



California AFL-CIO News

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Published weekly by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO,
995 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94103—Second Class
Postage Paid at San Francisco, Calif.—Subscription: \$3.50 a year

March 25, 1966
Vol. 8 — No. 12

Support for Farm Workers Snowballing

Mounting support and concern for the plight of Delano area grape workers as well as farm workers throughout the state was evidenced this week as a contingent of farm workers marched determinedly on Sacramento to dramatize the workers' need for higher wages and the same collective bargaining rights and social insurance protections enjoyed by other workers.

Archbishop Joseph T. McGucken announced last Friday that representatives of the archdiocese and other lay and clerical representatives would participate in the farm workers' march.

Earlier Bishop Hugh Donohoe of Stockton announced that all eight of California's Roman Catholic Bishops support the unionization of farm workers.

"It is becoming evident that
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Full Committee OKs FLSA Bill

A bill to extend minimum wage protections to more than 6.6 million more workers, including 485,000 farm workers, and boost the national minimum for workers already covered to \$1.60 an hour by February 1, 1968, won the approval of the full 31-member House Education Committee this week with only "one or two" dissents on a voice vote.

The measure is not expected to be brought to the floor of the House until after the April 7-18 House Easter recess.

As presently approved, the bill would hike the present \$1.25 minimum to \$1.40 on February 1, 1967, and raise it to
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FOR INJURED WORKERS

Hike Benefits, Brown Urges

Governor Edmund G. Brown this week added workers' compensation to the special call of the legislature and urged the state's lawmakers to boost the maximum weekly temporary disability benefits under the program from \$70 to \$80.

'Read the U.S. Constitution,' Sheriff Told

"How can you arrest someone if they haven't violated the law?"

This is the question an incredulous Senator Robert Kennedy (D-N.Y.) put to Kern County Sheriff Leroy Galyen during Senate Farm Labor hearings in Delano last week after the sheriff testified that he had ordered the arrest of 44 pickets including nine ministers for "unlawful assembly" last October because non-strikers told him "they were going to cut-up the pickets."

Kennedy suggested that Sheriff Galyen and the county's district attorney "read the Constitution of the United States" and urged the Sheriff to "reconsider your procedures."

Responding to the contention of Martin Zaninovich, a local grape grower who testified that
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State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts said he was heartened that the Governor had finally been convinced of the urgency to increase benefits for workers hurt on the job, but added that the Governor's proposal of only a \$10 increase in weekly temporary disability benefits was "far too low"

The Governor's own blue-ribbon Workmen's Compensation Study Commission, Pitts noted, recommended last year that 75 percent of all claimants should get a temporary disability benefit amount of 61 1/4 percent of average weekly earnings.

"If the Governor merely followed the recommendations of his own study Commission, his proposed increase should be more than double the figure he has just called for. The Commission's report would call for a boost to \$94 instead of just to \$80 in maximum weekly temporary disability benefits," he explained.

"If anyone has any doubt
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Action Urged On Situs Picketing Bill

A call for the repeal of restrictions imposed by provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act against picketing at construction sites was sounded this week by U.S. Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz.

Addressing the 11th National Legislative Conference of the Building and Construction Trades Department in Washington, Wirtz said:

"For 17 years now it has been generally and clearly accepted that a mistake was made in the fine print . . . of the Taft-Hartley Act.

"It is time — and long past time — to correct the law so that it recognizes the right to picket peacefully applies equally to a construction site as it does wherever else there is a labor dispute.

"This isn't a matter of 'liking' picketing," he emphasized.

"Nobody ever carried a picket sign, or stopped in front of one, without feeling that there ought to be a better way to settle a difference. But democracy depends on recognizing that justice sometimes has to be won the hard way, that freedom of protest is an essential part of deciding where the right answer lies," Wirtz observed.

Asserting that 1966 will be "a year not for introducing bills, but for passing them," Wirtz declared that repeal of the pertinent restrictive pro-
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Record Turnout Expected At COPE Parley April 8

Delegates from affiliated AFL-CIO organizations throughout California will descend on San Francisco in record numbers for the critical California Labor COPE pre-primary endorsement convention at the

Sheraton-Palace Hotel on Friday, April 8, 1966.

