




California AFL-CIO News

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY

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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

May 27, 1966
Vol. 8—No. 21

House OKs FLSA Bill Including Farm Workers

A major victory in the fight to win coverage for farm workers under the nation's basic labor laws was scored this week when the House voted to extend coverage of the Minimum Wage Law to farm workers for the first time and, on final passage, rejected an amendment that would have denied coverage to workers in small firms.

Backers of the bill, which is strongly supported by the AFL-CIO, beat off an attempt by conservative forces to amend the farm worker coverage section

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Five Suspects in Slayings Linked To Employers

Last week newspapers throughout California and the nation at large carried headlines such as "Union Aide Suicide" or "Another Union Death; \$60,000 Fund Shortage" or "Suicide By Chief of Painter Union Fund."

All of these headlines as well as many reports by radio and TV news commentators that described the death as that of a "union official" inferred that an elected union official had

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Fed Office Closed Monday

The offices of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and the California Labor Council on Political Education will be closed on Monday, May 30, Memorial Day, but will reopen on Tuesday, May 31, 1966.

Pitts Acts to Halt Mass Use Of Prison Labor on Farms

Action to halt the mass use of state prison labor as a "substitute bracero program" was initiated by state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts on Wednesday.

Referring to a state announcement late last week that some 500 minimum security prisoners would be put to work on a volunteer basis in the asparagus fields in the San Joaquin Delta, Pitts declared:

Signup Now for Fed Summer School July 10-15

Trade unionists planning to attend the State AFL-CIO Summer School to be held at the University of California Campus at Santa Barbara July 10-15 are urged to get their registration forms in early because part of the materials being developed for the school will be determined by the interests expressed by enrollees.

Registration forms for the week-long school, which is sponsored by the California Labor Federation in cooperation with the Centers for Labor Research and Education at the University of California at Berkeley and Los Angeles and the AFL-CIO Department of Education, were

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"State approval of the mass use of state prison labor under the auspices of a locally run work-furlough program by employers who have failed to fulfill even the inadequate domestic recruitment requirements set by the Labor Department constitutes a gross violation of the work-furlough program and confirms organized labor's worst apprehensions about the uses to which this program might be put."

Pitts said the Federation has called on both the Director of the State Department of Corrections and Governor Edmund G. Brown to halt this "inexcusable perversion of the program's basic intent" immediately.

"It is one thing to permit county inmates convicted of misdemeanors to maintain their jobs while serving their time

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Birchers Face The Acid Test

John Birch Society members who display and distribute "Support Your Local Police" bumper strips are facing the acid test up in Redding.

The Redding Record-Searchlight reports that 35 of the 39 local Redding police officers want to join a union. But the City Council has nixed the idea. So, the paper asks editorially:

"Will the John Birch Society send a telegram to the next City Council meeting to support the majority of Redding's finest?"

Help Needed In Kingsport Strike

For three long years, members of five AFL-CIO unions have been on strike against the Kingsport Press of Kingsport, Tennessee, because the firm, a producer of textbooks, refused to pay wages competitive with other firms in the industry and

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Watch Out for Wild Rhetoric

Let's Take a Real Look at Welfare Costs

Every time an election rolls around some conservative candidates trot out their favorite whipping boy—public welfare—and wrap wildly inaccurate charges in their rhetoric.

Like "fifty percent of the property tax dollar goes for public assistance."

This simply is not so.

The fact is that less than six cents of the average California homeowner's property tax dollar goes for public welfare costs, according

to J. M. Wedemeyer, Director of the State Department of Social Welfare.

Although the average is less than six cents, it ranges from two cents to nearly 16 cents from county to county due to the varying amounts and types of assessable property in the various counties and to the uneven distribution of property. Counties with high amounts of industrial and utility properties to support their tax bases

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House OKs FLSA Bill Including Farm Workers

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out of the bill by a 157 to 140 vote on Wednesday.

Another attempt to water down the bill by excluding employees of small retail firms was passed the same day by a vote of 120 to 109. But this anti-labor amendment which would have limited the extension of the Fair Labor Standards Act coverage to firms with an annual gross business of more than \$500,000 instead of \$250,000 was defeated by a 200 to 195 vote Thursday.

