



California AFL-CIO News

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY

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

August 19, 1966
Vol. 8—No. 33

Regional COPE Parleys Now Underway

Growing awareness that the 1966 general election poses one of the greatest political threats to organized labor in its history was reflected this week in the strong turnout of union members for the first few of a series of regional grass roots meetings aimed at mobilizing all trade unionists in the battle to help repulse the radical right's attempt to capture the reins of state government.

The first two meetings were held in Los Angeles yesterday, at the Don Hotel in Wilmington in the morning and at the union building in the central district of Los Angeles in the afternoon.

Concentrating on the ABC's of political action—registration, education and get-out-the-vote programming—the meetings were scheduled by the Federation's Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts to spell out the details of the program developed by California Labor's '66 Election Committee.

Their importance is underscored by the fact that this marks the first time in memory that a Secretary-Treasurer of the Federation has personally participated in the implementation of political action programs at the grass roots level.

Among other things, the program calls for:

- Active cooperation with minority groups and senior citizen organizations in registration, education and get-out-the-vote efforts.
- Creation of a statewide speaker's bureau, and,
- The establishment of a full-time task force of labor representatives in every congressional district in the state.

In addition, the program calls

Right Wing Peril To Worker Stressed at Fed Convention

McDonald's Hit As Anti-Union

McDonald's, a national chain of hamburger stands was cited as both non-union and anti-union in a resolution adopted by delegates to the California Labor Federation's convention in San Diego last week.

The delegates, representing 1.5 million AFL-CIO union members throughout the state, pledged their support to 18 local unions of the Hotel, Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union in efforts to organize this anti-union chain.

The resolution also urged that the broadest possible publicity be given to the anti-union position of McDonald's in the labor press and elsewhere throughout the state and nation to assure that union members, their families and friends know that McDonald's is anti-union.

for greater utilization of the absentee ballot system, phone bank operations, and the strongest educational effort in the history of the California labor movement.

Two additional regional meetings in the Los Angeles area were scheduled today: the first at 11:00 a.m. at the Machinist's Hall at 2600 Victory Blvd., Burbank, in the San Fernando Valley District; and the second at 3:00 p.m. at the Retail Clerks at 1716 West Holt Avenue, Pomona, in the Pomona Valley area.

All trade unionists, including

"Can you imagine the kind of a judge who would sit on the Supreme Court if the right-wing extremists controlled that Capitol in Sacramento? We have to make the terrifying possibilities of right-wing control known to every voter in this state."

So declared U.S. Under Secretary of Labor John F. Henning in a rousing speech that reached to the roots of the state's current turmoil with right-wing extremists and won Henning a standing ovation at the California Labor Federation's week-long convention in San Diego last week.

Referring to GOP gubernatorial candidate Ronald Reagan as "Ronnie the Parrot," Hen-

See text, page 2

ning said that the actor lacked the capacity, the convictions and the persistence to be Governor and added that Sacramento "isn't the place for a parrot."

He also zeroed in on the state's critical civil rights problem saying:

"We have to answer the mad
(Continued on Page 3)

local union executive boards, are urged to attend the conferences scheduled in their areas.

Here's a list of the conferences scheduled next week:

Riverside — August 22, 11:00 a.m., Labor Center, 1074 La Caden Drive, Riverside.

San Diego County — August 22, 7:00 p.m., Machinist's Hall, 3199 Pacific Highway, San Diego.

Santa Barbara — August 23, 11:00 a.m., Building Trades, 415 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara.

San Joaquin Valley — August 24, 11:00 a.m., Engineer Bldg., 3131 E. Olive, Fresno.

Monterey — August 24, 7:30

(Continued on Page 3)

Fed Protests Bonanza For Insurance Co.'s

Why should insurance carriers get a bonanza of \$12.5 million just because doctors' fees are increased for handling cases involving workers hurt on the job?

That, in a nutshell, is the question put to State Insurance Commissioner Richard S. L. Roddis by a spokesman for the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, this week at a hearing held in the Commissioner's office in San Francisco to fix workmen's compensation insurance rates.

While not opposing a boost in doctors' fees, which have not been increased in this field for more than a decade, the state AFL-CIO sharply questioned the justification for including the insurance carriers' "excessive" expense loading factor of 38.35 percent in computing the total costs.

The expense loading factor is the percentage allowed to insurance companies for administrative costs such as fighting claims, selling insurance to employers who are required to

(Continued on Page 3)

Registered To Vote? Deadline is Sept. 15

Ron's Bid Creates Crisis: Henning

"I don't think there is any need to emphasize the importance of political action in 1966. We have long since left the day when it could be argued that trade unions can fulfill their missions in American society through economic strength. We know by the lessons of history that the most powerful trade union can be destroyed or emasculated overnight if government is in hostile hands.