The record turnout, already indicated by the flood of applications for delegates' credentials, "demonstrates that or-
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**Only 20 Days Left
To Sign Up to Vote.
Deadline — April 14**

Action Urged On Situs Picketing Bill

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visions in the Taft-Hartley Act will be a major goal of the Administration this year.

The so-called "situs picketing" issue stems from an unintended interpretation of the Taft-Hartley Act's ban on secondary boycotts. In 1949, in the Denver Building Trades case, the National Labor Relations Board held that it was illegal for a union to strike or throw a picket line around a construction site if an object of the activity is to keep unions not directly involved in the dispute off the job.

This decision, which was subsequently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1951, discriminates against building trades unions because it denies them the basic economic rights enjoyed by other unions in other industries.

Legislation to correct this "mistake in the fine print" has been proposed by every President the nation has had since the Taft-Hartley Act was enacted — Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson.

The House Education and Labor Committee reported out a revised version of the bill on September 21, 1965, including a section that would require a union to give a 10-day notice of intention to strike at any military facility engaged in defense or space work. Action on this bill is expected soon.

Utilities' Net Rises to 16c Per Income Dollar

Private power companies are taking an ever growing profit out of the consumer's electric bill, figures released recently by the Federal Power Commission reveal.

In 1964, the figures indicate, the nation's private power companies had a net profit of 16 cents out of each dollar received from consumers.

That was the highest of any post-World War II year except 1946, when net profits amounted to 16.7 cents of every revenue dollar.

FOR INJURED WORKERS

Hike Benefits, Brown Urges

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about the niggardliness of California's current benefit levels," Pitts said, "they should bear in mind that Arizona's maximum temporary benefit is already \$150, Alaska's \$100, and Hawaii's \$112.50."

To further illustrate the gross inadequacies of the state's program Pitts pointed out that maximum weekly temporary disability benefits for federal workers hurt on the job is already \$121.50 and that the House of Representatives recently passed and sent to the Senate H. R. 10721 which calls for boosting that figure to \$322.57.

In announcing his action, Governor Brown pointed out that both houses of the legislature approved a \$10 increase last year but the bill to accomplish the increase failed because of failure to agree on last-minute amendments.

KCL's Profits Soar But Not Workers' Pay

Earnings of the Kern County Land Company, a corporate farm giant that owns, 1,806,000 acres of land in California, Arizona and New Mexico, chalked up a 39 percent boost in earnings for the three months ending January 31, 1966.

That's what KCL President Dwight N. Cochran proudly told shareholders at a Bakersfield meeting early this month. He said the firm earned a record \$6,204,000 or \$1.39 a share for the quarter, an increase of 39 per cent over the \$4,307,000 or \$1 a share earned in the same period the previous year.

Hired farm workers' wages in California also scored their biggest increase in years last year rising 5 percent from an annual average of \$1.33 in 1964 to \$1.40 in 1965. But who can be very proud of that?

"The increase not only would provide a needed increase in benefits for injured workers but would end a glaring inequity in which workers now, in effect, subsidize the workmen's compensation program in the amount of more than \$1.5 million a year.

The Governor explained that while the maximum weekly temporary workmen's compensation benefit, which is financed by employers, remains at \$70, the maximum weekly benefit for a non-occupational disability under the off-the-job disability insurance program financed by workers is \$80.

A claimant is entitled to the difference in benefits to be paid to him out of the non-occupational disability fund when this benefit is larger than what he receives for an on-the-job disability under the state's workmen's compensation program, the Governor explained.

Medicare Signup Deadline March 31

Just a few days remain before the March 31, 1966, deadline for senior citizens to sign up for the Part B voluntary doctor bill insurance coverage available under the Medicare Act passed last year.

The Part B coverage costs only \$3 a month. Senior citizens—those 65 or over who fail to sign up by the deadline this coming Thursday will be unable to sign up for it again until October, 1967, when they will have to pay a higher premium and will be ineligible for any benefits until mid-1968.

Those who sign up for it immediately will be eligible for benefits as of July 1 this year.

Trade unionists are urged to contact their relatives, friends and neighbors to remind them of the deadline and urge those who have not signed up to contact their nearest Social Security Office immediately.

L.A. Girl Wins 'Hire Disabled' Essay Contest

"Although the disabled are contributing much to our community, with greater help from the public they could contribute even more."

