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Pitch In To Help Win Repeal Of Sec. 14b

Repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act is due to come up for action in the Senate next week. But the U. S. Chamber of Commerce appears fairly certain that action on the issue is going to be dragged out for at least a week.

They have set February 1 as "National 14(b) Day" and have called on all state chambers and trade associations and other conservative factions to make "conference-type telephone calls" to their senators to pressure them to kill the repeal bill.

Aligned with the Chambers in this anti-labor effort to thwart repeal are the John Birch Society and most of the other

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Where The Green Goes

California's agribusiness interests continue to bemoan their lack of cheap foreign farm labor even though they are still paying domestic farm workers sub-poverty level wages but their stockholders must just be shedding crocodile tears all the way to the bank.

This is evident from just a glance at the assets and profits of "the big three" in California agriculture: The California Packing Corporation; the Kern County Land Company

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Ease Taxes on Moderate Income Groups, Fed Urges

"Low and moderate income families need immediate relief from the unfair tax burden they shoulder," the Executive Council of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, declared this week in adopting a statement on taxes calling for a basic overhaul of the tax structure at both the state and local government levels.

Don't Buy Tyson's Poultry Products, Union Asks

A classic example of what's wrong in so-called "right-to-work" states was contained this week in an appeal for help from an Arkansas local affiliated with the Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen's Union engaged in a strike against one of the largest poultry processors in the world.

The union, Food Handlers Local 425, was chosen by employees of Tyson Poultry Inc., of Springdale, Ark., as their bargaining agent last May after the firm had been found guilty of repeated violations of the National Labor Relations Act. Two NLRB elections had been set aside "because of the company's program of coercion and threats

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Specifically, at the state level, the statement, summarizing a 56-page Federation review of California's state and local tax structures, urges:

- Greater reliance on the progressive individual income tax by modifying personal income tax rates to the pre-world war II rates graduated up to a maximum of at least 15 percent.
- Adoption of a withholding system with deductions beginning at a level high enough to exempt low income groups.
- A substantial boost in the present 5½ percent bank and corporation tax.
- Increasing inheritance and gift taxes.

California's combined state and local tax structure is at present so "extremely regressive" that "families with annual incomes of below \$4,000 pay 50 percent more proportionately in taxes than families with incomes between \$10,000 and \$15,000," the statement said.

Unlike New York where in recent years less than 30 per-

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Bldg. Trades Meet Opens In SF Jan. 27

More than 500 delegates from 53 cities from San Diego to Eureka are expected to take part in the second annual California Construction Industry-Management Forum to be held at the Jack Tar Hotel in San Francisco January 27-29.

Organized at Palm Springs in January, 1965, with the aim of improving labor-management relations, the forum this year for the first time will include engineers and architects.

Bryan P. Deavers, president of the California Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO, which represents the state's 360,000 building tradesmen, will head organized labor's delegation to the forum.

Pointing up the purpose of the conference, Deavers declared:

"These forums have long been needed. More efficiency for the public and better understanding between the employer

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Imperial Valley Imperialism?

Pitts Fights To Keep Reclamation Law's 160-Acre Limit

An attempt by the Irvine Company and other owners of vast tracts of land to get the State Board of Agriculture to adopt a resolution opposing enforcement of the U.S. reclamation law's 160-acre limitation in Imperial Valley sparked vigorous opposition from the State AFL-CIO this week.

Noting that the issue is on the agenda for the State Board's January 24-25 meeting in Sacramento next week, State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts wrote Board President Jesse W. Tapp last Tuesday to urge the Board to take exactly the opposite action.

Pitts pointed out that one of the basic aims of the law is to prevent just such "land and water monopoly as now exists in the Imperial Valley" and that the action proposed by the Irvine Company and other excess land owners "runs counter" to the law and is "without legal or other foundation."

He urged the Board, instead, "to publicly endorse the enforcement of reclamation law and announce its support for other policies and programs which will foster and promote family

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Don't Buy Tyson's Poultry Products, Union Urges

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and bribes," a strike pamphlet explained.

After months of bargaining in vain, the Tyson workers went on strike last August 27.

A look at some of the issues taken from the company's latest written contract proposal vividly demonstrates what's wrong with labor-management relations in "right-to-work" states:

- The firm demands the right to discharge employees who fail to meet the company's production and attendance requirements.

