



California AFL-CIO News

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Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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'66 Vote Key to Progress, Pitts Says in Calling COPE Convention in S.F. April 8

"With the most extensive turnover in state legislative seats in more than a generation in prospect due to the 1965 reapportionment act, effective political action by organized labor in California this year is absolutely essential," Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Council on Political Education stressed today in issuing the official convention call for California Labor COPE's Pre-Primary Election Endorsement Convention.

Procedure on Changing Doctor

If an injured worker requests a change of physician and the insurance carrier or self-insured employer fails to present him with an approved list of at least five additional physicians within 12 days, the injured worker has a right to select a physician of his own

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Delegates to the convention will act on recommendations submitted by county and district COPE units throughout the state for candidates to receive labor's backing for congressional or state legislative posts in the statewide primary

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Who Isn't Signed Up for Medicare?

The deadline for signing up for the voluntary doctor insurance coverage under the new medicare law is March 31, just two months away, yet the latest count indicates only 54 percent of those eligible—10 million—have enrolled so far in the greatest hospital insurance bargain in the nation's history.

Persons who were 65 or over before January 1, 1966 who fail to sign up for the \$3 a

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Union Score Biggest Gain In Eight Years

Union membership in California scored its largest net gain in eight years between July, 1964 and July 1965, rising to a record high of 1,871,700 last July, the State Department of Industrial Relations disclosed this week.

The net over-the-year gain of 47,600 members represented a 2.6 percent jump that almost equalled the 2.7 percent rise in non-farm employment.

Maurice I. Gershenson, chief of the Department's Division of Labor Statistics and Research, said that there has been such a

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Report Confirms Fed's Stand on Bracero Issue

Thanks principally to the end of the bracero program, hired domestic farm workers in California earned \$42.5 million more in just the first six months of 1965 than they did in the same period a year earlier, a report by the State Department of Employment indicates.

During the same half year period, earnings of imported Mexican nationals dropped \$25.1 million.

"What this report essentially demonstrates," state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts, commented, "is that the only malady afflicting California's \$3.7 billion agricultural industry has been 'pay envelope anemia.' And there are signs now that even the growers are beginning to recognize this."

The figures clearly corroborate the stand the California Labor Federation has maintained

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WARM WELCOME FOR LABOR—State AFL-CIO leader Tom Pitts (second from left) and the California Labor Federation's Executive Council are welcomed to Sonoma County by State Senator Joseph A. Rattigan (second from right) who joined key north state trade unionists at a memorable dinner party hosted recently by the Sonoma County Central Labor Council in honor of the Executive Council's first meeting in Santa Rosa. Joining the festivities were Terry O'Sullivan, International Vice President of the Laborer's International Union (at left) and John Meritt, Executive Secretary of the state Culinary Alliance. In the course of its two-day meeting, the Council adopted a statement calling for extensive tax reforms to ease the tax burden on low and moderate income groups.

'66 Vote Key to Progress, Pitts Says in Calling COPE Convention in S.F. April 8

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election to be held Tuesday, June 7, 1966.

A total of 169 federal and state posts are at stake, including the governorship and six statewide offices, 38 congressional seats, 40 state senate and 80 state assembly seats, and the four seats on the State Board of Equalization.

KEY TO PROGRESS

In issuing the call for the convention, which will be held Friday, April 8 in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Palace Hotel in San Francisco, Pitts declared:

"We are confronted with the elemental fact that the fate of liberal legislation for years ahead will be significantly influenced by the political complexion of the membership of the first state senate and assembly elected from the newly-reapportioned districts.

FAR RIGHT'S TARGET

"Moreover, it is already abundantly clear that the reactionary extremist forces of the radical right have designated California as their prime target this year. We can safely anticipate that their assault will be directed not only toward key state constitutional offices, but toward every progressive candidate for congressional or state legislative office who fails to subscribe to the long discredited economic theories and morally bankrupt social dogmas the extremists try to promote. It is equally clear that these extremist forces are better financed and better organized than ever before.

