

Fed Proposes Expansion of 'Damage' Study

The state AFL-CIO this week offered support for Senator Thomas H. Kuchel's proposal for "an objective survey" of crop damages which Kuchel claimed resulted from farm labor shortages providing the study is expanded to include an analysis of what state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts termed "the enormous human and financial losses suffered by California workers and taxpayers" due to "sub-poverty level wages."

In a letter dispatched to Kuchel Wednesday, Pitts said:

"Any 'objective study' of the issue you propose must be broadened to include an investigation of the alleged farm labor shortage, particularly if purported crop damages are to be attributed to a labor shortage."

Pitts pointed out that tomato harvester machine operators and farm truck drivers currently earn \$20 to \$25 a day while sorters on the same machines and hand-harvest workers get at most only \$1.40 an hour.

"Surely our agricultural industry, which grossed \$3.6 billion and netted more than \$1.1 billion last year, can afford to face the wage shortage versus labor shortage issue squarely," the

(Continued on Page 2)

Lack of Tests For Imported Workers Poses Peril, Pitts Says

Admittance of thousands of braceros without the usual tests for communicable diseases is creating an "utterly unconscionable" threat to the health of thousands of Californians, state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts warned this week. Pitts, who said key officials have admitted that at least 4,800 Mexican workers have already

been allowed to cross the border since August 30 without such tests, wired John W. Gardner, U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Wednesday urging him to require such tests and to pull all braceros already admitted off the job until they get "a clean bill of health."

"Obviously," the Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, pointed out, "this situation is dangerous and if not rectified immediately the consequences can be grave for the

(Continued on Page 2)

Special Session Called Sept. 20

A special session of the legislature was called by Governor Edmund G. Brown this week to convene September 20 to tackle the job of reapportioning both the State Senate and Assembly.

The special session call came on the heels of a State Supreme Court's decision last week directing the state's lawmakers to reapportion both houses themselves by December 9, or live with

(Continued on Page 3)



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Challenges Facing Workers Greatest in History, Brown Tells Labor Day Throngs

"No Labor Day in history has had the significance of the one we celebrate today in terms of the challenges that face us," Governor Edmund G. Brown declared Monday at a special Labor Day luncheon at the State Fair in Sacramento where the program was devoted to a salute to the working men of California and the nation.

"Across the length and breadth of our land," the Governor said, "those who have been too long deprived of their simple rights are

Picture on Page 4

stirring, striving and, indeed, sometimes striking about blindly at friend and foe alike in pursuit of their rights.

"You of the labor movement who

(Continued on Page 4)

Act through COPE, Unionists Urged

"To block attempts by far-right extremists to turn back the clock," Albin J. Gruhn, president of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, called on all trade unionists this week "to participate fully in political action through COPE."

Gruhn, principal speaker at the annual Labor Day picnic at Sequoia Park in Eureka, leveled a broadside at the voting record of Rep. Don Clausen of Crescent City and said that, with California now officially the number one state in population, "the economic and political atmosphere of California will have an even greater impact on the future welfare of the rest of the nation."

Gruhn said "it is a sad commentary (Continued on Page 3)

Joblessness Dips To 3.3 Million

Total unemployment across the nation fell 350,000 between July and August to 3.3 million but the seasonally adjusted U. S. jobless rate was unchanged at 4.5 percent, the Labor Department reported last week.

The jobless total is 400,000 less than in August, 1964, and nearly half the reduction occurred among workers who had been jobless 15 weeks or longer, the report said.

Most of the changes were anticipated, (Continued on Page 2)

Fed Proposes Expansion of 'Damage' Study

(Continued from Page 1)

secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, said.

"A study such as you propose, if expanded to examine the human and financial losses resulting from sub-poverty level wages and primitive working conditions, could be a significant step toward effecting such a confrontation," he added.

Pitts called the Senator's attention to the fact that average hourly earnings in agriculture in California according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, were \$1.33 in 1964. This means, he explained, that the \$1.40 wage standard set in California amounted to only a five percent wage increase.

