

# Rees Wins Backing of State COPE

State Senator Thomas M. Rees has won the endorsement of the Executive Council of the California Labor Council on Political Education for election to the 26th Congressional District seat in Los Angeles, Thos. L. Pitts, the Secretary-Treasurer of the state AFL-CIO political arm, announced today.

The action was taken on the recommendation of the Los Angeles County COPE.

Referring to Senator Rees' three years of service as a state Senator and eight years as an Assemblyman, Pitts declared:

"Senator Rees' grasp of the social, economic and intercommunity problems of the entire Los Angeles area, coupled with the drive, initiative and political know-how he has demonstrated in his 11 years as a state legislator, make him the hands-down choice of all thinking citizens.

"The choice the voters in the 26th District face on December 15 is essentially the choice between proven competence and total inexperience, between a champion of public interest legislation and an unknown quantity.

"We therefore urge all AFL-CIO union members and friends of labor in the 26th Congressional District to actively support and vote for Senator Thomas M. Rees."

Senator Rees has authored much of the anti-smog and rapid transit legislation enacted by the legislature in recent years. He is also a staunch supporter of the United Nations, Pitts added.

The 26th District includes most of the western part of Los Angeles, Culver City and Beverly Hills. The vacancy in

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## State Fed Urges \$2 Minimum Wage For Sugar Beet Workers at S. F. Hearing

Charging that specific language in the law to protect the wage level of sugar beet workers "has been not only neglected but practically ignored," the state AFL-CIO this week called on the U.S. Department of Agriculture to boost its current \$1.25 an hour wage determination for such workers to \$2.00 and to require piece rates that will "insure higher average earnings for workers able to exceed the norm."

### Action Pledged to Aid Farm Workers

Action to improve the lot of U. S. domestic farm workers was promised

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Executive  
Secretary-Treasurer

## Weekly News Letter

Vol. — No. 50  
Dec. 10, 1965

151

Second Class Postage Paid at San Francisco, California

Published by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO  
995 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94103  
Subscription: \$3.50 a year

## Major Boost in Wages Needed, Meany Tells AFL-CIO Delegates

Warning that the nation is suffering from "a dangerous trend toward an ever higher share of the national income going to profits and a shrinking proportion to wages and salaries," AFL-CIO President George Meany told nearly 1,000 delegates at the National AFL-CIO Convention in San Francisco this week that this situation calls for a major step-up in wages, a shorter workweek, and continuation "on a far broader scale of the

### FRB Interest Rate Hike Rapped

The Federal Reserve Board's action boosting the discount rate from 4 to 4½ percent was denounced this week by AFL-CIO President George Meany as a move that could "badly hurt" the economy.

"This blunderbuss action was taken on the false premise of fighting inflation," Meany said.

"At a time when 4.2 percent of the work force is unemployed, the economy can be badly hurt," he warned.

The impact of the FRB's action, which was announced Sunday, will be to increase both the sale price and

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### Humphrey To Speak

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey is scheduled to address the convention, which will run through Wednesday of next week, this afternoon. Other principal speakers included Secretary of State Dean Rusk, U.S. Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz, United Nations Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg, and Sargent Shriver, director of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

concept of public investment in America."

The 89th Congress, Meany said,  
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## Offer of Deal on 14b Repeal Confirmed

The long-rumored offer of a deal by reactionary special interest forces to permit repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act if organized labor would just drop its opposition to the Dirksen amendment was confirmed by AFL-CIO President George Meany this week.

In an address to the International Labor Press Association convention at the Jack Tar Hotel in San Francisco, Meany said such a proposal was broached indirectly but that "it never

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# Major Boost in Wages Needed, Meany Tells AFL-CIO Delegates

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deserves the title of the "most productive in history" for its action on medicare, expanded social security benefits, federal aid to education, urban needs and other progressive steps.

But, he emphasized, these achievements are "not adequate to meet the new challenges of 1965."

The only way to bring about the consumption of the "ever-increasing mountains of goods being produced," he said, is by raising the buying power of all Americans.

In welcoming the delegates at the opening session yesterday, state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts observed that this convention marked the 10th anniversary of the merger of the AFL-CIO and declared that "it is now abundantly clear that the marriage is a good one."

"In the first place, like most 10-year marriage mates, we both recognize that even if we wanted a divorce we couldn't afford it. And in the second place, we are more aware than ever that we vitally need each other," he said.

After reviewing the progress made toward AFL-CIO goals in recent years, Pitts said:

"But we all know it isn't enough."

"We all know, especially in connection with the repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act, that we are going to have to pull hard and pull together if we are to succeed in ripping that cancerous tumor out of the body of free collective bargaining. . . .