"In this political climate our stake in this election not only encompasses the labor movement's basic 'bread and butter' issues but extends beyond them to the preservation of a forward-looking philosophy of government responsive to the economic, social and cultural needs of all our citizens, and of the democratic institutions necessary to implement that philosophy.

"If the challenge of California's employment problems and its burgeoning needs for community services such as housing, hospitals, schools and highways, are to be effectively met,

the character of the legislators selected must be equal to the task.

"Our obligation, therefore, in this critical off-year election, is to select such candidates and demonstrate by our efforts in their behalf the broad base of political support we generate for them.

NO SHORT CUTS

"There are no shortcuts for this task," Pitts emphasized.

"It can be accomplished only by the full implementation of our interview and endorsement techniques from the grass roots up, and by the coordination of our endorsement procedures through the official COPE structures at the local, district and state levels.

"This means that the principle of labor's non-partisan political activity must be vigorously asserted at every level and that any attempt by either of our two great parties to direct or swallow up labor's independent role must be repulsed.

"In this 1966 Pre-Primary Convention, our endorsements must capture the full potential of the labor movement. We cannot afford to permit the labor movement's strength to be fragmented at a time when the on-rushing impact of automation considerably complicates our basic task of protecting the economic security and improving the conditions of life and labor for all wages and salary earners in our state and nation.

"Only through such a course can the labor movement hope to continue to serve as an effective force to keep our elected public servants responsive to the public interests they are chosen to protect," Pitts asserted.

REPRESENTATION

To be represented at the convention, affiliated organizations must be in good standing, with per capita tax paid in full up to January 1966.

Representation is based on the number of members in each affiliated union as follows:

Two delegates for the first 500 members or less; one delegate for the next succeeding 250 members or major fraction thereof; one delegate

for each succeeding 500 members or major fraction thereof. The total number of delegates from any local union may not exceed 10.

Credentials for delegates are to be mailed as soon as the computation of per capita membership and voting strength of each affiliate organization has been completed by the auditors.

On all questions where a roll call vote is taken, each delegate from a local union is entitled to vote an equal percentage of the membership from the local he or she represents, all fractional votes being eliminated.

Central bodies, state and local councils and joint boards, political organizations and specific areas and other eligible bodies are entitled to two delegates, each of whom has one vote.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In connection with endorsements, Article 11, Section 2 of the Constitution of California Labor COPE stipulates that:

"It shall be the exclusive right of the political organizations, duly established for specified areas by the various central labor bodies of the AFL-CIO in accordance with the rules governing such political organizations adopted by the Executive Council of California Labor COPE to recommend to the Executive Council for endorsement by the convention, candidates for the Congress of the United States, the State Board of Equalization, and for the State Senate and State Assembly in such area; provided, however, if any such candidate is running for office from an area embracing at least in part an area covered by more than one political organization, it shall be the exclusive right of the area or district political organization in such area, as the case may be, to recommend to the Executive Council for endorsement by the convention and no recommendation as to any such candidate may be made to the Executive Council in such case by any of the other political organizations involved."

The deadline for receipt of resolutions and proposed amendments to the Constitu-

Delano Strikers Still Need Aid

Farm workers engaged in the AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee's strike for union recognition and \$1.40 an hour against Delano area growers still need help.

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

Facts on 14b Fight Yours for the Asking

Two pamphlets setting forth the facts on Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act are now available in quantity from the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO at 995 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94103.

The first pamphlet, "What Do You Tell Them About 14(b)?" contains straight answers to frequently asked questions that too frequently go unanswered in the nation's commercial press.

The second pamphlet, "Filibuster; A Story of Democracy Inaction," explains why filibusters are basically alien to effective democratic government and provides background information on the current filibuster.

tion by the Secretary-Treasurer is Thursday, March 24, 1966, except for those approved by regularly constituted and affiliated statewide organizations at conventions or conferences held during the 15 days preceding the convention, which must be received by the Secretary-Treasurer not later than 9 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, 1966. Each resolution must be presented in triplicate and bear either the signature of an executive officer or the seal of the affiliated organization introducing it.

