

Bill to Cut Union Officers' Bonding Costs Wins Final OK

Legislation to correct the language in the 1959 Landrum-Griffin Act that initially resulted in a 50 percent increase in the cost of bonds for union officers and employees is now awaiting President Johnson's signature.

Senate passage of the House-initiated measure by a unanimous voice vote climaxed a four and one-half year AFL-CIO campaign to eliminate the inequity.

Under the 1959 L-G Act, union officials handling money were required to get a bond for "faithful performance of duties" as well as the customary "honesty" bond.

Initially, because no one was sure what was entailed in "faithful performance of duties," the cost of obtaining such bonds shot up 50 percent. After a year's experience failed to justify the higher rate, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer William F. Schnitzler negotiated a slash in the surcharge to 25 percent.

The AFL-CIO Legislative Department meanwhile began to fight for legislation to change the Act to make it conform to the simple bonding requirements of the Welfare and Pension Plans Disclosure Act.

This is essentially what the just-passed legislation achieves. In addition it will permit unions to obtain bonds from surety companies not on an approved Treasury Department list so long as the Secretary of Labor consents.

In its report on the bill, the Senate

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Special Session Starts Work on Redistricting, Medicare Issues

A special session of the state Legislature called by Governor Edmund G. Brown convened in Sacramento Monday principally to attempt to comply with the State Supreme Court's order to redistrict both its houses by December 9, 1965, but also to enact enabling legislation necessary to permit the state to participate in some of the federal medicare programs

authorized by 1965 amendments to the Social Security Act and to ratify the presidential succession amendment.

These were the three items placed on the agenda for the special session by the Governor.

A skeleton measure to reapportion the Assembly (AB 1) was introduced by Assemblyman Don A. Allen, Sr., (D-Los Angeles). Allen also introduced AB 2 which would specify procedures to be followed if at-large elections are held for legislators.

If the Legislature fails to adopt a re-

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Immigration Bill Wins Senate OK

An AFL-CIO backed measure to eliminate the discriminatory national origins quota system from the nation's immigration laws won overwhelming Senate passage Wednesday by a 76 to 18 vote.

Both of California's Senators, Thomas H. Kuchel and George Murphy, voted for the bill.

The principal difference between the

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Write Letters Now To Block Filibuster And Win Repeal of Sect. 14(b), Pitts Urges

An all out effort to mobilize support to overcome a threatened senate filibuster against section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act was launched by the State AFL-CIO this week to counterbalance the "lop-sided distortion of public opinion" apparently being effected by "right-to-workers" and their Birch Society backers."

In a letter dispatched to all AFL-CIO affiliates, Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, warned that "ultra-conservative forces are generating all of the muscle and misin-

FLASH Debate to Start

Senate leader Mike Mansfield (D-Montana) announced Wednesday he would probably call for debate to start on the bill to repeal section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act sometime next week.

"It is my present intention to call up 14(b) very likely sometime next week," he said following a weekly breakfast meeting with President Johnson and other congressional leaders. This underscores the urgency for immediate action to head off the filibuster threatened by Senator Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois.

formation they can" to try to kill the repeal measure "by talking it to death."

To offset their efforts, he called on all Federation affiliates and individual trade unionists to write Senators Thomas H. Kuchel and George Murphy immediately to urge them to oppose the filibuster and vote in favor of the repeal bill as approved recently by the Senate Labor Committee.

Leading off the campaign, Pitts sent letters to both senators himself. He commended Senator Kuchel for his "strong, forthright stand in favor of invoking cloture if necessary" to bring

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Write Letters Now To Block Filibuster And Win Repeal of Sect. 14(b), Pitts Urges

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about a vote on the issue and urged him to stay "close to the Senate floor" to fight the "intensive, spiteful pressures now being generated by ultra-conservative . . . groups" seeking to thwart action by the full senate on the issue.

