greatest improvement in jobless rates were for teenagers, young men aged 20-24, and for adult women.

Total employment reached an all-time high of 74.9 million with all the gain coming in the non-farm sector. The over the month gain from June was 650,000 more than seasonally expected and took place primarily among teenagers. Since

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State AFL-CIO Summer School Ends With Presentation Ceremony

"Take your learning and your inspirations back home with you. Your California Labor Federation looks to you to keep the 'move' in the labor movement. Let us work together, building competent labor membership and leadership."

"Thanks for your participation. I believe you have gained a great deal out of this summer school and that this week will redound to the benefit of all the people you represent."

State Clarifies Strikebreaker Ordinance Opinion

The State Attorney General's office has clarified its position on the validity of local ordinances recently enacted by six northern California cities banning professional strikebreakers.

The Attorney General's office now holds that its June opinion that the ordinances are invalid because they are

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Pitts Blasts Wirtz' Approval of 8,000 Braceros for Tomato Harvest

"An incredible rubber stamp approval of the growers' desires that purposely overlooks the economic facts of the situation," charged AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts this week, in response to Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz' approval of the importation of 8,000 braceros to work in California's tomato harvest.

Pitts ridiculed the assertion by

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State Population Nears 19 Million

California's population has now zoomed to an estimated 18,756,000, an increase of over three million from the 1960 level. At this rate of growth, the population will be 21,750,000 by the time the 1970 census is taken by the Federal census takers.

Now one American in every ten lives

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We Don't Patronize

The Executive Council of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, approved the addition of two firms to the Federation's statewide "We Don't Patronize" list at its meeting at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles last month. The firms are:

Coffee Tree

McMillan Ring-Free Oil Company

The "Coffee Tree" is a roadside restaurant on Highway 40 near Vacaville in Solano County. It is owned by the same interests that operate the "Nut Tree" in the same vicinity which is also on the Federation's "We Don't Patronize" list. The restaurants' management has refused to negotiate a contract with Culinary Workers and Bartenders No. 560.

Members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-128 have been on strike at McMillan Ring-Free Oil Company in Long Beach for nearly a year (since Sept. 8, 1964) in an effort to win a contract that doesn't require its members to bear the brunt of automatic processes being introduced in the industry. Despite the duration of the strike, less than 10 percent of the workers have crossed the picket line.

All trade unionists are urged to shun the products and services of these firms.

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Pitts Blasts Wirtz' Approval of 8,000 Braceros for Tomato Harvest

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Wirtz' hand-picked three-member California Farm Labor Panel that its recommendation, accepted "without qualification" by the Labor Secretary, was based on "a realistic analysis" of data supplied by growers and state officials.

"The figures on supposed 'needs' were purposely ballooned out of all proportion so that the Panel could give the agribusiness' interests of this state what they wanted and still claim they had judiciously examined the request. This is an old gambit and was employed earlier this year," Pitts said.

Citing a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture report, Pitts pointed out that, "the Department of Agriculture stated that about 20,000 domestic workers will be needed at the peak of the harvest to replace last year's foreign workers. This figure is some 10,000 below the estimate accepted by Wirtz and his Farm Labor Panel 'as reasonably accurate.'"

"No attempt was made to really analyze this year's manpower needs," Pitts said.

"Once again we see the spectacle of high government officials bowing to agribusiness' commands. The policy of the Department of Labor is, whatever the cost may be to domestic farm workers, to make sure that agribusiness does not have to participate competitively in the economic life of the nation," he stated.

"Yesterday's action should come as no surprise to those who have watched developments closely this year. It is just one more example of government placing a higher value on crops than on people.

"The \$1.40 an hour wage ceiling is another gimmick to make sure that growers do not have to pay their workers decent wages," Pitts said, in pointing out that "this \$1.40 figure is much less than half the state's average hourly wage."

"This phony wage ceiling is, in reality, only one more of the many subsidies farm workers in particular and consumers in general pay to this state's gigantic agribusiness interests.

"The subservience of the federal government to the growers' so-called 'needs' directly thwarts public policy as expressed in Congress' desire to end completely the discredited and immoral bracero program. Yet the Labor Department, while publicly stating that the program is dead, has reassured growers

that they need not fear having to pay their workers a decent living wage. Instead this government department has become part and parcel of the scheme to make sure that farm workers continue to be denied any vestige of full citizenship," he charged.

"This willingness to do, when the chips are down, agribusiness' bidding clearly indicates that the Labor Department, when forced to make a choice, sides up alongside the growers and becomes their ally in attempting to suppress the lot of the farm workers of California," Pitts stated.

"The whole shabby episode is made all the more ludicrous by the fact that no attempt has been made to find out whether growers are, in fact, even meeting the inadequate criteria set forth by Wirtz in December, 1964.