A HOSTILE VOICE

"Now, the hostile voice of Mr. Reagan was heard this week. He once wore your badge. He once attended these Conventions. But now he speaks disparagingly of the 'Sultans of Labor.' He didn't enjoy your endorsement; he seemed surprised—certainly, those who direct his political life are too sophisticated to think that, for one moment, any trade union in this state or any individual trade union member could send Governor Pat Brown to the wall for the likes of 'Mr. Slick.'

"He has no credentials to justify a labor endorsement. But his candidacy does point to a political crisis.

"For the third time in the past eight years, the State of California is in political crisis: 1958, 1962, 1966.

KNOWLAND WHIPPED

"In 1958, William Knowland, then one of the most powerful national Republican figures in the nation—Knowland, who was the minority leader of the Republican Party in the United States Senate—in 1958 William Knowland and the Republican right moved on Sacramento, the State Capitol; and they moved behind the arrogant and anti-worker and the anti-Democratic and the anti-Progressive and the anti-freedom banners of the right-to-work clause:

"Knowland was whipped by more than a million votes. The right-to-work movement suffered a catastrophic defeat. Proposition 18 was beaten by almost a million votes.

"By reason of that convulsion in our political history, the Democrats won every state-wide office: Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Treasurer, Controller.

"In 1958, the Republican Party was driven out of both Houses of the State Legislature

Here is the almost complete text of the stirring speech delivered by U.S. Under Secretary of Labor John F. Henning at the Federation's Convention in San Diego last week edited only to meet space limitations.

for the first time in the 20th Century.

"In 1962, Richard Nixon came home from the national campaigns to lead the Republican right on Sacramento. He was the old Nixon, the old anti-labor Nixon, who was committed to unfailing opposition to trade unionism from the very day he first sought political office in the Congressional election of 1946 against Jerry Voorhees, in Southern California.

"He was the old Nixon. He was beaten by more than 200,000 votes, and he has not yet regained or recaptured the political momentum that took him within the shadow of the White House and within the shadow of John F. Kennedy—the laces of whose shoes he wasn't fit to touch—in 1960.

"And now they are back again. In 1966 Ronald Reagan leads the Republican right on Sacramento. Forgetting his absence—his complete lack—of understanding of political ethics, the absence of any sense of social consciousness or social responsibility; beyond all that, he doesn't qualify.

'ONLY AN ACTOR'

"Now, I am not one of those (and I think that we should be very careful in this) who decries his candidacy because he is an actor. His profession has given to this state and to this nation great and profound men. The argument against this man is that he is only an actor. He has no credentials of service either in community life, in the business community, in the political community. It's incredible. It is, as John Emmett Hughes said, a 'political jest' that the Republican Party would submit such a man as candidate for the office of Governor of the most populous state in the Union.

"It is argued by some that he has some credentials. He once held the honor of trade-union office. He was once a liberal.

"That isn't enough. Some of the most depraved figures in

human history came out of liberal sources and liberal origins. I am not for a moment making a realistic comparison, but history tells us never to forget that a socialist newspaper editor in radical Italy became the fascist butcher, Benito Mussolini. And history reminds that a Georgian nationalist in revolutionary Russia became the communist butcher and the butcher of humanity, Joseph Stalin. And history also recalls that in his own twisted and insane manner a man named Adolph Hitler stumbled one evening in 1920 into a meeting of the German Workers' Party. He captured the party, he captured the nation, and he sought to capture the world. It isn't enough for any man to note that he once wore a liberal badge. . . .

THE CONVERSION

"What mystical power brought about his (Reagan's) overnight conversion? In 1950 he campaigned for Helen Gahagan Douglas, and his right-wing supporters enjoy kind of a queer thrill today by remembering that he campaigned for Adlai Stevenson in 1952. But suddenly he became the voice of a determined corporate program to destroy free collective bargaining in this country. And week after week and month after month on radio and television there was a new Reagan. I would call him 'Ronnie the Parrot.' He was parroting lines written by other men. He was speaking a philosophy that he once scorned and he was now part of an alliance to destroy the union from which he came. He doesn't belong!

"There are some lessons we can learn from these political crises of the past 8 years; and I would submit that the first lesson we learn is this: that the right-wing extremists have captured the party of Hiram Johnson, the party of Earl Warren, the party of Goodwin Knight.

