

AFL-CIO Backs LBJ's Policy On Vietnam

While "heartily" concurring in the Administration's policy of seeking peace in Vietnam through negotiations, the delegates to the AFL-CIO's Sixth Convention pledged their "unstinting support" to "all measures the administration might deem necessary to halt Communist aggression and secure a just and lasting peace."

Likening the war in Vietnam to the war in Korea, the resolution declared that "a defeat in South Vietnam would open the door to Communist control of Southeast Asia and the rest of the continent."

"If Asia and all of its hundreds of millions of people were to come under Communist domination, the survival of our own country would be greatly endangered," it said.

The convention's final action on the Vietnam issue came on a substitute resolution which placed more emphasis on efforts to negotiate and to promote the well-being of the people.

"The Communist enemy can never be defeated by military means alone. Along with adequate military measures there must be sound, large-scale programs for improving the conditions of life and labor and for developing democratic institutions," the statement asserted.

It called on the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the International Confederation of Christian Trade Unions to join in a common effort to help the Vietnam Confederation of Workers (CVT) promote "democratic regeneration and social justice in the land."

Boost Social Security Benefits At Least 50%, AFL-CIO Urges

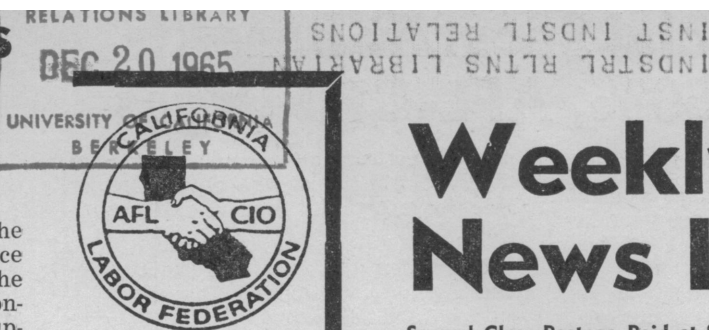
To alleviate poverty and permit older people to share in the nation's rising standard of living, the AFL-CIO this week urged further improvements in the social security system to boost social security benefits at least 50 percent and to hike the taxable wage base from \$6,600 to \$15,000.

Such an increase is needed, a resolution adopted by delegates to the

State's Jobless Rate Dips to 5.6%

Unemployment in California showed a substantial improvement last month when the seasonally adjusted jobless rate dropped from 5.9 percent in October to 5.6 percent in November, but

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THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

Weekly News Letter

Vol. 7—No. 51
Dec. 17, 1965



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

Delegates Urge Civil Rights Push, Repeal of 14b as Parley Ends

A wide-ranging resolution on civil rights calling for stronger actions by both the federal government and affiliated unions to help attain the goal of "absolute equality of opportunity for all," and others urging a massive drive for repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act, and spelling out labor's program to achieve full employment and sustain the

national economy were adopted by the delegates to the AFL-CIO's Sixth Constitutional Convention at its concluding sessions in San Francisco this week.

The civil rights policy was adopted without dissent after AFL-CIO Vice President A. Phillip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters told the delegates:

"The last two years have plainly demonstrated that the Negro-labor alliance is not a one-way street.

"Virtually the entire Negro leadership has put its weight heavily behind

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Delano Strikers Win Support

Declaring that organized labor "must help win the grape strike and make possible the first big step in organizing farm workers in California," delegates to the national AFL-CIO convention in San Francisco this week pledged labor's full support for the striking workers and called on all its affiliates to extend to them "both moral and financial support . . . to break the agonizing grip of

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HAVING TROUBLE GETTING THROUGH?

If you're having any trouble phoning the Federation offices these days, it's because we've moved, as reported in the December 3 News Letter, from the 8th floor to the remodeled 3rd floor of the same building. Our new phone system does not have all of the bugs ironed out of it yet and some affiliates have reported trouble in getting through. Please note that our phone number has changed from SUtter 1-2838 to 986-3585. If you have trouble remembering the numbers, just remember YUNEJUL. That works out to 986-3585. Our new address is: California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, 995 Market Street, Suite 310, San Francisco, California 94103.