"This unwillingness is just another example of capitulation, when the heat is on, to the growers," Pitts said.

"The simple fact of the matter is that both Wirtz and his Farm Labor Panel have been unable to document any shortage of farm labor in this state. However, this fact has not stopped them from bowing to grower pressures."

The state AFL-CIO leader again noted the great discrepancies between two reports prepared by the University of California, Berkeley. In the report upon which Wirtz' "without qualification" acceptance of the Panel recommendation was based, it was claimed that tomato harvest machines can harvest only seven tons per hour. Yet in a report by the same authors only 10 months earlier, it was observed that, "average output of machines in the field in 1963 was about 13½ tons per hour."

If the latter figure is used, Pitts explained, manpower needs in the tomato harvest would be sharply reduced. Wirtz and the Panel readily accepted the lower seven tons per hour figure, Pitts asserted, instead of really examining this gross discrepancy and its implications.

Pitts also pointed out the tremendous amount of underemployment in California agriculture by citing state disability insurance data indicating that of the 384,186 domestic workers with earnings in agriculture in the July-September quarter of 1963, one-half had earnings of less than \$200, or average monthly earnings of only some \$65.

This action followed Pitts' telegram to Labor Secretary Wirtz last week, which highlighted the conflicting estimates of manpower needs in the tomato harvest.

Pitts called Wirtz' attention to the fact that historically the state's grape harvest, which coincides with the tomato

Johnson Lauds AFL-CIO Efforts In Behalf of All

President Johnson praised the AFL-CIO for its efforts on legislation involving the public interest in remarks at a White House bill signing ceremony. Here is what he said:

"The AFL-CIO has done more good for more people than any other group in America" in its legislative efforts.

"It doesn't just try to do something about wages and hours for its own people. No group in the country works harder in the interests of everyone.

"It helps young and old and middle-aged. It's interested in education, in housing, in the poverty program, and does as much good for millions who have never belonged to a union as for its own members.

"That is my conception of an organization working in the public interest.

"I've wanted to say this for a long time because I believe the American people ought to know the remarkable contribution which organized labor makes to the promotion of sound legislation."

harvest and requires nearly twice as many workers as tomatoes has paid higher wages and attracted virtually all domestic workers.

"In September 1964, 6,300 domestics and 38,000 foreign workers were employed in the tomato harvest. In the grape harvest at the same time, domestic employment was 51,200, and foreign worker employment 1,200," Pitts said.

Last year, Mexican Nationals earned \$1.35 an hour on piece rates picking tomatoes and \$1.41 an hour picking grapes, according to Bureau of Employment Security data. But the differential between the piece rate earnings of domestic workers in grapes and in tomatoes was "considerably greater", Pitts said.

These data invalidate the often made assertion that large numbers of domestic workers cannot be attracted to agriculture on a short term basis. But the crucial point, Pitts pointed out, is that wages in grapes, being higher than in tomatoes, have attracted all the necessary domestic employment to harvest the crop. The moral of the story: higher wage rates will attract adequate numbers of domestic workers in tomatoes just as in grapes.

The California Farm Labor Panel's unanimous recommendation to Wirtz, which he accepted immediately "without qualification," means that 8,000 supplemental foreign farm workers will be admitted for the tomato harvest. One half of these workers will begin the first week in September, the balance in the second week of September.

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to distribute to those in attendance their Certificates of Completion, formally bringing to a close the week-long efforts of trade unionists from throughout the state to dig deeply into the problems confronting both organized labor and society in general, in California and the nation.

During the last half of the week-long session, union members delved into the problems of social insurance and family security, examined right-wing politics in California, studied the inter-relationship of union goals and the civil rights movement, and discussed the problems of organizing the unorganized.

In the Wednesday morning session the Federation's Director of Social Insurance, Clint Fair, outlined the post-war trends in the state's unemployment insurance program.

Over the last five years, he explained, the need for a better and more adequate unemployment insurance system has steadily mounted as California's unemployment rate has increased and as all measures of outstanding debt, such as home mortgages, have risen rapidly. He contrasted this need with the steady fall of the tax base, pointing out that the portion of insured wages and salaries subject to unemployment insurance taxes dropped from approximately 100 percent in the pre-war years to less than 60 percent in 1964. This drop has been paralleled by the sharp decline since 1945 in unemployment insurance reserves as a percent of total wages. Nationally reserves fell from over 10 percent in 1945 to only three percent in 1964.

In California the decline in unem-

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preempted by state law has no direct effect on ordinances already enacted. The Attorney General's office pointed out that the opinion does not invalidate such ordinances, and that only a court decision could have such an effect.