"Yet tomato growers are reported to be getting \$35 a ton this year compared with \$25 a ton in 1964—a 40 percent increase in price, most of which is being falsely attributed to higher labor costs," the state AFL-CIO leader asserted.

Specifically, Pitts suggested that the study include an analysis of the following losses:

1. The waste of human potential resulting from the farm workers inability to earn enough to feed, clothe, house and educate himself and his family and provide for health needs.

2. The welfare burden imposed on all California taxpayers by the agribusiness industry's failure to pay wages sufficient to enable farm workers even to be decently self-supporting during their periods of employment, and,

3. The drain on the state's economy that occurs when foreign workers take millions of dollars out of California that domestic workers would spend here if braceros were not employed.

"The state economy will lose some \$10 million this year because braceros will take this sum back to Mexico," Pitts said.

"This money is as much a loss to the California economy as any alleged crop losses," he declared.

In addition, he said, the study would be "even more illuminating if it probed the justification for excluding domestic farm workers from unemployment insurance, minimum wage protections, the provisions of our National Labor Relations Act, overtime, vacation pay, collective bargaining rights and other benefits enjoyed by workers in virtually all other industries in our state and nation."

Lack of Tests For Imported Workers Poses Peril, Pitts Says

(Continued from Page 1)

health and welfare of thousands of Californians and other U.S. citizens.

Pitts said the action he requested is "mandatory if the health of thousands of U. S. citizens is not to be sacrificed to corporate tomato growers' hurry-up demands for foreign workers at sub-poverty level wage rates."

"To risk compounding this problem by not allowing a brief delay in tomato harvesting would be utterly unconscionable," he declared.

Jobless Dips To 3.3 Million

(Continued from Page 1)

the Labor Department said, but it noted that there was "some improvement" for teenagers, blue collar workers, non-whites and full-time workers.

The rate for one key group, however, that of married men, was worse; it climbed from 2.3 percent in July to 2.6 percent in August, the same as in August, 1964.

Some 875,000 of the jobless total last month were teenagers even though the teenage jobless rate dipped from 13.2 in July to 12.4 percent in August, its lowest level in over three years.

Total U.S. employment dipped 600,000 from the all-time high posted in July to 74.2 million last month.

Employment in agriculture dropped by half a million to 5.1 million and non-farm employment dipped slightly to 69.1 million.

The Labor Department pointed out that total employment has risen 2.1 million since August, 1964. The over-the-year rise indicates gains of 900,000 jobs for teenagers, 750,000 for women and 500,000 for men, with gains exceeding labor force growth in each category.

Included in the employment totals, however, are some 2.3 million part-time non-farm workers.

The nation's economic expansion, the report said, has made significant inroads in the joblessness of non-whites whose jobless rate average of 8.5 percent this year is well below the 9.9 percent rate for the same period last year. Moreover, this is the first time the non-white jobless rate has dipped below nine percent since 1957. The jobless rate for whites declined from 4.7 percent last year to 4.2 percent, or still less than half that of non-whites.

Pitts said he also sent copies of his wire to U.S. Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz and Governor Edmund G. Brown.

The text of Pitts' wire to Gardner read:

"The Department of Labor recently approved the importation of 18,400 Mexican nationals to work as foreign supplemental farm workers in California's tomato harvest. In prior years under P.L. 78, temporary foreign workers were inspected for communicable diseases, including being given blood tests. At present at least 4,800 of the 18,400 braceros approved by Secretary Wirtz who have crossed the border to work in tomato harvest have not been given communicable disease tests; that is, chest X-rays, tests for venereal disease, etc. Cases of infectious syphilis are up six-fold in California since 1955. Last year 48,000 cases were reported, and the number of actual cases—most cases go unreported—numbers at least 250,000, according to the State Department of Public Health. Obviously, this situation is dangerous and if not rectified immediately the consequences can be grave for the health and welfare of thousands of Californians and other U.S. citizens. To risk compounding this problem by not allowing a brief delay in tomato harvesting would be utterly unconscionable. Request you immediately take all necessary action through the Public Health Service to test those Mexican nationals who have not yet crossed the border for communicable diseases. In addition, urge you to require that thousands already admitted, who are presently working, be pulled off the job until given a "clean bill of health." This action is mandatory if the health of thousands of U.S. citizens is not to be sacrificed to corporate tomato growers' hurry-up demands for foreign workers at sub-poverty level wage rates."