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Boost Social Security Benefits At Least 50%, AFL-CIO Urges

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Pointing out that the aged constitute about one-fifth of all the poor in the nation, the resolution called for establishment of a flexible "zone of retirement" between the ages of 60 and 65 with benefit amounts increasing each succeeding year.

It also suggested that benefits should be available to older people below

Parleys On New Workmen's Comp. Law Set Jan. 6-7

The dates and places of two conferences to assure 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 were announced this week by state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts.

The first conference will be held at the International Hotel at the Los Angeles Airport on Wednesday, January 5, 1966.

The second conference will be held the following day, Thursday, January 6, at the Del Webb TowneHouse at Eighth and Market Streets in San Francisco. Both will start at 9:30 a.m. and are jointly sponsored by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, and the Industrial Accident Commission.

The new law provides for the separation of the judicial and administrative functions of California's Workmen's Compensation program. It goes into effect on January 15, 1966.

Tom Saunders, chairman of the State Industrial Accident Commission and his staff, will explain the law's new features with emphasis on the new administrative division.

Among other areas of concern to be taken up are: Employer reports to injured workmen; the information desk in connection with claims assistance; the rehabilitation unit; new medical provisions; and the new look in connection with contested cases before the Appeals Board.

In addition, Ernest B. Webb, director of the State Department of Industrial Relations, will explain the law's provisions regarding the auditing of self-insurers.

Interested trade unionists planning to attend should make their reservations directly with the appropriate hotel.

normal retirement age who are not totally disabled but who are no longer able to engage in their usual occupations.

In addition the omnibus resolution on Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance and Medicare, calls for:

- Congress to provide for the payment of contributions to the social security trust fund from general revenues.

- Broadening of the Medicare program immediately to include those receiving social security disability benefits and, in time, all social security beneficiaries.

- Reduction of the waiting period for disability benefits to one month and payment of benefits as long as the total disability lasts beyond one month.

- Ending the period used in determining men's retirement benefits at age 62 as the law presently provides for women.

The benefit structure of the social security program has not kept pace with the increase in the general standard of living because it has not reflected the increased productivity in the nation, the resolution said.

It also pointed out that the 7 percent benefit increase approved by Congress earlier this year "does no more than bring the purchasing power of social security benefits in line with the increases in the cost of living that have taken place since 1958 when the last general benefit increase was enacted."

When the social security program was initiated in 1935, the wage base was \$3,000. Fifteen years elapsed before it was raised to just \$3,600 in 1950.

The failure to increase the base adequately over the years has tended to deny those who helped build our society their share of the economic gains of the society and also prevented the social insurance system from playing as vital a part in our economy as it might in terms of maintaining mass consumer purchasing power.

NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN

The delegates also adopted a separate resolution on health legislation calling for development of "an economically sound national health care program — a public program which will replace our fragmented, costly, inefficient arrangements for health care with an acceptable nationwide program of comprehensive, high-quality health services . . . accessible to all Americans."

The latter resolution pledged the AFL-CIO to support federal legislation to increase medical manpower, bring about a more rational organization of

Eight New Faces on Executive Council

Nearly one-third of the AFL-CIO's 29-man Executive Council was replaced this week when delegates to the AFL-CIO Sixth Constitutional Convention elected eight new Vice Presidents and re-elected 19 incumbents after honoring President George Meany and Secretary-Treasurer William F. Schnitzler by voting them back into office for two more years by acclamation.

New members of the AFL-CIO's top policy-making body, all presidents of their international unions, are:

I. W. Abel, United Steelworkers; P. L. (Roy) Siemiller, International Association of Machinists; David Sullivan, Building Services International Union; Hunter P. Wharton, International Union of Operating Engineers; Paul Jennings, International Union of Electrical Workers; George Burdon, United Rubber Workers; Anthony John DeAndrade, Printing Pressmen's Union; and Ralph Helstein, Packinghouse Workers.