The ordinances in question would prevent the employment of "any person who customarily and repeatedly offers himself for employment in place of an employee involved in a labor dispute." The earlier opinion has acted as a damper on current drives to enact similar ordinances in other cities.

ployment insurance reserves as a percent of total wages has been more precipitous. Reserves dropped from some 10 percent in 1947 to only 1.8 percent this year.

One effect of this is that the maximum weekly benefit amount as a percent of average weekly earnings in covered employment in California has followed an erratic course since the end of World War II. Last year the maximum weekly benefit amount was 46 percent of average weekly earnings in the state, a decline from nearly 54 percent in 1959. However, Fair indicated, while the present situation is inadequate it is an improvement over what existed during most of the 1950's.

At the evening session Bill Botwright, reporter and columnist for the *Santa Barbara News Press*, described to the assembled unionists the tactics of extremists of both the left-wing and right-wing variety in California and throughout the nation. He pinpointed how both groups favor the use of secret "cells" in attempts to capture local organizations like PTA, and how they use the "big lie" technique to further their aims.

In the Thursday morning session, the major role of the AFL-CIO, in cooperation with the civil rights movement, in advancing civil rights legislation was stressed by George Guernsey, Assistant Director of the national AFL-CIO's Department of Education.

The coalition of labor, the civil rights movement and liberals has been very effective, he asserted, and to the advantage of all three groups in influencing both labor and civil rights legislation. He noted that civil rights organizations strongly supported the AFL-CIO in its successful drive to have Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act repealed by the House of Representatives.

At the Friday morning session, Fred Schmidt of UCLA, substituted for C. Al Green, Federation Vice President and Director of AWOC who was unable to attend due to illness.

He described manpower trends in the agricultural sector of the economy, noting that at present there are 17 million fewer people living on farms than there were 25 years ago. Yet despite this sharp decrease, the number of seasonal farm workers has not declined in recent years. In fact it is possible that California may need more seasonal farm workers, he said.

A new federal program for farm workers that will guarantee them unemployment insurance under a format that will provide them with an adequate

State Population Nears 19 Million

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in California, according to the State Department of Finance.

All counties but two (Modoc and Trinity) participated in the population gain of the past five years. Orange County led in the percentage gain race, with the population increasing 65 percent over the five-year period, jumping from some 704,000 in 1960 to 1,158,000 in 1965.

Ten counties paced by Los Angeles, Orange and Santa Clara, added more than 100,000 persons each. The four counties with more than one million population showed the following increases: Los Angeles 6,878,000, up 839,000 (13.9 percent); San Diego 1,201,000, up 168,000 (16.2 percent); Orange 1,158,000, up 454,000 (64.5 percent) and Alameda, 1,033,000, up 125,000 (13.8 percent).

The population of the nine Bay Area Counties rose to 4.3 million. Santa Clara had the greatest gain both in numbers and in percentage, up 249,000 to 891,000, a 38.7 percent gain.

Sacramento County grew by 21.8 percent over the five-year period adding 114,000 new residents to a July 1965 total of 617,000.

The state's overall increase from April 1960, the time of the federal census, to July 1, 1965, was estimated by the State Department of Finance at 19.3 percent.

standard of living is necessary, he said.

Farm workers cannot bring about such a program; the only group that can is the labor movement. In this connection, Schmidt paid tribute to the California Labor Federation for taking on the necessary and often criticized job of fighting to improve the lot of farm workers in California, and of vocalizing their needs and aspirations.

Maurice Gershenson, Chief of the Division of Labor Statistics and Research of the State Department of Industrial Relations outlined the trend in union membership over the past 14 years. The number of union members in California rose from 1,355,000 in 1950 to 1,824,000 in 1964, a 35 percent increase. However, he said, this increase while large was slightly less than half as great as the overall rise in the number of nonagricultural wage and salary workers during the same period. As a consequence, the proportion of workers who are union members dropped from 43 percent to 32 percent.

This is largely because the greatest employment increases in California over the past 14 years have been in industries that historically have had a relatively low degree of union organization, he said.

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July 1964 total U.S. employment has risen by 2.4 million. The increase represented employment gains of 950,000 each for teenagers and adult women and a rise of more than 500,000 for adult men.

Total unemployment in the nation dropped by 700,000 between June and July, about 150,000 more than usual for this time of year. At 3.6 million the jobless figure was 200,000 below a year ago. Almost all the over the year drop in unemployment was among persons seeking full time work. The unemployment rate for married men declined to 2.3 percent, about equal to the low levels recorded during the 1955-57 expansion.

For young men 20 to 24 years of age the jobless rate fell to 5.8 percent. However, the unemployment rate of non-whites moved up slightly to 9.1 percent; for white workers the jobless rate edged below four percent for the first time in the last eight years.

