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MOVING AHEAD TOGETHER—Tom Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO (2nd from left), announces that formal agreement has been reached for a merger of the AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee and the heretofore independent National Farm Workers' Association directed by Cesar Chavez (2nd from right) as William Kircher, AFL-CIO National Director of Organization (at right) who helped work out the pact, and AWOC representative Larry Itliong beam their approval. The merger agreement, which will unify AWOC and NFWA members into one unit for the August 30th union representational election at DiGiorgio properties in Delano and Borrego Farms was announced in the Federation's offices in San Francisco. The form and structure of the consolidation is scheduled to be established by action of the National AFL-CIO Executive Council at its Chicago meeting on August 22 but the merger has been cleared through AFL-CIO President George Meany's office.

AWOC-NFWA Merger Pact

A formal merger agreement has been worked out between the AFL-CIO's Agricultural Workers' Organizing Committee and the heretofore independent National Farm Workers' Association, the two organizations that have been jointly engaged in a strike for better pay and union recognition for farm workers against grape growers in the Delano area for more than 10 months.

9 Regional COPE Conferences Set

The first of a series of nine regional conferences designed to shift organized labor's general election campaign efforts into high gear will open in Los Angeles August 18, state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts announced this week.

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The announcement, made at a press conference in the State Federation's San Francisco office Wednesday by Thos. L. Pitts, the Federation's Secretary-Treasurer and William Kircher, national AFL-CIO Director of Organization, said that form and structure of the merger would be established

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Wherefore Art Thou Hippocrates?

Do you know what the ruckus was all about at the American Medical Association's 115th Annual Convention in Chicago early this month?

Money.

And the implementation of Medicare.

But before we get into the issues, bear in mind that the Hippocratic oath which is supposedly the bedrock of medical

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Brown to Speak At State Fed Convention

Governor Edmund G. Brown will be the featured speaker at the opening session of the 6th Convention of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, the Federation's Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts announced today.

The week-long convention, to open in the Community Concourse in San Diego at 10:00 a.m., Monday, August 8, 1966, will involve more than 2,000 delegates from AFL-CIO unions and central bodies throughout the state.

In issuing the official convention call last month, Pitts noted that:

"This year's convention takes place at a time of rapid social and economic change. While progress has been made in recent years in reducing unemployment and in expanding prosperity, far too many workers, organized and unorganized,

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Phone Monitoring Hit as 'Outrage'

"Intrusions into private matters . . . create hostility at best and timidity at worst and destroy any sense of trust between employer and employee, citizen and government," the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, asserted yesterday in opposing the secret use of monitoring devices on telephone communications for business or other purposes.

In a statement submitted in behalf of State AFL-CIO leader

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Humboldt Co. Workers Vote Union 2 to 1

A major breakthrough in the organization of public employees was marked recently when the independent 750-member Humboldt County Employees Association headquartered in Eureka received its charter as Local 1684 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

The action resulted from a referendum in which members voted in favor of AFL-CIO affiliation by a margin of more than 2 to 1 following a request to the union for assistance in their bargaining efforts.

The Humboldt and Del Norte Counties Central Labor Council had also provided strong support to the association in its bargaining efforts.

NEW OFFICES

Significantly, while the affiliation vote was still in progress, the Association elected new officers and five of the principal new officers chosen were pro-AFL-CIO.

Moreover, since the vote to affiliate, and in spite of a significant dues increase, the organization has picked up nearly 100 new members.

Harvey Larsen, President of the formerly independent group, spelled out the reasons for the action as follows:

"In the past few years, the salaries and working conditions of our county employee members have fallen behind the prevailing trend in public and private employment. This year we were faced with an additional threat of an increase in our hourly workweek.

'ONLY RECOURSE'

"Our only recourse was a stronger bargaining agent, and we chose to join the organization that is chartered by the AFL-CIO to represent public employees — the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees."

Reports indicate that the proposal to increase the hourly workweek of Humboldt County employees has already been stopped and negotiations are in progress for a substantial wage increase.