In general they replaced men who in all cases no longer headed their own unions and in most cases are in their late 60s and 70s. Replaced were:

James Carey, IUE; David McDonald, Steelworkers; Al J. Hayes, Machinists; William McFetridge, Building Service Employees; O. A. Knight, Oil and Chemical Workers; William Birthright, Barbers; Emil Rieve, Textile Workers; and Lawrence Raftery, Painters.

Incumbent Vice Presidents re-elected were:

Walter P. Reuther, United Automobile Workers; George M. Harrison, Railway Clerks; Harry C. Bates, Bricklayers; David Dubinsky, International Ladies Garment Workers; Joseph Curran, National Maritime Union; Maurice A. Hutcheson, Carpenters; Joseph D. Keenan, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Jacob S. Potofsky, Amalgamated Clothing Workers; A. Phillip Randolph, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Richard F. Walsh, Theatrical Stage Employees; Lee Minton, Glass Bottle Blowers Association; Joseph A. Beirne, Communications Workers of America; James A. Suffridge, Retail Clerks International Association; Karl F. Feller, Brewery Workers; Paul L. Phillips, Papermakers and Paperworkers; Peter T. Schoemann, Plumbers; Paul Hall, Seafarers International Union; Herman D. Kenin, American Federation of Musicians; and John J. Grogan, Marine and Shipbuilding Workers.

medical services, and to distribute the cost of quality care more equitably throughout the whole population.

Delegates Urge Civil Rights Push, Repeal of 14b as Parley Ends

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the congressional campaign for repeal of 14(b), for a \$2.00 an-hour minimum wage, for extension of the Fair Labor Standards Act and for other labor demands."

He also pointed out that the "face of Congress will be radically changed" when the "full political potential of the Southern Negro is realized."

"Negro workers," he added, "need and demand the repeal of 14(b) now! And they know why they want it. They know that repeal of 14(b) helps clear the way for unionization of the South. They know that repeal of 14(b) is a step toward economic security and better living standards. They know that repeal of 14(b) means greater dignity on the job — freedom from exploitation, and intimidation.

"And they know full well where the die-hard resistance to repeal of 14(b) is coming from. It is coming from the greedy profiteers and their reactionary politicians who have tried to block the Negroes advance every step of the way. That is why, in Oklahoma and other states, the Negro vote was decisive in defeating so-called right-to-work laws.

"And I can promise you, brothers and sisters, that throughout this land, the Negro revolution will join hands with labor in saying to the next Congress: Repeal 14(b) now!"

DETAILS NOTED

Among other things the resolution calls on "all affiliates with the few segregated locals that remain in existence to merge such separate locals without delay" and adopt contract clauses to assure equality of opportunity for promotion and seniority for all workers.

It also calls for strengthening of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which establishes a national Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; more funds for the U.S. Office of Education to assure equality in educational opportunities; extension of Executive Order 11063 issued by the late President Kennedy banning discrimination in federal and federally-assisted housing to cover mortgage activities of all federally-assisted or federally-insured bank and savings loan companies; and the dispatch of more federal examiners into counties in the South to assure the right to vote for all.

In addition it called on all affiliates to establish civil rights committees to help workers file complaints under Title VII, and set up basic educational programs for rank and file members.

In adopting the resolution calling for

the repeal of Section 14(b), the delegates called on all unions to use their educational facilities to the fullest to convey the full story and implications of 14(b) not only to their own members but also to the churches, minority groups and other elements of the liberal community in a concerted effort to bring H.R. 77 to a successful vote in the United States Senate.

"The issue is not 'compulsory unionism,' for repeal of 14(b) will not compel any worker to join a union. Repeal will only permit an employer and a union to negotiate an agreement of the kind authorized by the Taft-Hartley Act itself—under which no employee can be required to join a union. He can only be required to pay reasonable union dues and initiation fees.

"The real issue is whether an employee who must by law receive all of the wage increases and improvements in working conditions negotiated by the union, should be permitted to enjoy these benefits without being required to pay his proportionate share of the cost of maintaining the union."

