

## Pitts Cites Benefits Of Bracero Ban

State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts this week pointed out some of the benefits to the California economy resulting from the end of the bracero program.

Speaking before the Rotary Club of Stockton, Pitts hit hard at the many subsidies paid to agribusiness, noting that the low wages paid farm workers are only one subsidy.

"In 1965," he observed, it has been reported that "the U.S. Department of Labor alone will spend over \$13 million on farm labor recruitment programs. This expenditure is, in essence, a subsidy to agriculture."

Other subsidies include the massive price support programs of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the higher than necessary taxes Californians pay to support the health and welfare costs of farm workers and their families because of the inadequate wages received by farm workers.

Pitts listed some of the benefits the general public will receive from the end of the bracero program:

—Higher wages and steadier employment for domestic farm workers will be a major result. This year domestic workers have taken up the slack that resulted from the end of the bracero program and as high as unemployment is today, it would be even higher if the bracero program still existed.

—There will be a decline in welfare cases. In Monterey County alone there has been a more than 80 percent de-

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## Right Wing Forces Mobilizing in All Out Attempt to Keep Section 14(b) Intact

The tom-toms of a frightening interlocking network of radical right-wing groups are thumping almost incessantly today to try to block repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Spearheading the right-wing drive to prevent repeal of Section 14(b) is the National Right to Work Committee. But it is abetted by scores of

## Apprenticeship Programs To Go Under Microscope

The nation's apprenticeship system is going to be studied in depth.

Manpower training experts and industrial scientists from Purdue University will spend 28 months exploring all aspects of the system under a contract for \$286,500 recently signed with the U.S. Department of Labor.

The study was approved by the Fed-

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## Federation Supports Strengthening, Expansion Of Unemployment Insurance at D.C. Hearing

Documenting the serious inadequacies of California's unemployment insurance system, the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, this week testified before the Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, in support of H.R. 8282, a bill to expand and strengthen the unemployment insurance system of the United States.

Testifying Friday in behalf of the Federation Clinton Fair, the Fed's Director of Social Insurance, described some of the reasons why new legislation is mandatory.

Unemployment in California is much higher than the national average, he pointed out. Last month the state's unemployment rate was 6.2 percent; 38 percent higher than the national average of 4.5 percent. Last year California, with 10 percent of the nation's population, paid 18 percent of all unemployment compensation insur-

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## New Election Code Amendments

The following amendments to the State Election Code, passed by the legislature during the 1965 session, are now law.

AB 17 (Ryan). Requires county clerks to furnish each polling place with five

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## Write Senators Today Urging 14(b) Repeal

Legislation to repeal Section 14 (b) of the Taft-Hartley Act, recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, will soon be acted upon in the Senate.

The National Right to Work Committee and a host of other reactionary groups, are out to block repeal. They are flooding Senators with letters requesting that Section 14 (b) be kept on the books.

To win repeal of Section 14 (b) all workers should write immediately to their Senators urging them to vote for repeal.

Letters to Senators Thomas H. Kuchel and George Murphy should be addressed to the Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20025.

# Federation Supports Strengthening, Expansion Of Unemployment Insurance at D.C. Hearing

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ance benefit payments in the United States.

Home mortgage debt in California is approximately \$18.7 billion, an increase of 50 percent in the last five years, and consumer debt totals \$8 billion, up \$3 billion in five years. Overall personal debt is estimated at about \$26.4 billion, an increase of \$8 billion in the past five years.

**"Except for the small savings of most unemployed, the only cushion against the disastrous experience of lost income from unemployment is California's inadequate Unemployment Insurance program," the Federation statement said.**

**For this reason, "H.R. 8282 is sorely needed; and we believe it is needed now."**

Testifying in favor of the proposed Federal Unemployment Adjustment Benefits program, the Federation aide noted that if this program had been in effect this year, the \$65 million necessary to finance California's present extended duration benefit program, that is the "Miller-Collier Act" of 1959, could have assumed the cost of increasing the maximum benefit amount from its present \$55 to \$70 a week. For an additional \$20 million the maximum benefit amount could have been raised to \$80.

The Federation pointed out that a \$80 maximum weekly benefit amount would have been equivalent, at the beginning of this year, to two-thirds of the average weekly wage in covered employment in California.

As important as an increase in the maximum weekly benefit amount would be, the Federation said, even more important to the long-term unemployed in California is the fact that under the Federal Unemployment Adjustment Benefits program, as would be enacted under H.R. 8282, extended unemployment benefits could be provided to unemployed persons without the necessity of the program being triggered by prolonged and serious overall unemployment in the state.

The Federal Unemployment Benefits Adjustment program is geared to the individual's unemployment problem, Fair observed, and thus assures an unemployed person the assistance he needs, and provides the economy with a more steady flow of consumer purchasing power.