"They not only denied and disowned, but they displaced Goodwin Knight because in his

boldness he dared to oppose Right-to-Work legislation in this State in 1958 and they drove him out of the Capitol. There is no precedent for it. They drove their own incumbent Governor out of the State Capitol. They would disown, they would deny and with unspeakable villainy they would destroy the name and the honor of Thomas Kuchel, the liberal senator of the Republican Party from this State. He nailed them to the wall, but only after the Hitlerian tactics of the intellectual underworld had driven him to retaliation. There is nothing like the animal attack of this group on Kuchel in all the political history of California.

RON'S NEW FRIENDS

"So Reagan is with them. He is not here. He is with the new-found friends. He is with the right-wing Republican element that would put their pawing hands on Earl Warren—hands that are stained with mud and political filth. And they cry 'Impeach Earl Warren!'

"He is in new company now. He is with those who would put their pawing hands on Thomas Kuchel and destroy him. But at their own peril they will put their hands on the trade-union movement of this State!

"This is the company of Mr. Reagan in the year 1966. He is a part of the right-wing Republican extremists—the extremism repudiated by the people of this nation in the presidential election of 1964.

ANOTHER LESSON

"There is another lesson to be learned. The labor-liberal coalition won in '58 and it won in '62 by direct assertion of the progressive liberal traditions of American political life. This is no time for a hesitation waltz. This is no time for the labor-liberal coalition to take a posture just a little bit to the left of Reagan or just a little bit to the left of Jim Crow. You have to speak out on the doctrines to which you are committed. And you do it. You do it. The Democratic Party must do it. There can be no equivocation. They stand either with labor or they stand alone in the hour of crisis.

"And this is the time for the common assertion of the goodness of the liberal tradition;

(Continued on Page 4)

Far Right Peril To Workers Stressed

(Continued from Page 1)

men of any community. We can't sit in silence when we hear in the streets of our city chants of racial hatred, whether they be directed against White or Negro . . ."

Earlier, State Controller Alan Cranston told the delegates of

Fed Protests Bonanza For Insurance Co.'s

(Continued from Page 1)

take it out, office space, clerical help, salaries and other administrative expenses.

The Federation's Director of Social Insurance, Clinton M. Fair, speaking in behalf of State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts, pointed out that the increase in physicians' fees should not result in any significant increase in administrative costs—is simply means putting a higher figure on a check—and, in short, that the insurance companies would get "an extra \$12.5 million even though they paid no additional medical bills."

In substantiating the charge that the insurance carriers' expense loading factor was "excessive" the State AFL-CIO noted that the California Insurance Rating Bureau (CIRB), an agency licensed by the state but financed by insurance carriers, had made no case for fixing the expense loading factor at 38.35 percent.

It also called the Commissioner's attention to the fact that competitive state funds operate on a loading factor of less than 23 percent and the exclusive state funds operate on a loading factor of less than 15 percent.

Subsequently the Commissioner asked the insurance carriers if they cared to respond on this issue but they declined.

No one from the California Manufacturer's Association, representing the employers who pay the bills, appear to protest the extra costs.

The Commissioner, who held a similar hearing in Los Angeles Wednesday, said he would take the Federation's testimony under consideration. His decision is expected to be announced sometime before October 1, 1966 when the new rates are scheduled to go into effect.

his attempt to apprise Reagan of the "race hatred and religious prejudice riddling the Birch Society from top to bottom."

The Controller explained that he had issued a report on the Birch Society on July 28 and the following day was challenged by Reagan to name names, dates and place to prove his charges.

Since Reagan said he would "repudiate anyone or anything that espouses racial prejudice or religious prejudice of any kind," Cranston said he met Reagan at the Sacramento Airport on August 1 and personally handed him a copy of his report as well as a letter naming two contributors to Gerald L. K. Smith's neo-Facist Christian National Organization who are also listed as contributors to Ronald Reagan's primary campaign.

Cranston said the men are Armais Arutunoff, a man in Oklahoma and Paul M. Talbert, of Beverly Hills who, Cranston said, is also a charter member of the National Council of the John Birch Society.

But Reagan has not repudiated either the Birch Society or the two contributors he named. "Reagan has shut up rather than put up on his pledge," Cranston charged.

AFL-CIO Director of Organization, William Kircher, reported Wednesday on the impending representational election at DiGiorgio properties in Delano and Borrego Farms and deplored the sudden attempt of the Teamsters to move in against workers who have been on strike for 11 months saying:

"I have never yet run into a situation where there was a more obvious accommodation between a management and a union in an organizational campaign than the one that exists and the one we are fighting against in Delano today."

"But," he added, "let me tell you something: We are still going to win."