Votes for Medicare

In 1964 51 new liberal congressmen were elected with the help of contributions to COPE and three of the new liberals were elected in California. They voted for Medicare to provide health protection for the elderly under Social Security. Help re-elect these friends and other liberals in 1966 by giving a buck to COPE today.

Governor Calls Special Session Sept. 20 To Act on Redistricting

(Continued from Page 1)

a tentative redistricting plan drafted by the court.

Governor Brown said he probably would also open the special session agenda to consideration of legislation to permit California to participate in the new medicare program recently enacted by Congress. But he said he did not believe he would add any other items to the special session agenda.

The tentative redistricting plan adopted by the State Supreme Court would create 62 instead of the present 80 assembly districts with 28 assemblymen to be elected at large in 10 of these districts.

Specifically, districts comprising: Marin, Sonoma and Napa Counties would elect two assemblymen at large; Sacramento and Solano Counties a total of three; San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties two; San Francisco four; San Mateo two; Santa Clara three; Fresno and Madera two; Kern and San Luis Obispo two; Orange and San Bernardino Counties six; and Riverside and Imperial Counties two.

On the Senate side, the Court's plan

would create 30 districts with 17 State Senators to be elected at large in seven districts.

Governor Brown pointed out that the multi-county district aspect of the Supreme Court's plan "would be so expensive (in terms of campaigning) that it could be almost prohibitive and counties might be deprived of incumbent Senators who have done a magnificent job."

Act through COPE, Unionists Urged

(Continued from Page 1)

in the first congressional district when its representative in Congress has voted against such progressive legislation as medicare and repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act, the existence of which imposes compulsory open shop conditions on workers in 19 states. In view of these and other similar bad votes he urged local citizens to note Clausen's record and do something about it in 1966.

The state AFL-CIO official also reviewed the gains won through collective bargaining and legislation but emphasized that much more remains to be done.

"On this Labor Day," he said, "let us reflect on the long hard row we have traveled to obtain the affluence and benefits enjoyed by workers today which in too many instances are taken for granted." And he ticked off such benefits such as shorter hours, higher wages, paid vacations, health, welfare and pension plans, unemployment insurance, and insurance for on-the-job and off-the-job disabilities.

"But we still have gaps in these areas," he declared. As an example he cited the hospital workers and the agricultural workers, who urgently need legislation to assure their full rights in collective bargaining. He also noted that agricultural workers are not covered by unemployment insurance.

To win enactment of such legislation and cope with the many other problems confronting workers throughout the state, Gruhn, a Eureka native himself, said:

"The California Labor Federation is fully cognizant that its basic strength is derived from organizations such as yours in every part of the state. We need your full cooperation and support."

AFL-CIO Signs Most Federal Workers' Pacts

About 90 percent of some 209 collective bargaining agreements made under terms of Executive Order No. 10988, which was issued by the late President Kennedy in 1962 to set up a policy for employee-management relations in the federal government, were negotiated by unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO, a study by the U.S. Department of Labor has disclosed.

The study, which analyzed agreements covering nearly 600,000 workers in 21 federal departments and agencies, presents a detailed picture of the early results of bargaining in the federal service and is expected to serve as a base upon which changes in collective bargaining under the order can be measured.

The Post Office Department accounted for the largest number of workers involved in the study. Other agencies with significant contract or worker coverage were the Departments of Defense, Labor, Interior, Health, Education and Welfare, and the General Services Administration.