Gov. Brown To Address State AFL-CIO Parley in San Diego

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remain outside the mainstream of this nation's economic progress."

Confronting the delegates will be the task of charting the course of the Federation, which represents the state's 1.5 million AFL-CIO union members, for the next two years. Scores of resolutions designed to cope with a wide variety of state and national social and economic problems have already been submitted. As of the July 25 deadline for resolutions, more than 160 were already in hand.

Other featured speakers at the convention will include: Lieutenant Governor Glenn M. Anderson, State Controller Alan Cranston, Attorney General Thomas C. Lynch, Joseph Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer of the National AFL-CIO's Union Label and Service Trades Department; U.S. Under Secretary of Labor John F. Henning, California's Consumer Counsel Helen E. Nelson; and William Kircher, AFL-CIO National Director of Organization who has devoted much of his time and energy during the past six months to help win union bargaining rights for California's embattled farm workers.

The resolutions to be acted upon by the delegates will range from those seeking legislative actions to end arbitrary rules by auto insurance companies that deny insured drivers any recourse when the company cancels their policies to a resolution proposing a Vietnam Excess Profits Tax. Others call for collective bargaining rights for federal, state and other public employees and for state action to assure that the dental program set up under the state Medicare Act is put into effect as it was "originally conceived and not for the purpose of making a few dentists wealthy."

Still other resolutions call for a ban on wage garnishments; anti-strikebreaker legislation and a 35-hour week for federal employees.

The delegates will also study the ramifications of 17 propositions to appear on the Novem-

ber ballot and determine what position to take on them.

In addition, a set of broad policy recommendations being developed by the Federation's 37-man Executive Council will be submitted to the delegates for their consideration and action. The policy statements will cover such fields as: Full Employment and the Economy; Taxation; Labor Legislation; Agricultural Labor; Civil Rights; Housing, Water Resources Development; Unemployment Insurance; Workmen's Compensation; Unemployment Disability Insurance; Education; Social Security; Social Welfare; and Foreign Policy.

A special feature of the convention's Wednesday session will be the presentation of 17 \$500 college scholarship awards to the winners of the 16th Annual High School Scholarship competition sponsored by the Federation.

Fourteen of these scholarships were made available this year through the direct cooperation of the following Federation affiliates: Butchers Local 498, Sacramento; Carpenters Ladies Auxiliary, California State Council—Memorial Scholarship; California Legislative Board of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen; California State Council of Carpenters; California State Council of Culinary Workers, Bartenders and Hotel and Motel Service Employees; California State Council of Lathers—Lloyd A. Mashburn Memorial Scholarship; California State Council of Retail Clerks—Warren G. "Pop" DeSepte Award; Communications Workers of America, Bay Area Council — William M. Gruwell Scholarship, Oakland; Los Angeles Building and Construction Trades Council; Los Angeles District Council of Carpenters; Painters District Council No. 36, Los Angeles—Roderick Mackenzie Scholarship Award; Studio Utility Employees Local 724 Hollywood—Henry C. Rohrbach Memorial Scholarship; Western Federation of Butchers; and the Federated Fire Fighters of California.

The Federation, which has

GUIDELINES SIDELINED

So who's for wage guidelines?

Not D. C. Burnham, President of the Westinghouse Electric Company. Although the President's Council of Economic Advisors wants to limit pay increases to 3.2 percent annually, Burnham's salary rose 22.3 percent last year — from \$248,066 to \$313,390.

Not O. N. Miller, President of Standard Oil Company. His salary rose 9.3 percent — from \$185,684 to \$203,035.

Not Jacob E. Davis, President of the Kroger Company. His salary rose 27.8 percent — from \$125,532 to \$160,522.

Not Barry T. Leithead, President of Cluett Peabody & Co. His salary rose 8.2 percent — from \$277,000 to \$300,000.

Wage guidelines? They're for the guy in the shop.

held biennial conventions since 1960, last convened in San Diego in 1959 when it held its second convention there just a year after the merger of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations on the state level in 1958.