- The company wants to base vacation pay on 12 months "continuous work" and pay two weeks vacation only after 10 years' service.

- Tyson refuses to pay the wages and premium classifications negotiated by other Arkansas poultry processors.

- Tyson wants to limit the total number of absences of employees to six times during a 12-month period regardless of whether the absence is due to illness, death in the family or any compelling reason.

The list is much longer but it all adds up to what most union workers recognize as 19th century labor practices.

Pointing out that Arkansas is saddled with a so-called "right-to-work" law, the pamphlet notes that "it is a simple matter to recruit strike breakers" and thereby prolong the strike.

The union is therefore appealing to union members and friends of labor to help by refusing to buy Tyson Poultry, Inc.'s products.

Brand names under which these products are sold include: **Manor House (Safeway); Ocoma Foods; Tyson's Pride; Wishbone (Kroger); Dover Cornish; Dover Roasters; Old American Roasters; Patti Jean Cornish; and Patti Jean Roasters.**

In addition Tyson products in California can be identified by the USDA Inspection Numbers P-481 or P-607, the union said.

Pitts Fights For 160-Acre Limit in Imperial Valley

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farming throughout California."

The battle was touched off at a state board meeting last December 13 when spokesmen for the Irvine Company and other excess land owners in Imperial Valley claimed enforcement of the reclamation law—which provides 40-year interest-free public loans to reclaim barren lands—was economically unwise, immoral and "contrary to the best interests of the people of California."

But Pitts pointed out that just the opposite is the case.

"The Imperial Valley economy is one of absentee landlordism, gigantic operating units, few family farms and small businesses, and almost exclusive reliance on low-paid seasonal farm labor.

"Lack of enforcement of reclamation law in the Imperial Valley has fostered a type of agriculture alien to the traditional pattern existing throughout much of California and most of the nation," he said.

The excess land owners are trying to peg their case to an informal ruling issued by a lame-duck Secretary of the Interior, Ray Lyman Wilbur, more than 30 years ago in 1933. Wilbur held that private lands in the Imperial irrigation district were exempt from acreage limitation legislation.

But Pitts called Tapps' attention to the fact that on December 31, 1964, U. S. Department of Interior Solicitor Frank J. Barry issued a formal opinion reversing Wilbur's position.

The privately-owned land in the Imperial Valley receiving water through the All-American Canal are subject to the excess land law provision of federal reclamation law, Barry stated.

Pitts also reminded the State Board of Agriculture President that Barry had pointed out that "Section 14 of the (Boulder Canyon) Project Act incorporated reclamation law, and the land limitation provisions of Section 46 of the 1928 Act are part of reclamation law.

"Nothing in the project act exempts lands in Imperial Valley from Section 46," Barry declared.

The excess land owners argue that the Wilbur decision and the failure of the government to enforce the acreage limitations have the effect of exempting the lands from reclamation law.

But Pitts disagrees. He points out that Barry had flatly repudiated such arguments saying:

"We have found Secretary Wilbur's ruling to be without legal foundation. The question now is whether the Wilbur ruling, the long practice of nonenforcement and the assumed reliance (by private land owners) can have the effect of validating the exemption which initially was without legal justification. The answer is, of course, that they cannot."

Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, representing the state's 1.5 million AFL-CIO union members, also called Tapps' attention to the fact that the Supreme Court has overturned invalid administrative positions of more than 60 years standing and required compliance with the law.

"In short," Pitts said, "the 160-acre provision of reclamation law is applicable to the Imperial Valley. The position taken before the state Board of Agriculture in December, 1965 by spokesmen for excess landowners . . . is without legal or other foundation."

Pointing out that the federal reclamation law "has been extremely generous to California," Pitts urged the Board to go on record at its next meeting publicly endorsing enforcement of the law to prevent the development of land and water monopolies and to promote family farming.

The State Board's meeting will be called to order at 10 a.m. next Monday in the Director's Conference Room of State Department of Agriculture at 1220 N Street, Sacramento.

Barry also observed that whenever Congress has "seen fit to waive or modify the excess land laws in certain projects it has always found it appropriate to enact positive legislation setting forth the exemption or other modification in

Do Growers Evade 160-Acre Limit In Delano Area?