Referring to Senator Everett M. Dirksen (R. Illinois) who led a filibuster to block Senate action on the issue in the last session, the resolution added:

"No Senator or minority of Senators has the political or moral right to preclude the majority of the Senate from exercising its will—to vote on the repeal of 14(b) . . . That is the decisive issue and the members of the U.S. Senate must be allowed to cast their vote on it"

FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT

Among scores of resolutions aimed at achieving full employment and sustaining the nation's economy were resolutions calling for:

- Boosting social security benefits by at least 50 percent, boosting payroll taxes to pay for them, and utilizing general tax funds to help finance them.

- Reducing the retirement age under Social Security to 60 and extending the medicare system to disabled persons under 65 and to widows and surviving children.

- Increasing the present federal minimum wage from \$1.25 to \$2 an hour; extending the Fair Labor Standards Act to cover all workers engaged in or affecting interstate commerce; providing double time for overtime; and providing more funds to enforce the FLSA.

- Cutting the workweek to 35 hours.

- Enacting minimum Federal Standards for unemployment insurance programs.

Rees Wins L.A. Congress Seat

State Senator Thomas M. Rees (D-L.A.) defeated Republican Dr. Edward Marshall in a run-off election for the congressional seat vacated by James Roosevelt in the 26th district in Los Angeles this week.

Rees, the COPE-endorsed candidate racked up 40,475 votes to 27,696 for Marshall on the basis of unofficial returns with all 465 precincts reporting.

Less than 33 percent of the district's 207,515 registered voters cast their ballots in the special run-off election.

The seat became vacant when Roosevelt, who had served the district for five terms, resigned to accept a presidential appointment as U. S. Representative on the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Group Named To Press Fight For 14b Repealer

On the heels of a declaration by the AFL-CIO Executive Council that "the first and unalterable objective of the AFL-CIO in 1966 will be to secure a vote on the repeal of Section of 14(b)," President George Meany has appointed a special three-man committee to map plans for the repeal fight.

Members of the committee are Walter P. Reuther, president of the United Automobile Workers Union, James A. Suffridge, president of Retail Clerks International Association, and Herman D. Kenin, president of the Musicians' Union. Meany included himself as a member of the committee and has participated in all committee sessions to date.

"The cause we will press and the pivotal point on which we will seek the support of non-labor groups," the AFL-CIO President said, "is the right to have a vote in the Senate, regardless of the outcome. We believe this basic principle of representative government will win adherence from many who may not favor repeal itself."

Special task forces will be set up in every significant area of the country to press for repeal, Meany said.

Walter L. Davis, assistant national director of COPE has been named to coordinate these task forces. He will work out of the COPE office. The AFL-CIO headquarters operation will be under the direction of Lane Kirkland, Meany's executive assistant.

Delegates Back Delano Strikers

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exploitation and poverty they are held in by the growers."

The resolution praised the grape strikers for "fighting courageously against tremendous odds, facing starvation, living like refugees in their own land, for the simple and basic right to organize and bargain collectively."

Noting that the strike has been going on "for many months against the growers who have callously exploited them year after year in a way that has made the 'Grapes of Wrath' a never-ending saga of poverty" for California farm workers, the resolution added:

"The arrogance, the greed, the inhumanity and economic tyranny the big growers who run the factories in the fields exercise over the farm workers is an old and sordid story that must be ended."

In urging the delegates to give the resolution the convention's "full support," Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, took the floor to emphasize the continuing deprivations suffered by the farm workers.

"To give them (the farm workers) the wages, the hours, and the conditions and the opportunity of making good citizens and taxpayers out of themselves rather than welfare recipients," he said, "only one thing is required . . . and that is to take away some of the exceptions and exemptions and high privileges that this industry has in this state."

Pitts also recalled that back in 1941, George Meany, then president of the New York Federation, raised some \$25,000 in the East to aid farm workers in Ventura County after viewing the conditions confronting them.

Others speaking in behalf of the resolution included Paul Schrade of the United Automobile Workers who called the delegates' attention to the fact that the Delano area growers "had done everything they could to break the strike with Mississippi-type sheriff operations in Kern County, the use of dogs and guns and all kinds of intimidation."

Noting that Norton Simon, the top executive in the Hunt Food Corporation which makes catsup and Wesson Oil, bought a Rembrandt painting recently for \$2.1 million, Schrade pointed out that the people who really paid for it were the American farm workers through their poverty wages and the American taxpayers through the price supports and subsidized water supplies and irrigation systems that benefit the "feudal land barons" at the expense of public tax funds.

