



California AFL-CIO News

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BOOSTING FARM WORKERS' RIGHTS — Larry Vail, executive secretary of the California State Council of Retail Clerks presents a \$500 check to aid the AFL-CIO Farm Workers Organizing Drive to State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts (left) at the State Council's annual convention at the Hollywood-Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood. The ceremony exemplifies the determination of organized urban workers throughout the state to help their fellow workers in the fields win collective bargaining rights and other union benefits so long denied them.

Ruling Points Up Need To Rebut Propaganda of Far Right

A decision by the Federal Communications Commission to renew the license of a California radio station which the FCC itself noted had broadcast defamatory anti-Semitic programs "underscores the need for trade unionists to multiply efforts to seek equal time to rebut radical

Legion Hears Labor's View

Organized labor's fight for collective bargaining rights for farm workers, for adequate

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right-wing radio programs that malign and discredit the labor movement or grossly distort key social and economic issues," state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts warned this week.

The FCC's decision, issued

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Di Giorgio Ploy Rapped by Pitts

"The Di Giorgio Corporation's arbitrary and unilateral attempt to dictate all terms for a representational election that would deny voting rights to workers who have been striking the firm for more than nine months for union recognition is both undemocratic and procedurally and morally wrong," state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts charged yesterday.

Referring to the corporate farm giant's surprise announcement in San Francisco Wednesday that it had abandoned negotiations previously in progress with the independent National Farm Workers Association to set up ground rules for an election, Pitts said:

"The public must be informed that Di Giorgio is attempting to ram through an election tomorrow without allowing any time for campaigning free from such intimidation and coercion as was outlined by Superior Court Judge Leonard H. Ginsburg in Tulare County last week in dismissing a temporary restraining order granted earlier to Di Giorgio against the

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Court Order Bars Grower's Ballot Plan

The AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee and the independent National Farm Workers Association won a temporary restraining order Thursday to bar an attempt by the Di Giorgio Corporation to dictate terms for a representational election on grounds the Di Giorgio ballot lists the AWOC and the NFWA as potential bargaining units without their consent.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Gerald S. Levin granted the restraining order against Di Giorgio. A hearing on the issue is set for 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 5, before Judge Joseph Karesh.

The legal action came hard on the heels of a stormy session at the San Francisco Press Club Wednesday where Di Giorgio spokesmen attempted vainly to have the AFL-CIO's national director of organization, William Kircher, thrown off the premises.

Representatives of the AFL-CIO and the NFWA had been negotiating with Di Giorgio for reasonable terms for such an election as recently as last Monday and had mutually agreed with Di Giorgio that any press

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Move To Alert Retired Unionists Now Under Way

A stepped-up program to alert California's retired union members and the rest of the state's 1.6 million senior citizens to the need for immediate political action to protect social security gains and enhance chances for future benefit improvements is under way.

In cooperation with the California Labor Council on Political Education, Emerson Mid-

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Gutted Jobless Pay Bill Wins House OK

A watered down version of a bill initially intended to substantially strengthen the unemployment insurance system by establishing federal standards for state programs won House approval by a 374 to 10 vote yesterday and has been sent to the Senate—minus the provisions for long needed federal standards.

These sections had been hacked out earlier by the House Ways and Means Committee despite the fact that President Johnson had called for establishment of such standards to restore the unemployment insurance program to its role as one of the nation's built-in economic stabilizers.

As sent to the Senate, where the AFL-CIO plans to press for the inclusion of federal standards on the amount and duration of jobless benefits, the measure would bring some 3.5 million more workers under jobless insurance coverage and provide extended benefits for those who have exhausted their benefits—but only if certain recession-type conditions exist.

The Administration had proposed that unemployment insurance coverage be extended to almost 5 million additional workers.

In addition the President's proposal would have set federal benefit standards to guarantee jobless workers at least half of their regular weekly pay with benefits ranging up to a maximum of two-thirds of the average weekly wage in the state for a period of 26 weeks.

At present, on a national basis, unemployment insurance compensates only \$1 out of every \$5 workers lose as a result of unemployment.