This was one of the observations of Shelley Meltzer, a 17-year-old senior at Los Angeles' John Marshall High School in an essay that won first place in California's 18th Annual Employ the Handicapped writing contest for 11th and 12th graders.

Miss Meltzer, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Meltzer of 1449 Elevado Street, Los Angeles, both of whom are members of long standing in the Bartenders Local 284 and Waitresses Local 639 Unions respectively, also cited many examples of how handicapped persons have overcome their disabilities to achieve responsible positions in industry, the arts, and in various professional fields.

Her essay will be California's entry in a national writing contest. Miss Meltzer will be flown to Washington with all expenses paid with the compliments of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, at the end of April to participate in a program with the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

The writing contest is an annual event to focus public attention on the importance of jobs for the handicapped and to promote "Hire the Handicapped Week" which is held annually during the first week in October.

Commenting on her essay, Tom Pitts, the Federation's secretary-treasurer, said:

"If more people realized as clearly as Shelley does that a little investment in human potential pays enormous dividends, many new horizons for handicapped or disabled workers could be opened.

"In behalf of the 1.5 million AFL-CIO members in California, I am privileged to congratulate her for writing an excellent essay."

Support Mounts as Farm Workers March on Capitol

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unless farm workers are given the chance to organize they are going to become the wards of the state," he declared.

The Catholic Bishops also expressed their support for the extension to farm workers of all other legal rights granted other workers, including minimum wage and unemployment insurance coverage and non-discriminatory employment opportunities as well as adequate sanitation and physical safety provisions.

Last Tuesday Episcopal Bishop James A. Pike urged clerical and lay members of his California diocese to "participate actively" in the protest march as well as to work in other ways in the farm workers' behalf.

At midweek, the marchers had covered more than 75 miles of their 300-mile trek from Delano to Sacramento. The march started from Delano last Thursday following the wind-up of the three days of hearings by a U.S. Sub-committee on Migratory Labor chaired by Sen. Harrison Williams (D-N.J.) in Delano the previous day.

Aided and augmented by other farm workers, labor, civic and religious groups, the marchers, members of the AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, and the Independent National Farm Workers Association, expect to reach Sacramento Easter Sunday.

Governor Edmund G. Brown, who plans to be vacationing in Palm Springs on Easter, promised this week to "at least pay my respects to this group of dedicated people" somewhere along their line of march.

In other developments in the farm labor situation, State Employment Director Albert Tieburg reported last week that there is currently a surplus of domestic farm workers in California even though current employment among farm workers is higher than in 1964 when 10,000 foreign workers were at work on California farms.

In 1964, before the expiration of the bracero program on December 31, 1964, farm workers in California totaled 264,500, including 71,700 seasonal domestic workers and 10,700 foreign workers.

In 1965, after the expiration of the bracero program, the

total in the same month of February dropped to 262,600 and seasonal U.S. domestic workers rose to 83,000.

But by last month, February 1966, the number of farm workers in the state had risen to 269,000, higher than the 1964 total, and the number of seasonal domestic workers had climbed to 89,550.

In the light of these figures, Tieburg observed:

"The supply now looks good. Most areas are reporting a surplus, in fact. While we don't know the future, we expect a much more orderly play be-

tween supply and demand for labor as the season progresses."

The head of the State Department of Employment's farm labor office in Santa Ana, Don Hess, expressed pleasant surprise at the good shape of the farm labor situation in Orange County saying:

"I thought it would take three or four years to reach the labor position we seem to be in today."

And even a grower spokesman, head of a farm labor association representing citrus industry growers in California and Arizona, conceded that:

House Committee OKs Boost In Minimum Wage to \$1.60

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\$1.60 on February 1, 1968. These increases would apply to about 30 million workers already covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Coverage for farm workers would be determined by whether a single farm employs a minimum of 500-man days of labor in any three-month period. Thus it would afford coverage to workers on large corporate farms and migrant farm labor crews but would still deny such coverage to workers on smaller farm operations and temporary seasonal farm workers.

The wage floor for those farm workers covered would start at \$1 an hour on February 1, 1967, and rise in 15-cent steps for the next two years to a top of \$1.30 in 1969. Other workers brought under coverage for the first time would have a wage floor of \$1 on February 1, 1967, and rise in 15-cent steps to \$1.60 by February 1, 1971.

