

Use of Braceros To Nick Taxpayers And Economy

"Domestic farm workers and the California economy will lose about \$10 million because of the importation of 18,400 braceros for the state's tomato harvest," Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, declared this week as the first braceros began work in the tomato fields.

Pitts pointed out that "this sum will be paid to temporary foreign farm workers who will then take the money back to Mexico with them.

"The public is exposed daily to cries about theoretical crop 'losses,'" Pitts said, "but hardly a word is spoken about the tragic losses suffered by domestic farm workers. The \$10 million now going to braceros should be paid in wages to domestics. Instead, we find growers and government concerning themselves only with the harvesting of crops, not with the welfare of people.

Funds Siphoned Off

"Over the next few weeks \$10 million will be quietly siphoned out of the California economy because the Secretary of Labor gave an ill-advised 'green light'

(Continued on Page 2)

Court Orders Legislature Redistricted

Both houses of California's legislature must be reapportioned by December 9, 1965, or the state supreme court will do the job itself.

In announcing its unanimous decision this week, the court rejected the assembly's claim that there is not enough time to redistrict before the 1966 elections and said it will "retain jurisdiction to review any reapportionment legislation that may be enacted by December 9 and to order our proposed plans into effect if necessary."

The decision, which is expected to result in a special session of the legislature being called either later this month or early in October, noted, however, that it would prefer that the legislature do the redistricting job itself because of "peculiarly political questions" which it is "not appropriate for this court to decide."

Under the court's tentative redistricting plan both senators and assemblymen would be elected to only two-year terms and some legislators would have to be elected at large because the court did not have time to draw up precise district

(Continued on Page 3)



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

Weekly News Letter

Second Class Postage Paid at San Francisco, California

Published by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
995 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94103
Subscription: \$3.50 a year

Berry Pickers Paid Only 82 Cents an Hour, State Labor Panel Report Discloses

"A classic illustration of the real reason for the failure of the domestic farm labor recruitment drive—the growers' refusal to pay decent wages—is buried in last week's statement by the California Farm Labor Panel and it alone provides ample ground for the panel to reject a pending request by Salinas Strawberries, Inc., for 1,000 braceros," state AFL-CIO leader Thos.

L. Pitts charged today.

Pitts called attention to the fact that the panel's report, issued August 26, noted in passing that "one of the regrettable side effects (of domestic farm labor surpluses in California this summer) has been a decline in wage rates and earnings.

"What this means," Pitts explained, "is that the nation's largest strawberry grower, presumably Salinas Strawberries, Inc., has been paying its pickers only \$6.56 gross on an eight-hour day basis or only \$32.80

(Continued on Page 3)

A Joker in the Big Price-Fixing Case

The latest action in the big price-fixing case involving the General Electric Company and Westinghouse Electric Corporation was resolved by a Federal District Court judge in New York this week when both firms were found guilty of overcharging and conspiring to fix prices. Damages totaling more than \$16.8 million were levied against them.

(Continued on Page 3)

First of COPE Workshops To Gird for 1966 Elections To Be Held in Redding Sept. 15

The first of more than a score of one-day workshops on political action to be conducted throughout the state this Fall by the California Labor Council on Political Education (COPE) will be held in Redding on Wednesday, September 15.

In announcing the workshops, Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the State AFL-CIO's political arm, noted that the 1966 elections are "just around the corner" and warned that rightwing extremists in California are "extremely well organized and well financed."

Pointing out that the organized rightwing has been increasingly engaged in generating pressures on Congress to try to block repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act as well as other public interest legislation backed by the AFL-CIO, Pitts

(Continued on Page 2)

Immigration Bill Wins House Approval 318-95

The AFL-CIO backed immigration bill to get rid of the discriminatory, 41-year-old "national origins" quota system won overwhelming approval of the House last Friday by a 318 to 95 vote and was sent to the Senate where it is scheduled

(Continued on Page 2)

Immigration Bill Wins House Approval 318-95

(Continued from Page 1)

for action by the Judiciary Committee next Wednesday.

