



California AFL-CIO News

Executive Secretary-Treasurer
THOS. L. PITTS 151

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

July 15, 1966
Vol. 8—No. 28

State AFL-CIO Urges OK for Packaging Bill

The State AFL-CIO called on California Congressmen this week "to look beyond the hollow promises and semi-hollow containers of the opponents of 'truth-in-packaging' legislation" and support enactment of a pending measure on the subject.

The bill, H.R. 15440, is scheduled for hearings before the House Commerce Committee on July 26.

In a letter sent to each of California's 38 Representatives, State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts charged that at present it "is impossible" for consumers to make a rational evaluation and purchase "when the labeling and packaging of consumer items is purposely distorted."

"Consumers are tired of being subjected to this super-

(Continued on Page 3)

Jobs Hit New High But Jobless Rates Unaltered

Both the state and the national jobless rates, at 4.7 and 4.0 percent respectively, remained unchanged between May and June, even though total employment both in California and for the U.S. as a whole, reached record levels.

At 7,198,000 last month, employment in California was 301,000 or 4.4 percent higher than in June 1965, and 74,000 above the previous month. Total U.S. employment, at 75.7 million, was 2 million higher than in May, with 1.1 million of this gain made in non-agricultural industries, and 900,000

(Continued on Page 3)

COPE Convention Set

Pitts Urges Redoubled Drive To Register More Voters

"Progress—or the lack of it—in California for the next four years will be substantially determined by organized labor's registration efforts in the next two months," State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts warned today in announcing that the Pre-General Election Convention of the California Labor Council on Political Education will be held in San Francisco on Thursday, September 8, 1966.

Urging trade unionists in every local union and central body in the State to redouble their voter sign-up campaigns between now and the September 14 registration deadline, Pitts said:

"Both the Federal and State medicare programs brought into existence in the past two years stand as monuments to the type of public-interest legislation that can be won when an alert and informed electorate selects public officials who can turn their backs on the blandishments of greedy, self-serving special interest groups.

(Continued on Page 3)

A Look at the Voting Record Of GOP Nominee's Advisor

State Senator Vernon Sturgeon disclosed last week that he would soon move into a new office in the Reagan Headquarters in Los Angeles to advise the GOP gubernatorial nominee "on the issues."

Since the GOP nominee has had no experience at all as a public official, the advisors he chooses are very likely to exert a strong influence on his thinking.

So let's look at Sturgeon's voting record.

But in doing so, bear in

Is 'Let 'em Eat Cake' Actor's Poverty View?

To GOP gubernatorial hopeful Ronald Reagan, the report that 17 million people in the nation go to bed hungry every night can apparently best be dealt with as just a laughing matter.

Like Marie Antoinette who when told nearly 200 years ago that thousands of Frenchmen had no bread dismissed it by saying, "let them eat cake," Reagan recently conceded that the report of 17 million hungry

(Continued on Page 4)

Unionists Air Key Issues at Fed School

Scores of California trade unionists wound up their work at an intensive State AFL-CIO Summer School at the University of California Campus at Santa Barbara today after a week of daily seminar sessions and workshops devoted to in-depth discussions of basic 1966 election issues and a host of other labor-related local, state and federal problems.

In kicking off the opening

(Continued from Page 2)

90% Back Right To Pick Union

"Do you think management and its employees should have the right to choose for themselves whether they want a union shop, an open shop or no union at all when they bargain collectively?"

This was the phraseology of a question put to the constituency of Rep. Richard S. Schweiker, a Republican Congressman from Pennsylvania, who represents a mixed suburban and rural district.

It was one of a number of questions posed in the annual questionnaire Rep. Schweiker sends to voters in his district. In developing the question to determine the sentiment of his constituents on the 14(b) issue, Schweiker said:

"I tried to word the question so that no prejudicial labels were used, so that it could be judged on its merits."

The results should be an eye-opener to those who have put any stock in less scrupulously conducted polls in which the

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued on Page 4)

End 'Collective Begging' Public Workers Ask

California officialdom at all government levels stood accused today of provoking a growing rash of public employee strikes which may spread unless "true collective bargaining" is substituted for "collective begging" by government workers.