In most states, unemployment insurance programs are inadequate, unfair, and discriminatory, with half of the unemployed receiving no benefits at all. Some are denied benefits because they are not working in covered jobs; thousands because benefits are provided for only a few weeks rather than 26 weeks and thousands more

Pitts Outlines Labor's Views At Legion's Convention

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health care for all citizens, and for the development of free trade unions abroad is predicated on the basic principle "that when a person is given an opportunity to share equitably in the benefits of society he assumes more responsibility for improving the community and society in which he is a member," state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts told delegates to an American Legion convention in Bakersfield last night.

Asserting that the AFL-CIO rejects "the isms of the far right and far left," Pitts provided delegates to the 48th Annual Convention of the California Department of the American Legion with the following thumbnail sketch of labor's philosophy:

"We believe in defending freedom by proving the superiority of a free society built on the positive action of men working together for the public good. To do this, we in the labor movement pursue those objectives which we feel will result in granting greater freedom to everyone by enhancing the dignity of the individual."

Such objectives, Pitts said, include the workers' right to a voice in determining his own working conditions, public programs to create jobs for all Americans, and "the actual achievement of the civil rights of minority groups."

While noting that the AFL-CIO like the Legion is a service organization the primary func-

tion of which is to tend the needs of its membership, Pitts said that both organizations have a broader responsibility in preserving and extending "democracy within our country and to those nations where democracy is absent today."

He reminded the Legionnaires that the AFL-CIO has repelled threats of Communist subversion while "at the same time leading the fight in opposition to groups on the radical right who desire . . . to curtail individual freedom."

Speaking briefly on the Viet Nam issue, Pitts declared: "Today the greatest challenge to free men is the Communist threat as manifested in the jungles of South Viet Nam." But, he warned, "it is shortsighted to believe that the enemies of freedom can be defeated by military means alone."

It was with this in mind, he said, that the AFL-CIO at its national convention in San Francisco last December unanimously adopted a resolution pledging its "unstinting support" to "all measures the Administration might deem necessary to halt Communist aggression" but also called for "appropriate and adequate assistance to the Viet Nam Confederation of Workers (C.V.T.) which has emerged as an invaluable force for democratic regeneration and social justice in the land."

NEED STRESSED
This action was taken in recognition of the need for "large-scale programs for improving the conditions of life and labor and for developing democratic institutions in South Viet Nam," he explained.

Of the need for more comprehensive health care coverage for all citizens, Pitts said: "We believe that freedom from the fear of the catastrophic financial costs of a major illness is a freedom that should be granted to all, not simply the well-to-do."

He also told the Legionnaires that "all fair-minded men should be . . . deeply involved in the struggle farm workers are waging for human dignity."

Noting that most workers are covered by minimum wage

It's What's Inside That Counts!

Two pamphlets spelling out the need for truth-in-packaging and truth-in-lending legislation are now available.

"It's What's Inside That Counts" provides tips on how to avoid being deceived by deceptive packaging and includes a review of the legislation's experience in the congressional mill as well as extracts from hearings that demonstrate how consumers are confused or cheated by dishonest packaging.

Since the Senate just recently approved and sent to the House a truth-in-packaging measure, it is a timely pamphlet to distribute at local union and central body meetings.

"In Your Interest," an 11-page expose of the manner in which consumers are exploited by excessively high or concealed interest charges, includes a review of testimony gathered by Senator Paul H. Douglas as well as an outline of the present bill and arguments in favor of it.

Both pamphlets may be ordered free from the Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO, 815 - 16th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

laws, unemployment insurance and take such fringe benefits as overtime pay, paid vacations, sick leave and health, welfare and pension programs for granted while farm workers are denied all such benefits, he observed:

"The real meaning of the Delano grape strike is that farm workers are now seeking what most of us accept without a thought."

He also told the Legion delegates that the AFL-CIO would continue to support programs to eliminate racial discrimination in housing, employment and education.

