

Factory Workers' Net Earnings Rise 2.5 to 3% in L.A., S.F.

Net earnings of the average factory worker with three dependents climbed 3.0 percent in the San Francisco-Oakland area and 2.5 percent in Los Angeles between September, 1964 and September, 1965, according to figures just released by the state Department of Industrial Relations.

The percentages, which reflect in part the higher degree of unionization in northern California than southern California, are based on the buying power of factory workers after deducting taxes and adjusting for changes in the Consumer Price Index.

On an hourly basis, factory workers' earnings in the Los Angeles-Long Beach area rose to \$3.02 in September, three cents higher than the previous month and 10 cents higher than a year earlier. The hourly average in the San Francisco Bay Area was \$3.29 in September, up three cents from August and 11 cents from September, 1964.

On a weekly basis the factory workers' gross average earnings in the Bay Area was \$133.25 in September or 4.2 percent above September, 1964. In Los Angeles it was \$122.91 or 4.7 percent higher than a year earlier.

In both areas, however, price increases whittled the "real" net spendable earnings down to the respective 3.0 percent in the Bay Area and 2.5 percent in Los Angeles.

The gain in buying power (net earnings) (Continued on Page 4)

CONSUMERS AWAKE!

Direct Local Action Urged To Spotlight Need For Truth-in-Lending and Packaging Laws

Calls for direct action by local community consumer groups such as trade unions and cooperatives to dramatize the grassroots demand for truth-in-lending and truth-in-packaging legislation—two of the AFL-CIO's six top goals in the next session of Congress—and other public interest legislation were sounded repeatedly at the Sixth Annual Convention of the

Automation Moves In On The Drive-Ins

Earlier this year a nationwide poll disclosed that more than 90 percent of the nation's adults do not regard automation as a threat to their own job security, but maybe that's just because they're in the dark about what's going on.

Ever since automatic pin setters re- (Continued on Page 4)



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State-U.S. Joblessness Gap Worsens Despite Dip to 346,000 Unemployed Here

Unemployment in California, at 346,000 persons in October, was greater than in all of Great Britain or Canada, and the state's seasonally adjusted jobless rate was 37 percent worse than the national average even though the state's joblessness edged downward for the second month in a row. This means that the Golden State, with barely 9 percent of the nation's population, has more than 12 percent of the nation's jobless; or, put another way, one out of every eight people in the nation actively seeking work are looking for it in California.

Although the state's total civilian employment of 7,003,000 represented a rise of 221,000 or 3.3 percent since October, 1964, this over-the-year comparison is distorted because a stoppage in auto assembly work last year

(Continued on Page 3)

Nat'l AFL-CIO Convention in S.F. Next Month

SAN FRANCISCO — long a strong union town — will play host to the nation's top labor leaders next month when the AFL-CIO's Sixth National Constitutional Convention gets under way December 9.

The convention, scheduled to run through December 15, is expected to attract more than 3,000 delegates and guests.

Headquarters hotel will be the St. Francis but many delegates will be accommodated at the San Francisco Hilton and other neighboring hotels such as the Del Webb which is closer to the Civic Auditorium where the convention will be held.

The official convention call dispatched to all AFL-CIO affiliates in the nation last month noted that this will be the 10th anniversary of the merger of the AFL-CIO and the CIO and declared that since the merger the organization "has been welded into true unity."

In reviewing progress and problems of the past two years, the call emphasized that it should be evident to every delegate that the legislative progress made during 1965 "was the direct result of the elections of 1964."

Whether the legislative program of (Continued on Page 3)

CONSUMERS AWAKE!

Local Action Urged to Win Truth-in-Lending and Packaging Laws

(Continued from Page 1)

ford Grady held a day-long hearing on the auto insurance cancellation issue at the State Building in San Francisco last Tuesday, and took the testimony under submission. The hearing was packed with consumer group spokesmen and representatives of the insurance industry.)

PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS

Principal speakers at the convention were Esther Petersen, Special Assistant to President Johnson for Consumer Affairs; the Reverend Robert J. McEwen, S.J., a member of President Johnson's Consumer Advisory Council; California's Consumer Counsel Helen Nelson, and Virna Canson, Community Action representative for the California Office of Economic Opportunity.

Mrs. Petersen, long a staunch trade unionist herself, expressed optimism about the chances for passage of fair packaging and truth-in-lending bills during the next session, but warned that they won't be "served to us on a platter."

"Legislation—even when its need is obvious—cannot be passed unless the public makes known its views," she declared.

Noting that California's congressional delegation alone accounts for nearly 9 percent of the nation's representatives in the lower house, she urged all Californians to write their congressmen on these issues.

PROGRESS CITED

Progress toward truth-in-lending legislation, she said, was evidenced by the fact that the Defense Department now requires that all contracts spell out the true annual rate of interest.