In his letter to Senator Murphy, the State AFL-CIO leader said he was "heartened" by the fact that Murphy joined Senator Jacob Javits and 10 Democrats to move the repeal measure out of the Senate Labor Committee. Pitts added that he hoped that an independent study Murphy initiated earlier this year had convinced the Senator of the "many injustices and inconsistencies that this section (14(b)) has spawned in labor-management relations during the past 18 years."

Citing reports that indicated Senator Murphy had earlier "leaned toward" the view that a state's rights issue was involved in the matter, Pitts wrote:

"I would hope that your independent study was sufficient to prove to you that such a view is just as untenable as would be a suggestion that the federal Fair Labor Standards Act should be applied only at the option of the individual states.

"Existence of compulsory open shop laws in the low-wage southern states particularly has resulted in an unconscionable attempt by some unscrupulous employers to compete for new industries solely on the basis of their license to depress wages and working conditions to sub-poverty levels," Pitts continued.

"On the face of it, such competition is morally bankrupt. Moreover, even if one were able to turn one's back on the moral aspects, the economic contentions of its proponents stand largely refuted by the past 18 years of experience with it," he pointed out.

Pitts also reminded Senator Murphy that he had indicated during the 1964 campaign that he would oppose "the imposition of any so-called 'right-to-work'

Situs Picketing Bill O.K.'d By House Committee

The so-called "Situs" or jobsite picketing bill has been approved by the House Labor Committee.

The measure would allow unions striking a single contractor at a multi-employer construction site to picket the project without violating the Secondary Boycott provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act.

law in California."

Of Murphy's pledge in this regard, Pitts said:

"In the interest of consistency and in view of the fact that the consensus of opinion in California was made crystal clear on this issue in 1958 when right-to-work was defeated by one million votes, I urge you to fulfill your obligation to reflect the consensus of your constituency by working for and voting for repeal of Section 14(b)."

Senator Dirksen, appearing on Face of the Nation last Sunday, claimed he already had 25 senators lined up to filibuster on the issue and, by intimidation, threatened to tie up the Senate until Thanksgiving or Christmas if the measure is taken up.

Dirksen also claimed this week that supporters of the repeal measure "will not even get a majority" if they attempt to invoke cloture.

To invoke cloture, a two-thirds vote of those present is required. This would mean 67 if all 100 senators are on hand.

If Dirksen carries out his filibuster threat, it will be the first time the leader of either party has conducted a filibuster.

The House passed a companion version of the 14(b) repealer on July 28 by 221 to 203 vote after it was brought to the floor under the 21-day rule adopted at the start of the session to curb the power of the House Rules Committee to stymie action on legislation.

Early last month, Senator Kuchel spelled out the reasons why he favors repeal of 14(b) in a letter of response to a businessman who disagreed with Kuchel's stand.

Among other things, Kuchel wrote: "The misnamed 'right-to-work' laws mean one thing: low wages and cheap labor. To say that they promote individual freedom is simply to confuse the issue. . . .

"Right-to-work laws do not promote free collective bargaining. They do promote and encourage a 'Freddie Freeloader' mentality whereby an individual can receive all the benefits which a group of employees, organized on a majority basis, have bargained for with their employer and yet avoid paying his fair share of the bargaining costs. . . .

"Some would say legislating an 8-hour day was an infringement on the freedom of the individual to work himself to death 16 hours a day in a factory.

"In my judgment, that is a perverse view of freedom."

The full text of Kuchel's letter to the disgruntled businessman is carried on page 4.

Survey Ordered of Job-Creating Projects Afoot

A survey of all state programs aimed at creating new jobs has just been ordered by Governor Edmund G. Brown.

The Governor appointed state Resource Agency Administrator Hugo Fisher as temporary head of a new Job Development Program and indicated that Fisher would be assisted by William Becker of the Governor's staff.