The roots of the California State Federation of Labor, however, extend back to 1901. It was organized on January 7-9, 1901 at Pioneer Hall in San Francisco. At that time the 163 delegates present represented approximately 9,000 union members in organizations in Oakland, Los Angeles, San Mateo, San Rafael, Vallejo, San Jose, Sacramento and San Francisco.

Although all of the Federation's records and properties were destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire, its membership grew to 256 affiliates and a membership of 45,000 by 1910, and more than doubled that again in the following decade. Today more than 1600 unions and councils representing the state's 1.5 million AFL-CIO union members make up the state AFL-CIO.

Phone Tapping Rapped at PUC Hearing in S.F.

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Thos. L. Pitts, the Federation declared:

"A democratic society eschews the tight lips and squinted eyes that such practices inevitably produce. The proximity of 'monitored' speech and 'monitored' thought is obvious. They flout the principles of a democratic society. . . .

"It is far better that the few dishonest and incompetent should remain undiscovered if the price paid for their discovery is the violation of personal integrity."

Recalling that the American public was shocked by the revelation that even Eleanor Roosevelt's telephone had been tapped by Federal agents during World War II, the State AFL-CIO's statement reminded the PUC Commissioner at the hearing at the State Building in San Francisco that Supreme Court Justice Brandeis had observed that the "right to be let alone" was "the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men."

Asserting that "the privacy of each and every person is increasingly threatened by the growing use of hidden microphones, tape recorders, two-way mirrors, peepholes, cameras, spyglasses, and the electronic bugs," the Federation said it was "deeply concerned" over the use of "deprivatizing devices" against both the public in general, and workers and union members in particular.

"The shadow of George Orwell's 'Big Brother' draws nearer and larger and on behalf of the California AFL-CIO we loudly protest this outrage," the Federation stated.

It also read into the PUC's record the policy resolution adopted by the national AFL-CIO Convention in San Francisco last year which among other things noted that employers have used closed circuit television to watch the production lines of their employees, have monitored workers' telephone calls and even sought to use lie detectors to check employees' union activities.

The national AFL-CIO's Reso-

Enforcement of Reclamation Law Urged By State Fed

Strong support for the principles incorporated in the nation's reclamation law to prevent the unjust enrichment of large landowners was voiced by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO in a statement submitted to a U. S. Senate Committee in Washington today.

The statement, which charged that recent developments in connection with the Westlands Water District and the supposed divestiture of excess lands owned by the DiGiorgio Corporation in the vicinity of Delano have "cast doubt on the wholehearted desire of the Department of the Interior to enforce reclamation law, was submitted to the U.S. Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs on Enforcement of Reclamation Law in behalf of Thos. L. Pitts, the Federation's Secretary-Treasurer. It was presented to the Committee by a member of the national AFL-CIO staff.

To back up its charge, the Federation pointed out that "the historic purpose and intent" of the nation's reclamation law, has been aimed at breaking up pre-existing large holdings in the interests of discouraging land monopoly and speculation and encouraging the settlement of heretofore arid lands.

The fact that of the 536,000 acres in the Westlands Water District, the number held in excess of the acreage limitation presently exceeds 401,000 acres and that the excess holdings, instead of declining, have risen from 70 percent a few years ago to 75 percent today reflects a failure of adequate enforcement of reclamation law, the state AFL-CIO noted.

In reply to earlier suggestions by spokesmen for the Department of the Interior and the

lution also stated: "unalterable opposition to any sort of 'surveillance of workers whether by electronic listening devices, wiretapping, closed circuit television, motion picture cameras, peepholes, or any other of the ever-growing list of such devices."

Westlands Water District that "economic pressure" in the form of assessments on excess owners would bring about substantial compliance with the law, the Federation pointed out that if this suggestion had any validity there should be no reason why the large landholders would not go through "the formality of signing recordable contracts." Such contracts enable the landowners to reap the benefits of the general taxpayers investment to bring water to their lands but stipulate that the landowner must divest himself of his excess acreage within or at the end of 10 years.

Another fact that brings into question the "wholehearted desire" of the Interior Department to enforce the reclamation law, the state AFL-CIO said, were the terms under which the Department permitted the DiGiorgio Corporation to attempt to dispose of excess lands that included the DiGiorgio Corporation's Sierra Vista Ranch near Delano.