It was also revealed this week that DiGiorgio's Superintendent E. C. Fontana and Personnel Director R. L. Myer had sent a letter to DiGiorgio employees belittling the Delano grape workers strike and aimed at boosting the Teamsters chances

in the representational election to be held August 30.

On Thursday, AFL-CIO coordinator of state and local central bodies, Stanton E. Smith, stressed the fact that in today's complex industrial society, collective bargaining alone "is no longer enough" to solve the problems confronting the labor movement.

"If the AFL-CIO legislative and political programs are to succeed," he pointed out, "we must have strong state federations and local central bodies."

To achieve this goal it is incumbent on all National and International Unions to give such bodies their full and unstinting support, and "this means full affiliation and full per capita tax payments by all local unions," Smith declared.

Paul Hall, President of the Seafarers International Union, and a member of the National AFL-CIO Executive Board who attended the convention as a special representative of President George Meany, said that if California "is to be saved from the hands of reactionaries," it is the labor movement of California that must do the job.

Warning that the opposition will attempt to make their candidate look like something he is not, Hall observed:

"But you and I know that if a female skunk has a litter of kittens in the garage, that does not make those little kittens Chevrolets, they are still skunks."

And AFL-CIO COPE Director Al Barkan stressed the fact that there is "nothing, absolutely nothing, more important to California labor than the outcome of the election in November." He urged all delegates to put the COPE organization job "on the top of every agenda in every local union in this state."

In their concluding sessions, the delegates also wrapped up action on more than 200 resolutions. A number of resolutions which duplicated stands taken in policy statements adopted by the delegates earlier were filed. Among more than 130 resolutions approved were those calling for:

- A ban on professional strikebreakers.
- Repeal of the Winton Act.

(AB 1474) which thwarts collective bargaining rights for teachers.

- Uniform state-adopted textbooks to minimize the problems confronted by students shifting from one school to another.
- A legislative probe of "the ever increasing, unreasonable hospital and medical charges which are nullifying gains" made by union health and welfare plans.
- Curbs on arbitrary rules of auto insurance companies.
- Collective bargaining rights for public employees.
- Legislation to prohibit wage garnishments except following a court order and to ban employers from discharging an employee because his wages are subject to garnishment.

Other resolutions called on all affiliates of the California Labor Federation and their membership to support local Community Chest, United Crusade or other federated fund raising campaigns, deplored and condemned the anti-Semitism of the Soviet Russian government, urged more stress on the union label program, and pledged the Federation's continuing support and cooperation with such groups as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Jewish Labor Committee, Histadrut, and the Community Service Organization.

Regional COPE Parleys Start

(Continued from Page 1)

p.m., Labor Temple, 17 Pajaro, Salinas.

San Francisco — San Mateo Counties — August 25, 11:00 a.m., San Francisco Labor Temple, 2940 16th Street, San Francisco.

Alameda and Contra Costa Counties — August 25, 7:30 p.m., Cooks Hall, 1608 Webster, Oakland.

Northern Coastal Counties — August 26, 11:00 a.m., Carpenter's Hall, 1706 Corby, Santa Rosa.

Sacramento — August 26, 7:00 p.m., Labor Temple, 2525 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento.

Ron's Bid Creates Crisis: Henning

(Continued from Page 2)

this is the time to assert the rights of labor, the rights of all free men, to enjoy the values of American life.

"Now, there may be a tendency that 'wise' men have proposed, that could seduce the coalition. It will never seduce you. But there are those perhaps who say in this campaign, 'Don't talk about the American Negro. Don't talk about the American Negro.'

"If you hold your silence on the question that involves not only twenty-two million Negroes, but a hundred ninety-five million Americans, then you are not worthy of victory. That goes for all of us.

RON AT HIS WORST

"If you hold your silence on this issue, you only imitate Reagan at his worst. Reagan was confronted by one lone Negro in a conference in the primary campaign, and he didn't have the stamina to endure a dialogue with the Negro. The Negro questioned him on his beliefs and his concepts, and he had a temper tantrum. He ran out of the room.

"You have to face up to the glories and the tragedies of American life. We have to meet the Negro agony and the White agony.

"We know that there are Negro racists and White racists who will never be satisfied until Negro and White men greet each other with gunfire on the streets of America. They don't want brotherhood. We know that.

"But, we know that the militant Negro community is but a microscopic percentage of the Negro people of this nation; and we know the same of the White community. Those who speak in terms of racist hatred represent a microscopic percentage of the White community.

MUST BE ANSWERED

"We have to answer the madmen of any community. We can't sit in silence when we hear in the streets of our city chants of racial hatred, whether they be directed against White or Negro.