Convention headquarters will be at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel at Market and New Montgomery Streets, San Francisco.

Union Rolls Show Biggest Rise in State In Eight Years

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strong up-trend in employment since last July that it was likely that "union membership has kept pace with the increase in employment" in recent months.

If so, it would be the first time since the 1952-53 fiscal year that this has occurred in California. In 1952-53 the state's union membership climbed five percent while employment rose only 4.3 percent.

Since July, 1961, total union membership and the total number of local unions in California has risen steadily. The number of union locals rose from 3,575 to 3,865 as of last July and total union membership climbed from 1,737,000 to 1,871,700, an increase of 134,700 in four years.

The report also indicated that nearly one of every five union members in California today is female. Women membership totaled 359,200 or 19 percent with 114,900 in manufacturing activities and 244,300 in non-manufacturing activities.

"Reflecting the escalation in Vietnam," the report said, "membership gains by unions representing federal civilian employees in shipyards, depots and military hospitals accounted for a large part of the increase in union membership in government which was 11,200 above the previous year."

Conspicuous increases in union membership were noted in transportation equipment and ordnance, metals and machinery, and paper and allied products, it added.

Membership in local unions engaged in non-manufacturing activities rose 34,200 to a new high of 1,315,100, sustaining an 11-year expansion.

Here's how union membership in California breaks down on a regional basis:

Los Angeles County—Union membership rose 26,100 over the year to 745,900, a 3.6 percent increase nearly doubling the 1.9 percent rise in non-farm employment in the same period. Membership in factory locals climbed 13,300, with aircraft and ordnance accounting for two-thirds of the increase. Non-manufacturing locals rose 12,800.

San Francisco-Oakland—Membership rose 7,900 to 465,

800 between July, 1964 and July, 1965 in the five-county San Francisco-Oakland Metropolitan Area, an increase of 1.7 percent compared with a 2.5 percent rise in the non-farm work force. Most of the increase was scored in non-manufacturing industries with building trades locals netting 3,600 members alone.

San Jose—Membership in Santa Clara County was unchanged over the year at 90,800 although employment rose 4.5 percent. Gains by non-manufacturing locals made up for a loss of 1,200 members in such manufacturing activities as canning and metals and machinery.

San Diego—Chalking up its first increase in five years, union membership in the San Diego metropolitan area rose 900 to total 74,800. The increase was concentrated in non-manufacturing industries with locals

in government leading the way. The 1.2 percent membership increase was well below the 3.3 percent rise in non-farm employment.

Anaheim-Santa Ana-Garden Grove—Although non-farm employment rose 4.5 percent, union membership dipped from 80,500 a year earlier to 79,600 in July, 1965. A net loss of 2,000 members in building trades locals which the report attributed to cutbacks in residential construction was offset in part by increases in public utilities, government and other industries. The fact that this area has become a haven for the John Birch Society and other extremist, anti-labor groups, and has been dominated by an ultra-conservative newspaper may also figure in this decline. But this last observation was not suggested in the State report.

Procedure on Changing Doctors

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choice at the employer's expense.

Thomas N. Saunders, administrative director of the new Division of Industrial Accidents made this clear this week in setting forth procedures to be followed by self-insured employers and workmen's compensation insurance carriers in seeking approval of a second panel of treating physicians to be submitted to an injured worker who asks for a change.

Prior to enactment of the Federation-backed bill (A B 2023) which separated the administrative functions of the state's workmen's compensation program from its judicial functions, the self-insured employer or insurance carrier selected and paid the physician without any state supervision.

Moreover, they were formerly required to provide the worker with a list of only three additional physicians and no state approval of the three was required.

Labor Code Section 4601 now, however, requires that the physicians nominated be approved by the Division of Industrial Accidents (DIA) as competent to treat the particular case.