Prior to final approval by the House, a Republican-sponsored amendment that sought to impose a ceiling of 115,000 a year on immigration from Western Hemisphere nations, thereby ending our traditional open-door policy, was defeated more narrowly by a vote of 189 to 218 with 68 Democrats and 121 Republicans voting for the amendment and 205 Democrats and 13 Republicans voting against it.

California Congressmen who voted in favor of this amendment which was opposed both by President Johnson and the AFL-CIO were:

Clausen, Clawson, Gubser, Hosmer, Lipscomb, Reinecke, Smith, Talcott, Teague, Utt, Wilson, and Younger. All Republicans.

Opposing the amendment were Republicans Baldwin, Bell, and Mailliard and Democrats Brown, Burton, Cameron, Cohelan, Corman, Dyal, Edwards, Hagen, Hanna, Holifield, Johnson, King, Leggett, McFall, Miller, Moss, Roosevelt, Roybal, Tunney, Van Deerlin and Wilson. Not voting but paired against the amendment was Sisk, also a Democrat.

The measure, HR 2580, will result in the elimination of the national origins quota system by July 1, 1968.

As approved by the House it sets an annual overall ceiling of 170,000 on immigration from countries outside the Western Hemisphere and limits any one country to a maximum of 20,000 immigrants a year on a first-come, first-serve basis.

In a letter dispatched to all House members as debate on the measure got under way, AFL-CIO legislative director Andrew J. Biemiller declared:

"It is high time that this (national origin) system, which has too long reflected an attitude of ethnic bigotry, should be wiped from the statute books."

Biemiller charged that the quotas had "damaged the image of America as a land of freedom and opportunity in the eyes of people around the world and of our own citizens."

As approved by the House, spouses, parents and children of U.S. citizens would be exempt from the 20,000-a-year-per-country limit. In addition the House version calls for special preference to be given other broad categories such as scientists, artists and other workers with special skills needed to meet domestic labor shortages.

Use of Braceros To Nick Taxpayers And Economy

(Continued from Page 1)

to the tomato growers' requests for braceros.

"These millions of dollars, if spent by local workers, would help pay some of the day-to-day costs of government. When the money leaves the state each remaining Californian must 'cough up' the additional tax dollars needed to keep the state's machinery operating.

"And actually," Pitts noted, "the figure is greater than \$10 million, for the money would be spent again and again within California. Because of Secretary Wirtz' okay of more than 18,000 braceros, however, this money will leave the state and thus act as a drag on the economy.

"Now as in the past, domestic farm workers in particular and California taxpayers in general, are being required by government decree to subsidize the already highly profitable agribusiness industry. The public should know that this subsidy benefits one extremely small group of employers only, while adversely affecting the prosperity of the balance of the state's workers and taxpayers," Pitts said.

"Despite what agribusiness pitchmen would have the public believe," Pitts said, "the end of the bracero program is a boon to the California economy. Its resurrection would be a bane to all but the select few who control gigantic, irresponsible corporate interests."

NAM Opens Drive To Duck Corporate Income Tax

The National Association of Manufacturers is opening what it calls a "major policy-program activity" to take the current tax off corporation incomes.

In opening this drive, the NAM is going back to the 1954 days of the Eisenhower Administration when it hoped to get the tax removed under the guise of "double taxation" on corporation income and dividends. The NAM also is unhappy because the 4 per cent dividend tax has been repealed thus cutting out an important advantage that coupon clippers have enjoyed for a number of years.

Under the new NAM scheme, corporations, which are already making huge profits, would be permitted to deduct dividend payments starting with a relatively small deduction but working up to complete elimination.

The NAM aim is opposed by organized labor on grounds that if any income should get a tax break, it should be earned income rather than dividend income, as was the law during the early days of the income tax.

The "double taxation" argument was demolished with the observation that wages are subject to many taxes—income, Social Security, sales, excise and many other hidden forms of taxation.

