

# Pitts Urges Extension of Medical Care

Strong support for a bill to expand medical care coverage to some 750,000 more Californians subsisting on marginal incomes was voiced this week by the state AFL-CIO.

In a wire to Assemblyman Jack T. Casey, Chairman of the Lower House Committee on Social Welfare, Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, urged enactment of the measure (AB 5) in its present form during the current special session to "assure the people of California that federal grants allocated to the state will be utilized fully in the welfare of those aged and other persons including family persons whose annual income is insufficient to meet their health needs.

"For too long," Pitts wrote, "many elderly people and many low income families have had insufficient means to purchase the medical care now available to most of the population. We believe AB 5 will do much to remedy this injustice . . . (and) urge your committee to report favorably on AB 5."

As presently drafted the bill, an

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## Unusual Test Vote on Repeal of Sect. 14(b) Due in Senate Today

Administration forces striving to break the Senate filibuster against repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act were scheduled to take an unusual step today to test Senate sentiment on the issue. Although anti-labor forces concede that a majority of the nation's Senators favor repeal, they have made it clear that they plan to use every parliamentary procedure possible to thwart the democratic process.

### FLSA Bill Shelved?

Efforts to win House passage of a bill to raise the federal minimum wage and extend its coverage during the current session have been abandoned according to press reports yesterday.

Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (D-New York), chairman of the House Labor Committee had planned to call the bill up next Monday but has now reportedly agreed to return the bill to Committee for revisions.

The reason given for the decision, the report said, was because, in its present form, it was liable to be badly beaten due to opposition from conservative Re-

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THOS. L. PITTS  
Executive  
Secretary-Treasurer

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## COPE Bares Plans To Use Computers In 1966 Voter Registration Campaign

Modern data processing techniques will be used by AFL-CIO unions in the nine-county San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area for the first time next year to get set for the 1966 congressional elections, Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Council on Political Education (COPE) disclosed this week.

The program, one of three pilot projects just authorized by the national AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education, will cover about 400,000 union members in Ala-

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## Seven More COPE Workshops Set

Actions needed to gear up organized labor's political efforts for the 1966 elections will be among the subjects to be aired at seven additional California Labor COPE Workshops scheduled throughout the state this month and next.

Subjects to be aired include interview and endorsement techniques; local-state and national COPE financing; and issues

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## Grape Growers' Ploy Backfires

What appears to have been a desperate effort by Delano area grape growers to break the month-long farm workers strike against sub-poverty level wages in Kern and Tulare Counties backfired this week.

Following a radio appeal by the Philippine Consul General in Los Angeles urging Filipino grape pickers "to avoid acts which would be against law and order" and to return to work, a delegation of Filipino workers picketed the Consul General's office in Los Angeles Wednesday and the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, which is leading the strike collected petitions signed by hundreds of strikers demanding the recall of Consul General

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# Unusual Test Vote on Repeal of Sect. 14(b) Due in Senate Today

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motion to take up the bill. Such a motion is not debatable.

Proponents of repeal will then vote against the motion to table. This is designed to provide an index to the preponderance of Senate sentiment for repeal.

Asserting that he had no illusions about the Senate's predicament, Mansfield pointed out that opposition to the repeal measure is such and "the rules of the Senate are such that final disposition of 14(b) can be delayed for weeks or months."

And Senator Pat McNamara (D-Michigan), Floor manager for the bill, declared:

"I'm sure we have the votes for passage—if we can get a vote."

The House of Representatives approved repeal of Section 14(b) by a 221 to 203 vote last July 28.

Section 14(b) has resulted in more than 40 bitter and costly battles in states

throughout the nation during the past 18 years against imposition of compulsory open shop terms on workers and employers alike. The Section is inconsistent with long-established national policy in support of union shop agreements.

In announcing his firm stand in support of repeal of Section 14(b) recently, California's senior Senator Thomas H. Kuchel also zeroed in on this point saying:

**"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 in those matters which cross state lines are, and should be, subject to uniform federal jurisdiction under our constitution . . .**

**"Would it make sense," Kuchel asked, "to pass a national minimum wage of \$1.25 an hour and then permit a state, if its legislature so decided, to option out from under that minimum?"**

**"Of course, it wouldn't," he declared.**

## Regal Shoes Now Carry the Union Label

Whether you are down at the heels with holes in your soles or just decide to buy a new pair of shoes for a change of pace, you can make your footwear purchases serve double duty if you insist on shoes with the union label—like Regal Shoes, for instance.

