

WORKMEN'S COMP.

Parleys to Spell Out Details Of New Law

Two informational conferences for trade unionists will be held in Los Angeles and San Francisco early in January to spell out the operational details of the new California workmen's compensation program which provides benefits for workers injured on the job, state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts announced today.

Plans for the conferences were initiated by the California Labor Federation with the support of Governor Edmund G. Brown and other state officials.

While final details of the conferences have yet to be worked out, they will be designed to assure local union officials throughout the state an adequate understanding of the functions and services available under the expanded workmen's compensation program resulting from the legislature's enactment of AB 2023, a Federation-backed bill, at the last regular session.

In voicing his endorsement of the conferences, Governor Brown said:

"The aim of these conferences will be to clarify and explain the new procedures to be followed to make sure workers hurt on the job get the benefits to which they are entitled.

"They will also serve to clear up any misinterpretations that may be attributed to the various provisions of AB 2023.

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Employment Parley Pinpoints Need for State Action to Speed Up Job Growth

Proposals for state action in four broad policy areas to cope more effectively with California's urgent need to speed up job growth are set forth in the final report of the Governor's Conference on Employment held in Monterey early this month.

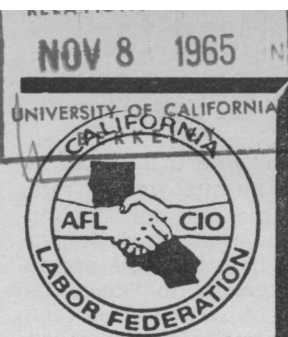
While noting that the state's excessive joblessness in recent years has

3.6% Pay Hike OK'd For U.S. Workers

A 3.6 percent pay hike retroactive to October 1 for 1.8 million federal employees won final Congressional approval last Friday just a matter of hours before the first session of the 89th Congress adjourned for the year.

The measure, scaled down from the 4 percent across-the-board boost ap-

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State Medicare Bill Encounters Rough Sledding in Senate

An Assembly-approved bill to provide comprehensive medical and health care for one million welfare recipients and 200,000 low-income families who don't earn enough to pay for adequate care ran into rough sledding before Senate Committees this week.

The bill, AB 5-Casey, is an urgency measure designed to implement the medicare legislation passed by Congress earlier this year.

It also provides coverage for uninsured costs of care in certain cases of catastrophic illness or accident.

Prior to Assembly approval of the measure Tuesday by a 69 to 5 vote, objections resulted in amending a concluding sentence in the measure that had said that the legislature intends to "broaden and revise the coverage provided by this act" at its budget session next spring.

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Plane Used To Press Delano Grape Strike

A volunteer "air force" came to the aid of striking grape workers in the Delano area this week to help the workers press their fight for decent wages and working conditions against growers who thus far have adamantly refused to even talk to worker representatives.

The "air force" consisted of a single plane piloted by two clergymen who flew to Delano Wednesday to help with the picketing but took to the air to survey the fields and urge the workers via a loudspeaker to join the strike, reports from Delano said.

Their action reflected the continuing support that is being generated among religious, civic and labor groups for the strikers.

Despite repeated grower efforts to intimidate and harass the strikers, morale is still high and only a fraction of the normal work force remains in the vineyards.

But the need for food to feed the workers and their children and funds to meet rent and other bills is still as pressing as ever. Food donations should be sent directly to AWOC strike headquarters at 1457 Glenwood

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Employment Parley Pinpoints Need for State Action to Speed Up Job Growth

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1. Encourage demand for labor by private industry.
2. Improve the quality and adaptability of the labor supply.
3. Supplement private employment by directly creating public sector jobs for disadvantaged groups.
4. Develop more adequate economic information and improve the manner by which economic policy is developed.

At the outset of the conference Governor Brown reminded the participants that the state's work force is now climbing by more than 200,000 a year and already exceeds seven million.

"Today we require about 225,000 new jobs a year to keep even with population growth," the Governor pointed out.

The Governor also noted the legislature's termination of the State Commission on Manpower, Automation and Technology and the Economic Development Agency and declared that both should be reinstated.

REPORT AGREES

The final report concurred with the Governor in this respect saying:

"It is imperative for the economic future of the state that a development agency with expanded activities . . . be reestablished as soon as possible."

The report suggested that the agency's function should include the provision of technical assistance to local communities and private industry to help develop new firms and plants to expand job opportunities as well as promotional activities to attract new industries to the state.

It also called for strong state leadership to tear down barriers to expanded public and private housing construction and to spur the development of housing programs under the federal housing legislation enacted this year.