"Our medical director will re-

view the list of nominees using as criteria for approval or disapproval whether the physicians selected are available in the area in which the applicant resides and whether the field of practice of each physician nominated is related to the condition to be treated.

"Those physicians nominated will be deemed to be approved unless you hear to the contrary within the 12-day period prescribed by law," Saunders said in a letter dispatched this week to all self-insured employers and insurance carriers.

"No prior blanket approval of panels can be given," he added. "The insurer must submit the names of at least five physicians in each instance where a second choice is requested," he explained.

To avoid delaying the worker's treatment, he also urged the carriers to present the list to the injured worker at the same time they submit it for approval.

The list must include the names and addresses of the physicians nominated, the field of medical practice of each and indicate the condition requiring treatment.

Before these procedures are

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month voluntary doctor insurance coverage by the March 31 deadline, will forfeit their chance to enroll in the program until October, 1967 and deny themselves the chance to receive any benefits until July, 1968.

Moreover, those who fail to enroll by March 31 will have to pay a 10 percent higher premium for each year in which they fail to enroll and they have only three years in which they are eligible to enroll at all.

The voluntary doctor insurance coverage will pay 80 percent of the senior citizen's doctor, surgeon and other specialists' bills for services at home, in the hospital, clinic or nursing home.

Persons reaching 65 on January 1, 1966 or later are allowed a seven-month enrollment period, running from three months before their month of birth until three months after it.

As trade unionists, we have a special stake in helping to locate the eight million elderly citizens who have not yet signed up: First, to help assure that elderly citizens in this nation no longer deny themselves adequate medical attention when necessary out of fear of the financial consequences; and second, to assure the full implementation of the medicare program in the interests of improving the health care available for our retired membership and spurring the construction of more hospitals and health care facilities to provide adequate medical care.

So let's talk it up in the infield. Incidentally, anyone who signs up for the voluntary doctor insurance plan by March 31 may change their mind and cancel before July 1, 1966. But if they fail to sign up by March 31 they lose the chance to receive any benefits until July, 1968.

And that's a long wait.

formally adopted, however, Saunders said public hearings will be held in Los Angeles and San Francisco sometime next month.

Investing Pension Funds Prop. No. 1 On Nov. Ballot

The number one spot on next November's general election ballot will be occupied by a measure dealing with the investment of the assets of public employees' retirement funds.

This was announced last month by Secretary of State Frank M. Jordan who said that Proposition 1 would be Assembly Constitutional Amendment 57 authored by Assemblyman Don A. Allen, Sr. (D-Los Angeles). It was approved by the 1965 regular session of the legislature.

The measure would permit up to 25 percent of the assets of a public retirement fund other than the State Teachers Retirement Fund to be invested in certain corporate stocks.

Except for stocks in banks that are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or insurance companies with capitalization of at least \$50 million or preferred stocks, only stocks listed on a national exchange would qualify as investments for such funds.

Among other safeguards, ACA 57 would require that any eligible stocks would be those of corporations having assets of \$100 million or more and that its bonds be a legal investment for the fund and that its dividend payments meet certain standards.

In addition, no fund would be allowed to purchase more than five percent of the outstanding stock of any one corporation nor invest more than two percent of the fund's assets in a single corporation.

The measure would, however, permit investment of such funds in diversified management investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 so long as such companies have assets of \$50 million or more and so long as the total investment does not exceed 25 percent of the retirement fund's assets.

The California Labor Federation's position on this will be determined by the delegates to just for the asking.

Report Backs Fed Stand That P.L. 78 Hurt Workers

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for years that the bracero program severely undercut the wages of domestic workers and drained millions of dollars in wages out of the state's economy to the detriment of both local business interests in farm areas and the nation's balance of payments position.

The scope of this loss is indicated by the report's estimate that the annual earnings of Mexican nationals declined from \$78 million in 1964 to just \$10 million last year. Even if the braceros carted only 75 percent of their earnings back to Mexico with them in 1964, this meant a loss of \$58.5 million to the state's economy.