The measure then won final approval on a 303 to 93 roll call vote.

House Rules permit a separate roll call vote before final passage on any amendments adopted during a bill's consideration.

The minimum wage for farm workers would start at \$1 an hour next February 1 and rise in 15-cent annual steps to a top of \$1.30 by 1969.

At present California has no minimum wage for male farm workers but under the Industrial Welfare Commission's Wage Order 14, state law already requires a minimum wage of \$1.30 an hour for adult women engaged in farm work.

Among other changes in the bill was one that would permit restaurants to pay only 55 percent of the minimum wage to tipped employees on the hypothesis that the worker would receive the other 45 percent in tips. Another change would bring non-teaching employees of elementary and secondary schools under FLSA coverage.

The farm worker coverage is estimated to apply to 485,000 workers, most of whom are employed on large corporate farms, but only about 213,000 of these are presently making less than the proposed \$1 hourly farm minimum.

The measure would hike the present \$1.25 minimum to \$1.40 an hour on February 1, 1967 and to \$1.60 an hour a year

Watch Out for Wild Rhetoric

Let's Take a Real Look at Welfare Costs

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are generally far better off than counties with little such properties and a higher proportion of poor families.

But the basic point is that in no county in California is there any justification for the claim that "fifty percent of the property tax dollar goes for public assistance."

In Los Angeles County, for example, the average cost of public assistance is right at the State-wide average, less than six cents of the tax dollar. And bear in mind that Los Angeles County contains 40 percent of the State's total population.

In Orange County less than two cents of the property tax dollar goes for public assistance. At the other end of the range, in Trinity County where there are few industrial and utility properties, about 16 cents goes for public assistance.

Another frequently misun-

derstood fact about the public assistance program is that it is essentially a "social insurance" means of meeting existing local needs. The funds for public welfare in California come from three sources: Federal, State and County.

In the 1964-65 fiscal year, for example, of the \$891 million spent for public assistance in California, \$392 million or 44 percent came from the Federal Government; \$358 million or 40 percent from the State Government and only a total of \$141 million or 16 percent came from California's 58 Counties.

But when a California county lists its total public assistance budget the sources of the total are not identified. Thus if a California County has a \$30 million annual public assistance budget of which \$13.2 million comes from the U. S. Government, \$12 million from the State and \$4.8 million from

the County, some citizens mistakenly conclude that the County itself is contributing the entire \$30 million.

Such an amount might well appear to be more than half of the County's entire budget but the fact is that by putting up \$4.8 million toward the cost of local aid programs, the County is able to bring into its communities more than \$25 million from Federal and State sources.

And these are funds that would not come into the County if the County Government had not agreed to set up and administer a welfare program consistent with Federal and State requirements.

While some conservative candidates scream loudly (and vaguely) about "welfare chisellers," the fact is that "the total amount being spent on public assistance in the State of California in combined Federal, State and County funds is equal to approximately one percent of the total State product annually," Wedemeyer says.

Similarly, expenditures for public assistance throughout the nation as a whole amount to only one percent of the Gross National Product.

In short, "the cost of public assistance to the average property taxpayer in California is far from being the crushing burden it has been alleged to be," Wedemeyer said.

The table below provides the percent of the property tax that goes for welfare and the average cost per household for public welfare in twenty of California's more populous Counties:

County	Percent of Property Tax	Average Cost per Household
Alameda	5.36	\$25.97
Contra Costa	5.81	\$23.82
Fresno	8.74	\$17.66
Kern	5.93	\$11.63
Los Angeles	5.95	\$25.11
Marin	3.69	\$19.88
Napa	9.92	\$28.62
Orange	1.99	\$ 7.90
Riverside	5.61	\$14.97
Sacramento	7.64	\$23.57
San Bernardino	6.51	\$14.59
San Diego	5.77	\$19.61
San Francisco	7.99	\$41.12
San Joaquin	7.19	\$19.43
San Mateo	4.09	\$20.57
Santa Barbara	3.97	\$15.38
Santa Clara	5.44	\$24.16
Solano	7.06	\$16.91
Sonoma	7.97	\$24.92
Ventura	3.07	\$ 9.30

Redistrict Bid In Inyo County

Action aimed at redistricting Supervisorial Districts in Inyo County has been filed with the County Board of Supervisors and the County Clerk.