Both Father McEwen and Miss Canson emphasized the need for consumer groups to be organized on local city and town levels with action committees in each locality.

Citing a recent monthly report from the Food and Drug Administration on enforcement and compliance, Father McEwen noted that a Stockton firm was fined \$1,000 for holding beans under unsanitary conditions; a San Francisco dealer was charged with selling peas in Puerto Rico that had been contaminated by rodents; and in Los Angeles market rice was seized for being held under unsanitary conditions and contaminated by insects, and gauze bandages were seized on charges of being non-sterile and contaminated with mold.

NEED TO 'NEEDLE'

These examples just serve to illustrate that "a consumer association must be in a position to 'needle' any and every agency and official who is failing to

provide adequate consumer representation and protection," he declared.

No matter how good a job the Food and Drug Administration does, it can't hope to pick up every unscrupulous violator of the laws governing sanitary food preparation and handling unless consumer groups can effectively inform their own members about companies and products convicted of violations," he pointed out.

"Of what consequence is a \$1,000 fine if a company has made millions on the particular practice?" he asked.

SIDE TRACKING PLOY?

The Rev. McEwen also warned labor and consumer groups that special interests within the business community, recognizing the growing demand for adequate consumer protections, are apparently attempting to forestall federal and state action by setting up substitute procedures and agencies to be used to prove a lack of need for state or federal bodies.

"In many areas of the country, the local Better Business Bureaus are showing a new burst of activity. After all, these Bureaus are creatures of business and do not give a true and full consumer voice because their financing comes from business and their main focus is to prevent unfair competition between one business firm and another," he pointed out.

In a tribute to President Johnson, Father McEwen noted that the Administration had resisted pressures to put businessmen on the 12-member Consumer Advisory Council.

In an address to a morning session Saturday, Miss Canson emphasized that "lawlessness that steals and cheats must be dealt with just as much as lawlessness that burns and destroys."

PASS IT ON

To get effective consumer representation and effective consumer legislation, she said, all consumers must lay aside their timidity and laziness and develop the courage to "pass the word on."

Referring to consumer ignorance about the 15-ounce pound and deceptive packaging and weighing practices, she said:

"Let us tell it to our neighbors—tell him why and tell him what he can do."

She also urged direct action by local community consumer groups at the supermarket and in the retail stores, or wherever deceptive practices are employed.

Speaker after speaker also pinpointed

the special interest lobbies such as the California Retailers' Association and the oil, insurance and banking interests that have thus far succeeded in thwarting enactment of much of the major consumer legislation introduced in recent years.

But it remained for Professor Theodore Kreps of Stanford University who moderated a panel discussion on "Roadblocks to Progress" to crystalize the consumer's dilemma in a definition of politics.

"The art of politics," he said, "is that of getting money from the rich and votes from the poor on the pretext of protecting each from the other."

This is a point trade unionists and other consumers might well bear in mind in questioning candidates for public office next year.

At its concluding session on Sunday, the delegates adopted a series of resolutions calling, among other things, for:

- Development of quality control standards for the medicare program and reaffirming the association's support for prepaid health care for the entire nation.

- A substantial boost in the State Consumer Counsel's budget which was slashed from \$129,000 to \$89,000 during the last regular legislative session earlier this year due to heavy lobbying by the California Retailers Assn.

- Action by the State Public Utilities Commission to curb the use of deceptive estimates and other unfair or onerous practices engaged in by some household moving firms.

- Consumer protections for purchasers of packaged meats.

- Curbs on the amount of Vitamin D that may be added to food.

- Action to require compulsory bread enrichment in California.

- Opposition to further filling-in of the San Francisco Bay.

- Organization of local consumer associations and the development of a more effective and coordinated consumer movement.

- Better inspection and control of meat and meat products.

- Development of programs to distribute surplus foods to low-income consumers.

- Acceleration of consumer information and consumer protection services for the poverty stricken and other low income groups.

- Expansion of the food stamp plan.

- Inclusion of consumer education courses at all levels in the state's public schools.

State-U.S. Joblessness Gap Worsens Despite Dip to 346,000 Unemployed Here

(Continued from Page 1)

lowered the October, 1964, employment level. So the over-the-year employment gain is not as good as it looks.

And even the distorted 221,000 figure falls below the 225,000 new jobs a year Governor Brown has said the state needs just to keep even with the population growth.

"All of these factors serve to point up the urgent need for effective state action to stimulate job creation in both the public and private sectors of California's economy," state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts observed. Such action was specifically recommended in the final report issued by the Governor's Conference on Employment which was held in Monterey last month.

RATE UNCHANGED

The state's seasonally adjusted jobless rate of 5.9 percent was unchanged from the previous month, but was below the October, 1964, rate of 6.2 percent.

The state Department of Employment said the over-the-year decrease stemmed from increased job opportunities as well as expanding youth anti-poverty programs.