"The same sort of unity is going to be needed to win improvements in the Fair Labor Standards Act, bolster federal standards for unemployment insurance, enact the situs picketing bill, and win passage of long-overdue measures such as those in the consumer field."

"Certainly as trade unionists we all know that the broader public interest bills of the labor movement will never be won, either at the state or federal levels, if we fracture or divide our efforts. This is evident in the spirit of unity and thrust for progress in the air at this convention today," he observed.

Pitts also assured the delegates that California demonstrators against President Johnson's policy in Vietnam "are not representative of the vast bulk of public opinion in California" and commended President Meany and the AFL-CIO Executive Council for assuring the Administration of AFL-CIO support in this area.

In his written report to convention delegates, Meany declared that "it has

become the destiny of this country to exemplify to the world what a free society can achieve."

Noting that profits have soared 62 percent in the last five years but that after-tax personal income rose only 31 percent in the same period, Meany said the nation is currently confronted with at least three basic needs:

- A shorter workweek.
- More public investment.
- And a better division of America's riches.

On the first point he declared that "unless an immediate start is made toward a 35-hour week with no loss in earnings, plus penalty pay of double time to discourage overtime, there will simply not be enough jobs to go around no matter what other measures are taken."

This issue, he added, requires "a greater sense of urgency than has yet been forthcoming."

He pointed out that shorter hours have accompanied higher man-hour productivity ever since the first industrial revolution but that during the last generation this has not occurred.

Earlier in the week Meany denounced the Federal Reserve Board's action in increasing the federal discount rate to 4½ percent (see story on page 1) and stressed the need for repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act and enactment of improvements in the Fair Labor Standards Act and the nation's unemployment insurance system.

## Rees Wins State COPE Support

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the district was created when Representative James Roosevelt resigned to accept appointment as U.S. Representative on the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The District includes the 59th and 61st Assembly District and contains 207,515 registered voters.

Noting that less than 30 percent of the District's registered voters went to the polls in the special primary two weeks ago, Pitts called on all trade unionists in the district to pitch in and help to get out the vote for Tom Rees on December 15.

## Meany Raps FRB Interest Rate Hike; Probe to Start

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the interest costs to workers buying homes.

Houses will cost more because the builder will be paying higher interest rates. At the same time workers will have to pay either higher rates on their mortgage or more "points" to get a loan to buy a home.

Moreover, on the other side of the interest rate issue, workers' savings accounts would not benefit from the higher interest rates because the boost applies only to so-called time deposits. These are principally interest-earning deposits of corporations, not the small deposits of individuals. A ceiling of four percent interest is still in effect on personal savings accounts.

### CWA Protests

Joining Meany's protest, the Executive Board of the AFL-CIO Communications Workers of America declared that the FRB had placed "property values far ahead of human values" and charged the Board with following "old fashioned dogmas which place bankers' needs above the needs of progressive industry and labor."

On the heels of these protests, the Joint Congressional Economics Committee on Tuesday ordered an investigation of the Board's action and called on all seven members of the Board to testify at hearings to start next Monday.

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wisconsin) said that the discount interest rate boost "is precisely the kind of blunder that could end the nation's record 58-month expansion."

### 'Worst Possible News'

The same view was expressed by officials in the housing industry in California. Sanford Goodkin, President of the Los Angeles-based National Real Estate Marketing and Research Organization, said it amounted to the "worst possible news" for the American consumer and the home building industry.

Both labor and industry officials agreed that it would result in a large drop in multiple housing starts in California and Goodkin projected a 1.1 percent drop in the San Francisco area in total housing starts next year.

Unless the action is reversed, it means fewer jobs for building tradesmen and workers in related industries, higher home costs and—oh, yes—higher profits for the nation's bankers.

# State Fed Urges \$2 Minimum Wage For Sugar Beet Workers at S. F. Hearing

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Sugar Act of 1948 directs that farm workers "shall receive fair and reasonable" wages.

Yet just a look at the increase in productivity in the industry proves that they haven't been getting it, he said.

Between 1954 and 1964 their wages "have risen less than half as rapidly as output per man hour," and the present \$1.25 an hour "is both unfair and unreasonable," Pitts' statement declared.

The present rate would be desirable only if the Department's policy "is to perpetuate poverty among sugar beet workers," it said.

In the course of the hearing, labor spokesmen agreed to answer any questions either from the hearing officer or from the interested public but grower spokesmen refused to subject themselves to questioning by labor spokesmen. As a result a series of questions from labor union representatives were included in the record unanswered.