The bill, providing the first minimum wage increase since approval of the 1961 FLA amendments, would also afford coverage for the following groups of additional workers: retail stores 1.5 million; public and private hospitals and related institutions, 1.5 million; laundries and dry cleaning establishments, 505,000; restaurants, 425,000; hotels and motels, 275,000; taxi companies,

100,000; public and private transit systems, 65,000; agriculture processors in rural areas, 90,000; construction workers, 581,000; loggers, 37,000; cotton ginners, 34,000; miscellaneous services, 50,000; and other industries, 960,000.

Including the 485,000 farm workers, this totals 6,607,000 workers to be brought under FLSA coverage for the first time.

Under the 1961 amendments which boosted the minimum from \$1 to \$1.25 in two steps, 3.6 million workers, principally in large retail establishments, were covered.

In addition, the measure would break new ground by providing a federal wage floor for service industries such as hotels, restaurants, laundries and hospitals, in which workers get part of their income from tips. As presently written, the measure calls for workers earning more than \$20 per month in tips to be defined as "tipped employees."

As an offset to the income from tips, their minimum wage would start at 35 percent of \$1 or 35 cents, and range up to 45 percent of \$1.60, or 72 cents an hour.

The bill also provides coverage for some government employees including "blue-collar" federal workers and employees of publicly owned transit systems, hospitals and related institutions.

"We are feeling no pain whatsoever in terms of getting farm workers at this stage. And we're getting good workers."

The spokesman, Jack Miller, explained they are still recruiting on a piece rate instead of a minimum wage basis but claimed that wages were averaging nearly \$2 an hour compared to \$1.38 in 1964.

In 1964, nearly 80 per cent of the lemon harvest work force and about 40 per cent of the orange harvest work force consisted of foreign workers.

Needless to say, the hike in wages to levels approaching the \$2 an hour minimum long sought by the state and national AFL-CIO coupled with the elimination of foreign farm workers thoroughly corroborates the California Labor Federation stand for years that the only shortage in the state's agricultural industry has been a wage shortage.

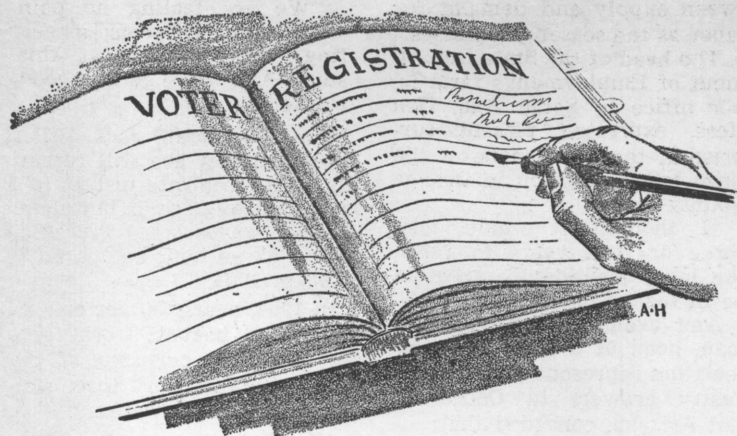
As of last Tuesday, the only indication for a desire for foreign workers thus far this year has come from California asparagus growers, according to Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz' assistant for farm labor problems, David North.

But North pointed out that as of last Tuesday the asparagus growers had not agreed to meet any of the Department of Labor's criteria or to make any efforts to recruit needed workers through Department of Employment recruiting offices.

Could it be that they know perfectly well that if they offer a decent wage—one approaching at least \$2.00 an hour with a higher rate for the more difficult white asparagus crop—that they could attract all the workers they need?

And why, the public might well ask, should growers who claim to be paying piece-rates amounting to nearly \$2 an hour balk at guaranteeing a minimum wage of only \$1.40 an hour to workers obliged to travel great distances to their jobs without any hope of fringe benefits such as vacation pay, overtime, or jobless insurance credits that are taken for granted by nearly all other workers?

Get Your Name In The Book



If you are not registered to vote by Thursday, April 14—now less than three weeks away—you will have forsaken both your right and your responsibility to help pick representatives that will serve and protect your interests.

To cast a ballot on June 7, you must re-register if:

1. You have changed your address since you last registered.
2. You did not vote in the November 4, 1964, general election.
3. You have changed your name by marriage or by court order since you last registered.