Walter P. Reuther, president of the

State Jobless Rate Dips But is Still One-Third Above U.S. Average

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the state's rate was still more than 33 percent above the national average of 4.2 percent and some 47,000 more Californians were jobless in November than a month earlier.

At 393,000 the state's total of jobless workers rose less than the seasonally expected and was 41,000 below the rain-inflated total of 434,000 tallied in November, 1964.

While still nothing to crow about, the State's jobless rate was at its lowest level in five years. In November, 1964, the adjusted rate was 6.4 percent.

On the employment side, total civilian employment, at 6,955,000 last month, was 302,000 or 4.5 percent higher than a year earlier. Unfortunately this does not represent solid growth since a rainy report week in November, 1964, depressed employment at that time and thereby exaggerates this year's over-the-year increase.

The employment total was 71,000 less than October which is a relatively small over-the-month dip, the state Department of Industrial Relations said.

Principal over-the-month expansion of jobs occurred in the retail trade as stores prepared for the seasonal buying splurge. Aircraft and electronics manufacturing firms also added nearly 4,000 workers. But cutbacks in seasonal activities such as agriculture and fruit and vegetable canning offset these gains.

For the nation as a whole, the 4.2 percent rate was the lowest in eight years or since August, 1957.

It reflected a total of 2,966,000 jobless persons, about 200,000 above the previous month. On a seasonal basis, however, unemployment generally rises about 50 percent more than that or by 300,000 between October and November.

Total employment for the nation, at

United Automobile Workers, was scheduled to visit the Delano area strike scene yesterday afternoon and to address a joint membership meeting of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, and the National Farm Workers Association.

928 Delegates on Hand

The final report of the credentials committee disclosed that 928 delegates representing 123 national and international unions, six constitutional departments, 43 state central bodies, 183 city central bodies, 22 directly affiliated local unions, two fraternal delegates and one ex-officio delegate participated in the AFL-CIO's 6th Constitutional Convention.

72,839,000 was 353,000 above the previous month and 2,046,000 above November, 1964.

Harold Goldstein, Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, said part of the nation's strong economic showing may stem from the production of war goods for Vietnam.

The jobless rate for adult men at 2.8 percent was the lowest since October, 1953, and the 2.0 percent rate for married men was the lowest since January, 1957.

Another significant improvement was the drop in long-term unemployed — those jobless 15 weeks or more. During the past year, this figure has dropped by 200,000 to 531,000, with about half of the over-the-year decline registered among the so-called "hard core unemployed," those jobless 27 weeks or more.

Despite these general improvements, the jobless rate for non-white teenagers, at 25 percent, was still substantially more than 50 percent above the 11.5 percent for white teenagers. For all teenagers, the rate dropped from 13.1 percent to 12.5 percent in November.

The nation's 2.9 million jobless breaks down into 1.1 million men, about one million women and slightly more than 800,000 teenagers, the Bureau reported.

LOS ANGELES — The jobless rate in Los Angeles County edged downward from 5.6 to 5.5 percent in November, significantly below the 6.1 percent posted in November, 1964, but unemployment climbed 6,400 over the month to 156,500 last month.

Reflecting job expansion in defense-related industries, factory employment topped the year ago level by 29,800. Total employment in the county was 2,835,400. During 1965, the aerospace industries in Los Angeles have added about 17,000 workers as commercial jet liner and military production has increased.

SAN FRANCISCO — The seasonally adjusted jobless rate in the San Francisco-Oakland metropolitan area, at 4.9 percent in October, was unchanged from a month earlier but significantly below the 5.7 percent posted in November, 1964. It reflected a total of 61,800 jobless workers last month compared to 53,600 in October but last month's total was 7,600 less than the 69,400 jobless a year earlier.

Total civilian employment at 1,246,000 was 44,200, or 3.7 percent above November, 1964, and 3,000 less than a month earlier. Nearly 80 percent of the annual job growth was centered in government, trade and services, the report said.