The Executive Order provides three forms of recognition for employee organizations — informal, formal, and exclusive. Exclusive recognition and collective bargaining rights are given to organizations selected by a majority of the employees in an appropriate unit.

Copies of the study, titled "Collective Bargaining Agreements in the Federal Service, Late Summer, 1964," which was published as Bureau of Labor Statistics Bulletin No. 1451, are available at 50 cents per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Union-Won Wage Hikes Average 4 Percent in 1965

Average wage increases of four percent have gone to workers covered by union-won wage agreements during the first six months of this year, according to preliminary estimates by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Of the eight million workers covered by major collective bargaining agreements 1.2 million were employed where new terms had been negotiated. Not included are the interim settlements in steel and related industries which involve some 450,000 workers.

In manufacturing the average increase was four percent, but in the non-manufacturing industries the report showed an average change of 4.2 percent.

State Rules AWOC Strike Bonafide

The AFL-CIO's Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee's strike against the Shoemaker-Gnesa tomato fields 30 miles southwest of Modesto is a bona fide strike for a \$2.00 an hour minimum wage, the state Department of Employment decided Tuesday.

This means the state will refuse to send U.S. farm workers or Mexican Nationals to the struck fields.

C. Al Green, AWOC director, said the workers are seeking a piece-work rate of 30 cents per 50 pound box and a \$2 hourly guarantee.

AWOC still sorely needs additional funds to press the fight for better wages and working conditions for U.S. farm workers. Checks should be made payable to the California Labor Federation's Farm Workers' Organizing Assistance Fund and sent to the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, 995 Market Street, Rm. 810, San Francisco.

Great Challenges Face Labor, Governor Says

(Continued from Page 1)

not too many years ago knew the despair and frustration of exploitation — who still must be on constant alert to guard against its revival — must understand their needs, their desires, their, at times, overwhelming urge to retaliate against the dark forces that keep them in poverty and deprivation," he said.

To meet such challenges, Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, called on "all workers, those within the house of labor and those beyond, to join with us in improving the lot of working men in California and the nation."

Describing Labor Day as "a memorial to the men and women of earlier years whose dedication and sacrifices created today's labor movement," Pitts said Labor Day 1965 is the time "to reflect upon the road we have traveled and . . . look forward to the path we must take.

"Only a short time ago the right to organize and bargain collectively, reasonable hours of work, the attainment of decent, livable wages, protection against joblessness and injury both on and off the job, paid vacations and pension programs for our old age did not exist.

"They are relatively new developments, though many of us now take them for granted," Pitts pointed out.

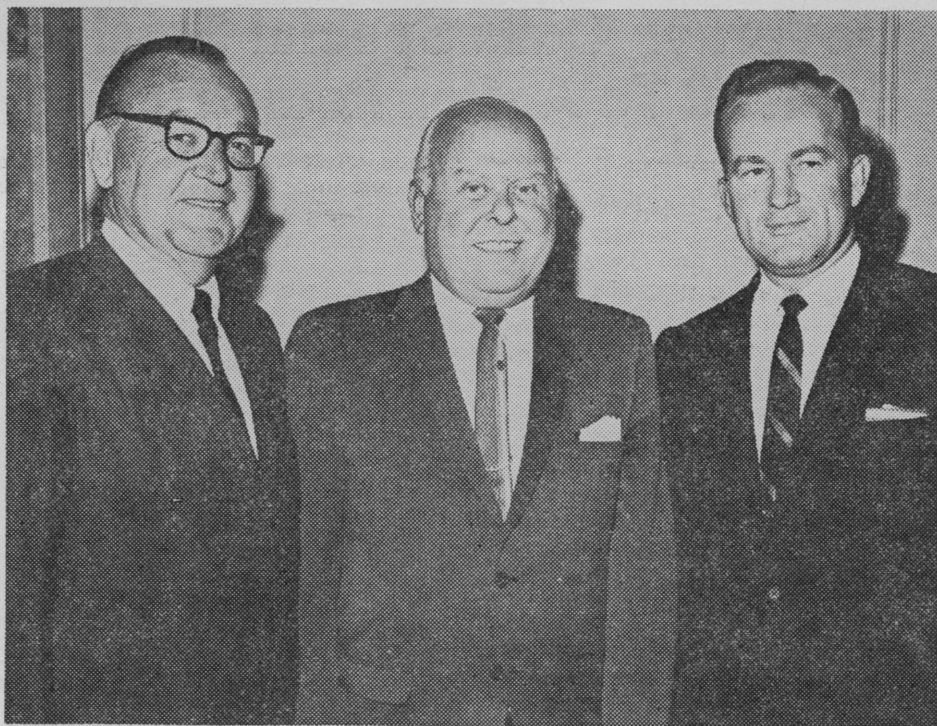
While many of these old battles have been won for most — but not all — workers, Pitts said, "the challenges be-