Title XXI of the proposed legislation would establish a matching grant to

states in years in which the amount of unemployment insurance compensation paid exceeds two percent of total wages in covered employment.

The principle of "excess loss reinsurance" has long been a well established concept in the business community, Fair said, and it represents the best in the partnership of the U.S. government and the states in meeting their collective responsibilities toward the unemployed.

The Federation statement strongly supported an increase in the taxable wage base to \$5,600 for the calendar years 1967 through 1970, and a further increase to \$6,600 in 1971. Fair traced the post-war history of the unemployment insurance fund balance in California, noting that in 1947 the balance was \$724 million and represented 9.6 percent of total wages in covered employment. By the end of 1964 the fund balance was nearly \$657 million, but this amount represented only 2.4 percent of total wages. Furthermore, the fund balance as a multiple of the five-year moving average of benefit expenditures was 10.1 percent in 1947, but was only 1.4 percent in 1964.

The Federation statement observed that the precarious state of the unemployment insurance fund in California is due to the existence of an unrealistic maximum wage base. In 1940, when the wage ceiling of \$3,000 was imposed, the taxable wage represented over 90 percent of total wages in the state. Since that time, this percentage has fallen rather steadily.

Since 1947 total employer contributions to unemployment insurance "have averaged 1.38 percent of total wages in the State of California," the Fed noted.

**"The combined impact of an unrealistic maximum wage base, unsound experience rating schedules and an inadequate contribution rate have depleted California's unemployment insurance fund below a reasonable solvency standard," Fair said.**

The Federation also supported the increase in coverage proposed under H.R. 8282, noting that it makes no sense to exclude "the underpaid employees of non-profit, religious, charitable and educational organizations," if the principle of unemployment insurance is to be preserved.

Fair pointed out that although numerous attempts have been made to include agricultural workers under California's unemployment insurance program, these attempts have been unsuccessful. H.R. 8282 would cover most

agricultural workers in California. The Federation statement strongly supported this inclusion, noting that in California agriculture is big business, and that unemployment insurance is an essential step toward raising the standard of agricultural work.

The Fed statement also reviewed the past history of benefit payments in California. In only six years between 1938 and 1964 has the maximum weekly benefit amount exceeded 50 percent of the average weekly earnings in covered employment, and between 1944 and 1959 the maximum weekly benefit amount never exceeded 40 percent of average weekly earnings in covered employment.

Fair noted that as of October 1, 1965, the maximum weekly benefit amount will be raised to \$65 a week. The average weekly wage in California is presently slightly above \$125 a week. However, under the new schedule, no claimant whose benefit amount is above \$60, or who earns more than the average weekly wage in covered employment, will receive a benefit amount equal to 50 percent of his average weekly wage. This is because the steps in the high quarter earnings to entitle a claimant to an additional \$1 in benefits were increased from \$28 to \$40.

Under H.R. 8282, the maximum weekly benefit amount must be at least 50 percent of the statewide average weekly wage effective July 1, 1967; at least 60 percent of the average weekly wage as of July 1, 1969; and at least 66⅔ percent effective July 1, 1971.

The Federation requested that the Ways and Means Committee seriously consider shortening the period by which the maximum weekly benefit amount is raised from 50 percent of the statewide average weekly wage to the 66⅔ percent target.

The Federation also urged that states, as a condition for receiving any tax credit after July 1, 1967, not be allowed to fix a period of disqualification for all causes except fraud, labor dispute and conviction of a crime arising in connection with work, beyond six weeks postponement with no cancellation or reduction of benefit rights. This action, the Federation noted, will reduce the severity of California's newly adopted penalty provision.

In summary the State Federation concluded:

**"We believe the enactment of H.R. 8282 would provide much needed protection to the unfortunate unemployed; would effectively aid in the stabilization of our state and national economy, and would remove all threat to an industry in the state who provides adequate benefits. Equally, H.R. 8282 is no threat to state administration of unemployment insurance."**

# Apprenticeship Program to Go Under Microscope

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eral Committee on Apprenticeship as the answer to growing concern that perhaps the system was breaking down under technological and social pressures.

Hugh Murphy, Administrator of the Labor Department's Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, explained that "questions about the need for apprenticeship have been bobbing up like ducks in a shooting gallery."

Murphy, a former New York City bricklayer and product of the apprenticeship system, chaired a meeting of the Committee last month which serves in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of Labor. The Committee recommended that four specific trades be reviewed: plumbers-pipefitters, machinists, printers and a service-type trade to be selected later.

"Purdue will conduct a nationwide review of the plumbers-pipefitters and machinists as models in the building and manufacturing trades, respectively," Murphy said.