"Every man, black, brown, white, rich, or poor, whether a resident of San Francisco, California, or Jackson, Mississippi, has the fundamental right to be treated with the dignity due a human being. To hold otherwise is to make a sham of the freedom we profess to cherish," he declared.

Court Order Bars Grower's Ballot Plan

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statement issued on the progress of negotiations would be a joint one, Kircher said.

But the Di Giorgio Corporation initiated action unilaterally Monday without notice to union representatives to set up an election strictly on the firm's terms.

These terms would have allowed workers less than 48 hour' notice of the election which had been scheduled for

Schenley Pact Signed

A day earlier Kircher had been one of the signers of a precedent-setting contract between the independent NFWA and Schenley Industries, Inc., which boosts the farm workers' hourly minimum at Schenley's to \$1.80 an hour, more than 28 per cent higher than the \$1.40 minimum criteria set by the Labor Department last year. The pact provides for a union shop, hiring hall procedures, and a hike in piece rates to assure piece-rated workers a 35-cent hourly increase. It also reportedly provides for improvements in vacations and other fringe benefits to bring all employees to the same level.

Friday, June 24, at the firm's Sierra Vista Ranch in Tulare County and at its Borrego Farms property in San Diego County.

Dolores Huerta, vice president of the NFWA headed by Cesar Chavez, confirmed Kircher's summary of Di Giorgio's action.

Kircher, who said he didn't learn of Di Giorgio's plans for an immediate vote until 8 p.m. Tuesday, moved in among newsmen at the conclusion of a prepared statement read from a rostrum by Robert Di Giorgio, president of the corporate farm giant, and charged the firm with "pulling a Pearl Harbor trick" on its workers.

"I can see now in my mind's eye the Japanese Ambassadors leaving the White House," he said.

Kircher emphasized that the

Di Giorgio Ploy Rapped by Pitts

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AWOC and the NFWA," he said.

The judges decision stated that:

"No acts of violence were shown to have been committed by defendants or their agents. Numerous acts of violence were shown by undisputed evidence to have been committed by plaintiff Di Giorgio's agents. These include, amongst others, threatening of pickets with a gun by an armed security guard of the plaintiff; a subsequent attack upon a women picket resulting in throwing her to the ground by plaintiff's general manager; an attack upon a picket who was lawfully upon plaintiff's premises at the invitation of a work-tenant and other acts of violence related in the affidavits filed by defendants none of which acts are contradicted nor denied by plaintiff . . .

"The violent acts of plaintiff's agents above related are coupled with other violence on the part of plaintiff's agents all undenied in the evidence. Under the 'clean hands' doctrine of equity, it appears that plaintiff itself has been guilty of improper conduct in connection with the controversy at hand and this presently uncontradicted evidence is further reason why the court should deny relief at this time."

"The mere fact that the Di

AFL-CIO had no objection to holding an election so long as ground rules are mutually agreed upon to assure the workers' rights.

In consent elections held under the National Labor Relations Board about 15 days are allowed for campaigning and in court-ordered elections about 30 days.

As recently as Monday, Di Giorgio had tentatively agreed to 10 of 12 points at issue in the negotiations, including one to assure voting rights for strikers.

Giorgio scheme only gives even it own workers, many of whom are strikebreakers, barely 48 hours notice of the election, makes travesty of any claims by this multi-million dollar corporation that it wants the workers to have a fair choice," Pitts declared.

"Moreover," he explained, "neither the AWOC nor the NFWA consented to have their names appear on the ballots that the Di Giorgio Corporation secretly and unilaterally ordered printed.

"As recently as Monday and repeatedly prior thereto, Robert Di Giorgio, the firm's President, had indicated that striking workers would be permitted to vote.

"Now without the courtesy of prior notice, the firm has repudiated its own President's words.

"Both the AFL-CIO and the NFWA want an election to be held but it must be done under democratic ground rules, mutually agreed upon in advance—rules that permit the workers, many of whom live and work on Di Giorgio's vast properties, an opportunity to discuss freely the advantages of joining a union without fear of arbitrary discharge or other forms of economic intimidation.