ACTION LAUDED

The conference participants commended the state's initiative in contracting with the aerospace industries for analyses of such problem areas as transportation, waste management, a statewide information system and law enforcement and criminal justice and suggested that the Governor's Aerospace Industry Commission should be reconstituted as a tri-partite commission to develop recommendations for diversification and conversion of aerospace industry resources as federal defense and space needs change.

Contrasting the "rich variety of federal-state programs for training and vo-

cational education" with California's excessively high unemployment rates among young people, Negroes, Mexican-Americans and under-educated persons, the report urged both the state and interested private groups to "make the fullest and most efficient use of these programs." It especially recommended:

1. A vast expansion in on-the-job training programs.
2. A redoubling of efforts to find jobs for trainees.
3. Development of a bonding program to help individuals with prior offenses land jobs.

In connection with the direct creation of jobs for disadvantaged groups, the report pointed out that this is a public responsibility and urged accelerated state spending to create new jobs and career opportunities in such community service fields as teachers' aides and health care aides.

MORE DATA NEEDED

Recognizing that the development of effective programs in any of these areas is highly dependent on the adequacy of the state's information on population growth, industrial production, labor force changes, the characteristics of the unemployed, and similar information, the report called for a significant expansion of and improvement in the state's data collection and statistical services.

"At a minimum, data on the characteristics of the insured unemployed . . . and statistical information on the age, sex, occupation, and industrial characteristics of the employed should be made available," it said.

It also called for a nationwide population census every five years and suggested that so large a state as California could well afford to undertake quarterly population surveys to collect data on in-migration, population characteristics, labor force and employment status and the characteristics of the unemployed as well as job vacancy data.

The report suggested too that a council of economic advisors should be set up in the Governor's office to help formulate and evaluate the state's economic policies.

FEDERAL ACTION

Although the participants were primarily concerned with state actions, the consensus also indicated its support for pending congressional legislation to provide extended benefits, expanded coverage and federal standards for benefits in unemployment compensation; extension of the Fair Labor Stand-

3.6% Pay Hike OK'd For U.S. Workers

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proved by the House, won Senate approval Friday afternoon by a 67 to 0 vote.

The cut-back in the wage boost resulted after President Johnson objected that the 4 percent increase in the House bill would depart from the Administration's wage-price guidelines.

Subsequently, the House accepted the Senate version on a voice vote.

Earlier the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee deleted entirely a second year \$800 million boost but retained a key provision providing severance pay for federal classified and wage board employees who lose their jobs through no fault of their own.

Severance benefits would be based on length of service, with higher benefits for employees over 40.

The severance benefits would go to employees losing their jobs because of federal installation shut-downs, transfers of functions and other changes in government operations. Workers eligible for immediate annuities and those dismissed for cause, however, would not qualify for severance.

ards Act to uncovered groups; and the extension of the protections of the National Labor Relations Act, minimum wage coverage and jobless insurance to agricultural workers.

It also pointed out that full implementation of such recent federal legislation as the Manpower Development and Training Act, the Economic Development Act of 1965, the Economic Opportunity Act, the Vocational Education Act of 1963, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the 1965 social security amendments can be expected to have a significant effect on curbing joblessness and easing poverty during the next few years.

But the challenge presently confronting the state, the report said, is that of "insuring that the largest possible use is made of these services by the communities of California."

Labor officials participating in the Conference included Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts, President Albin J. Gruhn and General Vice President Manuel Dias of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO; Bryan P. Deavers, President of the State Building Trades Council; C. R. (Chet) Bartolini, Secretary of the Bay Counties' District Council of Carpenters; Einar O. Mohn, Director of the Western Conference of Teamsters; Max Osslo, President of the Western Federation of Butchers; and Paul Schrade, Director of the United Automobile Workers Region 6.

State Medicare Bill Finds Rough Sledding In Senate

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As amended, the provision pledges the legislature only to "review" the measure next year and revise it "if necessary."

On Wednesday, the Senate Governmental Efficiency Committee adopted a series of amendments aimed at curbing the authority of state Social Welfare Director J. M. Wedemeyer in administering medicare in California.

For example, one of the amendments transfers the right to appoint an 11-member Medicare Advisory Committee from the Social Welfare Director to the Governor.

Another provision directing the Department of Social Welfare to "perform social research by means of sampling and other techniques to evaluate the effects of an expanded medicare program" was amended to make such research projects optional rather than mandatory.

Other amendments adopted prior to Assembly passage called for all state and federal medicare funds to be funneled through a health care deposit fund in the state controllers office and eliminated the discretion initially bestowed on the state Social Welfare Director to determine beneficiaries and services by establishing a maximum standard.

As approved by the Assembly, each county is offered a ceiling on total medical care costs or the option of accepting a ceiling on poverty costs while retaining 10 percent of the increased federal medicare dollars.