The document asked the Board to establish Supervisorial Districts with a minimum of 17 percent of the total County population and a maximum of 23 percent, the same ratio as was laid down last Fall by the State Supreme Court in a decision directing Santa Clara Supervisors to comply with the "one-man, one-vote" policy established by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Inyo County action was taken after the County had indicated that no further redistricting was anticipated until after the 1970 census.

The document filed with the Inyo Board of Supervisors asserts that District Five with 608 registered voters gives voters in that District some 2.65 times the political power of voters in District One which has 1,613 registrations.

later for the nearly 30 million employees presently covered. Some 665,000 blue-collar federal employees would also be covered at these rates.

In addition, some 4.5 million non-farm employees would be covered at the \$1 an hour rate on February 11, 1967 and their minimum would climb to \$1.60 an hour in four yearly 15-cent steps. Both Reps. Harlan Hagen and B. F. Sisk, whose districts have more farm workers affected than any others in the nation, supported the extension of coverage to farm workers.

The measure would include only those farms that used more than 500 man-days of farm labor in any three-month period of the preceding year. But it would exclude members of the farm owner's family as well as workers employed on a piece-rate basis who commute daily from a permanent home off the farm.

It would also permit room, board and other facilities furnished to employees to be considered wages, but the measure establishes standards to be used in making this determination.

LBJ Vows New Fight To Repeal T-H Sect. 14(b)

President Johnson pledged a new fight to win repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act and called on the nation's labor editors to help generate Congressional support for three currently pending measures this week.

Addressing 150 editors of labor publications in the East Room of the White House, Johnson said he had talked to 61 Senators in his efforts to win their support to eliminate the 42-word provision in the Taft-Hartley Act that has repeatedly provoked bitter battles with employer-financed compulsory open shop promoters for nearly 20 years.

The President said he felt that most of the Senators he talked to would support repeal.

The President did not say when the new effort would be made. The three programs the President asked the labor editors to help sell congressmen were:

1. Federal standards for unemployment insurance programs.
2. The Demonstration City program which, in essence, involves large-scale urban renewal.
3. The rent subsidy program which has encountered a number of challenges in both houses.

The present unemployment compensation law, the President said, is inadequate because it does not cover enough workers and fails "to meet the economic demands of our times."

He urged support for AFL-CIO backed proposals for federal benefit standards to replace a wide variety of benefit levels and eligibility rules presently existing under state laws.

The Demonstration City program, he explained, "represents a whole new departure: it is a chance to renew entire urban communities at one time, instead of trying to do it piece by piece."

It would coordinate grants and aid for housing, urban renewal, transportation, welfare, economic opportunity and related programs.

REGISTRATION FORM California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, Summer School July 10-15, 1966

Name.....
Union.....
Address.....

PM WORKSHOP CHOICE: 1. ☐ Collective Bargaining;
2. ☐ Labor Law. 3. ☐ Central Bodies Today; Implementing Labor Movement Goals; Civil Rights and Full Employment. 4. ☐ Union Label; Consumer Education; Community Services; and Anti-Poverty Programs.

REGISTRATION: Make checks payable to California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. \$87.50 single; \$82.50 each for double. Send check to California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, 995 Market St., Suite 310, San Francisco, California 94103, Attn.: Dr. John Carroll, Director of Education.

Summer School Signup

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sent out to all affiliates last month.

Following a registration and orientation period Sunday afternoon and evening, participants will dig into the basic issues of the 1966 elections on Monday morning.

Topics to be taken up in succeeding morning sessions the rest of the week include: Education—the Challenge of Federal Legislation and Support on Tuesday; Urban Poverty—Action programs supported by labor, Wednesday; the Working Poor in Rural California, Thursday; and Medicare and Labor's Social Insurance Goals on Friday.