Plans for an intensive drive to urge union members and their families to buy Regal Shoes, which now carry the label of the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, have just been announced by Joseph Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO's national Union Label and Service Trades Department.

The drive stems from an agreement signed earlier this year with the Brown Shoe Company of St. Louis, Missouri, producers of Regal Shoes, calling for the BSWU label to appear in all Regal Shoes, Lewis explained.

Since Regal Shoe Stores and leased departments in 16 states and the District of Columbia will be keeping a tally of the number of requests they have for shoes with the union label, union members, their families and friends can contribute to union solidarity and demonstrate their belief that a fair day's work deserves a fair day's wage by insisting on shoes bearing the union label.

## Signup Opens For Classes on Labor at USF

Registration for the University of San Francisco's Labor-Management School is currently under way for courses to be held each Wednesday evening from October 20 to December 15.

The courses, open only to union members, management representatives and persons interested in the personnel or labor relations fields, will be presented in two periods, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and from 8:45 to 9:45 p.m.

Included are courses on public speaking, parliamentary practice, directives for avoiding labor law violations, labor economics and problems, and a grievance procedure clinic.

Registration and tuition for the one-hour courses—public speaking or parliamentary practice—cost \$8. The other courses, all of which are for two hours, cost \$15.

Interested persons may register at Campion Hall at the University from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on week days or between 6 and 9 p.m. in Kendrick Hall at Fulton and Parker Streets, San Francisco on opening day. For further information phone 752-1000.

## Reapportionment Of Supervisorial Districts Ordered

Realignment of scores of county supervisorial districts throughout the state appeared likely this week following a decision handed down by the State Supreme Court September 30 directing Santa Clara County to reapportion its five supervisorial districts to comply with the U.S. Supreme Court's "one-man, one-vote" ruling.

The state high court gave Santa Clara County 90 days to do the job and stipulated that "no district shall contain more than 23 percent nor less than 17 percent of the overall population of the county."

In Los Angeles County, for example, one of the five supervisorial districts (the First District, presently represented by Frank G. Bonelli) contains more than 26 percent of the county's estimated 1964 population of 6,656,968 and two other districts are just barely within the 17 percent minimum.

San Francisco, on the other hand, will be unaffected by the decision since its supervisors are elected on an at-large basis.

Although current population figures for supervisorial districts on a county by county basis were not immediately available, disparities in voter registration between supervisorial districts in specific counties serve as a guide to counties which may have to reapportion their supervisorial district boundaries to comply with the spirit of the court's decision.

In Alameda County, for example, according to the state report of registration as of January 1, 1965, the first supervisorial district contained 56,601 voters compared to 131,503 voters in the second district.

In Contra Costa County the fifth district contained 27,877 voters compared to 55,792 in the fourth district.

In Kern County the fourth and fifth districts contained less than 8,000 voters apiece while the first, second and third districts represented 2½ to 5 times that number of registered voters.

Among other counties with similar disparities in the number of registered voters per supervisorial district are: Alpine; Amador; Calaveras; Del Norte; El Dorado; Fresno; Glenn; Imperial; Inyo; Lake; Madera; Marin; Mariposa; Merced; Mono; Monterey; Napa; Nevada; Orange; Placer; San Benito; San Diego; Santa Barbara; Santa Clara; Sonoma; Sutter; Tulare; Ventura and Yuba.

# COPE Bares Plans To Use Computers In 1966 Voter Registration Campaign

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meda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma.

Its primary aim is to reduce to a matter of hours the months of work that previously went into maintaining card files and checking the voter registration status of union members by using data processing and computer equipment, but it will also open the door to scores of other uses, Pitts explained.

"In view of the forthcoming off-year elections and the impending redistricting of the state legislature, its is absolutely essential for us to sharpen our education tools and techniques in every way possible," the state AFL-CIO leader said.

"The national executive council's decision to include the San Francisco Bay Area as one of the three pilot projects in this modernization program stems in part from a statewide survey initiated and conducted by California Labor COPE in 1963 of California counties using or planning to use computers in voter registration work. So we're particularly pleased to be one of the first states to update its techniques in this field," he added.