"The Di Giorgio Corporation's capricious and dictatorial attitude in this matter should be an affront to every fair-thinking Californian. Collective bargaining and negotiations in good faith have long been recognized as the fairest and most equitable way of adjudicating the workers' rights.

"The Di Giorgio's insistence on playing the role of martinet at an election involving its own workers flies in the face of established NLRB procedures and is simply not the way things are done in a democratic society," Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, declared.

The strike in the Delano area was initiated by the AWOC early in September and has since been waged jointly by the AWOC and the NFWA.

Hear What Ronald Would Have Done?

Speaking before the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. last week, California GOP gubernatorial hopeful Ronald Reagan passed off the offer made some months ago by the National Public Relations Director of the John Birch Society to campaign either for or against him, whichever would do the most good, as just a joke.

Then he was asked what he would have done differently if he had been Governor at the time of the Watts riots.

Quick as a flash, the actor said he would have "told the Lieutenant Governor he had the right to call out the National Guard."

Is that a joke too? Or just an insult to his running mate?

Fortunately, Lieutenant Governor Glenn M. Anderson didn't need to be told this. He already knew it, as would any competent Lieutenant Governor. And at 1:00 p.m., August 13, 1965, within two hours of receiving the request, he ordered the guard to assemble at the armories at 5:00 p.m., the earliest hour at which the guard's commander, General Hill, said they could be assembled.

No deaths occurred before the guard assembled but 34 persons were killed subsequently.

Senate Unit Curbs Overtime in FLSA Bill

An amendment to the minimum wage bill that will deny more adequate overtime pay for packinghouse workers was approved by a 7 to 3 vote by the Senate Labor Subcommittee on Wednesday.

The amendment will permit a broader overtime exemption for agricultural processing workers than had been authorized in the House-approved bill. The action was taken as the Subcommittee continued to consider the minimum wage bill to boost the present \$1.25 federal minimum to \$1.40 in 1967 and to \$1.60 by February 1, 1969 and extend coverage to an additional 7.8 million workers. The AFL-CIO is pressing for action to make the boost to \$1.60 effective a year earlier, as it had initially been approved by the House Labor Committee.

Move To Alert Retired Unionists Now Under Way

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yett, coordinator of Senior Citizens Councils in Northern California and a vice president of the National Senior Citizens Council, is currently contacting local unions, central bodies and district councils throughout the state to seek their assistance in encouraging senior members to participate in educational and non-partisan political efforts.

In recent weeks both the United Automobile Workers and the United Steelworkers have acted to encourage their retirees to participate in current affairs.

Last week District 38 of the United Steelworkers urged all its local unions and retiree clubs to join the National Council of Senior Citizens and take an active part in the Council's educational and non-partisan political efforts.

A somewhat parallel move to utilize the experience and energies of retired members was taken at the United Automobile Workers convention in Long Beach last month when the UAW's Constitution was changed to give its 200,000 retired members a continuing voice in the union's affairs.

Other local unions that have already initiated actions to bring about closer cooperation with the Senior Citizens Councils include locals of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the International Ladies Garment Workers Unions of Los Angeles, Midyett said.

He pointed out that at present there are some 450 Senior Citizens Clubs and Centers in California, most of which have 100 members or less. Their combined membership amounts to less than 100,000.

"Since the state has 1.6 million people over 65 and another one million between 60 and 65, this means that there is a pool of more than 1.5 million people whose potential for political education and action is greatly neglected," he noted.

Local unions and Central bodies interested in helping to develop this potential are urged to contact either State COPE at

Need To Rebut Extremists

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last Friday, involved radio station KTYM of Inglewood. This station broadcast three programs in October, 1964, and May, 1965, entitled "Richard Cotten's Conservative Viewpoint" which provoked protests by the Anti-Defamation League.

The ADL had urged the FCC to refuse to renew the station's license because, the ADL said, the programs were defamatory in that they linked Jews to Communism and contained personal attacks on the ADL and its staff.