First of COPE Workshops To Gird for 1966 Elections To Be Held in Redding Sept. 15

(Continued from Page 1)

urged all affiliates to send representatives to the workshop to be held in their area.

The workshops will cover interview and endorsement techniques; local-state and national COPE financing; and issues — a basis for political action.

Included in the last category will be a detailed report on such issues as workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance, disability insurance, social security, medicare and other items of top interest to union members: Fred C. Smith, Assistant State COPE Director and Clint Fair, Director of

The workshops will be conducted by Social Insurance for the California Labor Federation, in collaboration with area COPE officials.

Although workshops will be held to

accommodate all COPE jurisdictions in the state, in the interests of economy, some will be held in conjunction with other councils in the same vicinity. In this consolidated category are the workshops to be held for: Marin, Sonoma, and Mendocino; Chico and Marysville; Solano and Napa; Monterey and Santa Cruz; Kern and Tulare-Kings; and Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo.

Local unions and other affiliates are being notified of the date, time and place of the workshop to be held in their area as plans are finalized. At present, the workshops schedule extends well into November.

Requests for further information on the workshops should be directed to Fred C. Smith, Assistant Director, California Labor COPE, 995 Market Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94103.

Expert Backs Jobless Pay for Farm Workers

A bill to require big farm operators to provide unemployment insurance coverage for farm workers would have very little impact on retail food prices, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Agriculture told the House Ways & Means Committee this week.

Nathan N. Koffsky, U.S.D.A. Director of Agricultural Economics, pointed out that "the increase in labor costs would amount to only two tenths of one percent of total farm production expenses."

Provisions of the bill stipulate that it would apply only to farmers who use 300 or more man-days of hired labor per quarter year. Labor Department estimates indicate, Koffsky said, that only about two percent of U.S. farms are in this category and employ a total of 700,000 workers.

Most farmers employ very little labor and would therefore be exempt, he explained.

Speaking in behalf of the bill, Koffsky said that hired farm workers "comprise a major occupational group that is almost completely without legislative, social and economic protections that have come to be accepted as the norm for a large majority of non-agricultural workers."

"Yet farm workers are particularly vulnerable to intermittency of employment and low income. A high incidence of poverty is a common characteristic," he pointed out.

Cost of benefits under the bill would be provided by a tax on farm employers which would go into effect after December 31, 1966.

Berry Pickers Paid Only 82 Cents an Hour; State Labor Panel Report Reveals

(Continued from Page 1)

gross for 40 hours of hard, hot work a week as recently as August 21st.

"Even baby sitters earn more," he declared.

"The Salinas pickers' wages were more than 41 percent less than the \$1.40 hourly rate Wirtz said California growers seeking foreign labor would have to offer domestic workers for at least 30 days before their requests could be considered," the secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation pointed out.

"Yet the same firm's present demand for 1,000 foreign workers, currently

Court Orders Legislature Redistricted

(Continued from Page 1)

boundaries within several counties.

While noting that the variation in population among assembly districts was not as large as in state senatorial districts, the court said it was still large enough "to deny equal protection" to residents of all districts. It pointed out that on a population basis San Francisco is currently entitled by population to 3.77 assemblymen but has 5 while Orange County which should be entitled to 3.59 assemblymen at present has only 3.

"There appears to be no explanation for giving San Francisco five instead of four assemblymen," the opinion said.

To provide some guidelines for the legislature, the court ruled that no district may depart from "ideal size" by more than 15 percent and that a majority of each house be elected by voters of districts containing at least 48 percent of the total population.

It also stipulated that redistricting be based on the 1960 U.S. census instead of on population figures projected since that time.

At present only 11 percent of the population can elect a majority of the 40 state senators. The high court's tentative redistricting plan would reapportion the upper house districts so that 49.9 percent of the population would be required to elect a majority.