This warning was issued jointly in Los Angeles, latest center of a wave of city and county government strikes, by Rodney Hanson, representing Jerry Wurf, president of the AFL-CIO American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Washington, D.C., Jerry Carroll, state AFSCME director, and Sam Hunegs, director of the Southern California Council of the Union.

"One of our locals was forced on strike for the first time in California last September in Pittsburg," Hanson said. "The unprecedented action resulted in a first city employees' contract.

"More recently, in Los Angeles, 11 per cent pay hikes were won by a strike of social workers and a strike threat by county probation officers, and a 5.5 per cent boost by a one-day walkout of Los Angeles city rubbish haulers.

"Los Angeles county hospital workers on two occasions have spontaneously used the strike weapon for one day demonstrations, and most recently Long Beach sanitation employees have voted a strike authorization."

Some "direct action" groups are affiliated with AFSCME and some with other AFL-CIO unions, Hanson asserted, but "all moved in this new and militant direction because no true collective bargaining process was made available by government officials and administrators."

Though his union successfully used the strike weapon last year in New York, Hanson said, it has historically attempted as a government union to withhold the "final resort" action.

He noted that even the Los

Trade Unionists Air Key Issues At Fed Summer School

(Continued from Page 1)

session Monday, Albin J. Gruhn, President of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, emphasized that the current election campaign will be one of the toughest uphill battles organized labor has ever faced.

It can be won only if trade unionists throughout the state pitch in to sign up thousands of liberal voters between now and the September 14 registration deadline and then help them get to the polls on November 8, he warned.

Assistant State COPE Director Fred C. Smith and Regional Director LaMar Gulbransen spelled out details of the registration, education and get-out-the-vote effort currently under way and underscored the advantages that California workers—thanks to a strong labor movement—enjoy which are denied workers in a number of neighboring states.

Governor Brown's record of progress was contrasted sharply with the anti-labor views expressed by GOP gubernatorial candidate Ronald Reagan on such issues as Medicare, jobless insurance, braceros and urban renewal.

Then the questions came. For example:

1—How do you get members and other volunteers to the meetings? and,

2—How do you spur COPE contributions?
The answers?

1—Plan an interesting program using resource people in or out of the labor movement, films and door prizes, make it clear that the volunteers—the producers—will get some recognition or reward for their help. Publicize the program directly by announcement to the membership individually and indirectly in labor and local community publications—not just once but repeatedly. And, oh

Angeles Times, never considered a "pro-labor" newspaper, had criticized the Board of Supervisors for its "provocation" of public employee unions.

yes, hold it in a decent meeting place.

2—Get more people asking for 'em more often.

In discussing the recent breakthroughs in federal aid to education on Tuesday, Assistant National AFL-CIO Director of Education, George Guernsey noted that while many people are impressed by this long-overdue legislation, the fact of the matter is it is only a beginning.

"We must have 20 times this much money to meet the needs that exist," he said.

Marshall Axelrod, President of the California Federation of Teachers, stressed the necessity for labor representation on local Boards of Education.

"Even if the Birch Society or other extremist groups haven't already commandeered your School Board," he said, "it is still vital for labor to have a voice in these Boards. After all, if labor doesn't get in there to have a say on how the district's money is to be spent, the community's management types will dictate the terms."

Richard S. Nelson, Chief of the State Bureau of Industrial Education, credited the fine working relationship between organized labor and the vocational education program with a good share of the responsibility for the development of the "California Plan for Vocational Education" which has won international recognition.

Similar sessions were held on urban and rural poverty programs and problems and on medicare and labor's social insurance goals.

Afternoon workshop sessions Monday through Friday focused on more basic labor union matters such as collective bargaining; labor law; labor and civil rights; consumer education and community services.

The school was sponsored by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, in cooperation with the Centers for Labor Research and Education at the University of California at Berkeley and Los Angeles.

Shun Genesco Products, Union Asks

If you want to buy good union-made products, steer clear of the products of the General Shoe Corporation, the AFL-CIO Boot and Shoeworkers union urges.