Although the FCC found the first broadcast did contain a personal attack on the League and that the other broadcasts contained statements "that can be regarded as anti-Semitic and that surely would be offensive to many persons of the Jewish faith as well as to fair-minded people of other faiths," it pointed out that KTYM had apparently adhered to the Commission's fairness doctrine in that the ADL was offered, but refused, an opportunity to reply.

"Rightly or wrongly," Pitts said, "this decision places the burden of combatting false and scurrilous conservative propaganda on the back of organized labor and liberal organizations at the local community level.

"While organized labor cannot quarrel with the FCC's concern about protecting the freedom of expression of 'unpopular or unorthodox views' we cannot afford to ignore the economic realities of life in our society which bestow far greater opportunity for propagandizing on rich ultra-conservative interests than on the middle and low-income groups who would suffer most from excessive taxation and inadequate social services if the extremists' program to abolish the progressive income tax and dismantle the social security program were ever put into effect," Pitts declared.

Pointing out that the John Birch Society's National Public Relations Director has hailed

Ronald Reagan as a 'true voice, a leader,' of the conservative cause, Pitts observed:

"This means that the right-wing radio programs broadcast almost daily in 60 California communities can be expected to step-up their propaganda barages in his behalf during the current general election campaign."

"It also means," he said, "that we've got to stop kidding ourselves that Californians can't be taken in by a seasoned actor who learned which right-wing beliefs to keep to himself while campaigning for Barry Goldwater two years ago.

"Californians are no more immune to the big lie technique—the propaganda principle that half-truths, distortions and outright lies repeated long and often enough and left unchallenged will be believed—than were the citizens of Nazi Germany or those behind the Iron Curtain today.

"In these circumstances it's essential for all central labor bodies to set up a Communications Media Committee to monitor radio and TV programs and demand rebuttal time under the fairness doctrine when appropriate," Pitts declared.

Under the "fairness doctrine" spelled out by the FCC several years ago, radio and TV stations that carry programs that present only one side of an issue may be required to provide free rebuttal time for opposing views regardless of whether the original program was sponsored or unsponsored.

"This policy was based on the principle that the stations operate under a government license to use the airwaves and that the license does not entitle them to propagandize one side of an issue at will and to deny expression to other views of the same issue," the state AFL-CIO leader said.

"But the principle will be meaningless unless we all pitch in to see that it's implemented, particularly in the months immediately ahead," he emphasized.

cisco, or James Carbray, representative of Sub-District 1 of District 38 of the United Steelworkers at P.O. Box 458, Huntington Park, California 90258.

Brown Spells Out 6-Point Labor Program

Governor Edmund G. Brown this week outlined a six-point priority program in the field of labor legislation and issued a point-by-point challenge to Ronald Reagan to spell out in specifics where he stands on each.

"The time for moderates to act has come," the governor told the convention of the California State Council of Retail Clerks at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel in Los Angeles Tuesday.

Governor Brown spelled out this six-point labor legislation program, coupling each proposal with a challenge to Reagan:

- "I will press immediately in the 1967 session of the Legislature to end the law of the jungle which now prevails in some labor-management relationships, especially in the great agricultural industry. Collective bargaining **under carefully worked out rules** is the only satisfactory answer—and we all know it (emphasis added).

- "I will seek increases in the benefit structure of the workmen's compensation program—at the very minimum to assure that the program no longer is a drain on the disability insurance fund.

- "I will continue to seek improvements in the presently inadequate rehabilitation provisions of the workmen's compensation program.

- I will continue to support and urge an increase in the national minimum wage and the extension of coverage to millions of workers not now covered, including those in the retail trades and on our farms. What does Mr. Reagan propose?

- "I will continue to press for minimum federal standards for unemployment insurance. That again includes coverage of farm workers. What does Mr. Reagan propose?

- "I will continue to work in Washington to assure that California continues to get its fair share of this nation's defense, space, and research contracts, contracts that pay the wages of one-third of our manufacturing force. What does Mr. Reagan, who doesn't like Washington, propose to do?

995 Market St., San Francisco 94103 or the Northern California Headquarters for the National Council of Senior Citizens, 418 Pierce St., San Fran-