Workers unemployed 15 weeks or longer totaled 600,000 a drop of 250,000 from the year ago figure. Most of the year to year reduction in long term unemployment at the national level occurred among persons out of work 27 weeks or more; at 340,000, the number of workers without jobs more than six months was down from 540,000 in July 1964.

REGIONAL DATA

The regional jobless rates for Los Angeles County and for the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area moved upward from June to July. In Los Angeles unemployment rose to 5.9 percent, up from 5.7 percent. In July 1964 the unemployment rate in Los Angeles County was 5.7 percent. Over the year, unemployment in the county increased from 171,600 to 180,200.

In the San Francisco-Oakland area the unemployment rate in July rose to 5.3 percent up from 5 percent in June. However, this was a slight over-the-year decline from the 5.4 percent unemployment rate in July 1964. Total Bay Area unemployment was 67,800 in July 1965.

Thus, unemployment in the state now exceeds the national average by nearly 40 percent, and rose again last month while a contrary trend occurred at the national level.

Over the past year employment has grown in all major categories in California, with the exception of agriculture and the construction industry. Large

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The service industries have had the largest percentage rise in employment in California in recent years. Personal services, business and other repair services, medical and other health services and legal and educational services have all grown rapidly. These industries employ a large part of the unorganized workers in California, he said.

In the construction industry, he said, unionization has kept pace with employment increases. However, construction employment has not risen as rapidly as in many other industries.

Manufacturing employs more wage and salary workers than any other industry group, an average of 1,392,000 last year. Union membership in manufacturing has steadily increased in recent years, but not as fast as the overall growth in manufacturing employment. Gershenson attributed this to two major factors. First, the shift from blue collar workers to white collar workers; the proportion of the latter group in manufacturing increased from 24 percent in 1950 to 37 percent in 1964. Second, employment in the electronics industry has grown very rapidly over the past 15 years. However, he asserted, union membership has not made substantial headway in this area.

Irwin DeShetler, Assistant Director of AFL-CIO Region XXII, discussed the need of the AFL-CIO to organize large numbers of white collar and other workers. He described organizing efforts since the 1955 merger, and stated that for the labor movement to grow in future years it must increase its organizing activities and bring into the fold the many millions of potential union members as yet unorganized throughout the nation.

est gains over the year were in government, services, and trade.

Manufacturing employment, at 1,468,000, exceeded the July 1964 total by some 25,000. This marks the third consecutive month that factory employment has surpassed year earlier levels. Principal over the year gains were in canning, aircraft and machinery; these and numerous other smaller gains were partially offset by losses in missiles and lumber.

Despite the over the year gain of 164,000 jobs, employment in California has not kept pace with the increase in the number of people seeking work. This fact is reflected by the increase in the unemployment rate to 6.2 percent in July 1965 from 6.0 percent one year earlier.

After each early morning session, the trade unionists broke up into groups and met to discuss the major issues raised at the morning lectures.

In the afternoon the participants divided into seven workshop groups and examined in depth either the history and philosophy of the labor movement; the status of the labor movement today; the methods of communication in local union administration; the "how" of new member orientation; union programs for white collar and professional employees; recent developments in labor legislation; or analyzed the principles of grievance handling and the role of the union.

The summer school was sponsored by the Federation in cooperation with the Centers for Labor Research and Education of the Berkeley and Los Angeles campuses of the University of California. Dr. John Carroll, Director of Education for the Federation, was summer school director.

Federation officers on the summer school faculty were Albin Gruhn, President, Manuel Dias, General Vice President, and Harry Finks, Director of Public Relations. Staff members of the Federation on the faculty included Fred Smith, Assistant Director of COPE, Clint Fair, Director of Social Insurance, and Mike Peevey, Director of Research.

Marvin Friedman and George Guernsey of the national AFL-CIO staff also were members of the summer school faculty. Other labor union staff members on the faculty included Irwin DeShetler, Assistant Director of AFL-CIO Region XXII, Clive Knowles, Research Director, State Council of Carpenters, Harold Rossman, Director of Research and Education, Bay Area District Council of Carpenters; and David Selvin, Editor of San Francisco Labor.

Don Vial, Chairman of the Center for Labor Research and Education of the University of California, Berkeley, and Art Carstens, coordinator for labor programs at the Institute of Industrial Relations, UCLA, were summer school associate directors. Jack Blackburn, Fred Schmidt and Ted Ellsworth of the Institute of Industrial Relations, UCLA, and Oliver McMillan and Herb Perry of the University of California, Berkeley, also were on the faculty.

Visiting staff included Maurice Gershenson, Chief of the Division of Industrial Relations, Leslie Carbert, Chief Planning Officer of the Department of Finance, Bill Botwright, reporter and columnist for the Santa Barbara News Press, and Paul Johnson of the American Friends Service Committee.