To be eligible to register, a person must be 21 years of age as of June 7, an American citizen, have resided in the state one year and in the county 90 days.

For your own good, register today! And be sure to vote.

Tap Corporations For Next Tax Boost, AFL-CIO Urges

The AFL-CIO's national executive council has called for any additional rise in military expenses for the war in southeast Asia beyond those presently pending Congress to be met by corporate tax hikes instead of cutting back or freezing Great Society programs.

At its recent meeting in Bal Harbor, Florida, the council said that ending the seven percent investment tax credit presently enjoyed by corporations and/or imposition of an excess profits tax or a hike in the corporate tax rate would not only be sound economic policy but economic justice as well.

"The cost of the Vietnam War should not be absorbed by cutting back or freezing current levels of federal expenditures or stunting the promised growth of essential programs," the council declared.

"The poor should not be compelled to bear the major burden of the conflict . . ." the council said in a statement

on the National Economy.

In the course of its meeting in Bal Harbor, Florida, the AFL-CIO executive council also adopted a companion statement on the administration's wage guidelines which denounced the policies of the President's Council of Economic Advisors as efforts to "short-change workers."

The guideline policy and the 3.2 percent figure for wage increases, the AFL-CIO said, imposes "the burden of the price level on wage and salary earners, who do not set prices, while there is no effective guideline for prices and no guidelines at all for profits and dividends."

The CEA policies have "clearly violated any standard of equity," the statement said.

In its statement on the economy, the council also declared:

"We do not want an economy based on spending for destruction. Military expenditures are a necessity for the defense of freedom; they must never be the bedrock of our national economy."

Big Turnout Expected at COPE Parley

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ganized labor in California is very much aware of the crucial nature of the primary election this year," Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the State AFL-CIO's political arm, said.

"With the biggest shake-up in the state legislature in 40 years in the offing due to the 1965 Redistricting Act it is heartening to note that the turnout for this off-year pre-primary convention shows signs of exceeding all previous participation records. More than 700 delegates are expected," he said.

Confronting the delegates will be the task of acting on recommendations submitted by county and district COPE units throughout the state for candidates to receive AFL-CIO support for congressional, state legislative or statewide offices in the primary on Tuesday, June 7.

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 four seats on the State Board of Equalization.

The State COPE Executive Council, augmented by a 15-member advisory committee, will interview statewide candidates privately on April 6, two days before the endorsement convention.

Delegates' credentials were mailed to all affiliated organizations early last month. Any affiliate that did not receive its credential forms should contact California Labor COPE at 995 Market Street, San Francisco 94103 immediately.

As an aid to county and district COPE endorsement deliberations, Pitts last week sent a brief definition of the three types of endorsement action available. The definitions are as follows:

OPEN — An "open" endorsement indicates that the endorsing body regards all candidates for a particular party's nomination as equally qualified without expressing a preference

'Read the U.S. Constitution,' Sheriff Told

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the strike is "a fiction" manufactured by "outside agitators" in an effort to "force workers into a union" and that farm workers "aren't interested in the union," Kennedy asked that if this were so why the grower didn't prove his claim by agreeing to a vote among workers.

Somewhat weakly, Zaninovich expressed doubts that machinery could be set up for a vote. But Kennedy retorted that "it can be done" and added:

"We're failing in our responsibility and duty not to let them."

"End this bitterness; permit the people to vote and decide for themselves what, if any, union they want," he urged.

for any of them. The effect of an "open" endorsement is to leave affiliated local unions, central bodies, district and joint councils within the jurisdiction of the particular county or district COPE unit free to support any of the candidates in that particular party's primary.

NO ENDORSEMENT — A "no endorsement" indicates that the endorsing body regards none of the candidates running in a particular party's primary as worthy of endorsement. This has the effect of recommending that no support be given to any of the candidates for a particular party's nomination.

ENDORSEMENT — An "endorsement" means that the endorsing body believes that the candidate selected is the best available for the post and deserves the active, physical and financial help of the endorsing body and all of its affiliates. Endorsement actions impose a responsibility on the endorsing body to work actively in every way possible to help the endorsed candidate win election to the position at issue.

JFK Makes it Clear

"Let me make it clear once again, as I have in the past, that—whatever office I shall hold—I shall always be unalterably opposed to so-called 'right-to-work' laws at any level, Federal or State."—John F. Kennedy