"Their findings will then be placed against two other trades, the printers for one, and a service trade which could be, for instance, chefs or cooks, auto mechanics, barbers, and so forth. We haven't decided yet.

"Change has been the only thing that craftsmen in these trades could count on: changes in tools, techniques and equipment utilized by workers, and changes in the practice and theoretical knowledge needed for efficient job performance.

"Naturally, these changes have stimulated thinking and discussion among the public, labor, and management about the efficiency of our apprenticeship system.

"Actually there really is no question of preserving apprenticeship," Murphy said. "No one could abolish it."

"But the rising tide of negative questions about the viability of apprenticeship must be quelled with positive answers.

"This independent study of apprenticeship has long been needed to help establish some basic facts about the system," he said.

The principal objectives of the study are to:

- Determine the extent to which ongoing apprenticeship programs for selected craft jobs are supplying workers with the skills, training, and education required for an increasingly complex world of work.

- Develop models of apprenticeship programs which contain built-in procedures for adapting to change and which can be used for a comprehensive

evaluation of other apprenticeship programs.

- Make recommendations for needed changes in apprenticeship programs, if deemed necessary.

- Generate suggestions as to how apprenticeship opportunities can be made available in any area which does not now offer training for apprentices.

## Pitts Cites Benefits Of Bracero Ban

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cline in the number of families receiving welfare.

—Wages that formerly left the state are now being spent in California. This is a boon not only to the state's economy, but aids the nation's balance of payments. Pitts quoted from remarks by Senator Williams of New Jersey:

"... The braceros during the ten years between 1955 and 1964 sent \$802 million out of this country to Mexico."

—The tax burden in many communities will be alleviated because some of the new earnings of domestic farm workers will go toward taxes, and if farm wages increase, farm workers will purchase housing, thus raising the community tax base.

Throughout the 1950's and so far this decade domestic farm workers have seen their wages drop steadily further behind those of other workers, he said. In 1950 the average hourly earnings of production workers in California manufacturing were \$1.65. The average hourly earnings of farm workers were 88 cents, or 77 cents less than the average manufacturing wage.

Last year average hourly wages of production workers were \$2.96; in contrast, the earnings of farm workers were \$1.36. The difference between the two was \$1.60 an hour, Pitts observed, noting that the gap between the earnings of the two groups grew an additional 83 cents from 1950 to 1964. He said that earnings of California farm workers "even increased at a slower rate than the earnings of farm workers in the United States as a whole."

The productivity, or output per man hour, of domestic farm workers has risen much more rapidly than farm workers earnings, Pitts further observed. Over the last ten years the productivity of farm workers jumped 65 percent while the rise in farm earnings was at only half this rate.

He also pointed out that farm workers are one of the neglected few in a society where a large block of people now live in relative affluence.

## New Election Code Amendments

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or more cards containing the phone number of the office where voters can ascertain the location of their polling place and provides that voters can make collect calls for this purpose; also enacts related provisions.

**AB 86 (Powers.)** Permits county clerks to use tabulating cards forms for voter registration affidavits.

**AB 317 (Moretti.)** Eliminates the requirement that a voter must have a certificate of registration from his former state of residence. New voters now can qualify by swearing that they were eligible to vote in their previous state.

**AB 740 (Beilenson.)** Often in the past a person who had marked his absentee voters ballot was prohibited from voting in person on election day; under this measure such a voter may vote in person on election day by surrendering his absentee voter ballot, whether marked or unmarked.

**AB 1602 (Moretti.)** Provides for a polling place board of one inspector, one judge, and two clerks at an election where the ballots are manually counted at a central place.

**AB 1611 (Quimby.)** Authorizes persons retired under the County Employees' Retirement Law to serve as deputy registrars of voters and to receive any fees payable for such services, without loss of retirement benefits.

**AB 2049 (Stevens.)** Requires tax-exempt property to be made available at no cost to registrar of voters for use as a polling place.

**AB 2209 (Garrigus and Zenovich.)** Requires that the absentee ballot notice sent to voters for any Election Code election shall indicate earliest and final dates within which requests for absentee ballot must be received by the appropriate election official.

**AB 2943 (Moretti.)** Requires posting of notice of library district trustee election in the public library, and in two other places within the district, and that such notices be posted in each branch library; under existing law three notices are posted in each election precinct.

## Hospital Funds Held Up

The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare is holding up approval of construction and research funds for "scores" of hospitals in the South due to complaints of racial discrimination, according to the AMA News.

## **"Zipper Clause?" See New Labor Department Book**

The U.S. Labor Department has come out with a brand new glossary of industrial relations and wage terms, ranging from "Absenteeism" to "Zipper clause."

The slim, pocket-size book is an up-to-date dictionary of the words and phrases most often found in writings about labor-management relations, wage practices, and government labor policy in the United States.