U. S. Senate hearings are planned early this Spring to determine whether the 160-acre limitation on irrigation water from federally subsidized projects is being evaded in the Delano-Earlimart area in Kern County.

Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisconsin), chairman of a Senate subcommittee on irrigation and reclamation, will investigate the possible illegal delivery of irrigation waters to big Delano grape growers, among others.

The biggest landowner in the area is the DiGiorgio Corporation with 4600 acres. This firm, which boasts assets of more than \$65 million, posted net profits of \$2.5 million or \$1.51 per share last year compared with \$2.1 million or \$1.26 a share the previous year, a 19 percent boost in profits per share.

Farm workers in the area have been on strike for more than four months now for a minimum wage of just \$1.40 an hour and union recognition.

unmistakable terms." Where Congress has authorized departures from established policy, it has done so in "express terms, and not by implication," he added.

Union Shop Benefits

I firmly believe in the benefits derived from union membership and free collective bargaining. The union shop brings stability to labor relations, orderly and uniform contract administration and a responsible and democratic voice for labor. Organized labor has provided an effective stimulus for progressive legislation and a just society. —Rep. James Corman (D-Los Angeles).

Standards Rise

Because of the labor movement, millions are now pursuing a standard of living never before experienced.—Gov. Edward T. Breathitt (D-Ky.).

Where All The Green Stuff Goes

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and the DiGiorgio Corporation.

DiGiorgio and other Montgomery Street farmers balk at signing written contracts to guarantee farm workers a minimum wage of just \$1.40 an hour but they're a bit more generous with their stockholders.

Farm workers who wonder where the green stuff goes and others righteously indignant that a \$3.7 billion industry should be permitted to continue to pay many of its workers less than half of the state's average wage of about \$125 a week in factory employment may want to take a look at the profit status of the big three based on reports for the latest fiscal year on or before October 31, 1965:

California Packing Corporation, the world's largest fruit and vegetable canner whose principal brand name is Del Monte, owns 21,250 acres of farm land and has 62,000 acres under lease. It has assets of more than \$376 million and posted net profits of more than \$19 million or \$1.71 per share compared with net profits of \$18 million or \$1.58 per share the previous year.

Kern County Land Company which owns 1,805,992 acres, an area larger than the state of Delaware, had assets totaling \$214 million. Its net profit was more than \$18 million or \$4.19 per share compared with \$17 or \$4.01 per share the previous year.

DiGiorgio Corporation, another major distributor of fruit and vegetable products under the S&W and Treesweet labels, has assets of more than \$65 million. Its net profits were more than \$2.5 million or \$1.51 per share compared with \$2.1 million or \$1.26 per share the previous year.

All three of these firms are headquartered in San Francisco.

Another hefty corporate structure that wheels a big influence in California's agricultural industry is the Bank of America. Last year, according to a recent report in the Los Angeles Times, it financed "nearly half of the agricultural production in California." Its assets total more than \$16 BILLION. And it is headquar-

Building Trades Forum To Be Held in S.F. Jan 27-29

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and craftsmen is bound to result.

"Today it is hard to realize that California management and labor are only one generation removed from open warfare. There are still men on the job who well remember the open shop era of the 1920's and early 30's when we tried to trip each other at every turn. This is a new era of understanding for both of us."

Frank D. Corbett, executive director of the California State Builders Exchange who heads up management participation in the forum, said that although many of the sessions will be technical, it should be of interest to the public as well as to those engaged in commercial building because it will be concerned "with such matters as safety, the need for construction done by union labor under contract rather than by governmental employees and more (work in the area of) contract maintenance. (This refers to large plants that hire union help instead of contracting for it.)

"When management and la-

tered, naturally, on Montgomery Street, San Francisco.

This is the kind of massive corporate power the grape workers in the Delano area are facing.

Privately, many smaller growers have indicated they'd be more than willing to sign a union contract guaranteeing a \$1.40 minimum wage if they didn't fear the economic consequences that might result from irritating these corporate giants.

The Delano grape workers still vitally need all the support from labor and other civic groups they can get.

Donations of food and clothing should be sent directly to the AWOC strike headquarters at 1457 Glenwood Street, Delano. Monetary contributions should be made payable to the Farm Workers' Organizing Assistance Fund and sent to the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, 995 Market Street, San Francisco.

bor really cooperate, as we are doing, the public benefits by good planning, (and) strict adherence to building codes and the skills of trained craftsmen," he added.