The Union has been engaged in a strike against the General Shoe Corporation, which sells other products under the brand name of "Genesco," since early last February in an effort to win a collective bargaining agreement. The Union has already won an NLRB election but the Corporation has balked at negotiating an agreement.

HELP ASKED

To aid the strike, the union has asked all trade unionists and friends of labor to refuse to buy products carrying the "Genesco" brand and to shun shoes bearing any of the following brand names, all of which are produced by the firm:

Men's Shoes: Jarman, W. L. Douglas, Flagg Bros., Friendly, Johnson & Murphy, Davidson, Kingston, Statler (work shoes), Crestworth, Sentry (work shoes), Cedar Chest (work shoes), and Fortune.

Boys' Shoes: Sky rider, and Treasure Chest.

Women's Shoes: Fortunet, Christian Dior, Valentine, Party Goers, I. Miller, Millerkins, and Twenty-Ones, Holiday, K-King, Mademoiselle, Playmate, Nisley, and Berland Stores.

Girls' Shoes: Date Book and Ingenue.

Children's Shoes: Friendly, Story Book, and Acrobat.

PROFITS REPORTED

Genesco, which includes among its interests the S. H. Kress Variety Chain, has sales reported at about \$760 million and profits of more than \$17 million this year.

Just last week it was announced that the Roos/Atkins chain of apparel stores is to become a Genesco affiliate on payment of about \$16 million of Genesco stock to Roos/Atkins shareholders.

Jobs Hit New High But Jobless Rates Unaltered

(Continued from Page 1)

of it in farm employment. Both of the latter increases exceeded seasonal expectations.

The ranks of California's unemployed, totalling 380,000 in June were 76,000 less than a year earlier, but 43,000 higher than the previous month. The state Employment Director pointed out, however, that joblessness typically rises during the May-June period as students and other summer job seekers flood the labor market.

In June, 1965, the state's jobless rate was 5.8 percent. The 4.7 percent recorded last month marked the 11th consecutive month that the state's jobless rate has been below year ago levels.

California's civilian labor force, consisting of the employed and the unemployed seeking work, totalled 7,578,000 in June, reflecting an increase of 225,000 since June 1965.

The state report issued last week noted that the four-industry aerospace complex, with more than 530,000 workers, set a new record, now having surpassed its previous high of December 1962.

On the national level, joblessness among adult men rose about 100,000 with the rate climbing from 2.4 percent to 2.6 percent, a change not expected at this time of year.

The fact that the overall unemployment rate remained unchanged was regarded as an indication that the rate of economic growth has slowed, diminishing the likelihood that President Johnson would call for a tax increase to combat inflation.

Although the jobless rate among adult whites 18-19 years old dropped from 19 percent in June 1965 to 15 percent last month, the jobless rate for Negroes in the same age brackets rose from 27 percent in June 1965 to 32 percent last month.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics said the nation's job situation in June was dominated by the influx of nearly 2.8 million persons 14 to 19 years old. The fact that employment of

Pitts Urges Redoubled Drive To Register More Voters

(Continued from Page 1)

"In the forthcoming general election, a wealthy actor totally inexperienced in public office — an actor who parroted the American Medical Association's propaganda against medicare—is seeking the State's highest office with the zealous support of the most rabid, reactionary rightwing extremist groups in the nation, support he refuses to repudiate.

"His candidacy clearly jeopardizes the basic foundations in State law and administration presently protecting California's 7 million workers. So he must be defeated. But this can only be assured by an unprecedented registration drive during the next two short months," Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of State COPE declared.

The business before the COPE convention to convene at 10 a.m., September 8, in the Sheraton-Palace Hotel, will be to review primary endorsements and issue endorsements for the November 8 election in instances where the position of California Labor COPE has not

been recorded to date, and where COPE-endorsed candidates fail to qualify in the Primary Election.

Details on representation, credentials and voting strength were contained in the Official Convention Call sent to all California Labor COPE affiliates last Friday.