Pointing out that California's average farm worker is only able to find employment 1100 hours a year compared to the 2,000 hours of most other workers and that the \$1.25 rate for a full year's employment would gross the worker only \$2,600, the state AFL-CIO asked:

"Does anyone at this hearing really believe that \$1.25 or \$1.50 an hour is a 'fair and reasonable' wage? Would anyone here gladly accept sporadic employment at this wage, knowing that average hourly earnings in California exceed \$3 an hour, and that in Hawaii the declared 'fair and reasonable' wage for field workers is \$1.80 an hour? . . .

"If the term is not to lose all meaning," the Federation statement said, "a 'fair and reasonable' wage . . . must be defined as a wage that produces an income above the 'poverty line'."

Anticipating that the growers would claim that "any wage increase would force them out of business," the Federation noted that other California growers made the same claim in connection with the end of the bracero program, yet the final report of the California Farm Labor Panel disproved their claim.

Corroborating Pitts' statement, a table appended to it proves that while beet sugar area productivity has increased faster than in any other sugar crop area in the nation between 1954 and 1964, sugar beet workers' wages

have risen less than in any of the other sugar growing areas.

For example, productivity in the Louisiana sugar cane harvest rose 38 percent between 1954 and 1964 while wages rose 95 percent but in the sugar beet area productivity rose 77 percent but wages rose only 37 percent.

Moreover extension of the Sugar Act to 1971 assures the growers of "a large market, good prices for their subsidized product, and high profit," the state AFL-CIO pointed out.

The sugar beet worker "seeks the same things in life as the sugar beet grower—the general amenities of life in the 20th century . . . but . . . (these) amenities . . . cannot be provided at a wage rate of less than \$2.00 an hour," the statement emphasized.

## Action Pledge to Aid Farm Workers

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this week by Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz.

Speaking in Los Angeles, Wirtz informed California growers that they shouldn't expect any foreign workers next year and pointed out that, despite the growers' predictions to the contrary, California agriculture had made the transition from foreign to domestic labor with relative ease.

After reviewing the special California Farm Labor Panel's report submitted to him last week, Wirtz said he would initiate action immediately to comply with four of the report's recommendations. These were to:

- Boost wages and work for a national minimum wage for farm workers.

- Provide farm workers with collective bargaining rights under the National Labor Relations Act, unemployment insurance, and coverage by the Fair Labor Standards Act.

- Provide government assistance for decent housing for farm workers.

- Improve the farm worker recruitment system.

The end of the bracero program has been a tremendous boon to the state's economy, boosting domestic employment some 20,000 above the previous year, and slashing the outflow of cash to Mexico by some \$50 million, Wirtz said.

At the same time there was no significant change in consumer prices, in fact, consumers have benefited because prices are down by three percent on an overall basis, he observed.

# Metal, Maritime Trades Rip U.S. Shipping Policy

The U.S. flag fleet has been allowed to "rust away," wiping out jobs and creating "serious defense gaps," delegates to the conventions of the AFL-CIO's Metal Trade and Maritime Trades Departments agreed this week, and proposals put forth by a special government task force seem intent on continuing this "disastrous trend."

Referring to statistics showing that less than nine percent of the goods imported and exported by this nation are carried in U.S. flagships and that less than 50 ships were either built or on order in U.S. shipyards this year compared to twice that number seven years ago, B. F. Gritta, President of the Metal Trades Department, declared:

"As a nation we have allowed our U.S. Flag Fleet to erode and rust away. We have sat by and watched our shipbuilding capabilities and facilities shrink."

And Paul Hall, president of the Maritime Trades Department, charged that the situation has eliminated jobs and resulted in "huge tax losses and serious defense gaps."

To correct it, delegates to the Maritime Trades Department adopted a series of resolutions that, among other things, call for government action to:

- Require 75 percent of all U.S. government cargo to be carried on ships flying the U.S. flag.

- Stop surplus wheat shipments to the Soviet Union and its satellites.

- Develop a privately owned nuclear-powered U.S. Merchant Fleet.

- Require American-owned ships that fly foreign flags to pay U.S. taxes and comply with U.S. labor laws.

- Extend U.S. territorial limits from 3 to 12 miles to curb the operations of Japanese and Soviet fishermen.

The Maritime Trades delegates also adopted a resolution condemning the State Department for refusing to back proposals to exclude foreign ships that carry cargo to Cuba and North Vietnam from U.S. ports.

## Union's Right Upheld

A labor union that wins an unfair labor practice case before the National Labor Relations Board is entitled to intervene in an appeals court review of the case, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled this week in a case involving the United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Workers of America, AFL-CIO.

# Labor to Push Drive For Bigger Liberal Edge in Congress in '66

Organized labor will carry out a "vigorous effort" to defend and expand the liberal edge in Congress and in state governments in 1966, the AFL-CIO Executive Council declared yesterday as the federation's Sixth Biennial Convention opened in San Francisco's Civic Auditorium.