Sales brochures widely distributed in California, the Federation said, "make a pitch to absentee owners and investors."

The brochure offers 40 to 160-acre parcels of "prime San Joaquin Valley farmland for 'tax shelter investment; specific advantages for the investor; professional management for absentee owners; . . . and goes on to speak of the long range potential of rising land values," Pitts' statement pointed out.

"It seems clear," the statement added, "that the DiGiorgio Corporation's excess lands were appraised at prices far above their value prior to the reclamation project, even after improvements have been considered. The result is that potential family farmers have been unable to purchase the land."

In concluding its testimony, the state AFL-CIO suggested that "the time has come for a major overhaul of the nation's reclamation program" and said that new incentives and assistance to those who wish to be family farmers must be undertaken.

\$4.7 Million To Aid State's Farm Workers OK'd

An additional \$4.7 million to expand housing, health care, education and welfare services for migrant farm families in California has been authorized by the Office of Economic Opportunity.

The funds, a follow-up on OEO's April 1965 grant of \$3,872,914 which initiated the program last year, will be used to finance 700 temporary housing units, 24 health clinics and other necessary facilities at seven new seasonal migrant service centers.

Sites for the seven new centers or shelter camps have not yet been determined.

The program is designed to ease the wretched living conditions for California's farm workers, many of whom for years have been obliged to live in their cars or camp along ditch banks.

The acute shortage of anything approaching adequate housing for domestic farm labor families developed during the bracero era when a number of the state's major growers failed to maintain existing family housing or provide new family housing because to do so could have knocked the props out from under their claims of a labor shortage and jeopardized their easy access to a cheap, docile, foreign farm labor supply.

While no one with any knowledge of the farm workers' plight would quarrel with the aims of this program, all Californians should recognize that the use of more than \$8 million in public funds amounts to a direct subsidy to California's \$3.6 billion agricultural industry and stems directly from the corporate farms' refusal to offer the premium wages and decent working conditions necessary to attract domestic workers.

Making America Great

"The drive, the spirit, and the persisting energetic activities of the labor movement are the special American resources that have been making, and still continue to make, America great."—Dr. Albert Sabin, discoverer of the oral polio vaccine.

AWOC-NFWA Merger Pact

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upon action by the national AFL-CIO Executive Council at its meeting in Chicago on August 22 but that the agreement had been cleared through AFL-CIO President George Meany's office.

Pitts, who led the fight to kill the discredited bracero program, hailed the agreement saying:

"This action marks an historic forward step toward bringing California's farm workers into the mainstream of the labor movement. It represents the end of the beginning of the forward march of California's farm workers toward their rightful goal of economic equality with other workers in our state and nation."

Kircher, who has devoted most of his time and energy to the farm workers' struggle for the past six months, said the merger agreement simply underscores the fact that "the second-class citizenship status imposed on farm workers for generations is destined to end because the conscience of the American people will no longer tolerate the injustices they have suffered so long."

Both Pitts and Kircher called on grower interests to "accept as reasonable men the fact that farm workers want the benefits of unionism and are determined to get them. A reasonable and enlightened approach to this problem on the part of agribusiness interests could go a long way toward averting needless strife in the fields," they emphasized.

Cesar Chavez, director of NFWA, said that the merger development is the natural outgrowth of the close working relationship between his membership and the AWOC members for the past 10 months in the Delano grape strike.

"The need for progress for farm workers is critical, the obstacles are massive; only complete worker solidarity will prevail," he declared.

"The National Farm Workers Association and the Agricultural Workers' Organizing Committee have applied for a joint charter from the National AFL-CIO," Chavez continued, adding:

"In a telegram received today from George Meany, President of the AFL-CIO, we are

informed that the charter will be acted upon by the Executive Council when it convenes on August 22, 1966.

"The pending representation election on August 30th at Di Giorgio properties has given impetus to the merger action. While the two organizations, NFWA and AWOC, have had a close working relationship, the NFWA felt that it would be in the best interest of all farm workers to present a united front at this time.