The deadline for the receipt of resolutions and proposed amendments to the Constitution by the Secretary-Treasurer is Thursday, August 25, 1966, except for those approved by regularly constituted and affiliated State-wide 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 Wednesday, September 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, in San Francisco.

such teenagers climbed 2 million, or 550,000 more than seasonal, to a record high of 8.3 million was attributed in part to the effectiveness of the Administration's campaign to provide summer jobs for youths.

In Los Angeles County, the seasonally adjusted jobless rate of 4.5 percent in June was at its lowest level for the month since 1959, and compared with a 5.8 percent rate in 1965. Although unemployment climbed 18,800 above the previous month to 149,400, the June increase was 38,900 or 20 percent below a year earlier. Total employment in the county, at 2,902,900, was 120,800 or 4.3 percent higher than in June, 1965. Nearly half of the year-to-year job growth was in manufacturing due to the expansion in commercial aircraft production. But employment in construction "again trailed last year's level as home-building remained sluggish", the report said.

In the San Francisco-Oakland area, the jobless rate of 4.3

percent was well below the 5.0 percent posted a year earlier, but slightly above the 4.1 percent posted in May and April. Employment totalled 62,000 in June compared with 70,800 a year earlier. Employment in the five-county area climbed 39,200 over the year to 1,264,800. But the report pointed out that the year-to-year job gain in June was less substantial than the over-the-year-growth of the past few months because of the tight money market which has restricted residential building activity.

Population Study

"Americans at Mid-Decade," a report on U.S. population changes and growth since the 1960 Census, may be obtained from the San Francisco Field Office of the U.S. Department of Commerce at 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36013, San Francisco, California 94102, for 40 cents per copy.

State AFL-CIO Asks OK For Packaging Bill

(Continued from Page 1)

market charade and have the right to expect to be treated fairly and honestly," Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO declared.

The bill would set standards for labeling and grant authority to government agencies to regulate the variety of weights and measures in which a product may be packaged—but only where manufacturers are unable to agree on voluntary standards.

It is designed to afford consumers a better opportunity to make a rational choice between competing products by requiring similar products to be packaged in standardized weights and quantities, such as 8-oz. or 16-oz., instead of 7½ oz., 9 and 13 oz. sizes, so consumers may more easily recognize relative values.

A companion measure has already been approved by the Senate.

California Representatives serving on the House Commerce Committee are: Reps. John E. Moss (D-Sacramento); J. Arthur Younger (R-San Mateo); and Lionel Van Deerlin (D-San Diego).

Racial ID Ban Policy Reversed

Elimination of a U.S. Employment Service policy that has prohibited the notation of racial identification on job application and hiring records since May, 1962, has been announced by U.S. Secretary of Labor, W. Willard Wirtz.

The new policy, effective immediately, stipulates that no job applicant will have to list his race if he does not wish to do so. But, Wirtz explained, such information is useful as a "statistical tool" to help show where "concentrated action" is required to eliminate racial discrimination.

"We have to know where the problems are, how we are doing, and what we are doing," he said.

Solon's Poll Finds 90% Back Right To Choose Union

(Continued from Page 1)

question has been phrased in "loaded" terms.

More than nine out of ten persons replying favored permitting unions and employers to negotiate a union shop. The actual percentage was 90.4 percent, with only 4.9 percent opposed and 4.7 percent replying "not sure."

The margin of support registered for repeal of 14(b)—better than 90 percent — represented by far the highest margin recorded on any of the 20 questions in the Congressman's questionnaire.

Particularly noteworthy too is the fact that 77 percent of those replying to the questionnaire indicated they were registered Republicans!

A Look at the Voting Record Of GOP Nominee's Advisor

(Continued from Page 1)

Goldwater camp to begin with, can only be regarded as considerably closer to the right-wing extremists' position than Sturgeon.

During the 1965 legislative session, Sturgeon:

- Voted in favor of amendments to the employee-paid disability insurance program that slashed benefits to 50 percent of all claimants suffering off-the-job illnesses or accidents and crippled sound financing of the program. — March 21, 1965.

- Voted in favor of destroying the principle of insuring 50 percent of lost wages to the great majority of the State's jobless, in favor of weakening extended duration benefits, and in favor of vicious disqualification provisions that cut benefit payments by \$26.5

million, and affected some 60,000 jobless workers.—June 17, 1965.