The race to defend liberal Congressmen elected in 1964 as well as to elect new legislators is expected to be rough because the John Birch Society and the political arms of the National Association of Manufacturers and the American Medical Association are apparently planning to gang up to punish them for their votes for progressive legislation, the report said.

But increased fulltime political education by international unions and their locals as well as greater use of electronic data processing will be employed to help overcome the customary loss of liberal seats in a non-presidential year.

Facing the efforts of the AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education will be the radical right, greatly expanded since its setback in 1964.

Far Right radio broadcasts alone, the report noted, have increased from 7,000 per week at election time to 10,700 per week by early in 1965. Their target continues to be national and community institutions, such as school boards, libraries, and the undermining of police and fire departments, it said.

The report disclosed that 68 percent of all COPE-endorsed candidates were

elected in 1964, compared to 57 percent in 1960 and 60 percent in 1962. The importance of COPE voter registration was shown by evidence that where concentrated drives were undertaken, the total vote turnout set new records. This despite the fact that the national vote was almost 2 percent below the potential of 1960.

On the reapportionment issue, the Council observed:

"The fundamental nature of this kind of change cannot be over-emphasized since it will affect not only items of state legislation but the very character of state-federal relationships."

It will challenge the political organizational talents of the labor movement in the increased suburban strength, it added.

The Council also warned that Senator Everett Dirksen's attempts to frustrate the one man-one vote concept constitute "a serious threat to basic democratic principle."

An examination of the labor movement's experiences with the judicial arm of government during the last two years, the Council said, shows that unions posted an exceptional won-lost record in cases decided by the Supreme Court.

During that period, of 28 significant decisions, 20 were labor victories, among them the first significant cases involving the Landrum-Griffin amendments to Taft-Hartley and Landrum-Griffin's regulations on internal union affairs.

# Locals Urged To Join State Feds And Central Bodies

The need for local unions to affiliate with their state federations and central bodies was underscored by President George Meany in his opening address to the AFL-CIO convention at the Civic Auditorium in San Francisco yesterday.

"The merger, begun in form in 1955, has been largely accomplished in substance and spirit as well" during the past 10 years, Meany said, "but another form of division remains to be overcome."

This, he explained, is "the refusal or failure of local unions to affiliate with their state and local central bodies."

Pointing out that "their international unions share fully in the activities of the national federation," he charged that "far too many local unions stand apart from their brothers at the state and local level and do not bear their share of labor's effort to make the American community a better place for all to work and live."

"In the future, these central bodies must play a growing role in the work of the American labor movement . . . their vitality is crucial to our success."

Calling attention to the fact that "little more than half of all AFL-CIO local unions are affiliated with their state and local central bodies," Meany called on all international unions to devote themselves to improve this record—"to bring home to those locals their duty to join the labor movement at the community and state, as well as the national level."

# Meany Confirms Offer of Deal to Repeal 14b

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received even one minute's consideration."

Emphasizing organized labor's dedication to the democratic process, Meany declared:

"They can keep Section 14(b) on the books from now till Doomsday before I would agree that labor would support this outrageous attempt to destroy representative government under Mr. Dirksen's so-called constitutional amendment."

Later in the week in his address to the opening session of the national convention, the AFL-CIO President charged that Senate Minority leader Everett M. Dirksen (R-Illinois) is conducting "a bitter rear-guard action against the relentless advance of the 20th century to preserve intact the stronghold of political and economic reaction in America, and to prevent or delay the kind

of progress that is necessary to meet the new problems and challenges of our modern society . . .

"The filibuster is a punitive and coercive tactic," Meany observed. "It is a cynical invitation to a 'deal.' It is the crafty politician's way of saying:

'Come around to the back door. Give up your opposition to the reapportionment amendment and you can have 14(b) repealed.'

"Well, as badly as I want 14(b) repealed—and I do want it badly—I do not want it that badly. And the Senate Minority leader and all his anti-labor stooges can filibuster until hell freezes over before I will agree to sell the people short for that kind of a deal."

Referring to Dirksen's boast that he (Dirksen) personally would see to it that the U.S. Senate would not take action on 14(b), Meany told the delegates:

"We accept the challenge. I hope that the Senator and his fellow windbags are in good voice, come January, for they will need to be . . . We propose to fight in the Senate until this issue is won or fairly lost . . . and if we lose in the Senate, we will fight in the states, in the counties, in the precincts, and in the plants and workshops of America. We have no intention of quitting," he declared.

Other primary objectives in the next session of Congress, he indicated would be enactment of the so-called "situation picketing" bill to end the ban on picketing at multi-employer construction sites, and adoption of federal minimum standards for the nation's unemployment insurance compensation system and improvements in the Fair Labor Standards Act.