The computerized operation will function as follows:

Mailing lists and other data from international and local unions will be fed into the computer's memory bank. This information will be programmed to provide data processing cards of the area's union membership.

The union cards will be matched against a similar stack of data processing cards obtained from each of the

counties involved to determine the registration status and precinct of each member.

This will enable the COPE computer center to provide local county COPEs with two stacks of data processing cards—one showing their registered members and the other their unregistered members. In addition, the computer center will enable the local COPEs to order these cards on any congressional, legislative or special district basis they need.

"What this means is that an enormous amount of volunteer time will be freed for the vital task of educating and informing our members of the qualifications of various candidates and the significance and ramifications of critical local, state and federal issues," Pitts said.

Another advantage of the computerized setup, he explained, is that it will enable COPE to put out mailings to all unregistered members to urge them to register or to dispatch educational materials to all members in a specific district.

For example, a copy of a letter may be programmed into the memory bank of the computer printer which will then print the letter, stuff it, and address envelopes to any category of union members specified such as those who are unregistered or those in a particular legislative district.

Several organization meetings have already been held with union leaders in the nine Bay Counties involved. Further details of the project are scheduled to be ironed out at a meeting with national COPE director Al Barkan later this month.

The other pilot projects will be in Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

# Ploy by Grape Growers in Delano Misfires

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Alejandro Holigores for being used as "a tool of the growers."

Upshot of the episode, AWOC Director C. Al Green said, was merely to anger the Filipino workers and redouble their resolve to continue the strike.

Holigores had said that the growers told him they could not afford the 20 cent an hour raise sought by AWOC and the Independent National Farm Workers' Association headed by Caesar Chavez which has joined forces with AWOC in the strike.

Subsequently however, Holigores backtracked saying: "It is furthest from my mind to interfere with any union movements or activities."

"Unionism," he added, "is very good; my government recognizes trade unionism as the only effective way for collective bargaining with employers."

The striking workers, now numbering more than 3500 out of a total work force of about 5000 have asked the growers for \$1.40 an hour and a piece rate of 25 cents instead of the \$1.20 an hour and 10-cent piece rate that existed when the strike began September 8. They also seek union recognition.

But thus far the 31 growers involved have flatly refused to even discuss the issues with the workers' representatives.

Meanwhile interest in and support for the striking workers is growing both within organized labor and among concerned civic and religious groups throughout the state.

Last weekend a car caravan departed from the Alameda County Labor Temple Saturday morning and converged on the Delano area with more than a ton of food and hundreds of dollars in cash, including more than \$700 donated by local unions in Alameda County.

Similar projects to keep the strikers going are presently being organized in Fresno, Madera, Kings, Stanislaus, Merced, Tuolumne and Los Angeles Counties.

Food donations may be sent to the AWOC Hall at 1457 Glenwood Street, Delano, California. Monterey contributions should be made payable to the Farm Workers Organizing Assistance Fund and sent to the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, 995 Market Street, Room 810, San Francisco, Calif. 94103.

# 'Review' By State PUC Leads To Cut In General Telephone Phone Rates

With a little (?) prodding from the State Public Utilities Commission, the General Telephone Company has agreed to knock \$7 million off its phone charges because of excess earnings.

The rate reduction pact resulted following an extensive review of the company's books, earnings, service and other factors by the PUC. Last year the firm had gross revenues of

\$196 million and net earnings of \$36 million. That indicates a whopping 18 percent profit on sales.

Little items like this raise questions: Like do Birch Society members, whose rallying cry is "less government and more responsibility," honestly believe that the firm would have had enough public responsibility to reduce its rates if no government agency had been riding herd on it?

## Seven More COPE Workshops Slated

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that serve as a basis for political action.

As part of the last category, the workshops which are conducted by Assistant State COPE Director Fred C. Smith in collaboration with local COPE officials, includes a detailed report on such issues as workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance, disability insurance and the impact of the Medicare program by Clint Fair, Director of Social Insurance for the California Labor Federation.

Seven workshops, involving participation from local unions and councils in 15 counties have already been held since the series was launched last month.

Upcoming workshops already scheduled are listed below. Union members interested in attending should contact their local union or central labor body for further information. Here's the schedule:

**Alameda County**, Monday, October 11, at the Edgewater Inn, 455 Hegenberger Road, Oakland.

**Santa Clara County**, Saturday, October 16, at the Hyatt House in San Jose.

**Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties**, Saturday, October 23, at the Carpenter's Hall at 2641 Loma Vista Road, Ventura.