- Voted against repeal of the hot cargo and secondary boycott sections of the State Labor Code which were added to the Code under the exigencies of World War II in 1941. Despite Sturgeon's vote against repeal on May 25, 1965, the provisions were subsequently repealed.

- Voted for AB 1474, a bill that established an ineffective and irresponsible procedure of representing School Teachers and other certificated employees in negotiating wages, hours and other terms of employment with local Boards of Education. The procedures Sturgeon favored deny long-recognized practices in developing responsible collective bargaining procedures. Just as an ex-

State's GNP is 7th Largest In The World

"State Controller Alan Cranston pointed out the other day that if California were an independent nation, it would be the seventh largest in the world in terms of gross national product (\$63.5 billion a year!). That fact should have a sobering effect on those who preach that California can go back to the ways of a simple agrarian society with pre-World War II budgets and part-time "citizen" officials . . ." — San Francisco Examiner editorial, July 11, 1966.

ample, AB 1474 continues the practice of letting Administrators participate in selecting the employee representatives to be permitted to sit at the bargaining table. Sort of like letting the bosses' aide choose who they are willing to talk to. — Passed June 13, 1965.

In addition, Sturgeon was recorded as not voting on AB 1274, a measure to protect the workers' union-negotiated health and welfare trust fund by extending mechanics lien rights to them.

Despite this substantial anti-labor and anti-public interest voting record, Reagan's new advisor on issues may well find himself regarded with suspicion by all of the Birchers and other extremists groups massed in the actor's camp.

Federal Workers Pay Boost Approved

A 3.2 percent pay boost for 1.8 million government workers won final Congressional approval this week when the House concurred in Senate amendments and sent the bill to President Johnson for signature.

The raise includes a 2.9 percent cash increase and fringe benefits improvements, including time-and-a-half pay for overtime for classified employees working more than a regular eight-hour day.

Is 'Let 'em Eat Cake' Actor's View of Poverty?

(Continued from Page 1)

U.S. citizens was "probably true" but quipped: "They were all on a diet."

Since the actor has chosen repeatedly to ridicule the nation's efforts to improve the plight of the nation's poor and underprivileged citizens, it might be well to bear in mind some of the things President Johnson's war on poverty has accomplished. In addition to creating hundreds of thousands of jobs and a wide variety of training programs to enable workers at the bottom rung of the economic ladder to improve their incomes, the war on poverty has also been directed at the nation's most precious resource, its children.

Since a report on operation Headstart, one of the programs of the Office of Economic Opportunity, was just released last week, let's look at the results and see if the war on poverty is really just a laughing matter.

In just one year of operation, Operation Headstart has:

- Uncovered and begun correction of physical defects in one-third of the more than

500,000 children participating in this pre-school program.

- Boosted the IQ's of children three to five years of age as much as 16 points.

- Created pre-school training opportunities for 500,000 children in 2500 communities last summer and will provide such training for 580,000 in 2600 communities this summer.

- Prevented the development of reading problems by the discovery of visual defects in thousands of these children during medical examinations.

- In addition, of course, the war on poverty has developed a wide variety of training and retraining programs for both youthful and veteran workers and initiated the first nationwide effort to create meaningful employment opportunities for teenagers during the summer to encourage responsible citizenship in our youth and minimize juvenile delinquency.

Actor Ronald Reagan, who surely hasn't been hungry for

the last 20 years, also whines bitterly that "welfare spending is ten times greater than in the dark depths of the depression."

That may sound like a substantial increase. But stop and think a minute. Millions of workers earned less than \$10 a week in 1932. And, in point of fact, despite more than a 50 percent increase in the nation's population since 1932, and the initiation and implementation of many long-overdue social insurance programs, welfare spending — including all social security programs, medical benefits, World War II veteran's benefits and unemployment insurance, etc.—amounted to just one half of one percent more of the gross national product in 1965 than it did in the depths of the depression of the Thirties.

The war on poverty may be just a joke to Ronald Reagan but it means hope and a better opportunity to develop their full potentials for millions of Americans.

And surely for most thinking Californians, that's not a laughing matter.