But both the subjects and emphasis of the afternoon sessions will be determined by the choices the participants make in filling out their registration forms.

Among topics that may be covered depending on these choices are: Collective Bargaining—Pressures and New Developments; Labor Law—New Developments for organizing, collective bargaining and contract

enforcement; Central Bodies Today; Implementing Labor Movement Goals; Civil Rights and Full Employment; Union Labels; Consumer Education; Community Services; and Anti-Poverty programs.

Thanks to a happy coincidence, a special feature of the extra curricular activities at the school this year will be a free tour of the Santa Barbara National Horse Show and Flower Show on Tuesday evening. This has been arranged by Warren Underwood, Business Manager of the Meat Cutters Union Local 556 who is also president of the 19th Agricultural District of Santa Barbara County which sponsors the show.

Registration for single accommodations is \$87.50. For doubles, it's \$82.50 per registrant. This fee includes meals, room and instructional materials.

The school is open to all union members but is particularly designed to provide education and training facilities for smaller national and international unions that do not have summer programs for themselves.

What All Workers Need to Know

"The flexibility of collective bargaining is limited only by the imagination of those who use it. A great deal of the economic fabric of this nation and the fringe benefit structure about which even the employer boasts today resulted from the ideas of union leaders—ideas considered strange when first proposed.

"Workers need to see unions as the embodiment of the collective bargaining process. When they do and at the same understand their role in directing this process toward their problems, they become very firm in their determination to organize."
—William L. Kircher, AFL-CIO Director of Organization.

More Help Needed For Kingsport Strike

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refused all offers to arbitrate disputed issues.

Instead, the Kingsport Press elected to capitalize on the poverty-ridden area and hire unskilled recruits as strike-breakers.

Despite three years of greatly reduced incomes since the strike began on March 11, 1963, more than three out of four of the 1,200 workers who went on strike, are still on strike—and they need your help.

A new pamphlet titled "It's Your Strike Too!" just produced by the AFL-CIO Union Label and Service Trades Department, points out that both individuals and union members can help by taking a personal part in the boycott against World Book Encyclopedia and the Childcraft Series.

Trade unionists can also help by urging their local School Boards not to use public tax money to buy textbooks produced at Kingsport Press.

After all when your School Board buys books that are printed and bound by the strikebreakers at Kingsport Press it is using money to help an anti-union company break a strike.

The importance of the strike was underscored at the AFL-CIO National Convention in San Francisco last November when AFL-CIO President George Meany said:

"... what is involved (in the Kingsport strike) are our rights as citizens. . . . public money should never be used in competition for the purpose of bringing down wages and working conditions . . . so I plead with everyone to back up this strike."

Copies of the unfair list of publishers still doing business with Kingsport Press may be obtained from the Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO, 815 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Five Suspects In Slayings Linked To Employers

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been implicated in the murders of Dow Wilson of the San Francisco Painters Local 4 and Lloyd Green of Hayward Painters Local 1178.

This inference is totally wrong.

Sture Youngren, who apparently committed suicide in Carmichael, a suburb of Sacramento, on May 17, after admitting misappropriation of funds from a union welfare fund, was NOT an elected union official. He operated his own insurance agency and had been hired as administrator of the union's trust fund by the funds trustees.

In fact, all of the five men implicated in Wilson's murder are either employers or employer agents. None is a union official.

For more than a month following Wilson's murder news media reports repeatedly suggested that the murders had something to do with internal union politics. But curiously when the arrests were finally made, scant emphasis was placed on the fact that all suspects are either employers or employer aides.

In short, any description or characterization of these slayings as "a union scandal" is totally false.

The only union men involved have been murdered and one of them had been critical of the management of the fund.

The suspects under arrest and charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder are:

Norman Call, 46, Carmichael painting contractor and an employer trustee of the fund to provide pension, vacation and health and welfare benefits for members of Sacramento Painters Local 487.

Max Ward, 47, of Sacramento, another employer trustee of the fund.

Clyde Simmons, 75, secretary of the Sacramento Painters and Decorators Contractors Association.