**Orange County**, Sunday, October 24, at Wilbur Clark Crest Hotel on Freedman Way in Anaheim.

**San Diego**, a two-day workshop Friday and Saturday, October 29-30, at the El Cortez Hotel in San Diego.

**San Bernardino County**, Saturday, November 6, at the I.B.E.W. Hall at 660 South I Street, San Bernardino.

**Fresno-Madera Counties**, originally scheduled for October 9 has been rescheduled for Saturday, November 13 at the California Hotel in Fresno.

## Action on FLSA Bill Shelved for Session?

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publicans and some southern and western Democrats.

At present the bill calls for a \$1.75 hourly minimum to become effective by July 1, 1968 and extension of coverage to 7.9 million more workers, including 1.3 million farm workers. The minimum wage for farm workers, however, would be only \$1.15 an hour as of July 1, 1966, and rise to only \$1.25 as of July 1, 1968.

Special interest forces are apparently lobbying hard to slash the \$1.75 hourly minimum to \$1.60 or \$1.50 and reduce or eliminate the extension of coverage to farm workers and hotel and restaurant employees.

The AFL-CIO, on the other hand, has called for at least a \$2.00 minimum.

## U. S. Is a 'Vast Insane Asylum Run By Worst Inmates,' Bircher Claims

Robert Welch, the leader of the John Birch Society, charged this week that the United States is not only "one vast insane asylum but they're letting the worst patients run the place," press reports said.

Welch, a retired candy manufacturer, dismissed charges leveled recently by top Republican leaders that the Birch Society is trying to infiltrate and "steal" the Republican Party saying:

"This is utterly ridiculous because we are not interested in petty larceny."

Speaking in Oklahoma City on Monday, Welch also charged that the newly enacted immigration law would allow

"unmeasured floods" of Communists to enter the United States.

The truth, however, is that the new law eliminates the discriminatory "national origins" quota system and closes the door to unlimited immigration from western hemisphere nations for the first time.

Wild, unsubstantiated, fear-filled charges such as these are typical of the irresponsible tactics used by the Birch Society. Such charges have the effect, whether by design, ignorance or stupidity, of inciting a blind distrust of local, state and national government officials among citizens who are simply uninformed of the true facts.

## State AFL-CIO Urges Extension of Med. Care to Low Income Groups

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urgency measure which would become operative January 1, 1966, would provide a system of prepaid health and "related remedial or preventative services" to persons on public welfare, to the medically indigent aged and to others such as families whose annual income is insufficient to meet health care costs.

Coverage would include laboratory and X-ray fees, physicians services, home health care and private duty nursing services, drugs, dentures, eyeglasses,

dental services and outpatient clinic and physical therapy services.

The measure is designed to dovetail into the recently enacted medicare program which will pump an additional \$200 million in federal funds into existing programs.

Although the bill itself becomes operative on January 1, actual benefits may not become available until July 1 or possibly April 1, 1966, depending on how long it takes to work out the details of insurance coverage, state officials explained.

## Nelson Reappointed To U.I. Appeals Board

Lowell Nelson, a former vice president of the California Labor Federation and member of the Executive Board of the State Building Trades Council, has been reappointed to the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board.

In announcing his reappointment, Governor Edmund G. Brown said:

"Mr. Nelson has served most effectively and demonstrated outstanding abilities and fairness. It is a pleasure to reappoint him to this important board."

Originally appointed to the board in 1963, his reappointment will be for four years. Nelson had served earlier as Chief of the Division of Housing in the State Department of Industrial Relations and prior to that was secretary of the Solano County Central Labor Council. He lives in Vallejo.

## Unions May Fine Members Who Cross Picket Lines

A union has a right to fine members for crossing a union picket line during a strike.

This position was upheld by the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago recently when it denied a review petition filed by the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company in cases involving the United Automobile Workers.

The Court's action upheld the National Labor Relation Board's decision growing out of action by UAW Locals 248 and 401 which voted to levy fines on about 200 members who crossed union picket lines during strikes against Allis-Chalmers plants in West Allis and LaCrosse, Wisconsin, in 1959 and 1962.