California's total civilian labor force, comprised of the employed and the unemployed available for and seeking work, was 7,349,000 last month, or 212,000 higher than the 7,137,000 in October 1964.

On the federal level, the seasonally adjusted job rate of 4.3 percent reflected 2.8 million jobless, the lowest level in eight years, according to the U.S. Labor Department.

On a sex and age basis, the nation's jobless included one million adult men, one million adult women, and 800,000 teenagers.

At 73,196,000, the nation's employment set a record for October.

Arthur M. Ross, formerly with the Institute of Industrial Relations at the

New Film To Help Schools Under Attack

The National Committee for support of the public schools, has produced several 30-minute films including a panel discussion titled "When Extremists Attack the Schools." This 16mm film is available for organizational showings from the committee at 1424 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

University of California who has just taken over as Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, emphasized at his first news conference that it is important that the people of the nation understand what the government's jobless statistics are intended to show.

The unemployment figures, he said, indicate not only those suffering acute economic distress, but those not participating as fully as they wish in the nation's economic life.

RIGHT FOCUS VITAL

It is essential, he said, to think of the jobless problem in terms of people rather than the unemployment rate.

As an example, he noted that the 2.6 percent unemployment rate for adult men looks like a low figure, but, he pointed out, "it is a million people."

On the other hand, he pointed out, that joblessness among Negro girls at 25 percent indicates an apparently hopeless situation. But this figure involves only 74,000 persons, he said.

Unemployment among non-whites, most of which are Negroes, at 7.9 percent, was still nearly double the white rate, he pointed out.

Non-whites, he added, numbering 550,000, accounted for one-fifth of total unemployment in October.

In Los Angeles, total joblessness declined 3,900 from the previous month and 2,900 over the year to 150,900 last month. Despite the numerical decline, the area's adjusted jobless rate of 5.7 percent was slightly higher than in September but below the 5.9 percent reported a year earlier.

Total employment in Los Angeles County was at a record high of 2,822,300 last month as a result of job increases in defense and space-related industries and increased government employment stemming from public school expansion.

In the San Francisco-Oakland area joblessness rose from 52,400 the previous month to 53,600 in October. In October, 1964, however, 58,000 workers were jobless.

The area's adjusted jobless rate was 4.9 percent last month compared to 4.7 percent a month earlier, and 5.5 percent in October, 1964.

Total civilian employment in the area, at 1,248,400 was 43,300 or 3.6 percent above the year-earlier level but 700 below the previous month. The over-the-year job growth was centered in government, trade and services, the state report said.

Nat'l AFL-CIO Convention in S.F. Next Month

(Continued from Page 1)

1965 can be carried on into 1967 and 1968 depends upon the elections of 1966.

"Therefore, with the 1966 election less than a year away, we have an obligation to ourselves, our program and our country to start now on a campaign to preserve and strengthen the progressive majority in the Congress," the call declared.

Prior to the full convention, various national departments of the AFL-CIO will hold separate conventions. These are scheduled in San Francisco as follows: Building Trades, December 1, 2, 3; Metal Trades, Dec. 6 and 7; Union Label Dept. Dec. 6 and 7; and the Maritime Trades Dept. Dec. 6, 7, and 8.

The Industrial Union Department will hold its preconvention meeting in Washington, next Thursday and Friday, November 18 and 19.

Although many details of the convention program have yet to be finalized, it is understood that the San Francisco Central Labor Council is arranging for special Harbor tours for the delegates on Sunday, December 12, and has scheduled a luncheon and fashion show for delegates' wives on Tuesday, December 14.

A conference for AFL-CIO Regional Directors and Assistant Regional Directors to discuss the national situation will be held Saturday and Sunday, December 11 and 12.

The AFL-CIO International Labor Press Association will hold its first biennial convention, a five-day affair, from Saturday, December 4 through Wednesday, December 8, at the Jack Tar Hotel.

The theme of this labor press editor's convention will be, "How to build a better bridge through your union publications to make each union member . . . think union . . . act union . . . be union."

The ILPA convention call was dispatched November 1. Applications for delegate credentials should be returned to the ILPA at 815 16th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006. Delegates' credentials will not be mailed to the delegate but may be picked up Friday, December 3, and Saturday, December 4, at the ILPA registration desk at the Jack Tar Hotel.

Study Riddles Myth Laying High Home Costs To Union Wage Rates

An impartial detailed study that explodes the myth that wages paid union building craftsmen are responsible for high residential construction costs has just been made available in booklet form by the AFL-CIO Building Construction Trades Department. The study, reprinted from the July issue of "Industrial Labor Relations" of Cornell University, found that union building tradesmen produced more in less time and provided a better quality product than did non-union workers.

The extensive study was, in essence, the tale of two cities.