Labor representatives on the 12-man board of directors for the forum include:

Walter J. De Brunner, business manager of the San Diego Building Trades Council; John A. Cinquemani, Los Angeles Building Trades Council; R. A. Caples, Sacramento Building Trades Council; Anthony L. Ramos, Secretary-Treasurer of the California State Council of Carpenters; Wilbur L. Fillipini, of the Santa Barbara Building Trades Council; and J. Lamar Childers, of the Alameda County Building Trades Council.

Lee Tires Now All Union-Made

A boycott against Lee Tires instituted March 18, 1964 by the United Rubber Workers has been lifted, George Burdon, the union's International President has announced.

Prompting the end of the boycott was the purchase of the Lee Rubber and Tire Company plant in Conshohocken, Pa., and the re-hiring of many former Lee employees.

The Rubber Workers union won a National Labor Relations Board-conducted election at the plant by an overwhelming 209 to 4 margin and has reached agreement with the new management on contract terms that are in line with the pattern established by the URW in the Goodyear master contract.

The boycott had been instituted only after all other attempts to reach a satisfactory settlement with the old management had been rejected and the old management had tried to impose a 20 percent wage cut and abbreviated fringe benefits on the workers.

Burdon said he would appreciate the aid of union officers in informing members and the general public that Lee Tires are "now 100 percent union made."

Leaflet Stresses Losses Due To Joblessness

"Safety in Numbers," a leaflet contrasting the time lost due to unemployment, sickness, and work injuries with the far smaller proportion of time lost due to strikes, is now available in quantity from the National AFL-CIO Department of Organization.

The leaflet, a revised version of an earlier leaflet, also emphasizes that union strength is due to the strength of numbers backed up by a signed contract and the right to strike. Local unions and central bodies may order the pamphlet directly from the national office with their own union name imprinted.

Another recently revised pamphlet, "Hidden Cost of Not Belonging", may also be purchased from the national office with the local union's imprint.

William L. Gilbert, director of the Los Angeles, Orange County Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, at 2705 West Eighth St., Los Angeles (phone 387-7281) says quantities of the old version of the "Safety in Numbers" leaflet are available free from his office.

National Health Care In Offing For Mexico

Mexico's President Gustavo Diaz-Ordaz has made his position on Mexico's health needs crystal clear to some 6,000 of his nation's physicians.

"The socialization of medicine is a phenomenon that none of us can or should stop," he declared last October 23.

Plans to socialize medicine in Mexico are expected to be introduced when the nation's legislators meet next September.

Doctor Paul Legaspi, head of the Medical-Technical Committee of Mexico's Chamber of Deputies, has expressed confidence a bill could be drafted and, with administration approval, passed.

He pointed out that about 70 percent of physicians are employed in government hospitals and most get their entire livelihood from this employment.

Pitch In To Help Win Repeal Of Sect. 14b

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fright-peddling groups of the radical right.

So long as 19 states, most of which pay the lowest wages and provide the most sub-standard benefits and working conditions in the nation, can prevent a majority of the workers in a plant from deciding for themselves what terms to seek in their contracts to protect their jobs and preserve their bargaining power, the job security of those in the 31 states where this right is not denied is in peril.

To offset the distortions and misconceptions published and parroted by many of the states daily papers and other communications media, all trade unionists have a job to do. The job includes explaining this issue to neighbors as well as writing letters to the local paper and explaining the issue over listener-participation radio shows.

If you don't have sufficient facts or are uncertain about any issue call your local union or central body. They will fill you in.

The record shows that where the people have understood the issue, they have turned their backs on section 14(b).

This has been because the section is fundamentally undemocratic and permits a small minority to veto the desires of the majority. In 1944 and again in 1958, an aroused electorate in California rejected referendums that would have imposed the compulsory open shop terms that are licensed by section 14(b) on the State's workers. In 1958 the proposal was overwhelmingly defeated by a majority of a million votes.

Even though business interests tried to deceive the public by referring to compulsory open shop laws as "right to work" laws, the voters in Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma and Washington have all also seen through this disguise and resoundingly rejected so-called "right to work" propositions in referendums during the past 18 years.