The medicare bill, passed as part of the Social Security Amendments Act of 1965, is expected to result in California receiving \$6 to \$7 million a month in federal medicare funds.

Assemblymen voting against this labor-backed measure were: John L. E. Collier (R-Los Angeles); Gordon Duffy (R-Hanford); Burt N. Henson (D-Ventura); Howard J. Thelin (R-Glendale) and James E. Whetmore (R-Garden Grove). The Assembly minority floor leader, Robert T. Monagan (R-Tracy) did not vote on the bill.

40-Hour Week Fight Looms

Plans for a campaign to win enactment of a constitutional amendment to set the standard workweek in Mexico at 40 hours are being mapped by the Confederation of Mexican Workers. At present the Mexican workweek is 48 hours.

Stronger Equal-Time Rules Urged To Counter Extremist Broadcasts

Some 6,000 radio programs and nearly 100 television programs are broadcast each week by what can be fairly described as "right-wing extremists" and go unanswered "because there is no counter-force in America with the resources" to reply, AFL-CIO Public Relations Director Albert J. Zack told the National Conference on Broadcasting and Election Campaign.

"We in the AFL-CIO believe strongly in the free expression of opinion," he said, "since we have often suffered from its denial. But surely, in the national interest, there must be a more effective set of ground rules to insure that the expression of opinion is not only free but equal."

At the very least, Zack said, the Federal Communications Commission should enforce the present ground-rules more effectively.

He said that there are about 6,000 radio programs broadcast each week by what can fairly be described as "right wing extremists" and there are also almost 100 such programs on television.

Zack said that the 6,000 weekly programs "are an almost unbelievable chorus of syllogistic anthems in which the basic premise is false."

He pointed out that "the most flagrant and most widespread abuses in the general category of 'irresponsible political broadcasting' are carried on in the name of God."

"Specifically," he explained, "they are a little short on Christian charity."

Among "poisonous programs with sacramental names" Zack listed the 20th Century Reformation Hour; the Christian Crusade of Rev. Billy James Hargis, the Bible Institute of the Air and "secular equivalents like the Manion Forum."

"I have to admit that this particular God, as interpreted by the Rev. Billy James Hargis, the Rev. Carl McIntire and others, is not quite the same one most of us met in Sunday School. He has very pronounced and specific opinions on the issues of the day. And it seems to me that these opinions, as 'revealed' to the world by the electronic clergy, are out of phase with the basic Christian tenets as they are generally understood, at least by me."

Zack detailed how these extremists use as their targets not only the labor movement but Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson, the United Nations and the National Council of Churches—to name a few.

Most of these programs, he continued, are "embellished by prayers and psalm

Rich Get Richer

Those conservatives who believe the United States is on the rocks might find some solace in the current issue of U.S. News & World Report. There are now 90,000 millionaires in America, a seven-fold rise since 1948 when 13,000 of these richest of the rich were counted, U.S. News reports.

The magazine was less clear on how these millionaires built up total holdings of some \$250 billion than on how they plan to keep it.

Millionaires like corporate stock—not for dividends but for the capital gains tax limit of 25 percent, the article reported.

singing, reach millions of innocent, unsophisticated listeners — God-fearing people in the most fundamental, or fundamentalist, sense who are all too ready to believe that the agents of Satan are undermining the old, familiar society of the past."

"They go on day after day, week after week, largely unanswered," he said, "because there is no counter-force in America with resources to answer them, even if every licensed broadcaster eagerly offered equal time, for free."

A case example is the 20th Century Reformation Hour. Zack said that it is run "by an unfrocked clergyman named Carl McIntire, who is heard five days a week on 600 radio stations.

"At the very least, a rebuttal would require five scripts a week, attractively programmed, and somehow delivered in usable form to 600 stations. Who can afford it?"

He summed up the picture in this way:

"Surely, the airwaves, which belong to the nation, should not be so completely dominated by the weight of extremist money. Surely, it is not in the public interest for citizens in small towns—housewives, farmers and other good people who are parochial by environment—to be subjected to a one-sided barrage of hatred and suspicion, offered in the name of the God of Love."

Plane Used To Press Delano Grape Strike

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St., Delano. Checks payable to the Farm Workers Organizing Assistance Fund should be sent to the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, at 995 Market St., San Francisco.

The strike was called by the AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee Sept. 8 after the growers refused to offer more than \$1.20 an hour and a piece rate of 10 cents a box even though imported foreign workers in California are guaranteed a minimum hourly wage of \$1.40 and other benefits. The workers are seeking \$1.40 an hour, a 25 cent a box piece rate and union recognition.