At present assembly districts vary in population between 306,191 in Riverside and 72,105 in Imperial County. The court's plan would redistrict the lower house so that 48.5 percent of the total population could elect a majority of the 80 assembly members.

pending action by the Farm Labor Panel, has already been approved by the State Department of Employment.

"This clearly exemplifies the impunity with which agribusiness interests have flagrantly disregarded federal regulations and the abject surrender by state enforcement agencies to agribusiness pressures," Pitts said.

"In face of the facts in its own report, it's inconceivable that the Panel could approve the Salinas Strawberry Grower's request; but in view of its blithe disregard of gross inconsistencies in its previous statements, I wouldn't want to bet that they won't," he concluded.

A Joker in the Big Price-Fixing Case

(Continued from Page 1)

But there's one little joker in the case that generally went unreported.

Thanks to a determination made about three years ago by the Internal Revenue Service, both firms will be permitted to deduct the damages levied against them in their entirety from their tax returns as a "necessary cost of doing business."

The IRS determination, interestingly enough, was made after the firms were initially found guilty and fined nearly \$2,000,000 in 1961 when seven executives involved were sentenced to brief jail terms.

In deciding the case, one of more than 1,800 stemming from the government's criminal anti-trust prosecution of 29 equipment manufacturers indicted in Philadelphia in 1960, Judge Wilfred Feinberg said he found "abundant proof that defendants affirmatively and deliberately concealed the existence of the conspiracy . . . concealed their activities from their customers, from the government, and officers and employees of defendants who did not participate."

Moreover, the judge added:

"To achieve and preserve secrecy, the conspirators falsified their expense accounts to hide the true nature and purpose of their meetings and trips, made telephone calls at night from pay telephones rather than from their offices, destroyed notes taken at conspiratorial meetings and instructed newcomers to the conspiracy not to divulge its existence."

Many of the resultant damage suits by electric utilities all over the nation have been settled out of court.

Internal Revenue officials in San Francisco confirmed that the convicted companies would be able to claim the fines as a "cost of doing business" and indicated that at present corporate tax rates this means that, in effect, the convicted firms will lose only about 52 cents on each dollar of the fines imposed.

Senator Philip A. Hart of Michigan called the public's attention to the fact that a bill to plug this loophole is still bottled up in committee in Congress and is unlikely to get out in a TV appearance following the court's decision on Tuesday.

Meanwhile poor John Q. Public continues to pay full freight on such relatively innocuous and inadvertent transgressions as overtime parking fines on which no tax deductions are allowed.

And this is just one example of the many tax concessions that the nation's powerful corporate interests are able to wheedle or pressure out of the government when the public isn't looking.

Women Farm Workers Pay Floor To Go Up

If you're a woman harvesting crops in California and your employer fails to pay you at least \$1.30 an hour on and after September 15, 1965, he is breaking the law.

And if you're a minor 16 or 17 years old harvesting crops on or after September 15, 1965, and are not paid at least \$1.10 per hour, your employer is breaking the law.

These are the minimums established by the Industrial Welfare Commission's Wage Order No. 14-65 which also requires that piece workers receive piece rates that yield these hourly rates in each pay period to 80 percent of the women and 80 percent of the 16 and 17 year old minors.

The revised order, adopted by the IWC last June, also requires that each day women and minors are required to report for work and are given less than four hours work, they must be paid for at least four hours at the new minimum hourly rates.

Initially, the Commission had proposed that the hourly minimum, currently \$1.00 for both women and minors, be boosted to only \$1.25 for women until June 1, 1967, when it would have gone up to \$1.30, the rate that has prevailed in the 13 other industries covered by the IWC Wage Orders since September, 1964.

The California Labor Federation strenuously protested the piecemeal increase and other inadequacies in the Commission's proposals, pointing out that they would make "second class citizens" of the state's farm workers, and urged a \$2 minimum.

Subsequently the Commission adopted the \$1.30 rate for women effective this year instead of two years from now and made other improvements such as broadening the applicability of 10-minute rest periods every four hours to all workers instead of just those working on or at a machine, and 30-minute meal periods after 5 instead of 6 hours work.