GREETINGS FROM LBJ

A special message from President Lyndon B. Johnson was delivered to the Labor Day luncheon at the state fair in Sacramento by Lloyd Hand, chief of protocol for the United States who flew out from Washington. The message read:

"On this day reserved for our gratitude and pride in the working men and women of this bountiful land, I send my warmest greetings to the California Labor Federation.

"What we are and what we hope to be emerges from the kind of work our society does. No group contributes more to the matchless abundance of the sinew and spirit of our country than the labor community of California."



LABOR'S DAY AT THE FAIR—Tom Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, (center) called on "all workers to join with us in improving the lot of working men in California and the nation" at a special Labor Day luncheon at the State Fair at Sacramento Monday. With him are Governor Edmund G. Brown (left) and Lloyd Hand, U.S. Chief of Protocol, who, as President Johnson's personal representative for the occasion, delivered a message that extended the President's "warmest greetings" to the Federation and declared that "no group contributes more to the matchless abundance of sinew and spirit of our country than the labor community of California."

fore us are still great" but they can be met "if the spirit of brotherhood and of high moral purpose that guided our past actions remains undaunted."

THREAT CITED

Governor Brown, who also spoke at the Alameda County COPE Labor Day picnic in Pleasanton and addressed the 19th Annual Labor Day breakfast of the Catholic Labor Institute at the Statler Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, told trade unionists at the fair that "you will have to work harder in the coming year to keep the ultra-conservatives from taking over the state."

"We can't lose all that has been fought for so long. We must not stop the forward progressive movement," he declared.

In his remarks at the Alameda County COPE picnic at Pleasanton, the Governor lauded the Alameda County Central Labor Council's "unique poverty program for youth" which provided summer work for 200 young people, and said that the 1965 session of the legislature resulted in "strong steady strides forward" for organized labor.

"We did not get everything we wanted — we never do — but you and I will be back again to try again for those things we didn't get," the Governor said.

Among successes cited by Brown were creation of a state Department of Housing; repeal of the Hot Cargo Act; and passage of a major reorganization of the Industrial Accident Commission which establishes "for the first time in California a rehabilitation system for those injured in industrial accidents."

Among things left undone, he said, was extension of unemployment insurance coverage to farm workers. In this connection he pledged that "we have not abandoned that fight" and reported on his recent testimony before Congress in behalf of H.R. 8282 which would establish minimum federal standards in unemployment insurance programs and extend coverage to U.S. farm workers.

Enactment of H.R. 8282 would extend jobless pay coverage to an estimated 300,000 to 325,000 California workers of which some 235,000 would be farm workers, the Governor said.

Moreover, he added, "I am convinced it would help ease the shortage of labor in agriculture and at the same time ease the unemployment in our state."

Among the special Labor Day features at the fair was the presentation of a California Labor Federation trophy to the winner of the 9th race in the racing meet by Pitts.