"Furthermore, the merger precludes any claims that might be made concerning jurisdictional matters. A merger also eliminates any question as to which organization is the bargaining agent in the current disputes in Delano, many of which are of a joint nature. Also from a long-range point of view such a merger is of unquestionable benefit to all farm workers.

"Our first action is to appear as one unit on the ballot in the forthcoming elections at Di Giorgio Corporation. Mr. Meany has authorized this action pending approval of the charter," Chavez explained.

COPE Parleys Set

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The conferences, to be conducted by the California Labor Council on Political Education in cooperation with the local unions and central bodies involved, will serve to iron out details of the final voter registration push before the September 14 registration deadline to lay out COPE'S education and get out the vote program.

Asserting that "the importance of a strong and efficient political program in the labor movement cannot be overemphasized," Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO's political arm, said that the candidacy of Hollywood actor Ronald Reagan constitutes a "new threat against the future and the welfare of the trade union movement" and makes it essential for all trade unionists "to contribute not only money, but time and physical effort as well, if we hope to win on November 8, 1966."

Four of the conferences will be held in Los Angeles County and two in the San Francisco Bay Area. The four Los Angeles conferences will be held August 18-19 in each of the following areas: The Harbor District; The Central City District; the San Fernando Valley; and Pomona Valley.

The locations, dates and regions encompassed in the other conferences are as follows:

Riverside, August 22, to include trade unionists in Imperial, San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties.

San Diego, August 22, San Diego County.

Santa Barbara, August 23, to include San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

Fresno, August 24, to include the San Joaquin Valley area from Modesto to Bakersfield.

Salinas, August 24, to include Monterey, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties.

San Francisco, August 25, to include San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties.

Oakland, August 25, to include Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

Santa Rosa, August 26, to encompass the Northern Coastal Counties; including Solano and Napa.

Sacramento, August 26, to include the Sacramento Valley from San Joaquin to Shasta Counties.

Wherefore Art Thou Now Hippocrates?

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ethics reads in part as follows:

"I will follow that system which . . . I consider for the benefit of my patients and abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous."

Okay. Now the Medicare amendment to the Social Security Act provides social insurance coverage for medical bills for more than 17 million U.S. citizens 65 and over who signed up for the \$3 a month voluntary part of the Medicare coverage plan. But this plan gives doctors a choice of two different ways of collecting their bills:

1. They can send an itemized statement directly to the patient. If they do this, the patient must pay the bill before he can put in a claim for Medicare reimbursement.

2. They can submit their bills directly to the Medicare Insurance carrier. If they do this, it relieves the patient of the need

to dip into whatever savings he has or to borrow large sums to meet his bills before being eligible for Medicare reimbursement. Needless to add, it also relieves him of the mental anguish of debt worries.

On the surface, it would appear that a physician practicing the precept of the Hippocratic oath would favor sending their bills directly to the Medicare Insurance carrier since it is obviously in the best interests of his patient's mental health.

But there is a hooker.

Although the patient must pay the first \$50 of any bill, and Medicare covers 80 percent of the balance, the Medicare insurance carrier will only pay 80 percent of that part of the bill that the insurance carrier considers reasonable.

Obviously, any unscrupulous doctor who wanted to charge an unreasonable fee would see an advantage in billing the patient directly since it would assure

such doctors receipt of their unreasonable charges before their patients could file for reimbursements from Medicare.

And if the insurance company rejects part of the bill as "unreasonable" the patient, not the doctor, is stuck with the overcharge.

Despite the efforts of some of the moderates in the AMA, the doctor-delegates to the Chicago convention adopted a resolution urging, but not requiring, doctors to bill all patients directly.

And then guess who they elected by acclamation as their next president? Dr. Milford Rouse, a Dallas physician and an ex-director of the ultra right-wing Lifeline Foundation which is backed by a multi-millionaire Texas oilman H. L. Hunt, the big money man behind radio programs steeped in the ultra-conservative viewpoint.

Twirl on, Hippocrates, twirl on.