Inadequate as many of its provisions are, the order is better than the protections afforded minors under sixteen or male workers 18 or older working in agriculture in California. To date agribusiness interests have successfully excluded them from all minimum wage protections.

Further information on the new wage order may be obtained from offices of the Division of Industrial Welfare of the State Department of Industrial Relations in Bakersfield, El Centro, Eureka, Fresno, Inglewood, Long Beach, Los

Reagan Ducks Charge of Birch Backing

A front-running Republican candidate for governor, TV actor Ronald Reagan, this week ducked a charge that he had claimed that the John Birch Society was willing to do anything at all to elect him.

Mrs. Jane Alexander of San Carlos, a Goldwater delegate to the 1964 GOP convention who made the charge, said Reagan made the claim at a meeting at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco last July 21.

Mrs. Alexander, who explained she didn't rely on her memory but wrote down what he said, charged Reagan had volunteered that John Rousselot, national public relations director for the John Birch Society, was "a great man and said that Mr. Rousselot had offered all help possible—including calling him names in public or endorsing him."

Later the same day, Mrs. Alexander said, Reagan made substantially the same statement to a group of Young Republicans. In the latter instance, Mrs. Alexander quoted Reagan as saying that Rousselot had called Reagan's campaign manager and "offered to call me names in public or endorse me, whichever would do the most good."

Mrs. Alexander said she believed Reagan told the story to impress Birchers present at the meeting.

In response Reagan, who conceded that he has been friendly with Rousselot for years, in fact campaigned for him when Rousselot was running for Congress, said only that he couldn't "go rushing into print answering every irresponsible woman who starts swinging a hatchet in my direction."

Other Republicans present at the meeting denounced Mrs. Alexander for disclosing the story but did not deny the statement was made.

Rights Denied

"Every employer has a right to sign a contract for a union shop if he wants to. Yet, this so-called 'right to work' legislation would deprive the employer of that right. It would also deprive the employees of the right to join a union and negotiate for a union shop." — **Alfred M. Landon, Republican Candidate for President in 1936.**

Angeles, Oakland, Redding, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Ana, Santa Barbara, Santa Rosa, Stockton and Van Nuys.

14 (b) Repealer Gets Senate Unit's Go-Ahead

The full Senate Labor Committee approved repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act by a 12 to 3 vote Wednesday after beating off a series of Republican - sponsored amendments aimed at weakening the bill.

The measure, a companion version of which has already been approved by the House, is scheduled to be submitted to the Senate floor next Thursday.

Prior to the Senate Labor Committee's action, a subcommittee approved one amendment to the bill which would exempt persons who have conscientious objections to belonging to a labor union.

Amendments defeated prior to the full committee's approval of the measure would have:

- Restored a repealed Taft-Hartley section requiring non-communist affidavits from each union official.

- Provided for decertification of a union shop by a majority vote of those voting.

- Made it an unfair labor practice to force an employer to agree to a union shop.

- Made it easier for employers to get secret-ballot elections in certain representation disputes and reduced the use of certification by a check of union cards.

- Invalidated as "sweetheart contracts" any labor-management agreement that called for wages of less than \$1.50 an hour; \$60 for a forty-hour week or \$3,100 on an annual basis.

California Republican Senator George Murphy was one of two Republicans who joined 10 Democrats in voting to move the repeal measure out of committee to the Senate floor.

Figone Named To State Corrections Board

Alfred A. Figone, assistant secretary and president of the Bay Counties District Council of Carpenters, has been appointed to the State Correctional Industries Commission by Governor Edmund G. Brown. He succeeds Chester R. Bartalini who resigned and was appointed as a trustee of the California State Colleges.

Figone, chairman of the San Francisco Labor-Management Apprenticeship Training Committee and a member of the San Quentin Trade Advisory Committee, joined Carpenters Local Union 483 in 1936. He lives in Daly City.