It includes about all of the terms you'd expect to find workers and supervisors using about their employment. Most of these are widely used in news and magazine stories, but are not well understood by many readers.

"Absenteeism" is self-explanatory, of course. But "Zipper clause" isn't: it is a provision barring any attempt to reopen negotiations during the term of an agreement. Between these two terms are about 500 more, from well-worn old-timers like 'boycott' and 'picketing' to less common ones like 'monitorship' and 'pyramiding.'

The book, BLS Bulletin 1438, sells for 45¢ a copy at the Bureau of Labor Statistics office, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.

## **Don't Use Diners' Club, Union Asks**

California union members can fight against strikebreakers and for economic justice by tearing up their Diners' Club cards, according to a handbill published by a local of the International Typographical Union.

The Diners' Club Magazine, which was formerly printed under union contract in Ohio, is now being printed in a Kansas plant employing strikebreakers, according to Local 570 of the International Typographical Union.

Members of the local are now on strike because they refused to discriminate against their women members. According to the union, the federal government is now investigating the struck plant because men reportedly receive \$7.30 more per week than women do for the same work—a violation of federal law.

Diners' Club members can support these striking workers by canceling their credit cards immediately, by advising neighbors and friends to do likewise, and by contacting hotels, restaurants and other businesses which accept Diners' Club Cards, the handbill points out.

## **Right Wing Forces Mobilizing in All Out Attempt to Keep Section 14(b) Intact**

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Freedom, an Indiana extremist group.

- Glen A. Green, former Director of Information; also former chief assistant to George S. Benson, President of Harding College, the right-wing's "West Point."
- Theodore J. Hamilton, Membership and Contributions; former Public Relations Director for the National Labor Management Foundation.
- Reverend Howard E. Mather, NRTWC Executive Committee; Director of Christian Freedom Foundation.
- Dr. Frederick C. Fowler, NRTWC advisory committee member; also Christian Crusade speaker and a director of Christian Freedom Foundation.
- Howard F. Brown, NRTWC Director; also former director of the National Labor-Management Foundation.
- Father John E. Coogan, S.J., NRTWC Director; frequent contributor to Human Events.
- Charles E. Daniel, NRTWC Director; also a member of American Good Government Society's Committee on Electoral College Reform.
- Eugene B. Germany, NRTWC Director; also fund raiser for Americans for Constitutional Action, an endorser of the Manion Forum and an endorser of the Committee for Equal Anti-Trust Protection, a union-busting group.

Hargis, an evangelist and endorser of the John Birch Society whose anti-labor

messages are carried five days a week on 235 radio stations and weekly on two TV stations in 37 states, is even telling his followers that repeal of 14(b) is sinful.

Anti-union operations such as those of Hargis and the Manion Forum sponsor some 7,000 weekly radio and TV programs that serve the ultra-conservatives' cause. Playing on fears and deception, they hope to create a climate of opinion to prevent repeal of Section 14(b).

In the interests of better wages and working conditions and, indeed, in the interests of democracy itself, all workers must counteract these extremist groups by writing letters to their senators urging them to repeal Section 14(b).

## **Public Works Measure Goes to President**

A massive public works and regional economic development bill to aid areas of heavy unemployment was sent from the Senate to President Johnson for his signature this week. The bill authorizes \$3.3 billion to be spent over the next five years, mostly for public works grants in communities with persistent unemployment. Federal funds will pay 50 to 80 percent of the public works costs.

Regions with similar economic problems are encouraged, under one section of the bill, to join in multi-state economic development commissions similar to the one enacted for the Appalachian Region earlier this year. The AFL-CIO strongly supported the bill, although it sought a larger program, which would spend \$2 billion annually for public works.

## **State Opens New Labor Law Enforcement Office**

A new office of the Division of Labor Law Enforcement, Department of Industrial Relations, serving Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito Counties will be opened August 23, 1965. The office is located at 122 East Alisal Street, Salinas.

Deputy Labor Commissioner Edward A. James will be in charge of the office and will be assisted by Mrs. Wincel Perkins. James, a Deputy in the Division's San Francisco office during the past 1½ years, will handle all Division matters arising in the three counties.

## **Minimum Wage Increase Next Month For 3½ Million Workers**

As of September 3, 1965, all workers covered by the Federal Wage and Hour Law will be entitled to \$1.25 an hour minimum and to time-and-a-half overtime pay after 40 hours of work each week.

Most workers covered by the law already were entitled to the \$1.25 minimum and overtime after 40 hours. However, for the 3½ million workers brought under coverage of the law in 1961, the changeover on September 3 represents a boost from the \$1.15 an hour minimum and overtime pay after 42 hours of work.

The change makes all the 29½ million workers covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act subject to the same standards.