In a memo to key state officials, the Governor called for cooperation in stimulating job development programs and said:

"To begin with I would like a quick inventory of all state programs designed to create new employment. The urgency of effective action on this front is, I am sure, clear to all."

Fisher is expected to be involved in the program for about 45 days.

Senate Approves Bill To Reform Immigration Law

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companion version approved by the House a month ago is that the Senate bill imposes an annual ceiling of 120,000 on immigration within the Western Hemisphere. Such a provision had also been added to the House bill but was knocked out prior to final House passage.

This difference, which would end this nation's traditional "open door" policy for immigrants from Western Hemisphere nations, will be taken up in a Joint Senate-House Conference Committee to reconcile the difference between the two bills.

The immigration policy reform bill would replace the 41-year-old national origins quota system with what amounts to an annual world quota on immigration from non-Western Hemisphere nations of 170,000 with a limit of 20,000 from any one country.

Since it is estimated that some 60,000 non-quota entries such as the spouses, parents and children of U.S. citizens would also be admitted annually, total immigration after the bill goes into effect in 1968 is expected to be about 350,000. This is slightly higher than the total annual immigration figures for recent years.

Growers Low Pay Stand Perils Grape Workers

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Counties, with the growers reportedly trying to drive the workers out of farm labor camps by dumping their clothing and personal effects on the ground, locking the housing facilities and turning off utilities.

On Monday, apparently in an effort to intimidate the striking workers, a relative of one of the grape growers reportedly tore a picket sign from a car, threw it on the ground and blasted it with a shotgun. Subsequently the gun welder was arrested and booked at the Delano jail for brandishing a weapon in a threatening manner and released on bail.

The strike, now involving more than 2,000 farm workers, was called by the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, in the Delano area, last week after the growers refused to recognize AWOC as bargaining agent and meet the \$1.40 hourly minimum sought by AWOC.

AWOC Director C. Al Green said the growers are presently paying only \$1.20 and ten cents a box, more than 14 percent less than the \$1.40 an hour or 25 cents a box the workers received in Coachella Valley last Spring.

Earlier Green wired Governor Edmund G. Brown urging him to "stop the grape growers in the Delano area from mistreating the agricultural workers who are on strike." He also urged citizens who would like to help the farm workers to write Governor Brown to demand an investigation of the Delano area situation.

A newly formed independent organization known as the National Farm Workers Association headed by Caesar Chavez has "joined hands" with the AWOC to win the strike, Green said.

No imported foreign farm workers are involved in the grape harvest. Traditionally the grape harvest has offered higher wages than the tomato harvest and attracted all the workers it needed. The grape growers current refusal to recognize that a significant wage increase is long overdue has, temporarily at least, reversed that situation with the ironic twist that imported foreign workers are now earning substantially more in California's fields than many domestic workers.

Strawberry Growers Don't Need Braceros

In another development in the farm labor field this week, the California Strawberry Advisory Board announced

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districting plan for both houses by the December 9 deadline, an alternative plan drafted by the State Supreme Court which calls for a number of at-large elections automatically goes into effect.

Details of the Lower House reapportionment plan were expected to be firmed out sometime this week and submitted to an Assembly vote possibly sometime next week, Allen, chairman of the Assembly Elections and Reapportionment Committee, said.

Similarly, the state's Upper House was busy attempting to draft its redistricting bill but there was no indication yet when its plan might be completed.

REHEARING SOUGHT

Governor Brown has asked the State Supreme Court for a rehearing on its redistricting ruling on grounds that "the confusion of at-large districts with multiple candidates will only render our legislature less responsible and less responsive."

On the Medicare issue, the Governor said:

"If we fail to take early action on the state program to implement the federal medicare provisions we will be faced with the loss of some \$6.5 million in

in Santa Clara following a meeting of the Board's 19 industry representatives that the State's smaller growers who account for 70 per cent of the State's crop, could get along without braceros.

"It's the consensus of the industry representatives that we can get the job done at the smaller grower level without Mexican labor," board manager Malcolm S. Douglas said.