Moreover, five states that en-

State, Local Tax Reforms Urged

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cent of state revenues have come from consumption taxes, California's consumption taxes account for 60 percent of the state's revenues when taxes on liquor, tobacco and motor fuel as well as sales taxes are taken into account, the state AFL-CIO's Executive Council asserted in the statement adopted at a meeting in Santa Rosa at the Flamingo Inn.

If, after improvements in the personal income tax, the bank and corporation tax and inheritance and gift taxes, more state revenues are necessary, the state AFL-CIO suggests studying the advisability of adopting a graduated sales tax.

The advantages of incorporating the "ability to pay" principle into the sales tax, it said, would be twofold: It would distribute the tax burden more equitably among income groups as well as increase state revenue.

To emphasize the extremely regressive nature of taxes at the local level the Council pointed out that "the relative (tax) burden is 75 percent greater on families earning \$4,000 or less than it is on those earning between \$10,000 and \$15,000."

Citing recent assessor scan-

acted such laws repealed them after they recognized how harmful they were. These states were Delaware, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine and New Hampshire.

The next few weeks may well decide whether workers are going to have to continue to bear the expense of fighting an undemocratic and unjust provision within the nation's labor law that caters only to the selfish, autocratic interests of unenlightened businessmen who seek to reimpose 19th century working conditions on wage and salary earners.

Act now. Do your part to win repeal of section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act, a section that was even opposed by Mr. Conservative himself, the late Robert A. Taft, (R-Ohio).

dals, the statement said that local property tax administration varies between counties and "discriminates against low and moderate income families."

Moreover, it added, large corporations have avoided paying their fair share. As a result, "homeowners and others pay more than their share to make up for the resulting deficiencies in revenue."

The statement endorsed a number of the tax reform proposals put forward recently by the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation and the State Board of Equalization. Particularly desirable, the state AFL-CIO Executive Council said, would be:

- Tax exemption for household furnishings and personal effects.
- A statutory assessment level of 25 percent of market value.
- Reimbursement to needy elderly citizens of portions of their property taxes, whether they own or rent.
- Elimination of the tax offset "subsidy" granted insurance firms for existing principal offices.
- Assessment of business inventories in proportion to their average value throughout the year instead of on a single lien date.

In opposing the abolition of the business inventory tax, which is sought by big business interests, the state AFL-CIO's Executive Council warned that abolition "would drastically reduce the local tax base and produce 'windfalls' to some large corporations." Assessment of business inventories on the basis of their average value throughout the year along with improved and equitable administration can remove present defects in this tax, the statement said.

Adoption of these proposals, the statement concluded, would represent "major steps toward providing a more equitable tax system for all the taxpayers of California."

Right Wing Scare Sheets Spreading Out

Just in case you think the influence of the Birch Society is grossly exaggerated by the coverage it gets in the commercial press, let's take a look at some average paid circulation figures reported to the U. S. Post Office Department by right wing publications to fulfill requirements to maintain second class mailing privileges.

Despite a 100 percent hike in its subscription rate, "American Opinion", a magazine published by the John Birch Society lost only 3 percent of its circulation between 1963 and 1964 and showed a 39 percent increase between 1964 and 1965. It's now 35,400.

Another violently anti-union radical right publication, "Liberty Letter," showed a 73 percent hike in circulation between 1963 and 1964 and more than tripled again in 1964, posting a 249 percent circulation increase. Latest circulation figure for it is 92,379.

Similarly, "Human Events" rose 8 percent in 1964 and another 8 percent in 1965. And the circulation of William Buckley's "National Review" climbed 13 percent in 1964 and another 18 percent in 1965. It's now up to 86,273.

The Birch Society publication, like most of the radical right's tracts, opposes the union shop, opposes the extension of medicare to a broader section of the nation's population, opposes improvements in the nation's minimum wage legislation, and among other things, opposes federal aid to education as a means of equalizing opportunities for education and employment among our citizenry.

Despite the overwhelming rejection of the right wing's hand-picked candidate in the 1964 presidential election, they are clearly succeeding in expanding the circulation of their propaganda.

In view of this, just in the interests of protecting our own job security as well as enhancing the possibilities for improvements in medicare and other public-interest legislation maybe we'd all better **GIVE MORE THAN JUST A BUCK TO COPE THIS YEAR.**