Its author, Allan Mandelstamm, Associate Professor of Economics at Michigan State University, made a detailed study of building costs in Ann Arbor, a strongly unionized town, and Bay City which is non-union.

"It may be said with some confidence that building a house required fewer man hours of labor in the heavily unionized city, Ann Arbor, than the predominantly non-union Bay City," Mandelstamm reported.

"Despite the substantial difference in labor hours, the wage rates in Ann Arbor were sufficiently higher than in Bay City so that wage bills in two cities were virtually the same; \$3938 in Ann Arbor, \$3894 in Bay City," he said.

In short, the study found that competent union building tradesmen, who received better wages than the poorly trained non-union workers, did more work of higher quality in less time than the non-union workers, thereby equalizing wage costs.

The study also inquired into union attitudes about new techniques and materials and found that "union opposition was virtually non-existent . . ."

All union contractors thought that safety restrictions placed on the use of ram-set guns that fire metallic color cartridges into hard materials were reasonable.

In most cases, the study found that the more heavily unionized city was utilizing new techniques more fully.

Among other myths that are often cultivated in the nation's daily press that were exploded by the study were the following:

- Contractors were unanimous in stating that unions set no restrictions on output; nor did the unions "pass the word along to the men to take it easy."
- The contractors said the unions had not required excessive coffee breaks or rest periods.
- Jurisdictional disputes were minor and caused no work stoppages or slowdowns.
- No unnecessary help was employed.
- All contractors reported that they were free to discharge any journeyman or helper with whom they were dissatisfied for any legitimate reason.

In the course of the study, Mandelstamm reported that non-union contractors frequently admitted that non-union workers could not produce work of quality comparable to that of union journeymen because of the lack of thorough training.

The results of this study give some cause for believing that unionization may bring an increase in efficiency and a much smaller rise in costs than had heretofore been expected," the professor concluded.

The study compared such items as price, labor hours, wage bill, material costs, and overhead and profit in each of fifteen different trades in each of the two cities. The trades included plastering, brick veneer, foundation work, basement floor, painting, electrical, plumbing, excavation, heating, sheet metal, tile setting, floor finishing, glazing, carpentry, and roofing.

Copies of the booklet may be obtained from the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO, 815 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

New Agency Curbs TV Repair Frauds

California families are saving an estimated \$19,000,000 a year in repair charges on television, radio and phonograph equipment as a result of rigid anti-fraud enforcement by the Bureau of Electronic Repair of the California Business and Commerce Agency.

Established in 1963 under legislation introduced by Senator Alan Short (D-Stockton) and recommended by Governor Edmund G. Brown, the bureau investigates complaints of fraud and misconduct in electronic repairs and safeguards reputable repair dealers.

It is one of scores of consumer-interest issues fought for by the Association of California Consumers which held its annual convention in Oakland last week. (See story on page 1.)

With strong support from California's Consumer Council Helen Nelson and the ACC, the bureau was made a continuing agency by the Legislature in 1965.

It has discovered typical cases of fraud involve installing parts not needed, or charging for parts not installed. Fraudulent repairs average 300 percent above normal repair costs, or \$60 for a normal \$20 charge.

The Los Angeles Better Business Bureau and the Los Angeles Police Bunco Squad report dramatic reduction in the number of complaints involving fraud since establishment of the bureau.

Automated Drive-In

(Continued from Page 1)

placed pin boys in bowling alleys, and data processing machines started chewing away at job opportunities for office workers, the trend toward automation has been accelerating.

So what's next?

Automated drive-ins, that's what.

The American Machine and Foundry Company has installed an automated system of food preparation using frozen food and assembly line methods at Levittown, New York.

You drive into one of its 600 parking stalls, pick up the phone, and call in your order — you have a choice of 12 foods and seven drinks.

The switchboard operator just presses the right keys and the order is transmitted to the machine, which seconds later produces the order on a tray via a conveyor belt.

Carhops (live ones) are still used to transport the food to the car stalls. At least they were when we went to press.

Factory Workers' Net Earnings Rise

(Continued from Page 1)

ings) for workers with no dependents in Los Angeles climbed from \$85.17 in September 1964 to \$87.63 last September. In the Bay Area it rose from \$91.65 to \$94.79 in September, 1965.

For the Bay Area worker with three dependents, the net spendable earnings climbed from \$100.49 to \$103.51 in September, 1965. In Los Angeles such earnings rose from \$93.52 to \$95.84 over the year.

While the factory workweek showed an increase in both Los Angeles and San Francisco, the increase in the Los Angeles area was the greater. There the 40.7 hour workweek in September, 1965 was three-tenths of an hour longer than in August and one-half hour longer than in September, 1964. In the San Francisco-Oakland area, at 40.5 hours, it was one-tenth of an hour shorter than in August and three-tenths of an hour longer than in September, 1964.