Later the National Farm Workers Association and the Mexican-American Unity Council groups joined forces with AWOC to push for economic justice for the farm workers.

PROBE LAUNCHED

Last Friday, State Attorney General Thomas C. Lynch said his office is investigating charges that local law enforcement officers have discriminated against the strikers.

The Attorney General said that the investigation would be handled by agents who have already been in the strike area for two weeks and had reported that they had found no evidence of "police brutality."

But Lynch said that "discrimination" may be another matter, noting that the bail for pickets arrested for so-called "unlawful assembly" had been set at \$276 each while growers and grower representatives arrested for violence had been allowed to go free on their own recognizance.

The state probe, requested repeatedly by AWOC Director C. Al Green, was officially announced only after State Assemblyman Philip Soto (D-Los Angeles) wrote Lynch to urge him to end what Soto called discriminatory law enforcement in the grape pickers' strike in Delano.

"I have received numerous reports of the most biased law enforcement imaginable going on in the San Joaquin Valley," Soto wrote.

To confirm these reports, Soto said he had stopped in Kern County last week and "witnessed some of these abuses against workers myself."

"I think we have got to do something and do it fast if we don't want to see the growth of 'southern justice' right here in California. I hope the

Union Membership Climbs to 17.9 Million

Union membership in the United States, which has been dropping during the past 10 years, reversed that trend in 1964 and climbed to a total of 16,841,000 or almost 300,000 more than during the preceding year. Including Canadian affiliates, it was 17,976,000.

The AFL-CIO alone reported 15,150,000 members as compared with 14,835,000 in 1962, including most of the 1,100,000 Canadians who are members of Canadian divisions of U.S. unions.

Independent union membership was 2,825,000.

Despite the rise in membership, however, union membership in the United States as a proportion of the total labor force and of employees in non-agricul-

tural establishments has, in general, continued to drop.

During 1964 the number of union members was 21.9 percent of the total labor force as compared with 24.8 percent in 1956; and 28.9 percent of the non-agricultural labor force, as compared with 33.4 percent in 1956.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, sizeable membership gains during 1964 were reported by the United Automobile Workers, the Steelworkers, the Teamsters, and a number of public employee unions. There were some losses among unions in the railroad industry.

Here are the statistics exclusive of Canada:

| Year | Total union membership, (thousands) | Total labor force | | Employees in nonagricultural establishments | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| | | Number (thousands) | Percent union members | Number (thousands) | Percent union members |
| 1956..... | 17,490 | 70,387 | 24.8 | 52,408 | 33.4 |
| 1957..... | 17,369 | 70,744 | 24.6 | 52,894 | 32.8 |
| 1958..... | 17,029 | 71,284 | 23.9 | 51,368 | 33.2 |
| 1959..... | 17,117 | 71,946 | 23.8 | 53,297 | 32.1 |
| 1960..... | 17,049 | 73,126 | 23.3 | 54,203 | 31.5 |
| 1961..... | 16,303 | 74,175 | 22.0 | 53,989 | 30.2 |
| 1962..... | 16,586 | 74,681 | 22.2 | 55,515 | 29.9 |
| 1963..... | 16,559 | 75,712 | 21.9 | 56,643 | 29.2 |
| 1964..... | 16,841 | 76,971 | 21.9 | 58,188 | 28.9 |

attorney general can nip this thing in the bud.

Asserting that there is an apparent unwillingness of law enforcement agencies to enforce the law equally, Soto said:

"A few weeks ago one grower sprayed 16 workers with sulphur in the presence of law enforcement officers and several witnesses. The workers were temporarily blinded and suffered great pain but the officers refused to arrest the grower for this obvious assault.

"On the other hand, strikers have been arrested on the charge of disturbing the peace or unlawful assembly, for exercising their right of free speech by picketing and calling 'huelga' (strike) across the fields.

"These two cases examined side by side certainly smack of the 'southern justice' which has both disgusted and frightened all of us recently," he declared.

Just a few weeks ago Hector Abeytia, an official of the Mexican-American Unity Council and a former aide of

Governor Brown, was assaulted apparently without provocation by a party initially listed as an "unidentified assailant" even though the party's identity was known.

Last week Charles Dispoto, a brother of Bruno Dispoto whose vineyard is among those being struck in the area, was charged with assaulting Abeytia. He posted \$276 bail, the same bail required of strikers for merely trespassing, and was released.

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"I am happy to extend my support to the California Labor Federation's efforts in this regard and commend Tom Pitts, the State Department of Industrial Relations, the Industrial Accident Commission and other state departments for their foresight and initiative in developing the conference idea."

Dates for the conferences will be announced later.