In contrast the loss in 1965 amounted to only \$7.5 million on the basis of the \$10 million annual earnings estimate for braceros.

The fact that domestic workers earned \$42.5 million more in just the first six months of 1965 than they did in the same period a year earlier serves to further underscore the validity

the Federation's Sixth convention to be held in San Diego August 15 through 19, 1966.

Delegates to the recent national AFL-CIO convention in San Francisco, however, adopted a resolution (Number 182) directing the AFL-CIO social security committee to recommend federal legislative standards to be sought to govern the investment of retirement fund reserves.

In general, the AFL-CIO Department of Investment encourages the prompt investment of reserves at the best safe interest rates available but one of its primary goals is to encourage the investment of AFL-CIO pension funds in socially desirable areas such as housing by financing federally insured or guaranteed mortgage loans on single family homes and multiple dwellings providing medium and low rental apartments. The advice and assistance of the AFL-CIO investment department is available to all AFL-CIO affiliates

of the Federation's position that the only real shortage in agriculture all along has been a shortage of wages, not of labor.

The report itself backed up the Federation's position, noting that expiration of Public Law 78 "caused employers to raise wages in order to attract as many domestic workers as possible."

A second factor in improving the earnings of domestic hired farm workers, the report maintained, was the minimum wage criteria set by the Labor Department last year for growers wishing to qualify to import foreign farm workers.

Unfortunately, the \$1.40 minimum that applied in California from April 1, 1965 on was so low that it acted as a ceiling on wages rather than a floor. It meant that the huge corporate farm interests that hire the bulk of the peak season work force were still exempt from competing realistically for labor on the same basis as other industries in the nation. They didn't have to offer domestic workers \$2.00 an hour, or \$1.75 an hour, or even just \$1.41 an hour.

If they couldn't get all the workers they wanted at just \$1.40—a gross weekly wage of only \$56 for a 40-hour week, or considerably less than half of the state's average factory worker's weekly wage of more than \$123—the government stepped in and gave them foreign workers.

For years, the fact that farm workers have been grossly underpaid has depressed construction activity and small business volume in large and small farm area communities throughout the state. It has also subjected the farm worker to abject poverty by denying him the capability to provide decent food, clothing, education, housing and health care for his family.

It took more than 13 years to free the farm worker from the yoke of Public Law 78.

Let's hope it doesn't take one-thirteenth as long to help them win full collective bargaining rights.

Union Voting Rules Analyzed In U.S. Study

Different methods used by larger international unions to amend their constitutions and allocate convention voting strength among locals of varying sizes are examined in a new study by the Labor-Management Services Administration of the Labor Department.

The study, "Local Convention Representation and Constitutional Amendments in National Unions," analyzes the constitutions as of June, 1963, of 73 unions of 40,000 or more members, all but nine of them AFL-CIO affiliates. Special attention is paid to methods of amending dues provisions.

The publication is on sale at 25 cents a copy by the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

High Court To Hear More on Prop. 14

The State Supreme Court decided last week it wants to hear arguments on the relevance of a recent U.S. Supreme Court opinion in the case of Evans vs. Newton to the constitutionality of Proposition 14.

In the Evans vs. Newton case, the Supreme Court held that a city (Macon, Ga.) could not avoid integrating a park by turning the park over to private trustees to operate.

Proposition 14, which legalized discrimination in residential housing in California, was approved by the voters in November, 1964. It is believed that the Evans vs. Newton case will help those attempting to prove the unconstitutionality of Proposition 14.

Voters Oppose RTW

Within the past eight years, seven state referendums have been held on so-called "right to work" laws. In six states the proposition was rejected. In only one, Kansas, did it pass by a narrow margin. In all, about 6.7 million citizens favored the union shop by opposing "right to work"; only 4.5 million were against it. This is a 60 percent plurality—a landslide.