"They heard those chants in Germany in the 1930's. When the masses are seduced to chant

race hatred, the blood and the tyranny of hatred is not far from human behavior. We have to answer that. We have to speak out against it. We have to curb and restrain that kind of tyranny.

"But, we have also made it clear that every American, whatever his race, his color, his creed or his national origin, has a right to register without being stopped; he has a right to rear his children in decency, without being mobbed or assaulted. We have the duty and the moral obligation to say that every American, by his very presence in this magnificent land, is entitled to all the values of our system: economic, social, educational.

"No man has a right to draw a line of hostility on the Negro people as they seek equality before the law.

BEWARE OF JUDGMENTS

"Now we are aware—many liberals are agonizingly aware that the Negro has proven himself as immoral as the White. Racial judgments are always dangerous, my friends. Remember this, when you read of riots by Negroes or Whites, remember this: that it was one of the greatest white nations of history—if we can judge greatness in terms of scholarship and education and cultural attainment—it was one of the greatest white nations of history that sent six million Jews into the gas ovens of extermination, to avoid the racial indictment.

"But beyond all this, we have to face the question. Reagan won't face it. Can you imagine, if this man—by any horrible accident of history—were Governor, facing a group of Negroes in the office of the Governor in Sacramento? Can you imagine him having a temper tantrum and, with the dignity of office abandoned, refusing to face the agony?

"Reagan hasn't the capacity to stand up before it; he hasn't the convictions; and he hasn't the persistence.

"It isn't the place for a parrot.

"Now, there's another lesson we can learn from these eight years. The right wing Republicans want to put their pawing

hands on the Governor's chair. They want to take that chair.

BROWN'S RECORD

"But let me tell you this: They're up against a man who destroyed their hopes in 1958. They are up against a man who broke the political career of William Knowland. They are up against the man who broke the political ambitions of Richard Nixon.

"And, in the person of Pat Brown, they are up against a man who will destroy the distorted political ambitions of Ronnie Reagan.

"You can't compare the men—not in terms of philosophies or dimensions or in terms of personal commitment and integrity. There's no comparison.

"With the momentum of victory in 1959, Governor Brown, leading a united party, gave us the greatest administration in the history of this state. Workmen's Compensation in that first term went up 40 per cent. Unemployment disability insurance, 35 per cent.

SOME OTHER 'FIRSTS'

"He gave us a fair employment practices law. We became the first state in the Union to enjoy unemployment disability insurance law for farm workers. We became the first state in the Continental U.S. to know a meaningful minimum wage for the agricultural workers of the state.

"And, while we differed with him on certain of the land usage aspects of his water program, let's concede this: he has had the vision to develop the largest water program ever anticipated by man, that will bring water a thousand miles from the Oregon border to the Southern part of the state.

"Because this state does not have the capacity or the legal authority to borrow, he was compelled to meet the balanced budget. We have had fiscal responsibility for two terms. The administration has handled billions without public scandal.

"There has been no place for the corrupt forces of American political life in the administration of Pat Brown.

"He took an already-advanced school system and made it into the model educational system of the nation; and—good God!—we can't for one moment allow

the Republican right wing extremists to put their pawing hands on the public school system of this state.

ESSENTIAL TASK

"Any more than we can now allow them to put their pawing hands on the judiciary, the courts. Can you imagine the kind of a judge who would sit on the Supreme Court if the right wing extremists control that capitol in Sacramento? We have to make the terrifying possibilities of right wing control known to every voter in this state.

"Pat Brown is the candidate. Pat Brown is a man. Pat Brown will be the winner in November.

"You have the burden of political action, if you have the continuing burden of sustaining the trade union movement. It is your moral obligation.

"And all through the years, you've honored it well, to forge a society worthy of the nature of man, worthy of his dignity, to develop those economic and social policies that will honor the promise and hope and the capacity of man; that will honor his very nature. That's your future.

NOT BY BREAD ALONE

"You begin with bread. You begin with the bargaining table. But not by bread alone does a movement live. There must always be the commanding sense of social responsibility that, more than 50 years ago, inspired Eugene V. Debs with his back to the wall, and with the odds of a thousand to one against him, to tell a taunting and hostile world that, 'While there is a lower class, I am in it. While there is a criminal element, I am of it. While there is a soul in prison, I am not free.'

"Match those lines with the parrot. Take a look at that soul, Mr. Parrot.

"Be of good faith, Brothers and Sisters. You will win in November. You will win inevitably. You will win because history is your ally. You have not survived the past to be vanquished now. You will win because in this land, in this land, whatever the difficulties, or trials and our agonies, the future still belongs to freedom. Thank you."