Carl M. Black, 47, an Oakland

Pitts Acts to Halt Mass Use Of Prison Labor on Farms

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and to help other county inmates find and get adjusted to permanent jobs that can contribute to their total rehabilitation.

"But it is a ridiculous fiction to pretend that the mass use of 500 inmates from state prisons in brief peak season harvest work will contribute anything to their rehabilitation.

"And there are rumors now that the state may move to supply the growers with another 2,000 state prison inmates in the near future.

"Yet the law indicates that the work-furlough programs must have a rehabilitative aspect and, in fact, the specific language of the statute (Sect. 2910 Penal Code) refers to them as 'work-furlough REHABILITATION programs,'" Pitts pointed out.

"The work-furlough programs were intended to help rehabilitate individual prisoners

to let them continue in their regular work or to secure regular employment for themselves that would contribute to their successful rehabilitation to society. Even those programs whose objectives are meritorious do not have a blanket endorsement from the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, because of the possible abuses set that could occur at the local level," he explained.

"They were never intended to be used as a cheap labor pool for employers who have consistently failed to offer wages adequate for the arduous nature of harvest work.

"The state's announced special program amounts to an inexcusable perversion of the program's basic intent," Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, said.

He also refuted a report that this special program had the "support" of organized labor,

saying:

"None of the officers of the San Joaquin County Central Labor Council, the state AFL-CIO, or any other labor union officials to our knowledge have endorsed or indicated any support whatsoever for this special program of mass use of inmates from state prisons.

"To use this special program to give profit-hungry growers—growers who have refused to offer the premium pay that the nature of asparagus harvest work demands—a cut-rate labor force corrupts the whole concept of the work-furlough rehabilitation program," he said.

"The precedent set by action of the state's executive department in this matter could jeopardize the job opportunities of free workers in many other industries because the Administration has seen fit to ignore the rehabilitation aspect of the individual prisoner," he warned.

Scarcely two weeks before the announcement last Friday that the state Department of Corrections had been authorized "to move ahead" with the work-furlough program for the asparagus growers, the U.S. Labor Department rejected a move by the same growers to import 2,500 braceros on grounds that the growers' association's labor difficulties "result from its own policies," specifically from failing to make a greater effort to recruit U.S. workers despite being urged by the government to do so on three different occasions—on February 11, March 3, and April 8.

"This boils down to a totally unjustifiable attempt to subsidize asparagus growers at the expense of the legitimate aims and intent of the work-furlough program," Pitts said.

"The fact that the same adamant growers who flatly refused to comply with the Labor Department's minimum recruitment requirements are now to be permitted by the state government to exploit the work-furlough program should be a cause for grave concern to all Californians," he added.

Human Rights Committee Named To Help Employees in State Govt.

A State Service Human Rights Committee to help assure equal job opportunities in State Government for citizens of minority groups has been appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown.

The purpose of the Committee, which will be directly responsible to William L. Becker, the Governor's Human Rights Secretary, will be to provide counsel to workers seeking initial entry into State Service and

to consider merit promotion issues.

It will also follow up on a study of fair employment practices and training in State Government conducted by the Personnel and Training Committee during 1964-65, and assist Becker in a continual review of hiring and personnel policies for State Government workers.

The Committee Chairman is Ray Varley, Assistant Director of the Department of Public Works.

Members are: Wesley Parker, Assistant Director of the Department of Employment; Miss Shirley Filia-trault, Deputy to Board Member of the Board of Equalization; Inspector Thomas B. Hodges, Commander of the Safety Services Division of the California Highway Patrol; Leo R. Lopez, Chief of Special Services in Community Relations of the Office of Compensatory Education; George Saleebey, Deputy Director of the Department of the Youth Authority; Thomas C. Schumacher, Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Professional and Vocations Standards; and William Silver, Training Consultant of the State Personnel Board.

accountant and auditor of the Sacramento trust fund.

Richard Rock, 33, Black's brother-in-law and operator of a San Francisco Tenderloin bar.

Youngren was the owner of the Youngren Insurance Agency at 6448 Fair Oaks Boulevard in Carmichael and had served as administrator of the fund but his contract to do so had just expired and been awarded to someone else.