"The formula seems to be a combination of an hourly wage and an incentive rate producing almost twice as much work or income as last year—plus clean, comfortable living quarters, washing machines, television, radios, good food and transportation to town."

Douglas was quoted as saying that one grower found success this year with a \$1.40 hourly guarantee plus 15 cents for the average "conscientious worker."

Last year the smaller strawberry growers hired 7,000 foreign workers. This year, they reported, they used none. The shift to U.S. workers resulted in a boost in hourly wages for the workers from \$1 to \$1.40 (40 percent) without any substantial increase in consumer prices while growers profits were at least equal to previous years, the Board reported.

Grape growers take note and shape up.

federal money each month beginning in January, 1966."

But Paul D. Ward, State Health and Welfare Agency Administrator, pointed out on Wednesday that even if the Legislature does pass enabling legislation, it may be some time in March before state-financed benefits can be made available to some 1.2 million eligible Californians.

PAPER WORK CITED

This, he said, is because it will take that long to prepare the paper work necessary for the massive project.

Ward explained that Title 19 of Public Law 8997, the 1965 Social Security Amendments Act, will provide federal money as of January 1 for hospital care for welfare recipients. Title 18a and 18b will expand this program to the aged on July 1.

But the state supplementation for Title 19 will provide a substantially increased medical care program for 973,000 California welfare recipients and for 200,000 others medically indigent not on public welfare rolls but who have family incomes of \$6,200 annually or less.

A bill to permit the state to qualify for the \$6.5 million a month in federal money has been introduced in the current special session by Assemblyman Jack T. Casey (D-Bakersfield).

The eligibility of elderly persons to receive federal aid for hospital care after July 1 and sign up for an optional plan to cover doctor's bills and other medical expenses for \$3 a month is not affected either way by the Casey measure.

The Casey measure would merely clear the way for additional hospital, doctor and outpatient services for all welfare recipients and the 200,000 medically indigent with family incomes not exceeding \$6,200 a year.

PRESIDENTIAL ISSUES

The presidential succession amendment provides that if the President becomes incapacitated due to illness or other reasons he may declare his inability and the Vice-President will become "Acting President."

If the President is disabled but unable to declare his inability (due to unconsciousness) or refuses to declare it (due to mental infirmity) the Vice President may obtain the approval of a majority of the cabinet and then notify the Congress of the President's inability.

Upon doing so the Vice President immediately becomes "Acting President."

The amendment assumes that cabinet members, as those closest to the President, are best prepared to determine his condition.

Here's Why Kuchel Favors Repeal of Sect. 14(b)

Here is the text of a letter sent by U.S. Senator Thomas H. Kuchel last month to a businessman who objected to the Senator's stand in favor of repeal of section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act.

"Dear Mr. ———:

"I have your comments on the repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act. Because I favor repeal does not mean I favor coercion of individual workers. It simply means I favor national applicability of one labor policy in a society where industry and workers know no state lines.

"If America desires a closed shop or a union shop or an open shop, let us decide that issue by established legislative processes, and then let us adhere to the policy until it is changed or amended by orderly process. In enacting the Taft-Hartley Act, the Congress prohibited a closed shop and expressed its support for a union shop unless a state used its option and declared for an open shop.

"It is this latter provision with which I disagree, for I deeply believe that in national public policies we must be one country, not 50 separate states, each going its own way. Public policies which involve interstate commerce and those matters which cross state lines are, and should be, subject to uniform federal jurisdiction under our Constitution.

"Certainly policies arising under the Commerce Clause, such as those deal-

ing with labor-management relations are one such area.

"Questions dealing with the civil rights of our citizens are another area.

"Would it make sense, in your judgment, to have a national civil rights law and then permit Governor Wallace and the Alabama legislature to option out from under it if they so desired?

"Would it make sense, in your judgment, to pass a national minimum wage of \$1.25 an hour (the current law) and then permit a state, if its legislature so decided to option out from under that minimum?

"Of course, it wouldn't.

"And neither does it make any sense to do this in labor law. If one believes in anarchy, such a policy does make sense. If one believes in orderly government, such a policy does not make sense.

"The misnamed 'right-to-work' laws mean one thing: low wages and cheap labor. To say that they promote individual freedom is simply to confuse the issue. I fail to see how freedom is promoted when an individual cannot join together with a majority of his colleagues on the job to petition his employer for a redress of his grievances and to bargain collectively with his employer for improvement of wages and working conditions.

"Both political parties in this country have long favored collective bargaining as the peaceful way to resolve labor-management disputes.

"Right-to-work laws do not promote

free collective bargaining. They do promote and encourage a 'Freddie Free-loader' mentality whereby an individual can receive all the benefits which a group of employees, organized on a majority basis, have bargained for with their employer and yet avoid paying his fair share of the bargaining costs.

"Only one 'right-to-work' state has a Fair Employment Practices Act, while about 70 percent of the non-right-to-work states have such laws.

"Only a quarter of the 'right-to-work' states have a minimum standard child labor law while almost three-fifths of the non-right-to-work states have such laws.

"Only one 'right-to-work' state has an unemployment insurance maximum weekly benefit of at least \$48 as compared to almost half of the non-right-to-work states. And so on in other areas of protective worker legislation.

"Now as to wages. In California, the 1963 annual average hourly earning rate in manufacturing was \$2.88/hour. In Mississippi, a 'right-to-work' state, the average hourly rate in manufacturing was \$1.69. In North Carolina, it was \$1.68. In South Carolina, it was \$1.71. In Virginia, it was \$1.96 and so on.

"You mention that I am a member of a party formed on the basis of freedom of the individual. You are absolutely correct. Freedom of the individual was one of the overriding reasons for the formation of the Republican Party.

"So was equality of opportunity.

"The art of government is to assure progress in our society for all people and to reconcile the desires of each person to go his own way with the common good of all people. The Republican Party, as you probably are well aware, authored the 8-hour day. It was our party that eliminated the so-called 'yellow-dog' contract.

"Some would say legislating an 8-hour day was an infringement on the freedom of the individual to work himself to death 16 hours a day in a factory.

"In my judgment, that is a perverse view of freedom."

s/THOMAS H. KUCHEL

Beware of Racketeers Trying To Bilk Medicare Recipients

Retired union members and other senior citizens should be on guard against racketeers posing as social security officials who offer to register them for medicare at a "special discount" premium and charge a fee for doing so.

Although complaints against such phony operators have been reported in New York and Texas, social security officials in San Francisco said this week that none have yet been reported in California.

They pointed out that every legitimate social security official who goes into the field has an official identification card which citizens should demand to see.

Participation in the basic medicare hospitalization program, the officials emphasized, is FREE.

Persons already receiving social security benefits will automatically receive enrollment cards before benefits

become effective next July 1.

Those who are 65 but do not qualify for cash benefits under social security at present are also entitled to medicare but must sign up for it. However in either case there is no charge whatsoever for the basic medicare hospitalization benefits.

In addition to the basic hospitalization benefits, senior citizens will be afforded an opportunity to sign up for an optional voluntary medical insurance program to help pay bills for doctors' services and other medical items not covered by the hospital insurance program. This coverage will cost \$3 per month but no registration fee of any kind will be charged for it.

In short, anyone contacted by persons posing as social security officials who offer them a special deal on signing up for medicare coverage of any kind should contact their local social security office before shelling out any money.

Bonding Bill Wins Final OK

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Labor Committee said the extra charge required because of the language in the Landrum-Griffin Act represented a "frittering away of union funds" and "a shameful waste of the assets which the Act seeks to protect."

Under the new language, the committee added, there is no reason to think that union funds will not be as well protected.